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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

More About the "Golden Story of California" in *Munsey's Magazine*—The Three Pacific Railroads—The Wonderful Experience of Capt. John A. Sutter—An Irish Mormon Leader—Birthplace of Mary Anderson—Peter Donahoe, an Irishman Born in Scotland, who Built a Railway all by Himself—Donahoe, Kelly & Co., Bankers—John Muir, a Gael, Practically Leads the Way—The San Francisco and Santa Clara—Col. Jack Hayes, the Texas Ranger, etc.

In my last article on "The Golden Story of California" inadvertently I connected the names of Stanford and others with the Union Pacific Railroad instead of the Central Pacific. The "Union" Pacific was the name given to the eastern end of the road and the "Central" Pacific to the western end. They had two separate companies in their construction and ownership. The eastern company built from Omaha westward and the western company from Sacramento eastward. The place where they joined was determined by the ability of each company in rapid construction. They met at Ogden, in Utah, and there drove their golden spikes. Both companies were largely endowed by the United States Government, which lavished its favors upon them. The whole line should have been made a government line and the scandals and wrongs connected with its private ownership avoided, just as it is now building the great Central American Canal from Panama to the Pacific ocean; but the principle of public ownership was not as well understood then as it is now, although the great South American monarchy of Brazil had set an example of state built, owned and operated railroads. In writing of the owners of the Central Pacific Railroad in my last, I do not think I stated them correctly. Leland Stanford was the president and most important man; then came Huntington, next Crocker, then Hopkins, next Colson. These are the men that I have a recollection of, but there may have been one or two more of lesser importance. There may have been an honest man among them, but I don't know it.

The writer of the article in the *Munsey Magazine* for November, like many of his predecessors in the laudatory line, seems only capable of grasping two or three groups of Californians to be placed in the Temple of Fame and these are the Pacific Railroad men, the mine owners and the "literary cusses." But California has produced many others of eminence besides railroad men and rascals. I would go back to Coronado, who led the first expedition from Mexico to California. I would next give the place of honor to Father Junipero Serra, the founder of the twenty-nine missions extending from San Diego on the sea-coast to Sonoma in the interior; I would give an honored place to Capt. John A. Sutter, a native of Switzerland, and said to have been a member of the Legion of Honor of France. Sutter was a sincere and honest man, devoted to the cause of liberty and the welfare of humanity. His desire was to found a colony of his countrymen in America and with that view came to St. Louis in the State of Missouri. There was no transportation then the same as now, nor anything like it. Oregon was settled by the Americans before California. So he made the journey over the "Oregon trail" to Portland, expecting to find a vessel there that would take him to San Francisco. But when he got there he found no vessel bound for San Francisco; but finding one that was to clear for Honolulu of the Sandwich Islands, he took passage in this craft, hoping when he got there he would find a vessel that would take him to the coveted city or village of the Golden Gate. He got to Honolulu safely, but there was no vessel there to take him to California. There was a vessel in that port, I suppose a whaler, bound for Sitka in Alaska, a very long way off. He was determined, however, to find a vessel in some Pacific port that would take him to the "Golden Gate" (The golden gate of commerce). Well, off he sailed for Sitka, far away from his destination; in fact going in the opposite direction from it. It is said that at Sitka he found what he was looking for—a ship bound for San Francisco. He may, however, have had another object in view. Sitka was at that time a Russian port and the Russians had a colony in California, at or near what is now Sonoma; and in such wide apart wanderings in the western world, he may have been seeking all the information it was possible for him to find for the benefit of his proposed Swiss colony. We are told that at length he reached San Francisco, then a little village called Yerba Buena, which when translated into English meant "good herb." That herb, which possessed medicinal properties, grew there, and that was the best that could then be said of the place, afterwards so celebrated for its enterprises and lately for its disasters. The "Mission Dolores," which was erected a few miles from there, in the year 1776, by the Franciscan friars, was there then, and is there now, having escaped the recent earthquake and fire unharmed.

