

An Idyl of Wild Life.

A curious story of wild life within the borders of civilization was recently brought to the surface at Narrowsburg, N. Y. The story goes that in 1835 Lucy Ann Lobdell, daughter of a lumberman,—the girl being then 20 years old,—married a raftsmen, George Slater, who deserted her and an infant daughter in a year after marriage. They lived at Long Eddy, Delaware county, N. Y. Lucy Ann Slater had been brought up to hunting for a living, felt independent, and took to the woods, leaving her child in the care of her parents. She put on men's clothes, took her rifle and fishing tackle, and built herself a cabin in the wild woods and hunting lodges wherever she wandered in the mountains. She could play the violin as well as hunt and fish, and chop wood, and raft, and accompanied her sports with music in the wilderness. She was skillful and lucky among the game and carried the skins of such wild animals as the mountains afforded to the settlements, where she exchanged them for ammunition and such other articles as she needed. In men's clothes she was known as Joseph Lobdell. Those who knew of the disguise called her the "Huntress of Long Eddy." So she lived eight years in the woods, and at the end of that time ascertained that her child had been placed in the poor house at Delhi. This incensed her against her parents, and confirmed her in the wild life she had chosen. Years after one Joseph Lobdell appeared in a Pennsylvania village as a teacher of music, and played the fiddle for country dances. One of Lobdell's female pupils fell in love with him, and then the young men of the village found out that the fiddling music teacher was a woman,—and none other than Lucy Ann Slater, the huntress. She left suddenly and just escaped a coat of tar and the ornamentation of feathers. In 1868 the huntress was hunted and caught, and put in the poor house at Delhi, from which her daughter had previously gone, only to become at outcast. Just about the same time Marie Louise Perry, a young woman of beauty and education, who had been wronged, came to the poor-house sick, and Lucy Ann Slater attended her as nurse during her illness. A strange friendship sprang up between the two, and the young woman having recovered, both ran away from the poor-house at the same time. Nothing was seen or heard of them for two or three years. In 1871 a man and woman were arrested as vagrants in Monroe county, Pa. The man gave his name as Joseph Israel Lobdell and the woman claimed to be his wife. They had been living in caves and the people were afraid of them. Joseph Israel was lodged in jail and the woman was let off, and took to the woods and caves. Writing with a split stick and using pokeberry juice for ink she drew up a petition to the County Court asking for the release of her "husband, Joseph Lobdell, in consequence of his ill health, which compelled her constant care." The paper is said to have been "a marvel of neat penmanship and correct composition." The County Court yielded and Joseph Lobdell was released. The pair then went to Damascus Township, Wayne county, Pa., and squatted on a piece of ground where they lived until a year and a half ago, when Joseph disappeared. Some months afterwards, the remains of a person were found in the woods not far from the farm, and were buried as those of the missing huntress. The woman of the Lobdell copartnership remained on the patch of ground where both had lived. Lately the acquaintances of Lucy Ann Slater were surprised to see her at Long Eddy dressed in the male garb, tattered and torn, while she was weary and worn and insane. She was put in the asylum at Ovid, and henceforth will be restrained from roaming. And Marie Louise Perry is still living alone in her cabin in Damascus.