

BURIAL OF A GYPSY QUEEN.

INTEREST ATTACHING TO THE APPROACHING INTERMENT OF QUEEN MATILDA AT DAYTON.

From the Dayton (Ohio) Democrat, Aug. 3.

The interment of Mrs. Matilda Stanley, wife of Levi Stanley, Sr., will shortly take place at Woodland Cemetery. For more than five weeks a large number of letters have been received at this office, asking the day of the funeral ceremonies, showing an intense interest in this and surrounding counties. The lady is known far and wide as Queen Matilda of the Gypsies, and on the occasion of the funeral a concourse of these peculiar people from many States, as well as the dominion of Empress Victoria, will bear tribute to her worth. It was on election day last October that the last caravan of the Dayton gypsies rattled down Main-street for the South. For two years the gypsies had kept in this county, contrary to their ancient custom of migration. This was owing to the illness of Lady Stanley herself, and the ominous signs of civil war. It was at Vicksburg, some distance back from the "inland river," early in the morning of the 16th of January last, that the Queen died, in the midst of her people, her husband and her children, in her fifty-first year.

The popular idea that this funeral will partake of the extraordinary is not warranted. The great Palm Sunday funeral of 1877, which was nine miles north of Dayton, with its long procession through the rain, was even more impressive than usual. Indeed, stout men expressed their grief over the death of Amelia Stanley Jeffrey and Thomas Jeffrey, her husband, much more demonstratively than the youth or the women. If it had not been unquestionably earnest it would have been ludicrous. But at the grave in Woodland all expressions were evidently overawed by reason of the oppressiveness of intense scrutiny. The rather bright colors of apparel and the expressive features of these people standing in the rain without umbrellas and vacantly wandering around the grounds under restraint were noticed. When Rev. Dr. Berger stood at the head of the wide grave, the only umbrella upraised was over his head.

This gentleman has consented to render the offices of the church for the noble woman who awaits her final commitment to earth. The quartet choir of the First United Brethren Church, who sang at the Jeffrey obsequies, have accepted the invitation from the heir of the house of Stanley to sing the same hymns for his mother. The transference of the casket from the vault to the family mausoleum will make a brief ceremony.

There is much talk in Indiana over the succession—the next King. Now, when the good Uncle Levi and his son brought home the remains of Queen Matilda, a local paper gave out the name of the new King, our well-known "Sugar Stanley." This, for the time being, gave the impression of Uncle Levi's retirement, which did not give rise to much feeling. But the impression that only the son had followed his mother's body home went forth; whereas, both husband and son brought the same to Woodland. The old gentleman is still at the helm. Young Levi is the Young America of the Gypsies. The old "King," after explaining that his title was merely an indication of his people's love and trust and not more, went on to say that "our children are all learning fast, and soon our people will not go a roaming any more." This announcement of the new order of things is full of interest, and the prospect is indeed spirit-stirring. Our people, with a very few exceptions, are unaware of this transition of the "gypsy" people. Young Stanley differs greatly from his father, having more conviviality and dash about him. He married his wife, Sarah Stanley, (not of kin,) in Baltimore, by whom he has a flourishing family.

It should be stated that the Stanley family enjoy the distinction of pioneering the way for their countrymen. The good Queen Matilda was a mother of her people, with rare nobility of nature. This title Queen, so far as it embodies the love and trust of her countrymen and countrywomen, is beautifully appropriate. She and her spouse were well matched, and it is an honor to have enjoyed their acquaintance. The prosperity of these people is interwoven with our own; they are a noble addition to American citizenship. In the prosperous future old ways and manners will fade out before the new. But revered will the simple, noble lives and kindly influences of Matilda and Levi Stanley ever be. Happy is that people who cleave to the simple ancient ways of industry and generous aid to our fellows.

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