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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 2, 1897.

MAJOR HASTING'S LETTER.

FROM NAPLES TO ATHENS.

A little boat takes me through a maze of excavators, steamers, lighters and other little boats, with their yelling, gesticulating boatmen, to the Umberto Primo, anchored in the port of Naples. On the deck there is a market of home manufactures, coral and Pompeii lava jewelry, wooden mosaics, albums, frames, opera glasses, cigarette holders etc.

On one side of the ship coal is being hoisted aboard with great noise and clatter of engine and chains; on the other provisions for the voyage, quarters of beef mutton, macaroni, boxes of oranges and mandarins, carrots, potatoes, rum and beer. It is 6 o'clock, the time to weigh anchor. The whistle groans like the dying shriek of a leviathan, the peddlars and touts jump into the swarm of boats around the Umberto-1, the screw turns slowly, great clouds of black smoke issue from the funnels, the boatmen gave us a parting serenade, Funiculi, Funicula, to the accompaniment of violins and accordions and we're off!

Night comes on swiftly, there is hardly any transition from bright sunshine to flickering star-lighted night. It is too late to enjoy the marvellous spectacle of the Bay of Naples, Ischia, Cassamicciola, and Capri present their ever-varying silhouettes in the gathering darkness, Vesuvius' streak of red hot lava is for a time visible.

There is a party of American priests aboard on a pilgrimage to Palestine, to the tomb of our Saviour. With three weeks' stubble beards they are the antithesis of comely.

The next morning early we were in the Straits of Messina having safely passed Scylla and Charybdis. We got a glimpse of the white house of Messina (Sicily) and see distinctly the quais and houses of Reggio, for we run close to the instep and toe of Italy's boot-shaped, bleak Calabria.

The sun arose like a ball of fire spurted from the water. In the vernal temperature we sat on the deck without overcoats, the ship was as steady as a rock, a painted ship on a painted ocean and we get acquainted by exchanging cigarettes, observations and opinions. As my friends know I have an opinion on and a remedy for everything.

When it became known that I was a veteran traveler questions came thick and fast and fearful that I might be thought to have set up for an oracle, I retired to the smoking room to record my impressions of travel.

We round Cape Matapan sail along in view of Morea, sight some of the Cyclopes, home of mermaids and mythology and then the curved lines and the white houses of the port of Piræus appear.

In a hurricane of shooting confusion of the boatmen, surrounded by a forest of masts and a multitude of small barks we land.

We are in the country of Phidias of Demosthenes. I passed the custom house without any annoyance from the green-coated officers who did not ask me to open my trunk.

The pictures of the skulls and cross-bones on my masonic passport evidently pleased the now belligerent Greeks.

The sun was shining blindingly bright, it was hot as June on the Delaware.

Shaking hands on the ship with my table companion, Count Odeschki, ex-mayor of Rome, Italy, now senator, Prince Rucellaj from Florence and William Hailwood Esq., Rochdale, England I engage an amaxa and in a cloud of dust from the plains of Attica I am driven to the city of Ccerops.

The distance which separates Piræus from Athens is about seven miles, you cross over the famed Cephissus and Ilissos both now dry and skirt the sacred olive woods of Colone. It is a time for reverie and you try to recall all you know about Greece, as the changing landscape brings into view the high Acropolis which formerly contained and protected the images of their gods, the tombs of their ancestors and the treasures of their city; Hymettos to the right, Mount Parnassus to the left and direct in front the thimble shaped Lycabettos, behind and further in the distance Mount Pentelikon. You are called back from your reverie of the greatness of ancient Greece, her Solons, her Aristoteles, her Diogenes, her Platos, her Socrates, her Demosthenes by things earthly, the reflection of the sun on the white dust suggests you put on your blue goggles, and this insinuating, impalpable, blinding dust makes you snuff and sneeze and your eyes water.

The coachman stops before a little country cafe, the half way house, where a black eyed, coquetish Anastasia offers you a piece of honey bon bon, a glass of white brandy and a big glass of water.

