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OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

A Chapter of Interesting Incidents and Events

PECULIAR INDIAN CUSTOMS

Used a Highly Figurative Language—Famous Indian Dances—Sufferings of Immigrants and Other Historical Data.

XXI.

INDIAN HABITS &c.

In this issue we compile a chapter on sundry incidents for our Historical Review, which will be found of interest, as given below:

There was some difference in the huts of the Delawares and Iroquois; the roofs of the former being angular, and the latter round or arched—the Delaware families preferring to live separately, their huts were small; the Iroquois preferred living together, they built their houses long with several fire places, and corresponding openings in the roof and sides. In their dress, they displayed more singularity than art. The men wore a blanket, which hung loose over the shoulders, and generally went bare-headed. The dress which distinguished the women, was a petticoat, fastened tight about the hips, and hanging down a little below the knees. A longer one would have proved an incumbrance in walking through the woods, or working in the fields.

When they traveled or went on a journey, they manifested much carelessness about the weather; yet in their prayers, they usually begged "for a clear and pleasant sky." They generally provided themselves with Indian meal, which they either ate dry, mixed with sugar and water, or boiled into a kind of mush; for they never took bread made of Indian corn, for a long journey, because in summer, it would spoil in three or four days, and be unfit for use. As to meat, that they took as they went.

The common dance was held either in a large house, or in an open field around a fire. In dancing, they formed a circle and always had a leader, to whom the whole company attended. The men went before, the women closed the circle. The latter danced with great decency, and as if they had engaged in the most serious business; while thus engaged, they never spoke a word to the men, much less joked with them, which would have injured their character. They neither jumped nor skipped; but placed one foot lightly forward, and then backward; yet so as to advance gradually, till they reached a certain spot, and then retired in the same manner. They kept their bodies straight, and their arms hanging down close to their sides. But the men shouted, leapt, and stamp with such violence that the ground trembled under their feet. Their extreme agility and lightness of foot was never shown to more advantage than in dancing. Their whole music consisted in a single drum; which was made of an old barrel or kettle, or the lower end of a hollow tree, covered with a thin deer-skin, and beaten with one stick. Its sound, however, was not very agreeable, and served only to mark the time, which the Indians, when dancing even in large numbers, kept with due exactness. When they had finished one round, they took some rest; but during this time the drummer continued to sing till another dance commenced. These dances, in keeping with that spirit, lasted till midnight.

Another kind of dance was only attended by men. Each rose in his turn, and danced with great agility and boldness, extolling their own, or their forefathers' great deeds in a song, to which all beat time, by a monotonous, rough note, which was given out with great vehemence at the commencement of each bar.

Some dances, held upon different occasions, differed much from the above. Of these, the chief was the dance of peace, called also the CALUMET, or pipe dance; because the Calumet, or pipe of peace, was handed about during the dance. This was the most pleasing to strangers, who attended as spectators; its appearance was peaceable, and not so dreadful as the former. The dancers joined hands, and leapt in a ring for some time. On a sudden, the leader let the hand of one of his partners go, and kept hold of the other. He then sprang forward, and turned round several times, by which he drew the company round, so that he was enclosed by them, when they stood close together. They then disengaged themselves as suddenly, yet they kept hold of each others hands during all the different revolutions and changes in the dance; which, as they explained it, represented the chain of

friendship. A song made especially for this solemnity, was sung by all.

The language of the Delawares and Iroquois has an agreeable sound, both in conversation and public delivery, according to the testimony of Loskiel and others, who understood it. Though there is a great difference between that of the former and latter. The pronunciation, say those skilled in the Delaware tongue, is quite easy. Whether the languages of these nations have not been greatly changed in process of time, is a question that cannot here be discussed. No doubt these languages, like all others, were subject to mutation.

Their language is highly figurative. The following specimens may afford an idea of their metaphors:—

"The sky is overcast with dark, blustering clouds;" meaning, We shall have troublesome times—we shall have war. "We shall lift up the hatchet;" We shall have war. "The path is already shut up;" War has begun. "The rivers run with blood;" War rages in the country. "To bury the hatchet;" To conclude peace. "To lay down the hatchet—to slip the hatchet under the bed;" To cease fighting for a while, during a truce. "You did not make me strong;" You gave me nothing. "Don't listen to birds which fly by, singing;" Don't believe what stragglers tell you. "Look this way;" Join our party. "Suffer no grass to grow on this war path;" Carry on the war with vigor. "One night's encampment;" A halt of one year at a place. "You have spoken good words;" I am pleased with what you say. "I will pass one night yet at this place;" I will stay one year at this place.

