

FUNERAL OF A DRUID

STRANGE DEATH RITES ON A LOFTY HILLTOP IN WALES.

Impressive Ceremonies Attending the Final Disposition of the Body of the Late Leader of the Druids of Wales—Hather Mixed Services.

Far away seem the times and the rites of the Druids; even under the mildest of yesterdays—the time of Yowling. There was one of the most ancient and primitive of religions, and its cult is greatly obscured in mystery. Yet it is not altogether dead. Among the hills of Wales many strange rites of the past remain. There may be no "fragments of forgotten peoples," but there are legends and customs and songs and social and religious preserved unchanged from the days of Arthur and Merlin and Taliesin. There are probably not a few sons who, like Glendower, "can summon spirits from the vasty deep," though whether or not they will come is yet a mooted question. And as for the Druids, their line is yet unbroken, and their weird rites are still celebrated as of old.

The death occurred at Llantrisant of Dr. William Price, who held the distinguished office of archdruid of Wales. He was something more than 90 years old and might have passed for one of the old time bards who perished in King Edward's reign, so rugged and antiquated was his appearance. Six or seven years ago, it may be remembered, an infant that had been born "at the age due and its body wrapped in shrouds" was buried with "funerary solemnities."

The man who died last Friday was arrested and brought to trial. But after a hot contest in court he was acquitted, and a decree was pronounced from the bench establishing the entire legality of the form of funeral. Accordingly when Dr. Price himself died a similar ceremony was enacted without thought of interference.

The ceremony took place on the summit of a high hill at Caerlun, the very spot where the body of the infant had been buried. Several hundred guests were invited to the friends and former patients of Dr. Price, entitling them to enter the enclosure and witness the burning. The noon fire set was noon. But public curiosity rose to so high a pitch that, to avoid being overwhelmed by a mob of sightseers, it was at the last moment decided to change it to 7 o'clock in the morning. So in the grey light of that early hour the strange procession made its way to the hilltop. No mournful garb was to be seen. The closest friends of the deceased Druid were attired in the ancient costumes of the Welsh people.

The body of Dr. Price was clothed in the Druidical robes he had worn in life and was then placed in a coffin of perforated sheet iron. On the hilltop two stone walls had been built four feet apart, each being about 10 feet long and 4 feet high. A number of iron bars extending from one to the other formed a rude grating between them, some distance above the ground, and upon these bars the coffin was placed, the head being toward the east and the feet toward the west.

A clergyman of the Established church was present and read the ordinary service for the dead in Welsh. The vestments of the church contrasted as strangely with the Druidical garb worn by some of the attendants as did the words of the prayer book with the strange rites. Some slight changes were made in the service, such as the body being "consigned to the flames."

Then under and over and all around the coffin was piled a great lot of wood, perhaps a whole cord of it, and to this were added several tons of coal. Many gallons of paraffin oil were thrown upon it, thoroughly saturating the entire pile. Then, at about 8 o'clock, two of the closest friends of the late Druid came forward from the throng and applied torches to the wood, one at each end of the mass. In a moment it was all a roaring furnace, and the hill literally flared like a volcano.

A brisk breeze was blowing, which fanned the fire and carried the flames and smoke far into the heavens. For many miles the strange spectacle was clearly seen, and thousands of people from the peculiar latter name often possessed by brewers' grains and showing on analysis a very high percentage of protein and fat-producing material.

The advantages claimed for the vacuum drying process are: The lowest working expenses with greatest capacity, rapid drying at lowest temperature and consequent excellent quality of the dried grains; no loss of material or nutritive properties as the grains are not pressed before drying; a clean and simple process, and the avoidance of vapor in the drying rooms or vicinity.—New York Telegram.

A FRONTIER FARMER'S WIFE.

Her Burdens Are Many, and Her Pleasures Are Few.

The women who live in cities can form no estimate of the work done day after day by the farmer's wife on the frontier. There are no convenient laundries, bakeries or stores where she could buy the ready-made articles she is compelled to make for herself. It is increasing work with her from early sunrise until long after the hours have grown small at night. She lights the fires for breakfast, washes a man so completely lord and master as on the farm. His mother was a farmer's wife and lighted the fires his wife should do the same. While the kettle is boiling she does the milking, and cases are not rare where a farmer's wife milks as many as 8 or 10 cows twice a day. The milk is carried into the cellar in great heavy pails that would try a man's strength, and she returns to the work of getting breakfast. During the progress of the meal she cannot sit back and eat and rest, as many do, but is kept jumping up and down, waiting on the men folk and children. It is often a question to strangers who visit on the frontier if she ever gets a chance to eat at all. Then the children are to be started off to school, and through the credit of their education falls to the father it is the mother who does extra work that they may go, and when they are out of bed and starts them in time every morning.

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