Sutter, when he got to Yerba Buena, now San Francisco, found that at

ter all, he was in the wrong place for his purpose. He wanted the capital of the country or province of Mexico, which was the town of Monterey, several hundred miles south of San Francisco. At that time the largest town in California was San Jose, about sixty miles south of the Golden Gate, but Monterey, down the coast, was the capital. Here the legislature met and the public offices were situated. And Sutter wanted to see the Minister of Lands, as his aim was to secure a large grant of public land for his proposed colony. He was successful and procured some twenty leagues or more in what is the Sacramento Valley and mountain foothills. Sutter must have had lots of money, as it will be seen by his wanderings that he needed a great deal. The locality which he selected for his seat was at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers, about 120 miles northeast of San Francisco. Here he erected a fort for protection against the wild Indians, known on the coast as the "Diggers." He showed much enterprise and was preparing for great things. The Russians at Russian River, were about to pull up stakes and retire from the country, and Sutter purchased all their settlement belongings and removed them to Sutter's Fort. So that when men began to go to California overland they would make for Sutter's Fort. Then they would be sure they were in California. He went on making improvements of various kinds, building houses, erecting mills, clearing the ground and all that. His ranch exceeded more than forty miles north from Sacramento along the American river, and up there at a place called Coloma he built a saw mill for there was timber. He had as foreman there a man named James Marshall, a Mormon. The Mormons, driven from Nauvoo, in Illinois, in 1842, were removing to the Pacific coast under the leadership of Samuel Brannon, an Irishman, strange to say. The only people that Capt. Sutter could get to do any kind of mechanical work for him in those days were Mormons, and they worked at Coloma building the saw mill and unfortunately for him, in putting the wheel of the mill in motion, they turned up gold in the mill race! This was in January, 1848. Slowly, but surely, the report went abroad, but the fact was not known in San Francisco for a month or six weeks after the discovery. In place of this great discovery being a blessing to the honest colonist, it was a curse. His lands were everywhere torn up in the search for the precious metal, his cattle were killed, his improvements were destroyed by men who were regardless of his rights, and his estate was left as if an incursion of barbarians had swept over it. Sutter was an educated man, a gentleman educated to regard other people's rights, to be neighborly and just; but the discovery of gold on his estate, after all his efforts, his romantic wanderings, his pursuit of a Pacific paradise, left him a ruined and broken-hearted man. His death took place with some relatives in the State of Pennsylvania, about twenty-five or thirty years ago. The Sacramento river, which was named by the Franciscans, subsequently gave its name to the capital city, and now we hear no more about Sutter's Fort, or Sutter himself. Sacramento is being inundated from the river several times and is protected by an embankment. It does not grow rapidly, but it is the state capital, the seat of a bishop's See and the location of the workshops of the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads.

There was a noble Californian, who was alive and well in the land of gold when I visited it, and was a blessing to it. His name was Peter Donahoe. He was without doubt a veritable captain of industry. I noticed that those eloquent magazine writers never mention his name. He was a man of genius, an accomplice of great undertakings, and a scrupulous man. He was a mechanical marvel. He established a foundry; the same I think that afterwards the United States steamer "Oregon" was built at, and known as the Pacific Foundry. He built the North Coast Railroad all of himself—without the aid of a company or of foreign capital, without Chinese labor and without extorting from or injuring anybody. He died a comparatively young man. If he had lived a long life there is no telling all he would have done for California. The laboring people all blessed him and sounded his praises as he proved himself a friend of humanity; but these eloquent magazine writers never have anything to say of him. He is one of the Golden State's forgotten great men, and I am sorry that I cannot recount here all the good that he did and the noble example that he set. But the true, honest and typical men who belonged to his day do not forget him. He was an Irishman, born in Glasgow, Scotland, and was a true and noble-hearted Gael. God bless the memory of Peter Donahoe! He had a brother named Michael, I think, who was also a man of great parts, and made his mark in financial circles. He was a member of the banking firm of Donahoe, Kelly & Co., and was noted for his generosity. And as for money-making, whoever surpassed his partner, Eugene Kelly? Great in New York as well as in San Francisco, and the foremost banker of the Irish race in America. But Kelly got his big start in San Francisco and never met with disaster. He was always a liberal contributor to the cause of his country and every charitable enterprise that had a claim on the generosity of the members of his church. Who has fallen heir to his many millions I am sorry I cannot now tell.

