

A Newspaper Fairy Tale.

The *Genealogical Magazine* (London), quotes from another publication the following "curiosity," and asks, "Can any of our readers add to our knowledge on the point, or is it simply a newspaper fairy tale from end to end?"

PEERS OF THE UNITED STATES.—It will come as a surprise, perhaps even as a shock, to most people to learn that there is a real House of Lords in the United States. It is situated in the State of New Jersey, and its members, although citizens of the United States, are, at the same time, vassals of her Majesty. Charles II. gave to his brother James the land which is now New Jersey, and James in his turn gave the land to twelve of his friends, with a deed of grant creating them and their descendants Lords. The Lords meet twice every year in Perth Amboy, in a little two-roomed house erected on the site of the first meeting house, which was erected in 1686. They are summoned by a crier with bell, dressed after the manner of a befeater. His summons begins with the usual "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye—all manner of men, to whom these presents do come, that in pursuance of his Majesty King Charles," etc. The Lords, who have been in waiting in the outer room, then proceed to the inner or council chamber, where their deliberations are presided over by the Lord President.

For the genealogist it may almost be said that there is no surprise in any unexpected information which may come to him, and although the above may be very difficult to believe, the fact is that we have been assured of the active existence in the United States of organizations of a non-republican sort, not very much less surprising than a Nova-Cæsarean "House of Lords" would be.

* * * *

We clip the following from *Events*: "An American exchange says that the establishment in the United States of a titled aristocracy like the peerage of England is a 'possibility candidly and hopefully discussed in New York society.'"