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## THE DAILY TELEGRAM

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Clarksburg, W. Va., Oct. 2 1905

## CHIVALRY OF KNIGHTS REVIEWED

In our last issue the tournament at Perine Grove, near West Milford, West Virginia, took place on Saturday, Sept. 30.

The beautiful sugar camp which was the scene of the gathering, was a most enjoyable event, which was under the conduct of a committee composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. Charles Taylor, E. Stotler and Charles W. Taylor. The committee on invitations consisted of Dr. A. J. Kopper, F. H. Reynolds, E. B. Gaston and J. B. Gaston.

The appearance of the company was much animated and lively. The gaudily arrayed knights on prancing steeds which they threaded the gathering in hand and flaunting preparation for the contest began to take place.

Directed by the chief marshaling young men, with chivalry, entered the arena.

Dr. Charles Taylor, "Knight of Akkadia,"  
 E. Stotler, "Knight of Akkadia,"  
 Charles W. Taylor, "Knight of Akkadia,"  
 Dr. A. J. Kopper, "Knight of West Virginia,"  
 F. H. Reynolds, "Knight of Akkadia,"  
 E. B. Gaston, "Knight of Akkadia,"  
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hour. This, the only survival of the ancient tournament in which men met in mortal combat, the only reminder of the knight errantry of olden times is tinged with the glamor of romance, and fraught with the weightiest memories of other days and other lands, when civilization was young and the minds of men were groping about through clouds of superstition, eagerly scanning the eastern sky, keeping watch for that certain light that would lead them unto the perfect day.

"Long before the Northern conquerors set their foot upon English soil, long even before Alfred the Good reigned alike over Britain, Saxon and Dane, history, legend and tradition, made real to us by Tennyson's immortal Lyre, tells how King Arthur and his hundred stainless Knights first made the name of Knighthood a synonym for all that noble in human nature, and all that was good in a world of wrong. And we are told how the gentle daughter of a King gave her heart and her hand to him who was at once the best and bravest of them all.

"As time went on the Christian religion spread its influence throughout Europe, the Christian Knight bowed before its sacred shrine and pledged his life, his lands and his sacred honor and all that his heart held near and dear to the service of the Cross. And that bloodstained banner he carried about the Syrian sands, and smote the heathen hosts of Islam in the gateway of their citadels.

"I might tell how Richard of the Lion Heart, led his gallant hosts against the hords of Saladin, stacked victorious guns against the leagured walls of Acre and on other well fought fields. How his brave and gentle Queen was the companion of his camp, and how, when a foul assassin drove a poison dagger in his breast, she drew with her own sweet lips, the poison from the gaping wound, and how the heart of Saladin was touched by the bravery of his enemy and he was moved to send him snow from the mountain-tops to allay his burning fever, and choice fruits from the gardens of Palestine, to give back health and strength.

"If I were called upon to name a stainless Knight above reproach, even above all the brave and daring of those troublous times, I would name Richard Cour de Lion, bravest of English kings.

"Had I the time I might tell you of the bold Knight errant of other times, who went forth, armed with shield and lance to fright the souls of fearful adversaries. And out of all the romance and glamor that was half hidden from our view, in the deeds of those early days, his is the figure that stands out in bold relief, challenging our respect and admiration. His mission was to lift up the fallen and comfort the afflicted, protect the widow and care for the orphan, to chastise wrong and uphold the right. Whose acts of kindness and deeds of daring read grander and stranger than romance itself. What better mission ever engaged human strength since time began or will until time shall be no more?

