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THE PICTURESQUE GREEK.

Native Costume Suggestive of a Highland Chief or a Ballet Dancer.

William E. Curtiss, the American correspondent who is traveling in Europe, writes from Athens:

At every railway station were crowds of people, many of them in the picturesque native costume, which is a cross between that of a ballet dancer and a Highland chieftain. The kilts are white cotton, accordion plaited, and worn over white woolen tights, with black garters below the knee. The shoe or slipper is shaped like a Turkish calque, without a heel and curling up over the toe like an old-fashioned skate, having a large rosette or pompon silk or black cotton upon the tip of it. The jacket is beautifully embroidered, for the house dress in gold, for the street costume in braid, and is sleeveless and open in front. The sleeves of white cotton are full and flowing, and the frock of the shirt is plaited. The collar is a stiff circle, embroidered with gold thread or braid, the girdle is of leather, and sometimes a sort of shawl that is quite bulky. A Greek gentleman in full dress or a servant in complete livery will wear a pistol and two or three daggers



A GREEK IN NATIVE COSTUME.

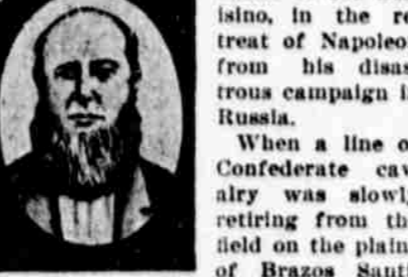
stuck in between his belt and his shirt front in a handy sort of way. The peasant wears a leathern belt, with a sheathed dagger or a pouch over the pilt of his stomach from which the handles of a knife and a revolver usually protrude. The Greek still wears the red Phrygian cap upon his head, and the tassel hangs down upon his shoulder in an artistic pose.

A "well-groomed Greek" is the most picturesque looking object in Europe. There is no costume that will compare with his, but like all other national peculiarities, it is gradually becoming obsolete. You see it in the country towns of the interior, but in the cities very few people wear it except old-fashioned gentlemen and the servant class. The aristocracy dress their servants in that way, making it a sort of livery, and that practice, I am told, has made it unpopular among the mechanics and the working classes generally, because they fear people will mistake them for household servants.

LAST SHOT OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Capt. S. H. Barton, a Texas, Claims He Fired It.

"I alone, sire, am the rear guard of the grand army!" exclaimed Marshal Ney, as he fired the last shot at the



CAPT. BARTON.

where the blue and gray had met in deadly encounter for the last time, a soldier turned in his saddle, and after repeating the words of the great French marshal, he threw his gun to his shoulder and fired. It proved to be the last shot of the last battle, and it was certainly the last shot of the long war. The man who describes this event and who claims he is entitled to the distinction contained in being its central figure is S. H. Barton, of Del Rio, in western Texas, where he owns a fine ranch. He was a captain in the Confederate army, and he was held in high esteem by his superiors and dearly loved by the brave Texans, whose dangers and privations he shared on the march and in the trenches where balls fell like hail. Promotion sought him many times after the smoke of battle had cleared from a red field and soldiers were talking of his dauntless courage, but he preferred to serve with the comrades of his boyhood.

The story of that last battle, which was fought on the 13th of May, 1865, after the war was ended and peace declared, has escaped the attention that it merits, for it was an affair of no little importance. Gen. Egbert Brown, who recently died at West Plains, Mo., was in command of the Federal troops in southern Texas, and he was doubtless well informed concerning the termination of hostilities. Gen. J. E. Slaughter, who commanded the Confederate troops encamped at Brazos Santiago, had heard rumors of the surrender of the armies commanded by Lee, Johnson and other generals, but he had received no official notice of these facts from the War Department. Gen. Brown, under a flag of truce, informed the Confederates of the state of affairs about Washington and Richmond, at the same time inviting them to come in and lay down their arms, as the war was certainly over.

Gen. Slaughter refused to act in an affair of such importance until he was better informed.