"To lift the hatchet;" or, to begin a war, was always, as they declared, not till just and important causes prompted them to it. Then they assigned as motives, that it was necessary to revenge the injuries done to the nation. Perhaps, the honor of being distinguished as great warriors, may have been an "ingredient in the cup."

But, before they entered on so hazardous an undertaking, they carefully weighed all the proposals made, compared the probable advantages or disadvantages that might accrue. A chief could not begin a war without the consent of his captains; nor could he accept of a war-belt, only on the condition of its being considered by the captains. The chief was bound to preserve peace to the utmost of his power. But, if several captains were unanimous in declaring war, the chief was then obliged to deliver the care of his people, for a time, into the hands of the captains, and to lay down his office. Yet his influence tended greatly either to prevent, or encourage the commencement of war; for the Indians believed that a war could not be successful without the consent of the chief; and the captains, on that account, strove to be in harmony with him. After war was agreed on, and they wished to secure the assistance of a nation in league with them, they notified that nation by sending a piece of tobacco, or by an embassy. By the first, they intended that the captains were to smoke pipes and consider seriously whether they would take part in the war or not. The embassy was entrusted to a captain, who carried a belt of wampum, upon which the object of the embassy was described by certain figures, and a hatchet with a red handle. After the chief had been informed of his commission, it was laid before a council. The hatchet having been laid on the ground, he delivered a long speech, while holding the war-belt in his hand. Always closing the address with the request to take up the hatchet; and then delivering the war-belt. If this was complied with, no more was said; and this act was considered as solemn promise to lend every assistance; but if neither the hatchet was taken up, nor the belt accepted, the ambassador drew the just conclusion, that the nation preferred to remain neutral, and without any further ceremony, returned home.

The account of the death of one of the chiefs who signed the grant for a large scope of territory to Thomas and Richard Penn is thus announced by Conrad Weiser:

Bethlehem, in Bucks Co., Sept. 30, 1759. Sir:—By these few lines I let you know that I am safely returned on my journey from Onondago to this place last night, and hope to find my family in perfect health to-morrow. I wish I could inform you by these lines of a great deal of agreeable news, but I cannot; our friend *Canastota* was buried the day before I came to Onondago and *Solcomanaghy* our other good friend died sometime before.

He that is at the head of affairs now is a professed Roman Catholic, and altogether devoted to the French. The French priests have made a hundred converts of the *Onondagos*, that is to say, men, women and children, and they are all well clothed, and walk in the finest clothes, dressed with silver and gold; and I believe that the English interests

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POLITICAL POINTERS

Submitted for the Benefit of Local Quayites

SHOULD VINDICATE THOMPSON

Elect Him Delegate to the Coming Republican State Convention—Politicians Dropping into Town—Something is Brewing.

We desire to have a brief heart-to-heart confidential talk with our Quay-republican friends throughout the county on a matter of vital importance. The State Republican Convention will be held in August. In order that it may be a success the Stalwart forces must see that only friends of M. S. Quay be selected as delegates. Therefore, at the coming Republican Convention in Centre county, which will be held about a week prior, delegates should be chosen who will be in harmony with the state leaders, Quay, Stone, Elkins and others.

During the past week Representative John K. Thompson and Postmaster Bolger, of Philipsburg, were in consultation with John G. Love, Edward R. Chambers, W. E. Gray and other stalwart leaders at the county seat, in reference to this matter. They are desirous that complete harmony should prevail at their coming county convention and that the proper Quay delegates be elected without fail. Other prominent Quay leaders, from other points of the county, have been making their pilgrimages to this place, which indicates that the old-time zeal prevails. This is proper and prudent.

For some years Centre county has been an eyesore to the Quay people. They now have completely routed the Insurgent forces in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and elsewhere and in Centre county they think they have the proper following to rout the dismayed followers of Hastings.

The subject of our theme is "Vindicate Thompson." He has been a faithful Quay man at Harrisburg. He has voted for every Quay measure introduced at this session, such as the Ripper Bill, the Railroad Franchises, the \$4,000,000 capitol bill and all other such measures. He has been severely censured by the democrats and Hastings Insurgent organs. Now is the time to vindicate him. The Quay people should send him to the next Republican State Convention as a delegate. That would be a splendid vindication—that would attract attention far and wide, and do much to wipe out the ignominy attached to his name. It would give him some standing again among his former acquaintances and friends to whom he now can only turn with a shrinking countenance and restless eye. Every Quayite should rally with Love, Chambers, Gray and others to vindicate him in this manner. He needs it, you owe it to him.

