

ON THE CLERMONT.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRST VOYAGE OF FULTON'S STEAMBOAT.

A Group of Women Who Made the Historic Trip—How the Engagement of the Inventor Was Announced—Predictions Made by Chancellor Livingston.

Helen Everston Smith, in the Century, has a paper on "A Group of American Girls Early in the Century," which gives pleasant glimpses of Chancellor Livingston and Robert Fulton.

The "new boat" of the letter was the now celebrated Clermont, the steamboat of Robert Fulton, which in August, 1807, made the first successful steam voyage up the astonished Hudson and demonstrated to the world that a new force had been discovered by which old methods in nearly all lines were to be revolutionized.

Very likely, with all their loving confidence in the wisdom of the chancellor, the sisters embarked with some distrust of his new boat's making good its promise to get them home in less than three days, even if both wind and tide should prove unfavorable, but they were not afraid of anything worse than delay, though most of their friends feared for them.

The embarkation was from a dock "near the state prison" (which was in "Greenwich village," on the North river) and was witnessed by a crowd of "not less than 500 persons."

The adventurous voyagers, who were the guests of Robert Fulton and Chancellor Livingston, were about 40 in number, including but a few ladies. Among the latter, besides our two young sisters and their aunt, Mrs. Thomas Morris (daughter-in-law of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution), were at least one of the chancellor's two daughters, four of the many daughters of his brothers, John R. and Colonel Harry, and a young lady who was more interested in the result of this memorable experiment than any one save the inventor himself.

In all the biographies of Fulton Miss Harriet Livingston is called the chancellor's niece, but she was really his cousin. She was a beautiful, graceful and accomplished woman and had long given her heart to Robert Fulton. The fair Harriet was at this time about two and twenty and "deeply in love with her handsome, gifted lover as any girl well could be."

A little before reaching Clermont, when the success of the voyage was well assured, the betrothal was announced by the chancellor in a graceful speech, in the course of which he prophesied that the "name of the inventor would descend to posterity as that of a benefactor to the world, and that it was not impossible that before the close of the present century vessels might even be able to make the voyage to Europe without other motive power than steam."

This happy prediction was received with but moderate approval by any, while smiles of incredulity were exchanged between those who were so placed that they could not be seen by the speaker or the inventor, John R. was heard to say in an aside to his cousin, John Swift Livingston, that "Bob had many a bee in his bonnet before now, but this steam folly would prove the worst one yet."

But the chancellor's brothers lived to see the ocean regularly traversed by steam vessels, but the prophet himself and the inventor both passed away before the realization of their dreams.

The Sleeping Disease. On the western coast of Africa, they have a singular and always fatal malady which is known as the sleeping disease, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. The person attacked by it is seized with a sensation of drowsiness, which continues to increase in spite of the efforts made to throw it off. Finally the patient sinks into a profound sleep, which continues for about three weeks, or until death ensues. The most curious feature of the disease is that, aside from the drowsiness, the patient seems much as usual. The pulse, respiration and temperature are normal, while he may be easily aroused and will take nourishment and answer questions in a perfectly natural manner.

Clearly Dead. "Yes," spake they of the one who had gone, "he was utterly and hopelessly dead. His wickedness might have been forgiven had it been accompanied by any redeeming trait, but he had none. He couldn't even tell a funny story."—Indianapolis Journal.

The white carnation is regarded in England as an emblem of death. This idea was probably suggested by the upright habit of the flower, which nods and waves languidly in the breeze.

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BIRDS OF ILL NATURE.

The Cruelty of Swans as Displayed Toward Other Birds. Among those birds which stay at home, especially the most domesticated, there is often an exhibition of unkindness seemingly unaccountable, says a writer in The Cornhill Magazine.

When an only child has passed out of the cynical stage of life and grown to full physical if not mental maturity, father and mother swans have been known to fall upon and deliberately beat it to death with wing and beak.

Thermometers. At times of severe frost many persons not skilled in the use of thermometers report remarkably low temperatures. These are often due to the thermometer liquid having partly evaporated.

Fly Feet. The means by which a fly can creep up a pane of glass or walk on a ceiling have long been the subject of contention among scientists, some claiming that the fly foot is a sucker, others that adhesion is effected by the aid of a viscid fluid exuding from the foot.

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ANIMALS AND MUSIC.

The Familiar Stable Call Brought the Stamping Hoofs. The editor of The Ironist relates the following story of his own personal experience in the capacity of military surgeon in the year 1873, during a skirmish with the Sioux Indians.

A gentleman who was a finished musician resided some years ago at Darstadt and kept a dog, which was the terror of all the singers and instrumentalists in the place.

The Irish Potato Not Irish. The peculiarity of the Irish potato, so called, is in the fact that it is not Irish, observed one of the potato experts of the agricultural department.

Not What He Needed. She had undertaken to help him in his literary labors. "Here is something that you really ought to read," she said, looking up from the magazine she had hastily been looking through.

The oldest crown preserved among the royal regalia of Great Britain is that which was worn by Charles II. being made for him at his coronation in 1660.

A foot of common measure is equal to 30 centimeters or hundredths of a meter.

Coast Creek Railroad.

Table with columns for STATIONS, p. m., and m. p. m. listing various stations and times.

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