NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

KEARNY AT SEVEN PINES

The Library has been fortunate in securing recently an author's signed manuscript of *Kearny at Seven Pines* by Edmund C. Stedman (1833-1908), the American man of letters so well known two generations ago. This poem has particular interest to citizens of New Jersey, for General Philip Kearny was one of the most distinguished soldiers that the State furnished to the Union Army in the Civil War, and his death in 1862 at Chantilly, Virginia, while on a reconnoitering tour was lamented by the whole State. Indeed, so cherished was his memory that when, in 1912, his body was moved from a vault in Trinity Churchyard, New York, to the National Cemetery at Arlington, the State erected an equestrian monument over his grave. Residents of Kearny, New Jersey, will be reminded also of the fact that their city was named after the general, on whose farm their homes are built.

The special value of the manuscript before us is that it contains two or three variant readings, and since they are in the hand of the poet himself, they seem worth recording. It is interesting, moreover, that, having begun his poem with two lines which are not in the printed texts, Stedman wrote in the margin the two lines with which the poem usually begins. The text which follows is exactly that of the manuscript, including the misspelling of General Kearny's name. The notes give the variants of the printed version.

KEARNEY AT SEVEN PINES

So that story of Bayard is still on its journey,—

Of Kearney, our Bayard, who knew not to yield!1

'Twas the day when with Jameson, fierce Berry, and Birney,
Against twenty thousand he rallied the field.

Where the red volleys poured, where the clamor rose highest,
Where the dead lay in clumps through the dwarf oak and pine,
Where the aim from the thicket was surest and nighest,—
No charge like Phil Kearney's, along the whole line.

When the battle went ill, and the bravest were solemn,
Near the dark Seven Pines where we still held our ground,
He rode down the length of the withering column
And his heart at our war-cry leapt up with a bound;
He snuffed, like his charger, the wind of the powder,—
His sword waved us on and we answered the sign:
Loud our cheer as we rushed, but his laugh rang the louder,
"There's the devil's own fun, boys, along the whole line!"

How he strode his brown steed! how we saw his blade brighten

1 Printed versions read: So that soldierly legend is still on its journey,—
That story of Kearny, who knew not to yield!
In the one hand still left—and the reins in his teeth!
He laughed like a boy when the holidays heighten,
But a soldier's glance shot from his visor beneath.
Up came the reserves to the mellay infernal,
Asking where to go in—through the clearing or pine?
"O, anywhere! Forward! 'Tis all the same, Colonel:
You'll find lovely fighting along the whole line!"

O, evil the black shroud of night at Chantilly
That hid him from sight of his brave men and tried!
Foul, foul sped the bullet that clipped the white lily,
The flower of our knighthood, the whole army's pride!
Yet we dream that he still,—in that shadowy region
Where the dead form their ranks at the wan drummer's sign,—
That he rides, as of old, down the length of his legion,
And the word still is Forward! along the whole line.

"A MISSIONARY CUTTING AND GATHERING MACHINE"
An item of interest recently acquired by the University Library is a Letters Patent which was granted to James Ten Eyk, for the invention of "a reaping or cutting Machine." The document embossed on vellum is of three leaves (held together by a yellow ribbon) with writing on pages one, three, four, and five, and is folio in size (14 3/8" x 11 3/16"). It was given, "at the City of Washington, this second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five," under the hand of the President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, and bears his signature as well as that of the Secretary of State, "H. Clay." The great seal of the United States is affixed thereto. Certification that the Letters Patent were examined and found conformable to law is attested to by the Attorney General of the United States under his signature —"Wm. Wirt." The second and third leaves constitute the "Schedule" or a description of the invention given in the words of the said James Ten Eyk, with signatures of "Geo. Hadfield" and "S. A. Elliot" as witnesses. On the verso of the third leaf we find penned: "Patent Office Received April 25 1837 and recorded anew in this office Henry L. Ellsworth Commissioner of Patents."

During the past ten years the University Library has received manuscripts, letters, and documents of the Ten Eyk family of North Branch, Somerset County, New Jersey. James Ten Eyk, the patentee, was the fifth in line of descent from Coenradt Ten Eyk, who emigrated from Amsterdam, Holland, in 1650. He was born in the old homestead at North Branch, on May 2, 1773, passed his days there as a farmer, and died at the age of eighty-one years, on July 4, 1854. Mr. Ten Eyk was a member of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of North Branch. Among the
Ten Eyk Papers in the Library are found broadsides fully describing and advertising James Ten Eyk’s Reaping, Cutting, and Gathering Machine, together with various printed forms for the use of Agents appointed to sell the right of using this machine. In the hand-writing of James Ten Eyk we find a detailed description for the making of the machine, with expenses involved including “Bord for Carpenter 10 days . . . $2.00.” A receipt, dated October 17, 1825, acknowledges payment of thirty dollars made by James Ten Eyk “being the treasury fee for his patent for a reaping and mowing machine.”

The importance of reaping by machinery was recognized at an early period, ten patents having been granted during the years 1803-1825, prior to Ten Eyk’s, to residents of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Rhode Island. Ten Eyk’s reaper had a horizontal cylinder, with spiral knives cutting against straight edges. It was calculated to work by manual labor, or with a horse. Among the advantages of his machine Ten Eyk mentioned the facts that “one hand and a horse will cut and secure as much as three cradlers and three binders, in one day; the grain and seed thus gathered is easier and sooner thrashed; one man can do the work of six men in the thrashing; leaving the straw in the field, saves all the drawing of the manure; the bringing it to the barn, & the stowing of it away, may be done with the one sixth less labour than the usual way.” Despite his claims, Ten Eyk’s reaper proved a complete failure judging from printed accounts available. Nevertheless in 1848 when Cyrus McCormick applied to the Patent Office for an extension of his patent of 1834, it was refused by the Examiner, Charles G. Page, on the basis that it “was not new at the time of granting said letters patent, that . . . its operation is similar to the revolving frame of James Ten Eyck, patented 2d November, 1825.” In justice to McCormick, however, it must be stated that Examiner Page made a mistake in the comparison of drawings and that later McCormick was recognized as the inventor of the first successful reaper in America. After the burning of the Patent Office in 1836, James Ten Eyk’s patent of 1825 was one of four “restored.”

The document before us is of historical significance, therefore, not only on account of its signatures, but also as a representative of the participation of an important resident of New Jersey in the early development of agricultural machinery. It is to be regretted that Ten Eyk’s reaper was not more successful, for in a description headed “Missionary Cutting and Gathering Machine,” Ten Eyk penned: “A Certain proportion of the profits of this machine is to be dedicated to the Use of Foreign misionary and domestick Societie, for Churches unable to Support the Gospel, Free Schools, and Simenaries of learning.”

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