THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

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Geo. F. Miller.

What has become of all the assurances iterated by Geo. F. Miller, President of the L. C. & T. RR., three and four years ago, that *he would push the road through with speed*, and have the cars running in 18 months time? Did Mr. Miller know what he was talking about then, or was he speaking for buncombe? These assurances of Mr. Miller have not to the one fourth part been carried out, although he received all the legislation he claimed was necessary to raise the means to go on with the work. Our people paid their stock several years ago, and patiently looked on and saw their fine farms cut up under the assurances from the President that they should soon be repaid for the great sacrifice by having the road in a few short months. All these promises and assurances were given by Mr. Miller several years before the late panic, and if only one half met, the road would have been completed, as it might have been, and as it should have been, at least 18 months before the panic came upon the country to put a temporary stop to all public enterprises. Our people have shown more patience under these delays and disappointments than can reasonably be asked, and there is precious little more of that virtue left in them, and for good cause, for they have been put to the test too severely.

The last report of the Penn'a RR. Company shows that corporation to be on good footing, and declaring a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. The building of our road is a small affair for that rich and gigantic company, and the grading being nearly all completed westward as far as the Harris township line, what good reason can Mr. Miller give for the present vexatious delay? That's what the stockholders wish to know, and have a right to know. The farmer has seen his fields despoiled and there they lie thus, without any near prospect of realizing therefor those indirect benefits which were to follow the early completion of the road.

The annual election of the stockholders will come off early in June, and we think, with a majority of others interested, that somebody else should take the place of Geo. F. Miller, as President of the road, because, unless we misjudge the man, we believe he has shown too little energy and unconcern in having the work pushed forward. There has been too much liberality on his part in promises and assurances followed by a lack of go-aheadativeness, and the rate at which the work has progressed thus far, does no credit to President Miller's executive ability. There has been enough of hem and haw, and we want the puff of the locomotive instead. We have no unkind feelings towards Mr. Miller, and esteem him personally, but the tardiness with which our railroad has been pushed on, has reached that point when we can no longer keep silent, and in the name of the stockholders we demand immediate and speedy action, and if Mr. Miller cannot put new life into this improvement, why let him be set aside and some one be elected President who can.

Congress.

As the time approaches when the democracy of this district must put in nomination a candidate for Congress, it is proper to look about for the right person. This is the first time for an entire generation when a democratic nomination was equivolent to an election. In looking over the entire district there is but one man whose pre-eminent qualifications and fitness point him out as the proper standard bearer of the democracy at the present time, and this is Hon. L. A. Mackey of Clinton county.

Mr. Mackey, it will be remembered by the readers of the Centre Reporter, was the nominee of our party, four years ago, under the old district, which was black as the ace of spades, and when it required large sacrifice to run upon the democratic ticket. Mr. Mackey was then the only gentleman in the district who would undertake to face the foe, and although defeated, he made a gallant fight and beat down the radical majority to such a degree as to make Mr. Armstrong, his opponent, feel that he made but a hair-breadth escape. Now that we for once live in a thoroughly democratic district, we deem it simple justice that Mr. Mackey should again be our standard bearer, and that we tender him that which he alone was willing to shoulder when there was no hope to elect a democrat.

So far as our observation goes, we believe this is the feeling of democrats, and we are not aware that there will be any democrat to contest his nomination, which so far as we know, is generally conceeded.

Mr. Mackey possesses all the qualifications requisite for a member of Congress. He is as conversant with national affairs as any gentleman in the district, and is quite a good and ready debater, with sound sense and weight in every sentence that he utters, and, as a democrat, sound upon the questions of the day. Upon the intricate question of our finances, Mr. Mackey holds views at once in consonance with the great farming, and other industrical interests of the country. His views were clearly given when a candidate four years ago, in an able speech at the democratic mass meeting at Centre Hall, and in other parts of the district. His views upon this vital topic, are in accord with those of Ohio's distinguished democrat, Geo. H. Pendleton. Mr. Mackey was at the head of the Lock Haven Bank, for a long term of years, until all those state institutions were taxed out of existance by the act creating the present National Bank system, a system which his bank and others were forced into; he has all along been unfriendly to the entire system, and will abandon it at the first moment that is afforded by the necessary legislation, for banks to return back as state institutions.

