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THE OLDEST REPUBLIC IN THE WORLD.

About the middle of the fifth century—according to some authorities in 441, and others in 469—a native of Dalmatia, named Marzio, a stone-cutter by trade, while employed in building the bridge of Rimini, attracted by his piety the notice of Gaudentius, Bishop of Brescia, by whom he was made a deacon.

Soon after he retired to Mount Titano, a rocky and almost inaccessible mountain situated on the coast of the Adriatic, between Ancona and Florence, in latitude 43° 58' north, and longitude 12° 21' 28" east, with the design of leading a hermit's life.

Marzio acquired a reputation for great sanctity, and the Italian Princes who owned the territory, gave it to him.

Thereupon a considerable number of families took up their residence on the spot, and a republican form of government was instituted; thus laying the foundation of the town and Republic of Marino, or San Marino, which, though possessing the smallest territory of any State in Europe, and superior in population to but two, (Liechtenstein, in Germany, and Mellingen, in Switzerland,) has preserved its independence to this day, a period of 1,400 years, during which the proud Republics of Northern Italy—Venice, Verona, Genoa, &c., have fallen. In fact, the contentions which agitated these more powerful States, and which eventually produced their destruction, may have contributed in some measure to the continuance of their weaker neighbors—San Marino having always been a place of refuge for all who sought peace amid the turbulence of the feudal ages; and who, there, like our Pilgrim fathers, might be expected to aim at the establishment and maintenance of institutions free from those elements of discord and strife which characterized the Government under which they had lived, and from which they had fled. The social or domestic history of so remarkable a State, could it be written, would be curious and instructive; but, unfortunately, that very insignificance which has operated to preserve its independent existence, is also a sufficient reason why such meagre records exist from which to learn particularly of its growth, or of the internal management of its affairs. Its political history may be briefly told. In the year 1100 the Republic purchased the Castle of Pennarota, and in 1170 that of Casole. During the wars of the Guelphs and Ghiblins, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the people of San Marino took part with the latter, supporting the pretensions of Emperor Henry IV of Germany, in opposition to the ambitious schemes of Gregory VII, and were in consequence excommunicated by Innocent IV. In the fourteenth century, Giacomo Feliza plotted with the Podesta of Brescia and the Archbishop of Montafeltre, to deliver San Marino into their hands.

Happily for the Republic, his plan was discovered. He confessed his crime and suffered death as a traitor. Toward the end of the same century, the commune being summoned to pay certain dues and fees to the Papal Government, refused; and the matter being referred to a learned judge of Rimini, called Palameda, he decided that the commune and men of San Marino were exempt from payment, having been of old independent of all foreign dominion—a decision which was confirmed by the Vicar Theodorico.

In 1493, Pope Pius II, being engaged in contest with Malatesta, Lord of Rimini, received the assistance of the inhabitants of Marino, and in return presented to them the four small castles, or forts, of S. Vale, Faetano, Mont Giardino, and Fiorentino.

The State was at this time in a flourishing condition, and became an object of ambition to the adventurous or avaricious; and it was compelled for years to struggle for its independence. In 1739, a noble but intriguing Cardinal Alberoni having failed, in his ambitious schemes with other States, turned his attention toward this miniature Republic; an act which gave rise to the celebrated *bon mot* of the good-humored and jocular, but tempering and politic Pontiff Benedict XIV. Alberoni is a like glutton, who, after having eaten a large salmon, cannot help casting a wishful eye at a minnow.

The Cardinal alleged that the Government had become a narrow oligarchy, and contrived to impress the Court of Rome with the belief that the people desired the protection of the Church therefrom. Having received the consent of the deceased Pontiff, he repaired thither, and conquered the province with a single company of soldiers and a few officers of police. The people appealed to Clement XIII, who restored its former freedom and privileges. Indeed, inclosed as is the State by the States of the church, it has generally been under the protection of the Pope, which, perhaps, accounts in some measure, at least, for its long continuance.

According to some authorities, the State was restored to freedom, in the foregoing instance, through the mediation of Emperor of Germany, Charles VI. Napoleon, during the period of his success in Italy, presented them with four small cannon, and offered to increase their territory.

