

The son of James Matlack and Keturah Kennedy, Robert K. Matlock, was born in Woodbury, N.J., January 22, 1804, and died in Woodbury, April 27, 1877. He went to Princeton University and Schenectady Law School. He was admitted to the bar as an attorney in 1827 and as counselor in 1833. As a young man he lived for several years in Europe. He married Abigail Leaming, of Cape May County and settled in the Matlock homestead in Woodbury.

He was nominated for senator and twice for governor, but refused to take office, preferring to remain in Woodbury. Six children succeeded to the Matlock fortune: Robert, Elizabeth, Ellen, Leaming, Mary and Charlotte.

One of the stories brought home from Europe by Mr. Matlock, concerns Napoleon, who had ordered a review of his soldiers before the English statesman, Charles James Fox, then visiting France. We quote from a footnote to an address given by Mr. Matlock at Mullica Hill, to welcome home the Civil War veterans, September 14, 1865.

"By and by the old Consular Guard came up, preceded by their noisy drums and tattered crazy-looking banners. 'Halt' and 'front face' were ordered. Napoleon stood in his stirrups, glanced at their hairy and weather-beaten faces, pointed out his grizzled veterans to Fox, and with great pride asked him, 'where on earth are the equals of those fellows whose every visage is dignified with a scar?' Fox, with his inimitable droll manner, replied, 'Where are the troops which gave them those scars?'

Before Napoleon collected himself, an old corporal advanced a step and growled out 'Where are they? They are dead!'

Napoleon took a ribbon decoration from his breast, told the Corporal to advance and take 'the ribbon' for his buttonhole and laughingly added 'Old Mustache, this is not the first time you have saved your Consul.' "

Of perhaps greater interest, in the light of present day social conditions all over the world, is a statement made just before the close of the same address:

"Precedent and privilege, before another generation, must undergo challenge and pass away, and the time is not far distant when the popinjay, the curled darling, and the pampered aristocrat must give place to the hard hand of labor."