Mr. Mackey is a gentleman of the purest character; large hearted and liberal far beyond the most of men of his station. Cultured, high-toned and honorable in every respect, the district will be honored with him as its representative. We are glad to see that the democracy seem to point to him as the proper man for Congress. He will be a nominee to whom all honest men, of all parties, will turn, as one fit to have their suffrages.

The Knight Templars at Bellefonte.

This ancient and respectable order met at Bellefonte, in their beautiful regalia and held their convocation, occupying the 12, 13 and 14 inst., terminating in a grand parade and banquet.

The town was beautifully and splendidly decorated with ever-green wreaths, flags bearing emblems, and ensigns, &c., in every street, and from public and private dwellings, and the citizens of the place will be proud of the successful efforts in their welcome of the "Sir Knights."

The origin of the Crusaders, as the Sir Knights were called, took place in the tenth century (1095) when disorders of the feudal state, with the corruption of taste and manners, consequent upon these, were at their greatest excess. From that era we can trace a succession of causes and events that contribute to abolish anarchy and barbarism and introduce order and politeness. Among the few causes, says Dr. Robertson, "we must rank chivalry." The trader could no longer travel in safety; many not only plundered the merchants, but carried off the women that fell in their way. It became the business of all to discover and apply such remedies as would remove the prevailing disorders. Such was the origin of the honorable institution, generally represented as whimsical. The young Warrior among the ancient Germans, as well as among the modern Knights, was armed with certain ceremonies proper to inspira martial ardor, but Chivalry considered as a civil and military institution, is as late as the eleventh century. The previous disciplin and solemnities of initiation were many and singular, and none but those of high rank admitted—first in the character of a Page, afterwards as a Squire; nor was he admitted to the supreme honor of Knight-hood until he had given more striking proofs of his valor and address; after answering suitable questions the usual oath was administered to him, namely, to serve his prince, defend the faith, protect the persons and reputation of virtuous ladies, and to rescue, at all hazards of his life, widows, orphans, and all unhappy persons groaning under injustice, and oppression. Then the Knights and ladies who assisted at the ceremonies, adorned the candidate with the armor and ensigns of chivalry, beginning with putting on the spurs, and ending with girdling him with the sword, then the person who was to confer the honor of Knighthood, gave him the accolade or dubbing by their gentle strokes with the flat part of the sword on the shoulder, or with the palm on the neck, saying, "In the name of God, St. Michael and St. George, I make thee a Knight—be thou loyal and brave." Valor, humanity, courtesy, honor, were the characteristics of chivalry, and to these were added religion, which were productive of the greatest and most permanent effects both upon policy and manners. War was carried on with less ferocity—humanity no less than courage came to be deemed the ornament of knighthood, a distinction superior to royalty, and an honor which princes were proud to secure. Courtesy was recommended as the most amiable of Knightly virtues, and every Knight devoted himself to the service of some lady, and violence and oppression decreased. A scrupulous adherence, with the most religious attention to fulfill every engagement, but particularly to those between the sexes as more easily violated, became the distinguishing characteristic of a gentleman, because Chivalry was regarded as a school of honor, and inculcated the most delicate sensibility with respect to that point, and valor, seconded by so many motives of love, religion and virtue, became altogether irresistible. The spirit of chivalry often rose to an extravagant height, and Gregory VII had formed the project of uniting the western Christians against the Mohammetans in the recovery of the Holy Land; while the minds of men were thus aroused, a monk, commonly called "Peter the Hermit," aided the project of Gregory VII, leading the forces of Christendom against the infidels and driving them out of the Holy Land. Persons of all ranks flew to arms—computed at three hundred thousand men under the command of Peter the Hermit and Walter the Penniless; reaching the plains of Asia, Solimon, sultan of Nice, fell upon them and slaughtered them. In the meantime the more disciplined soldiers of the cross attacked the Caliph of Egypt, and after a siege of five weeks, took the city of Jerusalem and put the garrison and inhabitants to the sword. But this did not end the contest. In 1143 a second crusade was formed under Louis VII of France, which failed. A third crusade was raised to displace the great Saladin who had retaken the Holy City, this army of soldiers of the cross was under the directions of Philip and Richard kings of France and England, and after many severe and bloody battles, they succeeded in throwing the king of Jerusalem into prison. Then Richard concluded a truce with that monarch, stipulating that Ptolemais, Joppa and other sea-port towns of Palestine, should remain in the hands of the Christians, and every one of that religion should have the liberty to perform his pilgrimage to Jerusalem unmolested. Another crusade was formed under Frederick II, and those who took the cross were generally French and German; these Teutonic knights—Knights Templars and Knights Hospitallers, took a vow to combat and defeat the infidels, and in this they were successful, as Frederick II compelled the sultan to cede to him Jerusalem and its territory and all the country between Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, &c. In return for these concessions a truce was granted the Saracens for ten years. In 1244 Louis the IX of France makes a vow to engage in a new crusade. In 1248 he sets sail for the relief of the Holy Land, accompanied by his Queen, and all the Knights of France. In 1249 Louis lands near the city of Damietta, in Egypt at the head of 60,000 Sir Knights. In 1250 that place is abandoned to him, but afterwards besieged and retaken in consequence of the decrease in his army. In 1251 Louis visits Palestine, remains four years without effecting any thing, and thus ends the last crusade of the Sir Knights, being a period of two hundred years from its first inception, a spirit that had been produced and an institution had arisen more honorable to man than any other merely humane—this was the institution of Knighthood, which connected with Christianity.