Liechtenstein, the smallest of the Principalities of the Germanic Confederation, has an area of fifty-three square miles, and a population of about seven thousand. Mellingen, in Switzerland, contains eight hundred inhabitants, (including women and children) all Catholics, and for the most part blacksmiths, farmers and locksmiths. They constitute a Republic under the protection of the Swiss cantons, but depending upon none of them. They have a town-house adorned with the arms of the eight cantons. The Grand Council consists of fourteen persons, the Little Council of ten, and the Privy Council of three. The Executive is represented by two *Adregate*.

ritory. His present was courteously accepted, but his proposition respectfully declined. To their moderation on this occasion, whether prompted by an intelligent appreciation of the insecurity of such doubtfully acquired possessions, or the result of a fixed determination, by keeping strictly within their own limits, to remove all pretext for other powers to interfere in their affairs, they are doubtless, indebted for the consideration with which they were treated by the Congress of Vienna.

After the overthrow of Napoleon, from whose grasp fell at once the scepter of France and the iron crown of Lombardy, upon this Council devolved the reconstruction and apportionment of the scattered and many times dismembered Italian States.

Republicanism was abolished beyond the narrow limits of this petty province. Genoa and its territories were assigned to the King of Sardinia; Venice and its dependencies, to the house of Austria; and the independence of San Marino, and the last of Italian Republics, was formally declared. In 1802 the citizens remodelled their Constitution, increasing the number of their Councilors. The experiences of the late revolution in Italy tend to convey the impression that though the inhabitants of Marino are doubtless in the enjoyment of liberty and tranquility, but nothing of the spirit of Republicanism exists among them, save in name.

When the little band of patriots under Garibaldi were retreating before the combined Austrian and French armies, on their arrival at San Marino, they were closely pressed by their pursuers, hemmed in, and an attack threatened; the inhabitants of the ancient Republic manifested but little sympathy in their cause, though as fellow "republicans" (nominally, at least,) some expression might have been expected. On the other hand, their isolation, the inefficiency of any aid they might be able to furnish, and the almost certainty of fruitlessly endangering their own independence, might be regarded as a sufficient excuse for their seeming indifference.

Nevertheless, the opinion prevails that they are at much under the control of the Pope's emissaries as the inhabitants of the country around, and not much their superiors in education, or freedom from superstition. This fact is not without importance, as the existence of San Marino has been pointed out as an evidence of the compatibility, or at least the non-incompatibility of Papacy with an intelligent self-government and free institutions. It is a little remarkable that travels in Italy, either ancient or modern, have in so few instances bestowed even a passing glance upon this interesting community. Maximilian Mission, a French lawyer of some celebrity, who traveled in Italy in the seventeenth century, remarks concerning the Republic: "This little swarm of bees hath maintained itself very happily for many ages—not being exposed to the envy or jealousy of any of its neighbors." Addison, who visited about 1699, gives a very pleasant though imperfect account of it. G. W. Irving, formerly United States Minister to Spain, in 1812, made a pilgrimage to the spot, and is very enthusiastic in his praises of the place and people. He found that but one American before him, Wm. Hunter, of South Carolina, in 1796, had visited it. Mr. Irving speaks in the warmest terms of the delight with which he received as an American; and compliments the intelligence of the inhabitants, and their acquaintance with the institutions of our country. Another of our countrymen, Mr. H. T. Tuckerman, visited the Republic at a later date, and gives a glowing account of the free and happy condition of its favored inhabitants. He narrated a circumstance which at once heightens our opinion of the intelligence and independent spirit of the people of the Republic, and excites our wonder at the forbearance of the surrounding Governments. He says, when returning from his visit, on reaching the little bridge which divides the republican territory from Rimini, he observed a venerable woman leaning upon the parapet, in earnest conversation with a hardy young stripling, who proved to be a political fugitive that had taken refuge in San Marino; and the Republic, like a true "City of Refuge" had sheltered many such. Thus much are we able to learn of the history of this remarkable State. Its territory, originally limited to the single mountain of Titano, has been gradually and equitably increased by gifts and purchase, and at the present time consists of the capital, San Marino, built on the mountain, and four villages round the foot of it, viz: Serravalle, Faetano, Acquaviva, and Feglio—together covering an area of twenty-two square miles, and numbering, in 1845, 7,000 inhabitants; in 1850, 8,400. The capital stands on the upper part of the mountain, the summit of which is crowned by an old castle with three towers, on one of which the standard of the Republic waves.

