A JERSEY TOWN IN ASHES.

THE FATE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY VILLAGE OF BATSTO.

A Community Turned Out of Doors in an Hour—The Ruins that Mark the Site of a Village that Flourished a Century Ago—The Fate of the Sons of a Lordly Sire.

In the heart of a forest of stunted trees in Burlington county, New Jersey, eighteen miles blackened chimneys, standing as headstones over the ashes of as many once happy homes, tell the sad story of the utter desolation of a prosperous village of a hundred years ago. Batsto stood at the head of Little Egg Harbor, on a Mullica river. It clustered about a romantic pond like that takes an oval shape in the drooping foliage, and mirrors a sky of blue in a frame of green. The Indians bathed in its cool, deep waters, and called it Batsto—a bathing place. The Quakers settled round it, and one of their number built an iron furnace on the brink of its outlet. His name was Ball, and the iron plate which was fastened in the house wall recorded the building of the second iron furnace in the new county of Gloucester, the other being in the present Warren county. The forest region about Batsto was filled with piles of wood, covered with sand, and colliers found employment burning charcoal for the furnace. Under the Quakers the work of iron-making went vigorously on. Huge logs of pine were built along the lake and floated by industrious pioneers. The Revolution broke out and the Quaker foundrymen refused to supply the army with ordnance. Some powerful sect refused to aid in the slaughter, and turned the applicants away. Nothing daunted, the patriots overcame their scruples, they made rude moulds, and night and day sent their fires burning, and in the ashy mud at Batsto to-day are buried many of the iron balls which they cast. The traditions of the place, handed down by Quaker Ball give to them a picturesque character scarcely surpassed by any modern ruins. Cannon shot were fired at them, and the balls crashing into the flanks of Batsto, when intended for their front, ploughed a murderous furrow wherever they struck. An old nine pounder is preserved in the grounds, another that remained from the old Revolutionary days, was fired when the Fourth of July, many years ago, and killed four years on. The old foundry sent out the iron fence round the State House in Philadelphia and many other revolutionary castings.

A FEUDAL LORD IN NEW JERSEY.

Working for Quaker Ball was a young Welshman, William Richards. At the Quaker's death he married his daughter and added to the little village the inn and the passage of emigrants and stages for retainers. On the knoll above the village a mansion was built. It clustered with two-story wings. A large oak-panelled hall forms one wing. The hall bears the stamp of an imitation of an English manor, and tradition gives to the owner the pride of a feudal lord. Under Richards the foundry prospered. A village sprang up, and the hills were stripped of their forests to supply them with charcoal. A twenty-acre farm was built near the house. An office, a warehouse, two large stone stables, and many cottages were erected. The foundry furnace was rebuilt in the active use, and in 1809 it was refitted and again in 1816. In 1812 William Richards died. He left six sons—Jesse, Samuel, Richard, George, William, and Augustus, ranging from years of age, took his father's business, and his brothers moved away. Benjamin became Mayor of Philadelphia, but the eldest, Jesse, was the right of Batsto. Young Richards had married a daughter of a lawyer, and he ruled Batsto as a princely. From the old mansion, which was known as it is today as the Big House, he built look down over the town and lake, the hills at their work or in their rest. He extended his power, and bought up 10 acres of land, including what is now Atsion, and erected a village that rivals the villages of Hammonton, Elwood, and Egg Harbor City. He built dwellings along the four streets of Batsto, imported workmen, built two saw mills, two glass factories, one pottery, a three-story grist mill, dug a canal two miles long for a bog iron boat, built several sloops, and kept a fleet of 40 sail busy in carrying trade. The woods were cleared by choppers, and the wood hauled around the glass factories. Ten large buildings were filled with busy men melting, boxing, and cutting window glass. Between one hundred and a thousand men found employment, and there was not an idle hand in Batsto.

BATSTO IN ITS GLORY.