The fine display of the order which we have just seen, was pleasing to the uninitiated, and the Sir Knights must be gratified with the honors done and civilities extended to them on their reception and sojourn by the citizens of Bellefonte.

On Tuesday evening the Sir Knights were enlivened by Gov. Curtin in his usual style. On Wednesday they paraded through the streets of the town under decorated arches, flags and emblems floating from every house along the route. Thursday was occupied in the election and installation of officers &c. There were about four hundred Knights in attendance. It was truly a galla day to the Knights to be long remembered.

Sunbury & Lewistown Railroad.

We briefly noticed in our last issue, says the Lewistown Gazette, the sale of the Sunbury and Mewistown Railroad, which took place at the Philadelphia Exchange on Tuesday of last week. It was made under a decree of the Supreme Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and by direction of James Pollock and Ewward P. Mitchell, trustees named in a mortgage dated April 1st, 1870. This mortgage was for $1,200,000.

The attendance at the sale was large.

Mr. Freeman announced the terms of sale: Twenty thousand dollars cash upon signing the bid, and residue upon confirmation of sale and acknowledgement of the deed, provided, however, that the payment of the residue may be made in such bonds of the said Sunbury and Lewistown Company as are entitled to receive the fund arising from the sale upon its distribution.

Several notices of unpaid claims for damages in Mifflin and Snyder counties, &c., were read by different parties.

Mr. Freeman stated that he had been instructed by Gov. Pollock to announce that the notices will not affect the title to the road.

The sale then commenced. The first bid was $400,000. Quickly from another part of of the room came the word "one," and the bidding was carried on by two gentlemen in a very spirited manner until the figure reached $551,000. At this price the property was sold.

The purchasers were Samuel M. Zulick, Josiah Hart, Daniel Buck, Joseph D. Thornton, and W. Budd Deacon, who are understood to be a committee representing certain bondholders.

This is an absolute sale, and renders the stock and all bonds, except those used by the purchasers, worthless. Whether the land damages will come into the distribution, continue to be a lien on the road, or be thrown out altogether, will now have to be legally decided. The law which will permit a bankrupt railroad company to stave off the payment of such claims ought to be obliterated from the statute books, and one passed making the report of viewers final and a prior lien against any and everything in fact placed on the same footing as a mechanic's lien.

The Wealth of Pennsylvania.

The wealth of Pennsylvania is not only immense, it is solid. It is simply impossible to ascertain it within hundreds, perhaps thousands of millions. The best that can be done with the aid of such statistics as we have is to approximate it; that Mr. Bigham, head of the Bureau of Statistics, has done as well as could be from the information available.

In getting at the wealth of the State (says the Pittsburg *Commercial*) Mr. Bigham considers the State valuation and that made by the United States census officer in 1870. The State Assessors, with a solemn and wonderful regard for their oaths, report the real and personal property of the State at $1,171,968,977, while the actual value reported by the United States census officials, with no ward or axes to grind is $3,475,831,851—nearly three time as much as the State assessment.

The capital of the two hundred National Banks in the State is $202,913,732,12; of the State banks, $43,255,736,59; and of the savings bank, building and loan associations, and private banks $187,081,332,96. This makes a total of banking capital in Pennsylvania, in various forms reaching the aggregate of $433,250,801,66.