The town is built with little regularity, and is badly paved; the streets are steep, and practicable only for mules and donkeys; it is surrounded by a wall, and is accessible by only one road; and they have a law forbidding any one of their own community to enter the town by another path, lest a new avenue should be open on the side of the mountain. It contains the town hall, the square before which is large and commands a fine view of the neighboring Apennines; six churches, one having the tomb and a handsome marble statue of the founder, St. Marino, (who is venerated as greatest of the Saints, next to the Virgin Mary,) and further adorned by figures in stucco of the Twelve Apostles, placed in niches; two convents, a theater, the Governor's palace, with schools, museums, and two vast cisterns, which as the town affords no spring water,

are indispensable for the use of the public. The territory is industriously and skillfully cultivated, and yields fruits, silk, oil, corn and wine—the latter particularly in great abundance, it forming their principal article of commerce.

Government is in the hands of a Senate of three hundred elders, and an Executive Council of twenty patricians, twenty burglers, and twenty peasants. Two *goufalonieri*, elected quarterly, are at the head of the Executive, and it is mentioned as a singular fact that the oath of the Executive power is taken on the Book of Statutes, and not on the Evangelists. On important occasions, an *Arengo*, or Great Council, is convened, to which every family has the privilege of deputed a representative. In this *Arengo* the sovereign power was originally lodged, but it was found to be productive of too great confusion.

Justice is administered by a Commissary, who must always be a foreigner, and a resident only three years. Great importance has been attached to this arrangement, as tending to promote equity and fairness in the judgments pronounced, and to prevent the feeling of jealousy likely to be awakened by the selection from so small a community of one of themselves to adjust legal difficulties in which the arbitrator could be hardly less interested from the parties at variance.

The State supports a hospital, the physician of which must be 35 years of age, and remain in office three years; it is his duty, in addition to visiting the sick, to inspect all the drugs that are imported. Four superior and two elementary schools are also maintained at the public charge. One of the chief doctrines required to be instilled into the minds of the pupils is that of satisfaction with their condition, love of their country as of their own house, and of their fellow-citizens as of their own families. It is this system of education, pursued for many generations, which fostering the conviction that everything valuable is centered on their native soil, has prevented their embroiling themselves in the affairs of neighboring States, checked the growth of that love of unlimited extension so prejudicial to the strength of republican institutions, and may preserve them an independent and distinct people centuries longer.

The military force of the State consists of some eight or nine hundred men, each family being obliged to furnish one capable of bearing arms. The number on duty in ordinary times is, however, but forty or fifty, while, in cases of great emergency, the entire community serve the State in this capacity.

The population of the Republic has increased regularly and moderately. Besides the natural increase among themselves, accessions, as has been intimated, are frequently made from the less peaceful and prosperous communities around them. Strangers are permitted to settle, and after six years residence, may be naturalized, and hold inferior offices.

One of the chief attractions offered by San Marino to scholars, next to its historical associations, is the superb cabinet—rich in consular and imperial examples—of medals, numbering upward of forty thousand, collected by the Cavaliere Berghe, an adopted citizen, and one of the first scholars of modern Italy.

We cannot close this brief narrative without considering, in a few lines, the elements which have combined to preserve in independent happiness, for so many centuries, this interesting people. After making due allowance for the favorable circumstances of their isolation and smallness of population, it must be admitted that the great and sufficient cause is to be found in the universal sentiment of content and fraternal regard pervading the entire community, and the absence of an inordinate ambition, rivalry, and love of conquest and gain, luxury and ostentation.

These peculiarities may be imputed with great advantage by every State—the larger and more prosperous, the more essential are they. We have neither time nor inclination to attempt the not difficult task of proving from history that just in proportion as the qualities we depreciate are permitted to take root, and come finally to be fostered and encouraged in a State, is the possibility of liberty and independence weakened. The step from individual slavery, as victims of our own vices and passions, to that of absolute subordination to the successful extension of the same vices in others—from social and conventional bondage to political—is short, and has ever been easily taken. As Republicans, we have an interest in the lesson imparted by this miniature State, and as intelligent men we shall not disdain to receive instruction from any source, however humble.