Mr. Newton Dent, this one-sided

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California historian, comforts us with a photograph of Mary Anderson, the great American actress, who was renowned for her beauty, her acting and chasteness of her conduct, and whose stage career was so brief that the lovers of the drama have not yet done regretting her withdrawal from it. This writer tells us she was born at Sacramento, the state capital, where I once lived, where my only living son now lives, and where the first of the Californians of my name, now having reached his majority, was born. Mary Anderson, though a great ornament to her people, is not, and was not, the only great actress whose religion is also ours, and made a great name. Before her and all others, was Matilda Heron, a native of Philadelphia, and the greatest American actress of her day, who was like Mary Anderson, guarded in her conduct. Miss Heron delighted thousands on the Pacific coast for many a day, and with the people of San Francisco she was a prime favorite. And there is another great Catholic actress, Madam Modjeska, who, if I am not mistaken, lives now somewhere in California, or did live there lately.

There is something to be said for California in the way of science? The first scientists there were the Italian Jesuits of San Francisco and Santa Clara, where they have had colleges for many a year and still have them, and are educating a large portion of the young men of the State in true Christian science. They thought the great science of astronomy long before James Lick left his four mill instruments of value before many older institutions in the east. James Lick was an important hotel-keeper in San Francisco, where he kept the Lick House after he gave up milling, and was said to have one of the handiest dining-rooms in the world, and which was badly injured by the great earthquake of 1868. But his contribution to science by the construction of the great observatory at Mount Hamilton, with its great telescope, is one of the proud boasts of California. I do not exactly know to what particular species of American citizenry James Lick or "Jim" Lick, belonged, but I am inclined to think he was what is commonly known as a "Pennsylvania Dutchman." He was a man unpretentious in appearance, silent and patient, a deep thinker and a free thinker. He is some years dead.

There is presented in this magazine article a picture of John Muir, a Scotch Gael, who is more distinguished as an outdoor scientist than any one else. In fact there is a great glacier named after him in Alaska. He is a plain looking and a plain spoken man, who has examined the mountains of the Pacific territory through and through. It must not be forgotten that the Gaelic or rather, perhaps, the Pietist Scotch, have been great American explorers, and to them we owe the discovery of the Fraser river in British Columbia and the great McKenzie river in our most westerly Northwest. I met Mr. Muir more than thirty years ago, and believe him to be yet alive. He has done much to make famous the natural wonders and beauties of the Golden State, and I honor him for his many achievements.

David Belasco, the playwright, we are told, was born and brought up in California. I have no knowledge of Mr. Belasco's career, or whether he

**Lapponi Dead**  
Rome, Dec. 7.—Doctor Lapponi, physician to the Pope, died at 7 o'clock this morning. He had been seriously ill for some time of cancer of the stomach and pneumonia setting in, he could not in his weakened condition withstand its ravages. When Dr. Lapponi was sinking the Pope sent him the apostolic benediction and when the news of his death reached the Pontiff he was exceedingly grieved. The deceased physician was very popular in Rome, both among the clericals as well as with the anti-clericals. Dr. Lapponi attained considerable prominence as the physician of the late Pope Leo XIII. and as the medical attendant of the cardinals when in conclave and as the doctor in attendance upon the present Pope.

The fleeting joy of candy and flowers for Christmas cannot take the place of the permanent pleasure of the gift of books for the holidays. Christmas books need not be stories; there is an infinite variety of Catholic literature published suited to the tastes and minds of all classes of the community. This variety may be found at the store of W. E. Blake, 123 Church street, Toronto.