"You, my friends, who this day vie in friendly contest for the honors of this tournament, may draw your life's lessons from the teachings of medieval chivalry. Although your life blood will not pay the forfeit of your failure here today, yet your hearts and hopes are bent upon this contest and like the Knights of the middle ages, ye who this day shall win the mead of victory will lay your trophies at the feet of woman—that bunch of dimples and extravagance for whom Mark Anthony flung away ambition, and Romeo scaled the walls that were high and hard to climb and tarried there until night's candles had burned out and jockeying day stood tip-toe upon the misty mountain top. For whom Leander braved the icy current and compulsive course of the Hellespont. This one, who through the long watches of the night may be found keeping vigil at the bedside of the sick; oh, weary, weary hours! in which the feverish patient drags his chain of care around the rolling world, o'er desert isles and cross tempestuous ocean's rank with dead men's bones and the rotting hulls of ships, oh, weary, weary hours! yet through it all she watches and waits for a sign of returning health or closes at last the staring eyes of deserted dead. Too much cannot be said or done for her for she has been man's best and dearest friend since Mary Magdalene and the other Mary kept watch and ward at the sepulchre of Him who was called a Nazarene. And it is to her we look to bind the world with chains of love

about the feet of God. As in days ago she cheered men on to deeds of daring, so today she nerves his arm in the bitter struggle for existence. Our comfort in sickness and in health, companion in prosperity and adversity, ever faithful, ever true, asking only to serve.

"It would be well for you all to remember that this mimic fray in which you will soon engage, is but an earnest of what you will be called upon to meet in after years. As some will be victorious here today so some will ever be foremost in the battle for bread. But to those unsuccessful ones let me say, you should not be cast down by gloom of defeat, for he who strives, though vanquished, still is victor. Remember it were more honor to have lost a Thermopylae than to have won on fairer fields or to have pushed with picket up the wild heights of Gettysburg, and held for a time, with heroic devotion, the crest of that flaming hill. Whether in mimic contest or in real life, the man who does his best, does well, and every one who dares disapprove will be dead and gone long before your honest effort shall have perished from the earth.

"Then go upon this field with prancing steed and lance well poised and show to the assembled multitude here that old Harrison county still nurtures within her bosom a band of chivalric gentlemen, who only desire the opportunity to show that they honor West Virginia's fair daughters and pay homage to their beautiful womanhood."

It is needless to say that this eloquent and finished address delivered in the speaker's most engaging manner was received with every mark of appreciation and enthusiastic attention and greeted with rounds of applause well calculated to inspire the orator and nerve the Knights for their most strenuous endeavors.

It would be impossible to give the reader any detailed account of the successes, the failures, the recoveries, the accidents and the triumphs of each rider as he reined in his excited horse, pressed spurs to his flanks and swept under the arches with lance in hand and strove to win his prize and do honor to the lady of his choice who watched him from her retirement with an interest, but faintly concealed.

After the contest was over and the

successful Knights had indicated the young ladies who should bear the honors of their prowess, Mr. Frank Rhodes made a coronation address, and Miss Ruth Weidenhamer singled out from all the array of grace and beauty of the assembled fair, was crowned Queen of Love and Beauty by Sir Knight French Stout, of "Stony Run." As first maid of honor, Miss Hattie Arnold, was crowned by Fred Kniseley. As second maid of honor, Miss Nellie Martin was crowned by H. G. Carskadon. As third maid of honor Miss Georgie Kniseley was crowned by C. A. Cummins. As fourth maid of honor Miss Mollie Stout was crowned by Dr. Charles Taylor in that court of grace and joy where the lowest in position is the highest in praise.

Of the stacks of apple pies and the chicken legs militant through the sugar camp, and the side scenes of unnumbered attention paid by many a swain of low and high degree, to the sparkling eyes and smiling lips of the country lassies in many an empty buggy and maple shade, nothing has yet been said, neither have the indulgent parents from the farm house been complimented for possessing the fattest baby on the ground but let us conclude with the general observation, that this day of rural mirth and innocent enjoyment was a great success from every point of view, and the tournament association of Harrison county, under whose auspices the lists were held, must receive the thanks and complimentary encouragement of all whose good fortune this day led them to a scene of so much gaiety and rural delight. H. T. H.

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