NEGRO SERMON.—"There are," said a sable orator, addressing his brethren, "two roads 'dis world—the one am a broad and narrow road that leads to perdition, and the oder a narrow and broad road that leads to destruction."

"What is dat?" said one of his hearers. "Say it agin."

"I say, my brethren, there are two roads 'dis world—the one am a broad narrow road that leads to perdition; the oder a narrow and broad road that leads to destruction."

"If that am de case," said his sable questioner, "dis cullud individual takes to de woods."

"Father, I don't like de Bishop," "Why, my child?" "Because he sprinkled water all over my new dress, and said, 'Fauny, I despise thee.'"

"When is a tooth, not a tooth—when it is a-king."

Sherman Retaliating for the Killing of His Foragers—Reply of the Confederate General Wade Hampton.

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, Feb. 24.—Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, Commanding Cavalry Force, C. S. A.: General—It is officially reported to me that the foraging parties are murdered after capture and labelled, "death to all foragers." One instance of a lieutenant and seven men, near Chesterfield, and another of twenty "near a ravine, eighty rods from the main road," about three miles from Feasterville. I have ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in a like manner.

I hold about one thousand prisoners captured in various ways, and can stand it as long as you; but I hardly think these murders are committed with your knowledge; and would suggest that you give notice to the people at large that every life taken by them simply results in the death of one of your Confederates.

Of course you cannot question my right to forage in the country. It is a war right as old as history. The manner of exercising it varies with circumstances, and if the civil authorities will supply my requirements, I will forbid all foraging. But I find no civil authorities who can respond to calls for forage or provisions, and therefore must collect directly of the people. I have no doubt this is the occasion of much misbehavior on the part of our men; but I cannot permit an enemy to judge or punish with wholesale murder.

Personally I regret the bitter feelings engendered by this war; but they were to be expected, and I simply allege that those who struck the first blow and made war inevitable ought not in fairness to reproach us for the natural consequences. I merely assert our war right to forage, and my resolve to protect my foragers to the extent of life for life. I am, with respect, your obedient servant.

W. T. SHERMAN, Major General U. S. A.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S REPLY. HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, Feb. 27, 1865.—Major General W. T. Sherman, U. S. Army.—General—Your communication of the 24th inst. reached me to-day. In it you state that it has been officially reported that your foraging parties were "murdered" after capture, and you go on to say that you had "ordered a similar number of prisoners in your hands to be disposed of in like manner." That is to say, you have ordered a number of Confederate soldiers to be "murdered."

You characterize your order in proper terms, for your public voice, even in your own country, where it seldom dares to express itself in vindication of truth, honor or justice, will surely agree with you in pronouncing you guilty of murder, if your order is carried out.

Before dismissing this portion of your letter, I beg to assure you for every soldier of mine "murdered" by you I shall have executed at once two of yours, giving, in all cases, preference to any officers who may be in my hands.

In reference to the statement you make regarding the death of your foragers, I have only to say that I know nothing of it; that no orders given by me authorize the killing of prisoners after capture, and that I do not believe that my men killed any of yours, except under circumstances in which it was perfectly legitimate and proper they should kill them.

It is a part of the system of the thieves whom you designate as your foragers, to fire the dwellings of those citizens whom they have robbed.

To check this inhuman system, which is justly execrated by every civilized nation, I have directed my men to shoot down all of your men who are caught burning houses. This order shall remain in force as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.

You say that I cannot, of course, question your right to forage on the country. "It is a right as old as history." I do not, sir, question this right. But there is a right older even than this, and one more undeniable—the right that every man has to defend his home and protect those who are dependent upon him; and from my heart I wish that every old man and boy in my country who can fire a gun, would shoot down, as he would a wild beast, the men who are despoiling our land, burning their houses and insulting their women.

"disposed of," or "murdered," for the terms appear to be synonymous with you, you will let me hear of it, in order that I may know what action to take in the matter. In the meantime I shall hold fifty-six of your men as hostages for those whom you have ordered to be executed. I am, yours &c.