The value of the railroads of the State, canal companies, coal and mining companies and passenger railroads is estimated at a total of $3393,913,734,60.

Next comes corporations aside from railroads, such as insurance, water, gas, express, oil, etc. They represent a total valuation of $26,000,000.

Merchants, wholesale and retail, are put down at $426,600,000.

Argricultural and farm and garden products $521,078,349,00, and manufactures of all kinds, $997,050,521.60. These figures the commissioner collated from the census report of 1870 and they constitute, as he has arranged them, the most detailed statement of the wealth of Pennsylvania heretofore published. The products in kind, and not in value, as estimated above, embrace, in bushels, wheat, rye, barley, oats, Indian corn, pear, beans, potatos, hay in tons, butter, cheese, hops, tobacco, wool, &c.

The mineral wealth of Pennsylvania it is impossible to estimate, but Mr. Bigham tries his hand at it for one year, with this result:

Anthracite	$85,181,583
Bituminous	24,913,272
Oil	29,616,000
Total	$129,716,855

The production of iron manufactures in 1870 was $127,000,000, and forty per cent. of increase since would bring the product of 1873 up to the stupendous aggregate of $177,000,000. The product of steel, copper, zinc and nickel, new industries in this State, falls below $40,000,000. A large class of minor industries, state, marble, limestone, sandstone, fire-brick and many others of like class, afford the Bureau of Statistics no date on which to make a statement, and, therefore, the Commissioner estimates these products at $20,000,000.

If we aggregate all these figures to get at the total wealth of our grand old State, we find that it reaches nearly seven thousand millions of dollars, quite an encouraging sum for the new constitution to start into the business of government with, backed as it is by the mind and muscle of not less than four millions of human beings.

According to the petition in bankruptcy filed by Governor Moses, of South Carolina, that illustrious statesman is in debt to the extent of a quarter of a million dollars, while his assets are estimated at sixty-seven thousand dollars. Among some of the items of indebtednes are butchers' bills two thousand, cigar bills one thousand, tailors fifteen hundred, "restaurant keepers"—this probably means whisky—three thousand, and a Baltimore furniture store he owes thirty thousand. This man has been governor to some purpose evidently.

The republican state convention meets at Harrisburg, August 19th.

ARKANSAS—BAXTER RECOGNIZED BY GRANT.

On the 15 President Grant issued his proclamation recognizing Gov. Baxter, as the rightful governor of Arkansas, and commanding all turbulent and disorderly persons (meaning the Brooks party) to disperse.

As soon as it became known, in Little Rock, the wildest excitement prevailed on the street. Never in the history of Little Rock, was there such cheering and general rejoicing. It is almost impossible for one to elbow his way through the excited crowd.

Men, women and children are rejoicing. The stores that were heretofore closed are now opened. Flags are now waving, bands playing and the people are wild with their exclamations. The President and Baxter are just now the two popular men in the eyes of the people of Little Rock. Hundreds of people are rushing to Baxter's quarters to congratulate him, ladies as well as men, white and colored. Ten thousand copies of the proclamation are now being printed in extra form by the Gazette, and the office is besieged with people to get hold of a copy.

The regular trains commenced running again on the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad yesterday. The trains on the Cairo and Fulton road have been and now are running through unmolested by the political disturbances and assurances of protection of both forces.

BROOKS SURRENDERS.

Little Rock, May 16.—The Brooks' forces surrendered to-day. An agreement was made by which Gen. Newton, the commanding general of Baxter's forces is to send home without molestation all of Brooks men.

SHALL IT BE CONTINUED?

We notice, says the Pittsburg *Post*, that a strong effort is being made to get an extension upon what is known as the "Wilson feed" attachment to the sewing machines. The original patent for sewing machines has expired, and patents only remain upon the improvements, principal of which is the "Wilson feed." The proprietors of some five or six different machines have combined together for the purpose of not permitting other manufacturers to use it, and in this way machines are kept far above their actual cost. From the best information that can be derived, the manufacturer's cost for making an ordinary machine is only $11, while the cost of the box or table runs from $2 50 to $15. It is said that machines are now sold in the United States at $50, $60, $70, $80, and $90, are exported and sold in England and in all parts of Germany at from $25 to $35.

