A CASE FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

"YOU can go up there if you want to, but I shan't," said aunt Hannah. She was standing by the sink washing the dishes. Kate hesitated a moment with her hand on the door knob. "If there is anybody up there, I want to see who it is." Then she opened the door and ran upstairs.

Aunt Hannah grasped the handles of the dish pan and listened intently. She was quite pale. She could hear Kate walking around over head, opening and shutting doors, then she heard her coming down stairs.

"There's nothing up there," said Kate. She picked up the dish towel and began to wipe the dishes. "You have stayed alone too long and have grown nervous and superstitious. I wish I had come here sooner."

"I am not nervous or superstitious," said aunt Hannah, "I *heard* that noise."

"Perhaps you did hear it. I'll tell you what it was. There were some cats on the roof, or else it was the wind, or you were dreaming."

"I was wide awake," said aunt Hannah positively. "No cat could make such a noise as that, or the wind either. This house is *haunted*."

Kate laughed. "What's it haunted by?"

"A ghost."

"I suppose so, but whose ghost?"

"Old man Brice's."

"What, the old man who used to live upstairs?"

"Yes. He used to walk in his sleep, and many a time I have heard him start and run across the room. He'd always stumble over something when he got a little way and fall down. That would wake him up, and he'd moan in such a way as to make my blood run cold. When he died his wife moved away, and the rooms have been empty ever since. Well, as true as you live, I heard that same noise last night; those quick footsteps, a heavy fall and then that moan." Aunt Hannah shivered.

"It's all nonsense," said Kate. "You had better go and lie down on the sofa and rest. I'll finish the dishes."

"No," said aunt Hannah stiffly, "I can wash dishes if I have heard a ghost."

Kate scolded, reasoned and ridiculed, till her aunt became silent on the subject of ghosts, and Kate thought that she had made her "see reason." But aunt Hannah was far from being convinced, and listened constantly for strange sounds and slept but little nights. Kate had come to her aunt's as a companion, and having a cheerful disposition, she did not mind the loneliness of the country. But when in the middle of the winter aunt Hannah caught an alarmingly bad cold, Kate did feel lonesome and anxious. She sent for the doctor, and he was very kind and told her what to do for the patient.

Aunt Hannah went to sleep soon after dark. Kate watched her for a while, then went into the kitchen, where it was warmer. "I must sit up all night," she thought, "so if aunt Hannah wants me I'll be near." She made herself comfortable in a big rocking chair near the fire.

She sat there for a long time, and had begun to be very sleepy, when she was startled by a sudden blast of wind; the house shook, and the fire started with a roar. Then overhead Kate heard heavy bumps like quick footsteps, then a dull thud. There was silence for an instant, tnen the wind blew around the house and she heard a low moaning wail. It was an unearthly sound; it lasted a moment, then gradually died away.

Kate jumped up and listened to see if the noise had disturbed her aunt, but everything was quiet. She caught up the lamp and ran upstairs.

When she came down her light went out, and while she was feeling for the matches she heard the wild, unearthly moan again. It lasted a little longer than before and died out in the same way.

The rest of the night was very still, even the wind went down, but Kate did not feel sleepy any more.

In the morning aunt Hannah was better. She soon recovered of the cold, but grew thin and pale and could no longer say she was not nervous.

Kate did not speak of the noises, but she thought of them almost constantly, and she knew aunt Hannah was worrying about the same thing. Kate had heard the wail several times since that night, once she heard it in the daytime. If aunt Hannah said anything about her health Kate would observe that it was an open winter, which was called bad for folks.

One day in March aunt Hannah seemed more than usually uneasy, she followed Kate around from room to room, and when in the afternoon Kate said she was going to the neighbor's for a few minutes, aunt Hannah begged her to stay at home.

"Why, what is the matter?" asked Kate.

"I heard that noise again," said aunt Hannah, going close to Kate and speaking low. "I hear the moan most every night, but I've only heard the fall twice."

"But you don't think it's a ghost, do you?" said Kate.