WADE HAMPTON, Lieutenant General.

WADE HAMPTON THANKED FOR HIS REPLY TO SHERMAN.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, March 9.] The correspondence between Generals Sherman and Hampton in to-day's paper will read the manifest of every one who reads it. General Hampton will receive the thanks of every Confederate for his spirited and appropriate answer to the Yankee brute.

This correspondence reveals the fate of the beautiful city of Columbia. Fired in to without warning, and laid in ashes after surrender, Sherman has earned for himself the hate of mankind, and the treatment due to a wild beast. His barbarity will have an effect opposite to that which he designed, and will arouse even the old men and boys to shoot down him and his so-called foragers at every opportunity.

Vice President Johnson [From the Pittsburg Gazette, Republican.]

We have hitherto refrained from commenting upon the fact that the Vice President disgraced himself and the nation by appearing in a state of intoxication at the time of his induction into office and inflicting upon his hearers a maddening, drunken speech, not because we hoped thereby to hide the unpleasant fact upon our readers, or shrink from condemning the grievous fault committed, but because we hoped that a little delay would bring us some mitigation of the report, and render the transaction less disgraceful than was at first stated. We have waited, however, in vain; and now that the facts are beyond dispute, we join with the Republican press of the country in telling the Vice President that having utterly disgraced himself, subjected his party to the keenest mortification, and made his country a laughing stock in the eyes of the world, the least reparation he can make is to resign. After this exhibition of himself, he cannot occupy that place any longer with honor or credit. His good name is lost, and he cannot regain it by holding on to a place he has disgraced. If he attempts to hold on to it he will thereby show himself insensible to shame, and therefore all the more unfitted for that high position.

But what if he does not resign? Then let him be impeached, or reached in some other way by the action of the Senate.

A SAD CASE.—The *Centuria Sentinel* says that on Friday evening last when the train from Cairo stopped at that place, four refugees were taken off the cars—dead! They were apparently all of one family, and consisted of a woman, between the age of forty and fifty years, a young woman probably eighteen or twenty, and two children respectively aged about ten and two years. There was nothing to indicate their names and former abode about them. They were among a large number of refugees, who were being transported North, to be taken charge of and supported by the humane residents of Illinois. Like thousands of others who have gone before, it is reported that they had been exposed some thirty-six hours, to the cold and wind, in coming from Cairo, and in their famished condition unable to endure it. Truly this is a sad and deplorable case. Driven from their homes, or what answered to them as such, by the relentless hand of war, to be taken at the public expense, or the courtesy of transportation companies, far away into the land of strangers, where, although surrounded on every side by abundance, they perish from starvation and cold!

The destiny of the colored race seems to be marked out by one of our local "exchanges" which says: "The little darkeys swarm the avenue, the Capitol, the hotels, and every where else in Washington, plucking east away cigar stumps out of spittoons and coigners, to sell to the tobaccoists to make into fine cut, snuff, &c. What a glorious war this is, truly, that is bringing these busy 'swarms' to such a brilliant and useful destiny. All tobacco-using humanity ought to bless the war and the little nigger—not forgetting the tobaccoists."

The cost of the roads belonging to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, together with their canals, is \$31,924,891. The earnings of the Company for 1864, \$14,759,058, and the total ordinary expenses were \$8,225,660, and extraordinary, \$2,154,284—total, \$10,380,944; leaving for net earnings, \$4,378,114, which is over 13 per cent, on the cost of the roads and canals. A report has been published of nearly all the roads of Pennsylvania, by which it appears that they transported in 1864, 14,252,218 passengers, that the total expenses of the roads were \$39,547,351, and the receipts, \$52,933,867—leaving a net balance of 22,386,516. Among the items of the freight transported is one of 11,915,560 tons of coal.

The report that Andy Johnson passed through Bourbon county, Kentucky, on his way to Washington is denied; but it is admitted that a great deal of Bourbon county passed through him.

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THE CLEARFIELD COUNTY CASES BEFORE THE MILITARY COMMISSION AT HARRISBURG, PA.

CASE OF JACOB WILHELM.