Taking these facts for granted; and they seem to be true, it is safe to assume that these manufacturers, by means of the combination that they have entered into realize some $6,00,000 annually for the machines that they sell in excess of a fair profit, and in excess of what they would get, should the patent upon the "Wilson feed" be allowed to expire. There can certainly be no claim set up that the inventor's assignees have not been fully paid for this improvement. The inventor himself never got anything for this invention, while others have been making out of it. The patent should not be extended but allowed to expire, so that the poor working women of the country may profit by the genius of the unpaid inventor.

If the manufacturerers can send their machines to Europe and sell them at from $25 to $35, there is no kind of reason why they should ask more than $20 or $30 for them in this country, instead of from $50 to $90 as is now the case. To extend the patents upon any of these improvements is simply to levy an outrageous tax upon the sewing women of the country, who too often are only half paid for their labor. Congress should allow the patents to expire, and if necessary take such steps as may be required to prevent their extension or revival in the patent office, under any sort of a technicality.

The House of Representatives has a good chance to show what it thinks of polygamy. Delegate Cannon of Utah is the happy husband of four wives. His seat was contested by Mr. Maxwell, who did not so much pretend that he was elected as that Cannon was a polygamist, and therefore, unfit to sit with representatives in Congress. Inquiry into the facts resulted in the opinion that Cannon is legally entitled to the seat. The House then proposed to look into the moral conduct of Delegate Cannon, but some of the members (who had no friends in the Senate) thought it would not be pleasant to continue the inquiry. The conclusion of the whole matter is that Cannon gets his seat and the House will think about his polygamous connections.

Under the title of "An Atheist's Funeral." The London Sun publishes an account of the burial of Mr. Austin Holyoke, who died in the full faith of negation, and passed his last hours in drawing up an assertion of his continued disbelief of the existance of a God. It is an astonishingly calm and sturdy statement, and referring to his terrible sufferings and the tendency of most skeptics to renounce their unbelief at the approach of death he says "they who under pain say they see the error of their previous unbelief, had never thought out the problem for themselves." Funeral orations were pronounced over the grave by Messrs. Watts and Bradlaugh. Both shrank instinctively from the assertion of their own gloomy beliefs, and could not, over the grave of their friend, give utterance to their conviction that he was nothing but dust. Even on his tombstone there was an inscription under which the most devoted Christian might rest, and before which his loving friends might kneel in joyful trust, "In Memoriam. Gone Before."

One Patterson, of Michigan, was a soldier during the late war, and was so unfortunate as to get into Libby Prison, and while there was beaten and bayoneted by one Major Cady, a rebel officer. The other day Patterson met Cady in Monroe, Mich, and reminding him of the beating, told him the time had come to square accounts and immediately proceeded to do that very thing. He gave Cady a terrible flogging, using no bayonet, however, in the operation. And then Patterson was arrested and find $25, and his friends paid the fine. When, probably, will that cruel war be over!

Mrs. Geo Jenkins, a nineteen-years wife, aged 37, eloped with a friend of the family named Osborne on Monday last. The parties lived at Hollidaysburg. Jenkins is anxious to hear from the wicked pair.

Capt. Thomas S. Doebler, of Williamsport, cut his throat in that city, on Tuesday last. The act was committed during temporary aberration of mind. Life was extinct when he was found.

There was a large fire on Monday night in the Bastile quarter of Paris. Several persons were burned to death, and about two hundred were made homeless.

There is no abatement of the famine in Anatolia, Turkey. Reports from all sections of that country are of the most doleful character, many persons having starved to death.

The Carlists claimed a victory in the recent engagement between a body of Royalists under Don Alfonso and a force of Republicans. They say 350 of the Republicans were killed and wounded, and 300 taken prisoner.

The trouble among the coal miners and laborers of Durham, England, has again broken out. The strikers are turbulent and disorderly, and much distress among them and their families has already occurred.

Dauphin County, Penn., has a practicing physician only 18 years old.

THE PIGMY PEOPLE OF AFRICA.

Representatives from the Country of Takkaticat—A Puzzle for Darwinians.

[Bayard Taylor in the Tribune]

The Khedive spoke of a race of pigmies which had been discovered in the very heart of Central Africa, beyond the lands of the Nyam Nyams, and advised us to look at two natives of the tribe which had recently reached Cairo. On leaving the palace of Abdeen, therefore, we drove immediately to the palace of the Nile, near Boulak, where they are now kept. On making inquiry the soldiers in the inner court immediately pointed out two small boys (apparently), wearing the fez, and dressed in jackets and trowsers of white wool. I should have taken them for children of some Ethiopian tribe at the first glance, and was not satisfied, until after a close inspection, that one of them was a full grown man.