"Oh, dear, I don't know what it is," and aunt Hannah threw her arms around Kate's neck and sobbed on her shoulder, "don't leave me."

"Don't choke me and I'll stay," said Kate soothingly.

Aunt Hannah laughed nervously and took her arms away.

After that aunt Hannah grew more feeble, and Kate was almost in despair, though she tried to keep cheerful for her aunt's sake.

At last after what seemed the longest of winters to them both, spring came; and one warm, sunny day Kate opened the front door, pulled a big chair out into the entry and made her aunt sit wrapped up in shawls in the sunshine. Kate walked around the garden, looking at the flower beds and shrubs.

"Why, how came this brick in the path?" she asked. "And there are two more under the bush."

"They must have tumbled off the chimney."

Kate looked up. "Oh, yes," she said, "I can see where they came off. We must have that chimney fixed." She picked up the bricks and carried them away, "We don't want them in the garden."

When she came back she had a small black jug in her hand. "What was this jug around there under the lilac bush for?" she asked, looking at it curiously.

"Abel must have left it there," answered aunt Hannah fretfully. "He carries water in it when he hays for me. Is it hurt any?"

"It was down on its side so the rain did not get into it, but the cork is gone."

Aunt Hannah spent much of her time in the open air that spring, and it did her good. She was soon as smart as ever. She had the chimney repaired and the house painted and made other improvements. Ghosts did not disturb her any more.

One hot day in July, Abel, aunt Hannah's hired man, was turning hay in the meadow. When he reached the big tree which stood in one corner of the meadow, he stopped a moment in the shade. Then, feeling thirsty, he took the black water jug from its hiding place among the bushes and pulled out the stopper. Some hayseed from his hat fell on the jug, and before he drank he raised it to his lips and blew across the mouth of it. A weird moan sounded through the meadow.—*Susan B. Robbins, in the Investigator.*

MASON AND ... DIXON'S LINE.

ONE OF THE MOST NOTED BOUNDARY LINES

In the United States—Originated in a Dispute between the Penns and Baltimore.

For years there existed a supposition that Mason and Dixon's line was the line dividing the slave-holding from the non-slave-holding states. Time and again it was referred to as such by speakers on the floor of Congress, and it is one of the most widely quoted geographical lines in America. The line was run by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, mathematicians and surveyors of London, between the years 1763 and 1767, for the purpose of settling disputed boundaries between the provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The question arose from misstatements in the original grants of these provinces, resulting in disputes between the families of William Penn and Lord Baltimore. In 1732 an agreement was entered into by representatives of the proprietaries respecting the boundaries of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, the first and last named provinces then in the possession of Penn's family. The difficulty of tracing the curved line between the two provinces was the occasion of the work afterward executed by Mason and Dixon. Penn in 1680 was interested in an application he had made for a grant of land, and had suggested to Sir John Werden, agent for the Duke of York, brother of Charles II., that his lordship reserve the territory 12 miles north of New Castle, Del., the duke having expressed a desire to retain the land 20 or 30 miles north of the same town. The distance agreed upon was 12 miles. Penn's representatives soon afterward engaged on the plantation, when they discovered that Lord Baltimore's patent, if continued to the 40th degree of latitude, would embrace the site of Philadelphia and leave the province harborless.

Trying to Fix the Difference.

The Duke of York, hoping to right matters, gave Penn a deed for New Castle and the plantation 12 miles around it in 1682. A second instrument conveyed to Penn all of the plantation from New Castle southward to Cape Henlopen.

Lord Baltimore's protests against such disposals of territory in his charter reached the duke, who had now succeeded his brother on the throne. In 1685 the King's Council, hoping to right the objections of Baltimore, decided upon the following:

"That for avoiding further differences the tract of land lying between the Bay of Delaware and the Eastern Sea on the one side, and the Chesapeake Bay on the other, be divided into equal parts by a line from the latitude of Cape Henlopen to the 40th degree of north latitude, the southern boundary of Pennsylvania by charter, and that the one-half thereof lying toward the Bay of Delaware and the Eastern Sea be adjudged to belong to His Majesty and the other half to the Lord Baltimore, as comprised in his charter."