With the magnificent water power, made by damming the water from the lake, with the forests of pine, oak and cedar, with the rich clay beds that were growing about the village, who passed that way predicted a flourishing city. Jesse erected the saw mill with the water power, and dealt the flour to his wife from his own store. He sawed the timber and built the houses for his tenants, and gave them their rent. He pressed the juice from the grapes and stored them in his own wine cellars. No rent was allowed in those days, but idle men houses were built out with consent. The residents of the Big House received from the store and superintended by Jesse. The glass works, the glass factories, the foundry made strange music in the Mullica Valley. In the pottery a pair of hands were turning 3,000 pieces of ware a day, and the glass factories were filled with busy men. In the foundry the ponderous wheels were always in motion, and the blast furnace never slept. In 1828 the foundry was again rebuilt, and the date is inscribed on a plate. By 1840 ten iron works were busy in New Jersey, but the discovery of anthracite in Pennsylvania put in other hands a heavy blow.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The property of Jesse Richards made him a prince, as he was the richest man in the county. He lived in the first style, followed his fancies with a princely pride. He received guests as they collected in his store and dispensed with a lordly satisfaction. His power was in it grew old in its cellar, and the flow of fortune he drank his wine. The Revolution was over, the silver was at par, the iron was reinstated. This check to the flow of his wealth pained him, and as he passed through his sixties and turned into the seventies he found increasing comfort in his cellar and imported whiskey, and his store and wine cellar. He married twice, with three sons and three daughters to share his enormous fortune.

As with his wealth he left as a legacy to his family his pride and power, Jesse Richards left as a legacy a love of strong drink. Thomas, Samuel, and Richard were executors of the estate, and the factories to be managed in their joint accounts, and thriving village remained to them a vast revenue. They made the old store, a faithful secretary of Jesse Richards, their manager, and they left Batsto to decay. They divided their wealth in the spirit of their father, and dissipated all the property of their father, to enjoy them, and drinking scarcely enough, in 1845 sold to A. Allen, Bankers, of Philadelphia, 20 acres of their land. This went as fast as the men of fortune can make money go.

STARING RUIN IN THE FACE.

The managers were left unpaid. They starved for their wages. At length they threw up their hands and the fires in the glass furnaces went out, and the busy village of a half century ago, and the men met, and talked of the days in the Big House. "Wade," said one, as their dialect turns the name, "we'll go!" and paid, and so engaged to him that he had only to ask a word that for him.

They hurried to their home, and the fires of the furnaces and mill again. The Mullica moved away. The old mansion stood in the fast ties begining to rot, and year after year the other went out, Robert Richards was soon gone, and the dangerous workmen, the laborers, under Jesse Richards, left with their wages, for the Mullica moved away. The old mansion stood in lonely grandeur, tumbled in ruin, and the mill stopped. The fires went out for the last time, the Big House chose the chimneys, and chopped wood by the cords for their bread. No rent, no fuel, no fire, and the house grew desolate, they moved into another. The glass factory, the Big House, Judge Richard of Ohio, and a good nurse for the helpless and suffering.

Ingersoll would not permit me a look at his face when he marched in to his dinner on Monday, but turned his head away, as he is in the habit of doing when he passes the keeper's desk, where the visitors stand. He is said to be a model convict—an example for all his fellows—never complaining, never shirking, and always doing his work faithfully. He repeived a pressure in the mess room the other day for finding fault with the food, which is excellent and abundant. "If I can stand it without crowing, I think you ought to," said the millionaire to the beggar. He is now a bookkeeper in the cell house. Knowledge and application to duty are a power for promotion in prison as elsewhere. He wore the extra wrap about his throat seen so commonly in Auburn prison, where bronchial inflammation is one of the consequences of bonnet-heated cells.

The Charges against the Mayor and Treasurer of San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—The Grand Jury yesterday reported on the case of Mayor Otto and Treasurer Hubert, relative to the charge made by County Judge Stanley that by depositing $300,000 in the Bank of California they had violated the law. The Grand Jury says that after a most earnest and careful examination they came to the unanimous conclusion that there was nothing in the conduct of the parties which would entitle them to a trial. They say the treasurer was guilty of a technical violation of law, but there was no criminal intent; and further, that Otto had never advised, connived at, or consented to a violation of law, nor otherwise abetted any officer which entitled him to the very pointed charge of the County Judge to the Grand Jury.