If the above can not be done, the Quayites can in a measure vindicate Thompson's sullied record by electing Quay delegates to the next Republican State Convention. That would mean that Centre county endorses Thompson's legislative course, and approves of Quay and Stone as state leaders and an endorsement of the present legislature and all its infamy.

For the benefit of many of our Quay friends here and elsewhere we would suggest that the following proclamation, or one along these lines, be issued; it would be timely and appropriate. We hold no copyright and they are at liberty to use the original text, to wit:

PROCLAMATION:

Hey there, you Quayites, get a move on, line up and toe the mark! Are you aware that the Republican Convention of Centre county will soon be on the tapis when all the Quayites must be on the alert? Behold, how our venerable chief, the Hon. Matthew Stanley Quay, in the past year has put the Insurgent forces to flight, again entrenched himself for four years more as our illustrious leader, manipulates the legislature of this state, and by the grace of the president, does out all the federal patronage too, to the faithful in his fold. In order to show our appreciation for our matchless and invincible leader we must be doing, he cares not for tributes of praise but wants results.

The heyday of our revelry at Harrisburg will soon be over. We have scooped railroad franchises in the state worth many millions, we have swiped the good offices in the cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton and the people in those sections will have to recognize whomsoever we may send. We will in the next few years have \$4,000,000 to throw about the new capitol building at Harrisburg. For these and the countless other good things we are chiefly indebted to the goodness of our patron saint, who long ago quit shaking plum trees for ripper and more luscious fruit. In union there is strength; we stand, divided we dissolve into innocuous desuetude. Therefore by virtue of my position in the fold, upon me has devolved the duty to sound the tocsin from the tower and summon in all the faithful for the coming fray. Keep your eye on the coming Republ-

can State Convention! To do that we must here in Centre county keep our weather eye on the coming Republican Convention and elect Quay delegates. Our glorious old county must be restored to the Stalwart ranks—the taint of Hastings should never again blur or mar her political horizon—we must relegate the Old Man to the rear and forever put an end to his dominion or political pretensions—let this year Anno Domini 1901, the first cycle in the expanding new century, be the date for the downfall of the dynasty of "Our Dan" and may future historians inscribe on their tablets as they chronicle this notable epoch that with "Our Dan" went all his satellites into hopeless, eternal political darkness; and to Matthew Stanley Quay, our great, good and beneficent benefactor and redeemer, who led us to the promised land, will we give all the glory and praise, world without end.

By order of
JACOBUS G. LOVIBUS,
Approved by,
Edw. Rubberneck Chambers,
Witness:
Willing Ever Gray.

CARING FOR AN HISTORIC SPOT.

Recently the Huntingdon Presbytery appointed Rev. W. H. Schuyler, Judge Jas. A. Beaver and C. P. Long a committee to look after a neglected graveyard in Penns valley.

The spot referred to is on the Musser farm a little east of Penn Hall. Here the Presbyterians in 1775 had at least an informal organization, and in 1785 erected a log church. This is perhaps the first religious society and the first church building of any denomination to come into existence in Penns valley. The Rev. James Martin, an ancestor of Judge Martin Bell, of Blair county, was the first settled pastor, having accepted a call April 15, 1784. In this church the Presbytery of Huntingdon was organized April 14, 1795, and his remains lie in the graveyard of the church under a stone slab which bears the following inscription:

"Here lies the body of the Rev. James Martin, pastor of the first Presbyterian congregation in Penns valley, who died June 20, 1795, aged about 65 years. Deep was the wound, O death, and vastly wide.

When he resigned his useful breath and died Ye sacred tribes with pious sorrow mourn. And drop a tear at your dear pastor's urn. Concealed a moment from our longing eyes, Beneath this stone his mortal body lies. Happy the Spirit lives; and will, we trust, In bliss associate with his pious dust."

Soon after Mr. Martin's death the building was sold to another denomination, and the Presbyterians united with the Sinking Creek church at Centre Hill. The old log church near Penn Hall has disappeared. All that remains to mark the spot, in addition to Mr. Martin's tomb, are a few neglected graves. An effort is to be made to care properly for this spot of more than usual interest in the religious history of Penns valley.—Reporter.