The 1732 agreement entered into by the sons of William Penn and Charles Lord Baltimore, great-grandson of the pioneer patentee of the Province of Maryland, which accounts for the noticeable boundaries of Delaware, as follows:

"That a semicircle should be drawn at 12 English statute miles around New Castle, agreeably to the deed of the Duke of York to William Penn in 1682; that an east and west line should be drawn, beginning at Cape Henlopen (which was admitted to be below Cape Cornelius, the present Cape Henlopen), and running westward to the exact middle of the peninsula between the two bays of Chesapeake and Delaware, and the end of the line intersecting it in latitude of Cape Henlopen; a line should be run northward so as to form a tangent with the periphery of the semicircle at New Castle, draw with the radius of 12 statute English miles, whether such a line should take a due course north or not; that after the said northwardly line should touch the New Castle semicircle it should be run further northward until it reached the same latitude as 15 English statute miles due south of the most southern part of the City of Philadelphia; that from the northern point of such line a due west line should be run at least for the present across the Susquehanna River, and 25 miles beyond it, and to the western limits of Pennsylvania, when occasion and the improvements of the country should require; that that part of the due west line not actually run, though imaginary, should be considered to be the true boundary of Maryland and Pennsylvania * * and that the route should be well marked by trees and other natural objects, and designated by stone pillars, sculptured with the arms of the contracting parties, facing their respective possessions."

Wasteful, Tardy Commissioners.

The appointment of commissioners followed, who ran lines for the New Castle circle in 1732, 1739, 1750 and 1760. In some instances the commissioners were extravagant, it being recorded that the body of 1750 had several items of expenses: "A hogshead of port wine, 11 gallons of spirits and 42 gallons of rum, costing in all 27 pounds 12 shillings and 6 pence."

On July 4, 1760, an agreement based on the decision of Lord Chancellor Hardwick handed down in 1750 was signed by the representatives of the lands in question and three years were spent in settling the boundary between Pennsylvania and Delaware. The commissioners ran the east and west peninsular line, the 12-mile circle in part, and established the tangent point in the periphery of the circle. Their progress was so disappointingly slow to the proprietaries that they dissolved existing relations and engaged Mason and Dixon to finish the work. They were to "mark, run out, settle, fix and determine all such parts of the circle, marks, lines and boundaries as were mentioned in the several articles or commissions, and were not completed." They were to receive, in addition to support, 10 shillings 6 pence per day each, coming and returning, and a guinea daily while in this country. On November 15, 1763, they arrived and soon afterward had an observatory erected in the southern part of Philadelphia, which was probably the first of the kind in this country.

Mason and Dixon found the New Castle circle, run by previous surveyors, of assistance to them, and in the fall of 1764 they caused a stone to be planted, fixing the northeast corner of Maryland. This point was latitude 39 degrees 43 minutes, 26.3 seconds, and on this parallel they proceeded due westward, making vistas eight yards wide through the forests, in the middle of which the posts were set up that marked the line of the parallel run. The work continued until within 36 miles of the entire distance to be run when an Indian warpath in the forest was noticed. For sometime the Indians through whose territory the line was running had been in a state of unrest and the Indian guides of Mason and Dixon told them it was the desire of the Six Nations that the surveys should cease at the warpath. The surveyors returned to Philadelphia, and reporting the facts to the commissioners, were discharged in December, 1767.

Erecting the Boundary Stones.