The soldiers brought the pigmies forward for our inspection. They came, half with an air of defiance, or of protest against the superior strength which surrounded them. A tall Dinka from the White Nile, blacker than charcoal, who accompanied them, spoke a little Arabic, and I was thus able to get a little additional information through him. He assured me that the pigmies were called Naam; that their country was a journey of a year and a half from Khartoum (probably the time occupied by a trading expedition in going thither and returning) and that the place from which they came had the name of Takkatikat. The taller of the two pigmies, Tubbul by name, was 20 years old; the younger, Karal, only 10 or 12.

The little fellows looked at me with bright, questioning, steady eyes while I examined and measured them. Tabbul was 46 in hight, the legs being 22 inches, and the body with the head 24. Head and arms were quite symmetrical, but the spine curved in remarkably from the shoulders to the hip joint, throwing out the abdomen, which was already much distended, probably from their diet of beans and bananas. Yet the head was erect, the shoulders on the line of gravity, and there was no stoop in the posture of the body as in the South African bushman. Tubbul measured 26 inches around the breast and 28 around the abdomen; his hands and feet were courteously formed, but not large, only the knee joints being disproportionately thick and clumsy. The facial angle was fully up the average; there was a good developement of brain, the intelligent eyes, and a nose so flattened that in looking down the forehead from above one saw only the lips projecting beyond it. The nostrils were astonishingly wide and square; the complexion was that of a dark mulatto.

The boy Karal was forty-eight inches high with the same general proportions. Both had wooly hair, cut short in front, but covering the crown with a circular cap of crisp little rolls. Tubbul's age showed itself, on near examination, in his hands, feet and joints, as well as his face. He had no beard, but was evidently of virile years. I lifted him up from the ground, and should not estimate his weight at more than seventy-five pounds. The soldiers related that neither of the two had learned more than a few words of Arabic, but that they talked a great deal to each other in their own language. At a recent meeting of the Egyptian Institute it was stated that the language of these pigmies has no resemblance to that of any other in Central Africa.

The country of Naan, or Takkatikat, or whatever may be its correct name, is reported to be an equatorial table-land covered with low, dense thickets, in which the pigmies hide. The Khedive told me they were quite warlike, and by no means despicable foes to their larger negro neighbors, since they are active and difficult to find among their native jungles. Dr. Schweinforth supposes them to be the pigmies mentioned by Herodotus. The Darwinians will hardly find an intermediate race between man and monkey in them. Their curious physical peculiarities, especially the curvature of the spine, the wide mouth, with fat but distinctly marked lips and the squareness and breadth of the nostrils are not of a simian character. In fact, they look less like the chimpanzee than several of the tall and athletic negro tribes.

A COUNTRY WITHOUT WOMEN.

As far as information extends, N. S. Dodge says, in the Boston *Congregationalist* there is only one territory of any size, and never has been but one, occupied by any considerable population, from which woman is absolutely excluded. A description of this singular spot, known topographically these 3,000 years, but the social peculiarities of which, though dating back many centuries, seems never to have been noticed before the Simonides MSS. controversy of 1863—4, may be readily given.

The highest promontory between Cape Race and Brazil is Mount Desert on the coast of Maine. Suppose this bluff to stretch some forty miles into the Atlantic ocean, varying in its width from two to nine miles across, and reaching at its extremity an altitude of 6,000 feet above the waters—to be attached to the coast by a low and narrow Isthmus, and to be clothed throughout with a woodland that was gay with flowers, rich with odors, merry with songbirds, and canopied by the brightness of all blue skies—and the reader will have before his mind's eye a general outline of the woman-less locality, as far as relates to its natural features. The son's of Eve are there, but none of the daughters. To all females it has been, so far back as history reaches, forbidden ground. Lest they should attempt to intrude influenced by the curiosity attributed by common fame to their primal mother. A guard is stationed to keep them out. So well is watch and ward maintained, that to some of the inhabitants who imigrated thither in early childhood, the idea of woman, whether as mother, sister or wife, is almost lost.