Aged Man Killed at Laurelton.

An accident occurred at the Laurelton Lumber Company's siding at Laurelton, on Tuesday morning 4th, which resulted in the death of Jacob Deater. Mr. Deater was aged about seventy-six years. Mr. Deater was on the track right in the way of a rapidly moving car and was struck and run down. He was not seen by the crew until his cries aroused them, when the car was stopped as quickly as possible. The wheels had passed over his legs, and from the hips down the limbs were crushed and broken. He only lived one hour and twenty minutes after the accident.

Caught 900 Trout.

A. S. Furst, of Cedar Springs, Charles Sigmund, of Salona, A. O. Harvey, of Flemington, and J. Hogan Furst, of this city, caught 900 "speckled beauties," on the headwaters of Beech Creek during a week's outing. This is pretty hard to beat.—Clinton Democrat. No it wasn't "hard to beat." Two Centre county editors, and many other of its anglers, have done for better many a time."

The Big Oak Grove Shops.

Reports from Oak Grove, near Jersey Shore, are to the effect that active operations will be commenced there in a very short time. Within the next few days a large force of Italians will arrive to begin the work of grading. Some of the heavy iron for the immense turn table that is to be constructed, has arrived but has not yet been unloaded from the cars.

Young Cattle Found Dead.

Several young cattle that have been turned out for the summer on the mountain between Mackeyville and Sugar valley have been afflicted by eating, it is supposed, laurel. Three belonging to Oliver Smith have been found dead, one owned by the Ira McKibben estate is dead, and several belonging to others are missing.

A Large Black Snake.

One day recently two of Frederick Glossner's boys killed a blacksnake six feet in length at Beech Creek. The reptile was found at the yard fence of the residence of David Mapes.

VARIETY OF COUNTY NEWS

Items of Interest Gathered From All Sections

SHORT AND TO THE POINT

What Transpired Worthy of Brief Mention, the Past Week—News From Over the County—For Hasty Readers—A New Department.

The Philipsburg school board has re-elected I. H. Mauser, formerly of Lock Haven, superintendent of the schools in that place.

For any thing that can be struck, oil or gas, a diamond drill is putting down a test hole near Highland mine about three miles from Philipsburg.

The new water company, of Philipsburg, has pipes distributed about town and has a large gang of Italians to assist in the work, which will be pushed rapidly.

Daniel Showalter, living near Scotia, using an ax as a hatchet last week, caught the long handle against some obstruction, thus deflecting the blade from the true course, and cut off the thumb and first finger of his left hand.

A man registered at the Central hotel in Milesburg two weeks ago, suddenly disappeared two days later leaving a horse and new buggy behind him. He was not permitted to take his horse and buggy unless he would pay his bill before starting. This he was unable to do, so he disappeared, leaving his conveyance behind him.

Charles Womer, of Sandy Ridge, has been admitted to the Cottage hospital at Philipsburg to be treated for severe injuries received Friday evening while at work in a clay bank near that place. He was in the act of discharging a cartridge when an explosion occurred tearing and bruising the flesh of his left leg and arm, peeling the skin from the left side of his face and burning him about the head.

Harry Hoy, at Millheim, informed Landlord Musser and some other parties last week that he intended taking laudanum and severing his connection with things earthly. He made good his word by drinking the laudanum in their presence. Shortly after it began taking effect, but he was taken home and given emetics, which brought relief. He is slowly recovering, but was decidedly sick for some time.

A petition is being prepared to present to the Centre county court asking permission to make a new public road from Philipsburg to Flat Rock, starting from the spring near Cold spring dam, going up the west side of Cold Stream to a point a short distance below Muley dam, where the run will be crossed, and continuing up Crow's Nest hollow to the top of the mountain, then down Bowman hollow to Flat Rock.

IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

Scarlet fever has appeared in a Lewis-ton tenement which contains a rather dense population, including eleven children.

Osceola capitalists have raised a fund of \$4,000 for the purpose of putting down a test well for oil, which seems to be on the surface in great quantities.

Luther, a son of Rev. J. A. Bright, of Kansas and a native of Aaronsburg, graduated at the Seminary at Gettysburg, recently, and has prospects of a charge at Kent, Ill.

Henry E. Zerbe, of Rauchtown, has purchased a mountain timber tract containing 541 acres of land, in the west end of Sugar valley, which has within its limits a fine mountain stream of water. He will improve it for a trout stream.