Chocolat Menier—Menier's Cocoa.

Defies all honest competition. Awarded medal, Vienna Exhibition. Sold by all grocers, druggists, and confectioners. Depot 43 Beaver st. Menier's Cocoa for breakfast.—Adv.

A PRESIDENT A PRISONER.

A DISTINGUISHED CAPTIVE IN THE BREVOORT HOUSE.

A Suit by a Man who was Sentenced to Death that his Property Might be Confiscated by the Dictator—An Unexpected Chapter in the History of San Domingo.

Señor Buenventura Baez, late President of the republic of San Domingo, was arrested on civil process at the suit of Davis Hatch at the Brevoort House on Saturday. Mr. Hatch claims $65,000 damages for false imprisonment by Baez in San Domingo in 1869. Judge Pratt of Brooklyn granted the order of arrest, and it was served by Deputy Sheriff Jeffrys. The Sheriff had no trouble in finding the ex-President, who has lived in the Brevoort House since his coming hither to sue for aid and annexation at the court of Ulysses. The process had been hastened, however, by a rumor that the defendant intended to go to Washington to live. Judge Pratt granted the order of arrest on the following affidavit:

THE COMPLAINT.

State of New York, County of Kings, ss.: David Hatch, the plaintiff above named, being duly sworn, says that on the 10th day of August of the time hereinafter mentioned, and prior thereto, that during the years 1868 and 1870 defendant was President of the so-called Dominican Republic, and that on or about the 28th of August, 1869, defendant unlawfully and caused the plaintiff to be arrested by an armed force, under the command of one Geo. Frederico Garcia and an officer of the Dominican army, while defendant was at his residence at Peralbenda, in said Republic of Dominica, and therefore caused and procured said plaintiff to be detained and imprisoned for the space of upwards of five months on the charge of conspiracy and treasonable correspondence to the rule of said defendant, and furnishing aid thereto.

Second. That defendant was, subsequently to his said arrest and imprisonment, but prior to the imprisonment first mentioned, since before a court martial composed of officers in the military service of said defendant and upon the testimony of known convicted felons, and that deponent was sentenced by said court martial convened at the special instance and command of defendant, to be shot to death, that immediately thereafter deponent was pardoned of the offence charged against him by defendant, and was released from said sentence, but required to depart forthwith from said territory and dominion of Dominica, but was thereafter detained and imprisoned by defendant for six months.

Third. That the sentence of death on the defendant first caused the deponent to be arrested, tried, sentenced, and imprisoned as aforesaid, were unjust, and so known to be by defendant, and the said arrest and said sentence were pronounced and made in bad faith and all of them without color or pretext of justification or usage under the constitution and laws of the said Republic of Dominica, but were enforced and executed by the defendant, acting solely without authority of law, and in the exercise of dictatorial powers unlawfully usurped by him under cover of said office, and that defendant has since ceased to be said President.

Fourth. That plaintiff was greatly injured in health and property by reason of said arrest and imprisonment, and by reason of the same.

Fifth. That deponent has commenced an action in this Court upon the cause of action above stated, the summons in which action is hereto annexed.

Sworn to this day, Feb. 21, 1874, before me, James H. Goodman, Notary Public No. 101, New York city.

WHO THE COMPLAINANT IS.

Mr. Hatch is an enterprising Yankee. He began his residence in San Domingo at the time of the brief revival of Spanish rule there in 1865. He saw that great profit could be obtained by working the salt mines of the central part of the island. Although the mines were as rich as any in the world, they had not been worked for years, owing to the fact that it has been the theatre of nearly all the revolutionary troubles with Cabral. The salt is there in immense quantity, pure in quality, and Hatch saw that it might be mined at a very low figure. He obtained a concession from the Government of the right to mine salt in the commune of Neyba, and for the laying of a railroad from the shore of Barahona to the said salt mines. He came to New York and obtained capital for his enterprise.

