

SEPARATISTS OF ZEAR

A QUEER OLD-WORLD VILLAGE IN CENTRAL OHIO.

One Instance in Which Common Ownership Has Worked Successfully—A Community in Which Peace and Prosperity Abide.

One of the most picturesque villages in this country is the little town of Zear, with its peculiar architecture and its peculiar people. It lies in a fertile valley, watered by many springs and threaded by the Tuscarawas river.

Its inhabitants are mainly descendants of the original settlers, who came from the old world, and in the year 1817 to escape religious persecution in their mother country. These refugees were called separatists, on account of their withdrawal from the Lutheran and Roman Catholic faiths.

The separatists, 250 in number, arrived at Philadelphia in a destitute condition, and were given shelter by the friendly Quakers in the Brotherhood Love. The leader of the persecuted religionists was a man of strong character and great intellect, Joseph Bimeier by name.

After a few months in America Mr. Bimeier effected the purchase of a tract of land, 1,500 acres, in the township of Zear, in the unbroken forest of Ohio. To obtain this he gave his note for the entire \$15,000 of purchase money.

In the autumn of 1817 a number of people were sent to Ohio to provide habitations for those to follow. In the spring of 1818 the mass of emigrants arrived at the settlement, which was named Zear in honor of the city to which Lot had fled from Sodom.

After a year and a half of extreme destitution, a community of property was proposed, and finally in February, 1821, the Society of Separatists of Zear was incorporated under the laws of Ohio, and has remained in effect.

The corporation owns and controls everything. Individuals possess no separate rights of property, the theory being the greatest good to the greatest number. The members contribute their labor and time to the community, receiving in return the necessities of life. Everything beyond that goes to a common fund.

The children of the community are admitted to the society on attaining majority, but are required to undergo a year's probation before admission to full membership.

During the construction of the Ohio canal, which passes through Zear, the separatists took a contract, and all able-bodied members worked there until its completion, thus earning the much of the money to pay for their land.

The present society numbers about 200. The people are quiet and moral. No member has ever been expelled. Joseph Bimeier was the leader in religious as well as in municipal affairs. All religious services were conducted by him, and so much were his sermons admired that after his death they were written from memory by one of his congregations, and from that time forward to the present day these discourses are read in the Zear house of worship in preference to more modern or original efforts.

The houses in Zear are built of stone or brick, and are of a simple, unpretentious character. Many of the houses have delightful stone or brick floored porches at the front and rear, and not only the porches, but a great number of the houses, walls are shaded by a vine, and the vines are vines. Some cottages are entirely covered with them.

The Zearites boast a public garden, recently laid out, and a number of masses of blooming flowers and clumps of well-trimmed shrubs. At the garden's gate is the spring house, a little house in the wall, where one can drink of clear, pure water, fit for the garden.

One of the principal buildings in Zear is a large brick mansion built for Joseph Bimeier, and for this reason called "The Bimeier House." It is a fine specimen of English architecture, and is situated on a hill, and is reached by a fine carriage road.

The quietest as well as one of the oldest houses in Zear was erected in 1817. It is made of logs, and has thin, old-fashioned windows, and an outside chimney half hidden by clinging vines. Its present occupant has furnished it as much as possible in accordance with its style.

Zear has its own threshing, saw, shoe-making, and other shops, and the members of the society are allowed each a certain number of acres of land, which is cultivated by them, and the produce of their crops and provisions of all sorts are obtained in the same way, an ample allowance for each family being dealt out on application.

A WOMAN'S AMBITION.

MARILLA M. RICKER WANTS TO BE AN AMBASSADOR.

She Has Petitioned President McKinley to Be Appointed Minister to United States of Colombia—For the First Time Over Her Signature This Interesting Woman Tells of the Reasons Why Her Sex Should Represent This Country Abroad.

"I President McKinley favors my appointment, and the senate concurs, I shall be the first woman ambassador."

This is what Marilla Marks Ricker, the well known woman lawyer of Washington and of Dover, N. H., says. She is a candidate for the office of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States of Colombia, the position which is now filled by Luther McKinley of Manchester, N. H.

Following the steady road up the hill beyond the cemetery to the quiet graveyard of the community. It is in a little grove of fir trees, and seems to breathe of eternal peace and quietude.

"I do not know that the Japanese government does meditate any hostile or forcible action against Hawaii, but unless something is done to stop this influx of Japanese, it will be a matter of time before the Hawaiian government will be unable to meet such contingencies, but they have been evaded. Japanese consuls were instituted when a lot of men were refused landing recently, but in the absence of the proof of charges that money borne by the men did not actually belong to them, the landing was allowed.

"I have been a woman suffragist ever since I can remember, and it was my greatest trouble when a child that I could not go to town meeting with my father, while my brother, who was only six years older, could. I do not remember when I did not

JAPANESE SWARMING IN.

Ex-Minister Thurston Thinks Them a Menace to Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—L. A. Thurston, ex-minister of Hawaii to this country, now president of the Annexation Club of Honolulu, and here in the interests of that organization, gave out an interview today regarding the news that the Hawaiian government, in refusing to allow 500 Japanese laborers to land in Honolulu, has been charged with the violation of the immigration laws.

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THE TOWER OF SILENCE IN BOMBAY.

The following Bombay correspondence of the Independence Belge, taken from the New York Sun, gives an idea of the panic and appalling scenes to be witnessed in the stricken city:

When they are affected with colds or other troubles.

"The worst week that we have passed through since the disease was first announced by the municipality, at the end of September last, was the one from January 3 to 10, with a death rate of 1,638; that is to say, four times as great as the ordinary death rate when Bombay counted more than 800,000 inhabitants. Now the official figures, 1,638, may well be subject to revision, because the authorities admit that the returns are incomplete. In other words, the figures stand rather under the mark."

"During the past few days the panic has been on the increase. Up to Christ- day about 20,000 natives had fled from the city. In three weeks the number of fugitives has been increased by 10,000 to 30,000. Every day trains, steamboats and sailing vessels carry away the terrified people. The native population of Bombay is consequently a considerable extent of people from the provinces who, from time to time, return to their native localities. Others, settling in neighboring villages come every morning in the trains to their work or to their business. All that class disappeared completely on the first cry of alarm."

"The government does all it possibly can to allay the panic. Camps and tents have been set up in the public places to shelter those who have fled from houses and in that manner the salaries of the employees in the municipality were doubled, but without success. The officials fled. It is difficult to diminish

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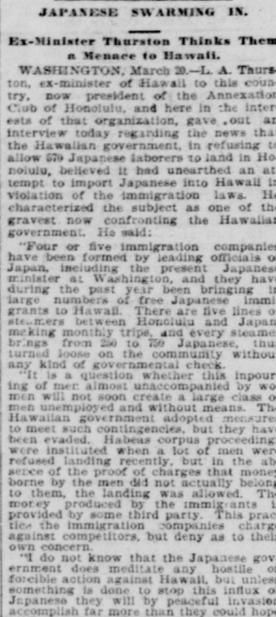
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MARILLA M. RICKER.

request to be appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. There is nothing in the constitution of the United States prohibiting a woman's appointment. Article II, section 2, of the constitution of the United States defines the power of the president in that direction.



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was cured of Catarrh of the Ear, Throat and Lungs by the Copeland Medical Institute. She had been suffering from this disease for several years, and had tried many different treatments without success.

THE COPELAND MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

Every man brings additional proof of the success of the home or mail treatment.

Home Treatment. Every man brings additional proof of the success of the home or mail treatment.

Cured of Asthma. Had Chronic Case Yielding Promptly to Dr. Copeland's Matchless Treatment.

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