Your attention is attracted by the bright colored pictures on the facade of the cafe which represent heroic scenes in the wars of Independence. The coachman feeds his horses clover and eyes you enviously that your liberal arrangements with your banker allow you to enjoy luxuries which, for him, represent the acme of happiness. We pass near the Peloponnesus railway station through Euripides and Hermes street to Hotel Grande Bretagne.

We had not seen a newspaper for three days and we learn with horror of the Mohammedan atrocities in Crete. I have spent several days in investigating the Cretan question and I believe the combined powers are committing the greatest crime of modern times. The cable has kept

you informed of these happenings, day by day, as only American newspapers know how to collect and present news.

By the courtesy of Mr. Lampas, proprietor of Hotel Grande Bretagne, I was present at the session of Parliament on Monday, March 1st. In Greece there is only one legislative body. There is no senate. On the front seats in the gallery where I was were six deputies of the Cretan parliament.

Delyannis, Prime Minister looking like Col. Sam Bell of Philadelphia, made a ministerial declaration that the government was resolved to continue mobilization of the army to be ready to repel attack and invasion; that in the bombardment at Acrotiri it was the Turks who fired first; that instead of saving the Christian population from the ferocity of the Turkish troops and the fanaticism of the Mohammedans, the bombardment was an act of sounderism, for the abuses of Europe killed only Christians, to protect the Mohammedans who oppress and butcher Christians.

Mr. Papamichalopoulos, who was present at the bombardment, was thunderously applauded when he said "blood only can avenge such an attack! Russia to whom we are allied by ties of blood and long treasured friendship fired the first shot! Russia fired on Cretan Christians! Russia fired on the cross of Saint George which we gave her! It was a Russian bullet that shot off the Grecian flagstaff! It was a Cretan Christian bishop who put the flag again at the peak!

After several speeches criticising the ministry for vacillation and inaction the Parliament adjourned for fifteen days because as Delyannis said the ministers had not time to attend the sessions.

What an excellent thing it would be if the United States Senate Jingoos could be choked off in the same way! Three of the deputies are Turks from Thessaly and were picturesquely attired in a bonnet, blue velvet jacket, white zouave trousers to the knees, white stockings all tastefully embroidered and red morocco moccasins, long as a canoe with tassels on the toes.

The island of Crete is 160 miles from here, fare by steamer, first class 20 francs. It is 150 miles long an average of 30 miles wide and although mountainous is fertile and, under peaceful conditions very productive.

It has a population of 300,000 of which 270,000 are Greek Christians i. e. profess the Grecian Catholic religion and the rest are Mohammedans.

But the Mohammedans are nearly all Greek turned Mussulman, for none but Mussulman can hold property under Turkish Government.

In ancient times before the Christian era Crete had a population of 2,500,000.

It is believed by those competent to judge that the order for the massacres come from Yldiz Kiosk, from the Sultan, Abdul Hamid; they coincide, at least, with the attempted introduction of reforms by the Powers.

The Turks the Bashi-Bozoos are inhuman, monstrous assassins who violate and outrage defenceless women and children cutting off the nose and ears of their victims and mutilating the men, carrying in triumph these parts of the human anatomy as an Indian does scalps.

They govern with the brutality of a savage animated by Islam by sentiments of hatred and vengeance. This is sufficiently proved by the massacres in Armenia, two consecutive years and by the recent atrocities in Crete.

The powers in their superior wisdom have made one reform only in Crete, they established a gendarmerie, a mosaic of nationalities, composed of Bulgarians, Italians and Montenegrins. They are charged with the police of the island where Greek is the language and they cannot talk to the natives, they cannot talk to each other!

They are under the command of an Irishman, Major Bor!

But the worm turned and the Turks in Crete are now getting the worst of it having taken refuge in the towns and fortifications and are besieged by the Christians. When the massacres commenced many Christians fled, the number who left the island is competently estimated at 75,000.

They are at Piræus, at Syra, on the island of Milos where they are being fed and housed by the Grecian government. They are Greeks (since more than 2000 years) by language, religion and family ties, what more natural than that they should flee to the mother-country, like a child attacked runs to and calls for its mother's protection.