Reference is here made to the easternmost of the three tongues of land, which project from the north coast of the Greek Archipelago. It is the old peninsular of Acte—now called Monte Sancto—of which Mount Athos forms the terminating point—a conical mass of limestone shooting up abruptly to the height of 6,350 feet, with its base clothed with pines and its bare peak lighted by sunbeams, it has been for ages an object of admiration to mariners. From its chapel on the top, visited only on the 6th of August every year by monks to say mass, the Thessalian shores penetrated by clear blue waters, the Macedonian summits, and Pelion, Ossa and Olympus may be seen. In the days of inexpert navigation, its neighborhood was greatly dreaded. Xerxes, to avoid roughing the seas around its base, cut a canal across the peninsular. Greek pilots put far out to sea in old days to shun its dangers. And even modern navigation, with the advantages of steam, gives a wide berth to its uncertain waters.

Between this bold headland and the coast, occupying a plateau of moderate elevation, where cultivated fields are diversified with woodlands of chestnuts and oaks, and big trees and olives are indigenous, dwells a monastic confederation of Greek Christians. They have 23 convents, and number in all something more than 7,000 souls. On the hillsides, and all through the defiles and ravines, are scattered innumerable crossess and retreats, cells and hermitages. Though there conventianal houses are bound together by the tie of rengious selusions, the histoty of each is independent. Two of the monasteries claim Constantine as their founder! two others the Empress Pulcheria. Not one of the twenty-three dates its foundation later than the twelfth century. These fraternities had the prudence to submit to Mohammed II prior to the fall of Constantinople and received from him a promise of protection which has been respected ever since. Though the domain is part of the Turkish Empire, not a roof of it is claimed in property by the Sultan, or a Mussulman subject. An annual tribute of about $7,500 is paid by the whole peninsula, toward which the different societies contributes their share according to an assessment determined by their representatives. Each convent sends a deputy to a Diet, which manages general interests, and holds its sittings at Kavres, a small town occupied by carvers of crosses, and the residence of a solitary Turkish official, who collects the revenue.

At the entrance of the peninsula, few a soldiers in the pay of the monastic bodies are stationed, for the purpose of excluding intruders. No woman *in case vel posse*—is allowed to cross the frontier. The prohibition is of long standing, originated partly by superstition and partly for the better maintenance of ascetic discipline. Abruptly enough the rule is extended to every other female creature. Hence, from time immemorial no cow, mare, hen, duck, goose, slut or a she cat has ever been permitted to make acquaintance with hill or valley, farm-yard or kitchen of Mount Athos territory. But despite all this hares will pair, and birds mate, and every traveler who had passed a night under the hospitable roof of any one of the score of convents, knows that both the King and queen of Fleas keep their court there and reign over legions of subjects. But in their purchase of poultry to fatten, or dogs for the chase, or horses for riding, the monks choose males only. Of course there is no milk on the peninsula. If she cats are not tolerated, tom cats are in great favor.

Up to 1863 few Europeans had ever visited these monasteries. Since then not a few scholars, tempted by suggestions, about ancient papyri which Codex Sinaiticus controversy provoked, have every year been exploring the old libraries and turning over the musty MSS. The way is now plain enough, and a proper letter of recommendation unlocks all the secrets of the ancient houses. But in 1857, when Curson, an eminent paleographist, presented to the Patriarch at Constantinople, a letter of introduction from Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, the long bearded dignitary gave the desired patriarch sheet to the English traveler. It acted as a talisman. The monastic authorities of Mount Athos paid him every attention. He visited the libraries, and explored the MSS.—said masses and ate the ordinary—lived in a cell and did pennance on the mountain—became in fact so much one of the community as to gain a tolerable insight into their law of life. A monk who was his daily companion, told him his story. He came from a village in Roumelia, but did not remember its name. His parents had been massacred, and he put to a conventional school. He had never left the peninsula. His mother he did not recollect. A woman he had never seen, and his only notion of the phenomenon was put together by fancy and by hearsay. Another monk startled him by asking, "what sort of human creatures are women?" He had seen his mother only, and had forgotton even her appearance, having been a recluse ever since he was four years old. An amusing incident occurred during Mr. Carson's stay in the house of the Turkish Cadi, at Karyes. One morning a cat and two kittens entered the room.

"Ah!" said the traveler, "how is this? Why, this is a cat feminine. What business has she on Mount Athos?"

"Hush," replied the host, with a solemn grin, "do not speak of it. Yes, it is a she cat, I brought her from Stamboul. But do not tell it, or they will take it away. It reminds me of my home, where my home, where my wife and children are living far away."

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