Soon after Mr. Hatch's return to San Domingo, Cabral obtained control of the island for a short time, and while the revolution prevented active working of the mines, he confirmed the concession to Mr. Hatch. When Baez became President, the mines were developed sufficiently to show that they were important sources of wealth they were. Although in the despatches of Señor Gautier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Secretary Fish mention is made of the concession to Hatch, there is a difference of opinion as to whether Baez ever confirmed the privilege. At all events the point was raised when Hatch asked for aid, Baez refused, saying the Islanders, Mr. H. tch did not favor Baez's pet scheme. He thought the island a very good place to trade or mine in, but could not perceive the advantages that would make it a desirable acquisition to the United States. Another company of American salt miners favored annexation. Their mine was in a very much more revolutionary district even than that of Mr. Hatch, and an adverse vote that promised a period of repose was desirable. At all events they became very active in the cause, and the discussion of annexation was at its height when the mine was raised when he was seen to be immovable in his opposition. It was deemed important to get rid of him. Inclination did not wait long on opportunity. Cabral was always busy organizing forays on the border. After one of those petty invasions Mr. Hatch was arrested by order of Baez, on charge of giving aid to Cabral. This was in 1869. Mr. Raymond R. Perry was then Commercial Agent of the United States in San Domingo. Speaking of the events of two years after, he said:

"He felt so implicated in a singular position. He was between two fires. Hatch was a Baez, and as the one retired the other took possession of the country. When Baez occupied Hatch's district he arrested him and confiscated all his property. I know myself that Hatch was of great service to Baez. The fact is that

HATCH'S SALT MOUNTAIN

is immensely valuable, and they wanted to get Hatch out of the way so as to get possession of the grant. Learning that the correspondent of the newspapers was in the district, I thought it prudence to visit the place, and seemed it best to imprison him. I requested his release when I first went to San Domingo, and they promised to release him. Then I surrendered three men confined in the American Consulate. Baez did not keep his promise. I afterwards demanded Mr. Hatch's release, according to orders from Washington, and he was then released. The only excuse that Baez could find for detaining him was his opposition to annexation."

After his release it is probable that Mr. Hatch did oppose annexation, for the desire to get rid of him lead to the arrest, trial, and death in affid vit. A drumhead court martial tried him for treason, and he was sentenced to be shot. Gen. O. E. Babcock arrived in San Domingo as Special Agent of the United States while the trial was in progress, and at its termination he demanded the pardon of Mr. Hatch. Baez granted the request, but it is suspected that there is some reason to suppose that it was not intended to shoot him, but merely to put the confiscation of his estates beyond question and to silence his opposition to annexation. His pardon was coupled with the provision that he should not leave the island for six months, and at the expiration of that time the scheme had been formally killed by Congress.

Some correspondence on the subject of the outrage was exchanged. The following letter from M. M. Gautier, Dominican Minister of Foreign Affairs, throws some light on the motive of the outrage:

THE MOTIVE BEHIND IT ALL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAN DOMINGO, Feb. 19, 1870.

MR. CONSUL: The virtue of the evidence produced pending the trial of Mr. David Hatch, he was condemned to death when President Baez supposed to the honorable Sir Hamilton Fish, and the Senate, and a message for their cooperation to save the life of that individual, and for no other motive than to give a proof of North American Government, and the granting of the pardon to the prisoner, Mr. Hatch, was a proof of the generosity of the Government of Baez, and the Senate, and the Congress, and the Executive, and the Ministers, and the Secretaries of State, and the Chief Justice, and the Senators, and the Representatives, and the Governors, and the Mayors, and the Aldermen, and the Commissioners, and the Judges, and the Clerks, and the Citizens, and the Inhabitants, and the Men, and the Women, and the Children, and the Dogs, and the Cats, and the Mice, and the Rats, and the Cockroaches, and the Flies, and the Fleas, and the Bugs, and the Lice, and the Fleas, and the Bugs, and the Lice, and the Fleas, and the Bugs, and the Lice