

dered by the Masons, but that he led a lone, exile life, and that if he is now dead, he died a natural death.

But some may ask if this be true, why was it not made public before. This is readily answered. At this time there was no paper published nearer my father than one hundred and fifty miles, and reporters were not quite so thick in those forests as the mosquitoes were, and my father not being a newspaper correspondent, it is easy to perceive why it did not find its way into public print. I decided a number of years ago to make these facts public when anything occurred to call them out, and as this seems to be a proper time, I send them forth to your readers and to the world.

It will be seen that Mr. Todd in the anti-Masonic convention, referred to the story that Morgan "was among our Indians wearing a breech cloth." Such a myth must then have been in existence in the year 1830, when Todd made his speech; but the only reference to it which I have met, was in a Western paper (the name of which I have not preserved). There it is alleged that he was taken a captive in Texas where he escaped and joined a band of Apaches. Of course he married the daughter of a chief and in time became himself a chief, teaching the tribe military tactics and initiating them all into the Masonic mysteries. At a good old age he died, leaving his half-breed son to reign in his stead, and is buried in the "Golden Mountain" in a tomb walled up and covered with gold, where the tribes all meet yearly on the 24th of June to worship. The paper from which this is extracted, says that the narrative "is perhaps worthy of a passing notice." Let it be only a "passing notice." We need not dwell on it, for the story, although not impossible, has so much of the improbable about it as almost to pass out of the sphere of the myths into that of the nursery tale.

Some years ago, there was a story, which has been recently revived in a Western journal, that Morgan had retired to Australia and become the editor a newspaper called the *Advertiser*. He must have married there, notwithstanding the prior claims of his American wife, for the story of his residence at Van Dieman's Land is said to have been told by his son. According to his narrative, "his father was arrested after his exposure of Masonry came out and held some time a prisoner, and finally released upon the condition that he should leave the country forever. He accepted with alacrity the propositions made to him, and was accompanied by Masons as far as Quebec. Here he entered the British navy, and in two months sailed direct for England. Morgan in some way got a discharge from the service, and settled in Van Dieman's Land. His son was a resident of San Francisco at the time this information was communicated concerning his father's whereabouts."

This story may, I think, be relegated to the same sphere of improbability, and indeed of absurdity, to which the Apache myth has been consigned. They each demand too much credulity to attract many believers.

But the myths that connect Morgan with the city of Smyrna in Asia, appear to have been the most popular and the best authenticated by the number and character of the authorities.

The first allusion to the Smyrna myth is found in the statement of the Chaplain of the frigate *Brandywine* (I think, the Rev. Mr. Fitch). The *Brandywine* carried Lafayette to France, and afterwards made a cruise in the Mediterranean. Of this voyage the Chaplain published an account and in it he says that while at Smyrna, a renegade Turk was pointed out to him—I think he conversed with him—who was said to be William Morgan.

Bro. Leo. Hyneman published in the *Philadelphia Mirror and Keystone* of January 17, 1855, a statement made to him at the time by Brother Blohome, which must also be placed among the Smyrna myths. Bro. Hyneman says:

Bro. Blohome resided some time in the city of Smyrna; in 1831 he became acquainted with an American gentleman who professed the Mohammedan faith, who went by the name of *Mustapha*, and was engaged at that time in teaching the English and French languages, the latter of which he understood but imperfectly. Brother Blohome and his acquaintance dined at the same house, which was a public place of entertainment, kept by one *Salvo*. This American gentleman informed Bro. Blohome that his name was William Morgan, and related to him the whole story in connection with his abduction, of which Bro. Blohome states he had no knowledge, but which, after his arrival in this country, he found to be true; and seeing a likeness of Morgan in one of his expositions, he was satisfied that his Smyrna acquaintance was no other than William Morgan, who was supposed to have been assassinated. Morgan further communicated to Bro. Blohome that he was taken to Boston, and while in liquor, he was placed on board the ship *Mervine*, which sailed from Boston to Smyrna, and belonged to the firm of Langdon & Co., and that the captain's name was Welch.

And now very recently, we have another narrative from a credible source, which adds something like probability to the Smyrna location. In the *Daily Times* at Troy,