

THE CARDIFF GIANT.

The Fraud Exposed—Story of the Gypsum Statue, as Told by its Originator—What the Giant Cost, Where it Came From, and How it Got to Cardiff.

On the 16th of October, 1869, the Cardiff Giant was discovered on the farm of William C. Newell, at Cardiff, Onondaga county, in this State, and since that time the "giant" has filled a large space in the public eye, and elicited more elaborate scientific commentary than anything which had ever been unearthed, at least in the vicinity of Syracuse.

This much by way of preface; and now for the history of the Cardiff giant as told to us by its originator, the prime author of the most consummate fraud of the age.

MORTON'S STATEMENT. I got up that giant and worked on the idea for a year and a half. I found difficulty in getting the proper material, and travelled thousands of miles. I made known my plan to George Hull, who was recommended to me for his shrewdness and enterprise.

I went with George Hull to Fort Dodge, Iowa, on the 6th of June, 1868, and bought quarry of gypsum in section No. 1, and built a shanty. Remained there six or eight weeks, and finally found that in order to move the block for transportation I should have to build three-quarters of a mile of corduroy road, which would cost too much money.

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THE GIANT FINISHED. The giant is ten feet four and a half inches long, thirty-three inches across the shoulders, about twenty-two inches deep and weighs 290 pounds.

THE GIANT SHIPPED TO ITS DESTINATION. The giant was then shipped from Chicago, but I was West at that time. It was shipped to Union, Broome county, in this State, and at Union was taken by Israel D. Armsby and John Hull, a brother of George, and carried to William C. Newell's farm in Cardiff, taken from the wagon and laid at the side of the barn, where it was covered up with straw.

PREVIOUS PROJECTS. I had intended originally to have the giant discovered right in the quarry at Fort Dodge, but this would require too much labor and cost too much. I then thought of taking it out to Smoky Hill, beyond the Missouri, but the transportation would cost a good deal.

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NEWELL. Newell knew nothing about it till Hull went up from Binghamton, let him into the secret and offered him a quarter to have the giant buried and discovered on his farm.

FINANCIALLY TREATED. Newell had sold three-quarters of it for \$30,000, retaining one-fourth. The company which purchased the three-quarters was composed of Haman, Westcott, Spencer, Gillett, Higgins, and Rankin.

REVELATIONS. The first thing ever published about the giant that was anywhere near true was published by Governor Gue, editor of the North West, at Fort Dodge.

THE IRON-BOUND BOX. The affidavits showing the movements of the mysterious iron-bound box from Union as far as Syracuse, on the Black River Canal, and up into the Black river country, were all trumped up by Hull for the benefit of the company owning the grant.

FRAUD AND DISAPPOINTMENT. Omitting Martin's tribute to the honesty of his partner, which was anything but flattering, and the charges of perjury and trickery which surround the giant, according to his statement, in reply to some questions he said: "I knew if I could get the giant right before the public I would have got a fortune out of it."

HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH HULL. In reply to a question, he said his acquaintance with Hull commenced at Baraboo, Ill., where he, Hull, had been a tobacconist; but we scarcely feel at liberty to give his history of his relationship with Hull beyond what pertains directly to the gypsum fraud.

CONCLUSION. It will be seen that Martin's account of the Cardiff giant is circumstantial, and we have no doubt of its truth. Some details that reflect severely upon parties concerned are omitted, else the story would be more tellingly emphasized than it is.

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