We have been furnished with the full notes of the evidence taken before the Military Commission, at Harrisburg, in the cases from this county. We intend to publish the proceedings in each case, commencing with that of Maj. Wilhelm, the first one tried.

The Commission consisted of Col. EWING President, COL. ZINN, and CAPT. HAVEN, and CAPT. H. J. JOHNSON Judge Advocate. The persons tried were all defended by eminent and distinguished counsel, and all the witnesses they desired were brought at the expense of the Government.

Maj. Wilhelm was defended by Senator FLEMING, of Dauphin County. The order convening the Court was first read to him, when he was asked if he had any objection to be tried by the Court as constituted. He replied that he had not. He was then arraigned, and plead "not guilty" to the several charges and specifications, of which the following is an abstract:

CHARGE 1.—Entering into, confederating and assisting in forming combinations to resist certain provisions of an "act for enrolling and calling out the national forces," and the several supplements thereto.

Specification 1.—Uniting, confederating, and combining with Patrick Curley, Jacob Hubler, and other disloyal persons in Clearfield county, to resist the draft, and prevent persons who had been drafted from entering the service; resisting and evading, and counseling others to resist and evade the execution of the act of Congress. All this about the 2d of Oct., 1864, and at other times and places.

Specification 2.—Uniting, confederating, and combining, with Hubler, Curley, and other disloyal persons in a society by the name of "Democratic Castle," the object of which organization was and is to resist the draft, and prevent persons drafted from entering the service.

The sections of the Act of Congress, of which these specifications constitute a violation provide, as follows:

"If any person shall resist any draft of men enrolled under this act, or shall counsel or aid any person to resist such draft, or shall counsel any drafted man not to appear at the place of rendezvous, or wilfully dissuade them from the performance of military duty, &c., he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500, and imprisonment not exceeding two years. Again, any person who shall forcibly resist any enrollment, or shall incite, counsel, encourage, or shall conspire or confederate with any other persons to resist or oppose such enrollment, or shall assault, obstruct, hinder, impede or threaten the performance of any service in any way relating thereto, or in arresting or aiding to arrest any spy or deserter, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and imprisonment not exceeding five years.

Before commencing the testimony, it is proper to explain, that in Military Courts, all the witnesses are excluded from the room, and are called in and examined separately. Each witness is therefore ignorant of what has been stated by the others.

Jacob Rinehart, was the first witness called for the prosecution. He testified as follows:

I reside in Graham township, Clearfield county; am a farmer, and know Jacob Wilhelm, the accused. On Monday before the State election last fall, I attended a secret meeting, at the Folk School House, in Graham township. Jacob Wilhelm, Samuel Lansbury, Henry Hubler, Patrick Curley, William Wilhelm, and others, twenty or twenty-five in all, were present. Jacob Wilhelm was President. I went there a little after dark. I live a few rods distant. I suppose there were a dozen or more there when I arrived. Officers were first appointed. Jacob Wilhelm was President, and Amos Hubler Vice President, and Patrick Curley Secretary. Then all the men except Wilhelm, Hubler, and Curley went out. Four were admitted at a time. I was admitted with three others. When we got in Patrick Curley read the papers to us, and we then had our choice to sign or not. His instructions, as far as I could understand them, were to the effect that those drafted men who chose to go to the war could do so, and those who did not choose to go, would be protected by the other members. We were to stick together and help each other. Curley said those that chose to report could do so, and those who did not want to go could join. Wilhelm said the same thing. Curley said if any Provost Marshal come to arrest a drafted man and member of the club, the other members were to demand his release, but they were not to kill anybody. I believe it was considered desirable to get all the drafted men in the club. The idea was that the club would be stronger so that in case a member was arrested there would be more to secure his release. We were sworn to help each other. Patrick Curley swore us. Jacob Wilhelm stood in front of the desk, and Patrick Curley stood at the side when the papers were read to me. There were several men present who had been drafted.

I attended a meeting at Jacob Hubler's. I think Wilhelm was there. I do not remember who was President. There were probably twenty or thirty persons present. I did not hear the object of the meeting stated. I was sworn in. The obligation was to stick to the Democratic party, I believe that was all. I understood this

World.