In November, 1782, Col. Alexander McClean, of Pennsylvania, and Jos. Neville, of Virginia, ran the remainder of the line, which was verified by astronomical observations and permanently marked in 1784. As requested by the commissioners, Mason and Dixon erected at the end of each mile a stone with a "P" on one side, and on the opposite sike an "M." At the end of each fifth mile was a stone bearing the arms of the Penns on one side and the Baltimores on the side opposite. The stones, volitic limestone, came from England, and their weather-proof qualities are remarkable. One of the five-mile stones is on the farm of Wm. Brown, a few miles south of Oxford, and the coat of arms of the pioneer proprietors are traceable, although exposed for over a century. The stones were put up as far west as Sideling Hill, about 132 miles from the northeast corner of Maryland. As means of transportation were meagre beyond that point, the use of stones was abandoned. The continuation of the line was marked by piles sf stone six feet high, as far as the summit of the Alleghenies, beyond which posts were planted and surrounded by stone. It is said the original stone set at the northeast corner of Maryland was accidentally broken and the pieces mended by leaden bands. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War the lead was taken from the stone by Continental patriots and made into bullets. The upper part of the stone fell and was lost, the lower end became covered with earth, as it was located in a ravine. For many years the supposition existed, as no marking stone was visible that the three states, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware came together at that point.

In 1849 the governors of these states appointed J. P. Eyre, of Pennsylvania; H. G. S. Key, of Maryland, and G. R. Riddle, of Delaware, to locate the spot formerly occupied by the missing corner stone. The assistance of Col. J. D. Graham, of the United States Topographical Engineers, was obtained, and the site of the missing stone found. The buried portion of the original stone was found by the men while sinking a hole for the new stone to be erected. The old stone was buried and a substantial mark of Brandywine granite, about one foot square, erected, bearing "P. and M." on the sides. On the brow of the hill sloping down to the ravine which contains the stone, a water brook and a profusion of wild flowers, stands an old stone house.

Well Known to Sporting Men.

It is known to many of the sporting fraternity in Eastern cities, as it served as headquarters for the principals and followers of two noted prize fights, which occured in an adjoining field. The first was between Kelley, of New York, and Collier, of Baltimore, on Pennsylvania soil. The second and last mill happened in Maryland between Cleary and Weeden. Nearby was the famous "Backwoods Academy," an institution founded by Alexander Terrell, who taught many students from the adjoining seates. His firsl pupil was William H. Smith, of Newark, Del. Professor Terrell's wife was Miss Mira J. Street, of Philadelphia, an artist of merit.

The tongue of land extending from Pennsylvania down between Maryland and Delaware is a topographical curiosity. At the upper part it is about 169 feet wide (between Pennsylvania and Delaware) and extends southward about three miles and a half, tapers to a point of intersection of the three states, and contains about 500 acres. The land is a portion of London, Britain township, Chester county, Pa., but Delaware claims it is a part of White Clay Creek hundred, New Castle county. She has "always exercised jurisdiction over it, treating her boundary as extending to the north-east corner of Maryland. The land is taxed in Delaware, the inhabitants vote as citizens of that state, and offences committed therein are punished by her courts, while on the other hand, Pennsylvania has never exercised any authority over it." This singular condition of affairs is probably owing to errors made by the pioneer surveyors who ran the lines.

The circle of New Castle has been repeatedly the line of confusion with citizens residing close to it, the difficulty arising on account of the assessment and payment of taxes.

Looking for Lost Marks.

To avoid this acts were passed a few years ago by the legislatures of this state and Delaware authorizing a commission to "examine, survey and re-establish the boundary line," &c. The commissioners of Pennsylvania were Hon. Wayne McVeagh, Robert E. Monaghan and William H. Miller. Delaware's commission was composed of Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, Hon. J. H. Hoffecker and Dr. B. S. Lewis. The work was completed by the joint commission in 1893. The initial monument is of Brandywine granite, quarried in Delaware. The terminal point near the Delaware River is of gneiss. They are marked with the names Pennsylvania and Delaware, north and south sides respectively, and other inscriptions. Each stone is set 4½ feet in the earth and firmly secured by cement. The 22 mile stones and 22 half-mile stones are of gneiss and properly marked.

The triangular stone at the junction of the three states is marked "P. M. and D." respectively, and carries the names of the three commissioners who refixed it in 1849. This is the spot where the reported duel between Bennett and May, of New York, was to have occurred.

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