George Long, a veteran trapper and hunter, residing near Penfield, recently caught the largest bear trapped in that country for many a day. When dressed it weighed 300 pounds, and imbedded in its body were several bullets which had been there for years. Bruin's age is beyond calculation.

Huntingdon Local News: The arbitration in the breach of promise case of Cora A. Keim against Professor I. Harvey Brumbaugh attracted considerable attention last Thursday. The verdict of the arbitrators, Messrs. Leffard, Baldwin and Black, was for the defendant, as Miss Keim did not produce any evidence to support her side of the case. The attorneys for the plaintiff paid the cost of the hearing, and, it is said, will take an appeal to court.

Resolutions against Sunday funerals were unanimously adopted recently at a meeting of the Johnstown Ministerial association. The resolutions say that, as present-day funerals are too elaborated and ostentatious, the Ministerial association discourages the holding of funerals on Sunday which can reasonably be held at any other time, and deem it incompatible with duty as ministers to officiate at Sunday funerals at the hour of any regular church service.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Pan-American—buckwheat cakes. Family jars are not all to be found in the pantry.

Some people put on airs and some try to whistle them.

Do good by stealth and let it be found out by accident.

Some people run in debt and then try to crawl out of it.

The fellow who eats with his knife deserves to be cut.

Asthmatic people make hay fever while the sun shines.

An editor is never too poor to give his neighbor a roast.

Even a self-made man may let a woman make a fool of him.

All flesh may be as grass; not, so however, with all widows.

The tobacco seller isn't entirely insured against his stock going up in smoke.

Sensible Idea.

An exchange in answer to a correspondent, says: It is not necessary to publish a card of thanks because assistance rendered during illness and at death is service for which only like service can repay; nor proper because friendship never expects thanks, and indicative of a lack of true appreciation. Besides, a card thanks parades an entirely private matter before the public, which is very bad taste. In cases where expression of gratitude if necessary, a brief note of thanks, and better a kindly spoken word, is in much better taste, and is indicative of that refinement with which all like to be credited. If you will notice you will very seldom see cards of thanks published by persons who pretend to observe the rules of propriety. We hope the readers of this paper will give this a moment of careful consideration. No man who renders assistance under such circumstances should expect public thanks for performing a common duty to his neighbor.

Caused a Commotion.

A delegate to the Lutheran Synod, at Des Moines, Iowa, returned last Friday and while in Bellefonte told the writer the following interesting incident that occurred on the trip homeward. The delegate occupied the lower berth of a section in a pullman sleeper. During the night he was disturbed by a commotion in the berth overhead. He soon realized that a man above him had taken ill with cramps in the stomach and the wife at once got up and secured a porous plaster and went to the toilet room to prepare it for an application. In about fifteen minutes there was a frightful commotion. There were loud curses and scramble, then came a heartrending shriek from a woman as she fell prostrate in the aisle of the car. It awoke all the sleepers; cause of all the trouble was that, in her haste, the lady missed her section and placed the porous plaster on another man's stomach.

Big Real Estate Deal.

S. Q. Mengle, formerly of Lock Haven, and a native of Aaronsburg, but now general manager of the Depew Land and Improvement company of New York Central Railroad Co. sold to a Philadelphia syndicate, the tract of land known as Palisade Heights. The tract contains 145 acres and is on the west shore of the Hudson and is 239 feet above the level of the water. It is the highest point around New York. The tract is surrounded by the famous Hudson boulevard, considered one of the finest driving roads in the country. The purchase price was \$1,000,000. The purchasers will build palatial residences on the land.

Rumored Purchase of Coal Fields.

It is rumored that the Pennsylvania Railroad company has purchased the coal fields operated by the Berwind-White Coal Mining company for \$35,000,000. The object of the control of these coal fields by the Pennsylvania Railroad company is to protect its coal carrying interests and to prevent the shipments from being diverted to other lines.

Preaching Against Dancing.

A mild sensation has been caused in Scranton Catholic social circles by a deliverance against dancing by Bishop Hoban, of the Scranton diocese. In addressing the Historical society and the Newman Magazine club, Bishop Hoban earnestly advised them to taboo social features which include dancing.

Big Timber Deal.

Eastern capitalists, among whom is ex-Attorney General H. C. McCormick, of Williamsport, have purchased 325,000 acres of timber land in the state of Campeche, on the eastern Yucatan peninsula. Mills will be erected and the timber manufactured in marketable lumber.