Thereupon Col. Barrett, at the head of a considerable force, was dispatched to break up the rebel camp. A hot battle ensued, and curiously enough, most of the fighting was done on the old field of Palo Alto, where Gen. Taylor achieved a victory over the Mexicans nearly twenty years before. The French soldiers encamped on the southern shore of the Rio Grande were in sympathy with the southerners, and they kept Gen. Slaughter and Col. Rip Ford posted as to the movements of the Federal troops. Several spirited encounters occurred and the loss sustained by some of the negro regiments must have been severe. While the battle raged the Confederates were frequently informed by some bold cavaliers in blue that the war was over. One daring fellow shouted: "Lee surrendered a month ago. The war is ended. Why don't you go home?"

When the engagement was hottest Gen. Slaughter received dispatches and the French sent him a bundle of newspapers. Fully satisfied that the cause for which they were fighting was forever lost, he ordered the firing to cease. At that particular moment neither side could have claimed any advantage over the other, but both armies began to retire from the field at the same time. As Capt. S. H. Barton, in command of the rear guard, was slowly riding away a stray ball struck a young man by his side and he fell from his saddle. That was certainly the last man killed in the long war. Capt. Barton was unable to recall his name. "I thought that was hard luck," says the old soldier. "The young man had served four years and never got a scratch. The last bullet that came our way killed him. Prompted more by a spite at fate than bitterness toward the enemy, I turned in my saddle and fired toward a dark blue line which I hope was out of range. That was certainly the last shot of the great war."

MINISTER WU LIVES IN STATE.

Chinese Legation One of the Finest in Washington.

One of the handsomest of the foreign legations in Washington is the Chinese, located at Q and 18th streets. The house has long been considered one of the show places of Washington and its fine location and beautiful architecture make it most imposing. It is of white Indiana stone, with red tile roof. The hallway is of oak, with a large stone frieze, and from it one enters the large reception room known as the onyx room, which is distinctly oriental in character. Farther on is the parlor, finished in light woods and decorated and finished in delicate colors. When the Chinese minister moved into the house he added much of his own furniture and ornaments, brought from China, to the various



THE CHINESE LEGATION.

apartments. He converted the oriental room into a veritable Chinese apartment, and in this room the minister and Mrs. Wu receive their guests, where tea is invariably served. One of the most prominent features of this room is the "kang" or seat of honor, a large and magnificently carved piece of teak wood furniture resembling somewhat a large settee, with a black ebony table or tray across the center. The custom is to give the guest of honor one of the seats on the divanlike chair while the minister takes the other, and tea is served on the little tray. One of the handsomest rooms in the building is the immense ballroom, and is considered the finest in Washington. It is finished in carved stone, with a balcony for musicians and an immense space for dancing.

New Use for Cinders.
George F. Averill, living at Arverne, L. I., says that he has discovered a means of using the waste coal ash cinders that will make the hitherto useless material of great commercial value. The use which Mr. Averill has found for these coal ashes is in a new kind of fire-proof mortar, 90 per cent of which is made up of coal ashes and the rest double hydraulic cement. Mr. Averill has had tests made under the supervision of the department of buildings in Manhattan, which show that the insulating properties of a block constructed according to Mr. Averill's specifications are very great.

A Question of Climate.
An old colored preacher was telling his congregation that after death they would probably go to the moon. After meeting one of the best informed of the brethren said to him: "Br'er Jinkins, don't you know dat de moon is co' es lee, en ain't got no fire 'tall in it?" "Br'er Thomas," replied the parson, "ef hit's fire you a-wantin', des keep on in de way you gwine en you can't miss it."—Atlanta Constitution.

New Word for Indian.
Prof. W. J. McGee of the bureau of ethnology has coined the term Amerind to designate the American Indian, and it has been officially adopted by the bureau.
Five Presidents of the United States have been of Scotch-Irish descent.

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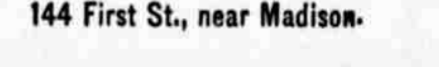
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