I went to Piræus taking a guide along so I could converse with the refugees. They are housed in the Academy, in the Lyceum in the common school houses. They sleep on the floor—cook over fires built on the floor are crowded unsanitary together.

(Continued next week.)

Mckinley Will Be There.

New York, March, 28.—General Horace Porter, who has charge of the arrangements in connection with the Grant memorial celebration, stated to-day that Major McKinley had given assurances that he would be present on April 27, the day set for the dedication of the monument, without fail, and deliver an address.

Died Aged 108.

HARRISBURG, March 26.—Armstrong Spindle, colored, said to have been 108 years of age, died at his home in this city to-day. He lived with his grand-daughter. He was born at Fredericksburg, Va., and was a slave.

Won't Admit Women.

TRENTON, N. J., March 26.—By a vote of 103 against 68, the New Jersey Methodist conference decided against admitting women as delegates to the general conference.

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Mexico and Its Resources.

Senor Romero, the veteran Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, losses few opportunities to sing the praises of his country, in a recent article Senor Romero has given an interesting account of conditions in his country that do not depend upon system of currency. Mexico he describes as having the form of a horn of plenty turned toward the United States to pour its fullness into the arms of the American people. In no very long time, he says, Mexico will supply us in abundance with such tropical products as coffee, sugar and tobacco. Beneath the soil of his country are hidden rich mines of gold and silver, copper, lead, platinum, and iron especially in inexhaustible masses. Two great mountain chains draw through the country, one on the Pacific, the other on the Gulf coast. Between these mountain ranges are valleys and glades of the highest fertility and of the most delightful climate. The Central Plateau is so level that the traveler can drive over it in a carriage without the need of roads from the City of Mexico to Santa Fe. In Mexico tropical and semi-tropical flowers grow in luxuriant profusion. The country has upward of a hundred different species of building and cabinet woods, besides dyeing and gun woods. There are not less than twenty varieties of bananas, some of which are from twelve to fifteen inches long. The orange region is free from frost. In some districts tobacco is cultivated which General Grant, who was no bad judge, declared to be superior to that of Cuba. The cactus plant contains a white juice, called pulque, which makes a refreshing drink, and which when indulged in too freely is intoxicating. There is another cactus plant from which is produced a drink called mescal, which possesses a medicinal quality. The Yukatan cactus has a fibre, like Manila hemp, and is exported in considerable quantities to this country.

Senor Romero boasts that the Valley of Mexico is the most delightful region on earth.

The City of Mexico has 340,000 inhabitants. Mexico's product of silver is now valued at \$60,000,000 a year. The silver ore often contains gold, which formerly was not separated from it; and hence there are old Mexican dollars that are worth more than the new. It would not be wise, however, to try old Mexican dollars for they are already attained 7000 miles, and the work of railroad extension is steadily progressing.

We have no space to follow Senor Romero in his account of the races, religions, educations and social institutions of Mexico. Including Texas, Mexico has added to the United States a territory of 830,000 square miles, and still possesses 767,236 square miles. According to the census of 1895 the population of the Republic was 12,570,195, of whom 19 per cent were of European origin. But in the opinion of Senor Romero the census is not exact, and the population of Mexico is about 15,000,000, or twenty persons only to the square mile. The country has a great future before it; and the American people, as its next door neighbors, could not fail to derive great advantage from the cultivation of more intimate commercial relations with it.

Save the Birds.

A leading American ornithologist sounds a note of warning, and says that some of our most desirable birds are threatened with extermination. The common quail and ruffed grouse are becoming very scarce. Wrens and blue birds are driven from their old haunts by sparrows. Herons are slaughtered by the thousands for millinery purposes, and Florida is similarly despoiled of its herons, its pelicans and the smaller birds. The wild pigeon has disappeared. Fashion at present is the greatest enemy of bird life, but collectors of eggs are also responsible for great destruction. Protection of birds must come through the education of the people, especially of the rising generation, and by protective legislation sustained by game wardens. No State legislation has given the subject the attention it deserves.—Main Sportsman.

Medical.

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