**C.Y.L.L.A.**  
The next meeting of above will be on Jan. 7th, at the home of Miss Hart, 40 Shannon St.

## POPE AND PHILIPPINES

**Pleased With Spread of Christianity and Predicts Prosperity**

Rome, Nov. 29.—The Pope last evening gave audience to the Most Rev. J. J. Harty, Archbishop of Manila, who outlined to his Holiness the social, religious and economical conditions of the Philippines. The Pope exclaimed: "A people, numbering 7,000,000, all Christians, in the midst of the Orient! What a power toward the betterment of humanity!" He added that the Philippine Islands should become a basis of operations for the Christianization of China and Japan, and he expressed the hope that God would provide the means necessary for the undertaking. He declared his satisfaction with the work of the bishops in educating native Filipinos for the priesthood and said that the mother tongue was the best means of spreading the faith. Speaking of the government of the islands, Archbishop Harty reported that full liberty was accorded to the Church. The difficulties encountered at first under the charge in the sovereignty of the islands had now been overcome and the Filipinos now understood the spirit of the Government and their faith in it was increasing. The Pope showed considerable knowledge of conditions in the Philippines and predicted prosperity for them. He said the islands were certain to prove the best investment the United States had made since the Louisiana Purchase.

## Holy Season of Advent

The last month of the year ushers in the holy season of Advent. The word advent implies a coming, and is used by our Holy Mother, the Church, to designate the season of devotion and religious preparation for Christmas, the birthday of our dear Lord and Master.

Advent brings us the sweet feasts of the heart and home—the Immaculate Conception and Christmas. Advent means a time of longing for God. St. John, the beloved disciple, gives us the prayer for Advent: Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly!

Let us pray for those to whom the season of Advent brings tears and yearning. Let us be generous as we pray during Advent, which brings us such sweet and holy thoughts of the coming of the dear Babe of Bethlehem. In spirit we may repair to the humble and lowly home at Nazareth and ask our Blessed Mother to make us pure and humble of heart—to teach us how to prepare for the coming of our Divine Saviour, so that on Christmas morning our Blessed Mother may place Him in our arms if we have made ourselves worthy to receive Him during the four weeks of Advent.

With Advent comes the last month of the year and we are constrained to look backward. Perhaps we shall gaze on days of sorrow and think of the loved ones that in the past year have been taken from us, or it may be that we shall think of the happy days now gone, when the goodness and the mercy of God were so manifest even to our dull understanding that we were almost forced to cry out, "How good is God?" How many graces have been ours during this year of 1906!

And if we have had days of sorrows—what of them? We are here for a brief time. The dark days will not last always. We shall bear bravely under affliction's rod, realizing how insignificant are our woes and trials when borne for Him who suffered and died that we might have eternal life. Realizing this, we shall thank God for His mercies, feeling another year has gone and so we are that much nearer to heaven.—Denver Register.

## Work Among Negroes

Washington, Nov. 29.—The Board of Directors of the Catholic Missionary Union has decided to defer action on the proposition of the Knights of Columbus to raise a fund of \$100,000 for the work of home missions, until as Father Doyle expressed it, "the knights make good," which, he added, they are expected to do during the coming year. An important matter discussed at the meeting concerned the decision of archbishops last spring to establish a negro mission to be analogous to the Indian Mission. It was stated that this had been put into practical shape by the appointment of a committee consisting of Bishop Byrne of Nashville, and Bishop Allen of Mobile. The manager of the new negro mission bureau, which has been established here, will be Rev. Father Burke, who has had charge of the colored Catholic work in New York city for twenty-five years.

The board of directors is composed of Archbishop Farley of New York, Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia, Bishop Harkins of Providence, R.I.; Very Rev. Dr. E. R. Dyer, president of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore; Rev. M. A. Taylor, pastor of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York; Rev. Walter Elliott and Rev. A. P. Doyle, dean and rector, respectively, of the Apostolic Mission House.

Books for children.—It is a conceded fact that impressions made upon young minds are never totally effaced, therefore, if you desire to mould the future conduct of your little ones, you must necessarily pay strict attention to the reading matter given to them. Good, wholesome Catholic literature for boys and girls, at reasonable prices may be found at the store of W. E. Blake, 123 Church street, Toronto.

## GIFT TO IRELAND

**William O'Brien Outlines Plan for Founding University in Cork**

Dublin, Dec. 1.—William O'Brien is the recipient of numerous congratulations from all over the country in connection with an offer made by himself and his wife, in Cork, recently, to bequeath upon their demise practically every penny they are worth as a contribution towards the endowment of a Munster University in Cork, if the local authority are willing to assume a slight temporary debt in the meantime. As Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are worth between £50,000 and £100,000, their offer is regarded as the only practical scheme for settling the Irish University question at the present time. "As I calculate," remarked Mr. O'Brien, in outlining the terms of his offer, "if the borough councils and county councils of the province are willing to assume a temporary burden, which would be an excessively slight one, and every shilling of which would be repaid at our death, a sum of say £50,000 could be at once made available, and the arrangement would have the double advantage of persuading England that if the people of the South mean to have a people's university, governed by the representatives of the people, they are willing to prove the faith that is in them by making the people of the South in some degree also contributors to the work. As I figure it out, even if the burden was confined to the city and county of Cork alone, it would not involve a debt of more than one farthing in the pound for a very few years, with the absolute security of being then recouped the whole sum, and if the borough and county councils of the other counties in the province desire that their children should share in the privileges of university education, the temporary rate would scarcely amount to half a farthing in the pound. "You would thus have immediately at your command an additional endowment of £10,000 a year for five years, added to the present endowment of £10,000 a year, and that with the private benefactions that you would be quite certain to have in abundance to any necessary extent from the open-handed citizens of Cork, would enable you to make a start right away, without demanding an additional pound from the State, though of course I am absolutely convinced that if the scheme is approved at all the State would not hesitate for a moment about taking up this modest endowment of £10,000 a year itself, and leaving us all our other resources to be used in further equipping and endowing the new university."

## Indian Who is a Priest

To be the first full blood Indian to become a Catholic priest, says the Topeka Capital, is the unusual distinction of the Rev. Father Albert Negahnquet of Kansas, now conducting religious labors among his fellow racemen in the Oklahoma and Indian Territory. So far as now known Father Negahnquet is the only living Catholic priest who is a full blood Indian.

Father Negahnquet was born on the Pottawatomie Reservation near St. Mary's, this state, in 1877. Soon afterwards he was brought to Topeka by his parents and in the Church of the Assumption here he was baptized. He was the youngest of a family of ten children.

His parents and members of the family removed to Pottawatomie County, Okla., where there are now many members of that tribe. In the southern part of that county the Catholics in an early day established a great community—a monastery, schools, and the like. The missionaries of that church naturally came and worked among the Indians near by. Father Negahnquet, as a boy, was sent to school. He was an interesting child, readily tractable, and he applied himself to his studies. Mother Katherine Drexel, daughter of the millionaire Drexel of Philadelphia, on the occasion of one of her periodic visits, took notice of this particular little Indian boy. She never forgot him, and when he became old enough she sent him to the large Indian school at Carlisle, Pa. Later he was transferred to the Catholic University at Washington, D.C., with the purpose in view of educating him for the priesthood.

He was the honor man at Washington, and from there he went to Rome. He studied philosophy and theology there in the Propaganda College, being one year in the College of the Pope. Before the departure from Rome of priests of this class it is customary for each in his mother tongue to give an address. It must have been strange when the young American Indian priest came forward and in the tongue of his fathers, the warlike Pottawatomies, spoke.

Then Father Negahnquet sailed away to Oklahoma Territory, and for a few weeks was the guest of his parents in their rude home. Soon afterward he sang the first Mass ever sung by a full blood Indian priest on American soil, in the big Catholic Church, at Oklahoma City, Okla. His ordination was by Bishop Theophile Merschert of Guthrie, Okla. The Bishop spoke proudly of the honor of consecrating the first Indian priest and of having him in that diocese.

Since coming back to America, three years ago, Father Negahnquet has labored faithfully among his people and those efforts have been well rewarded.