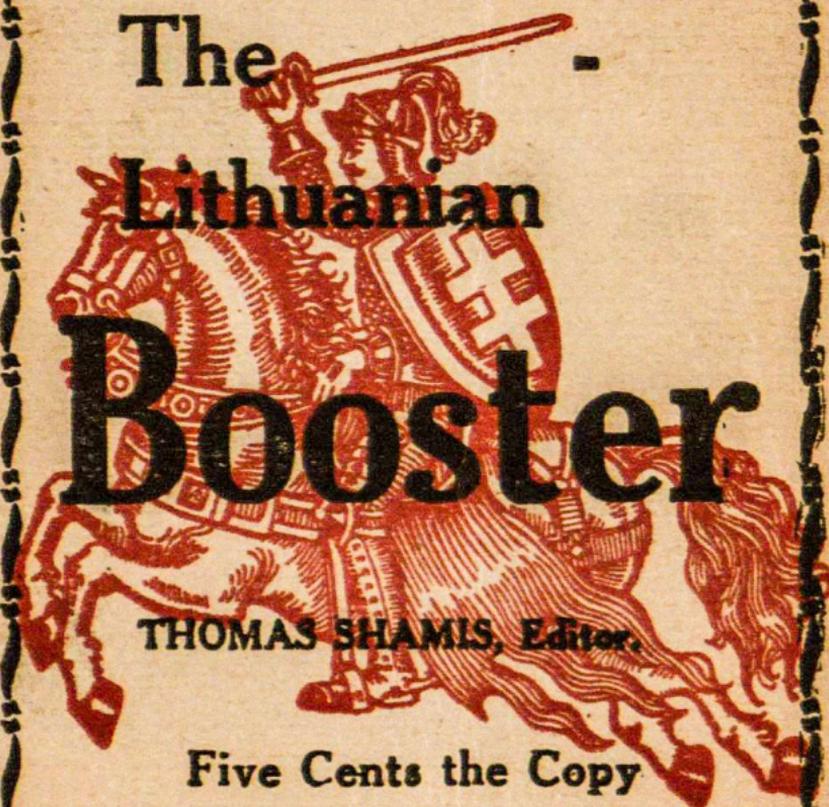


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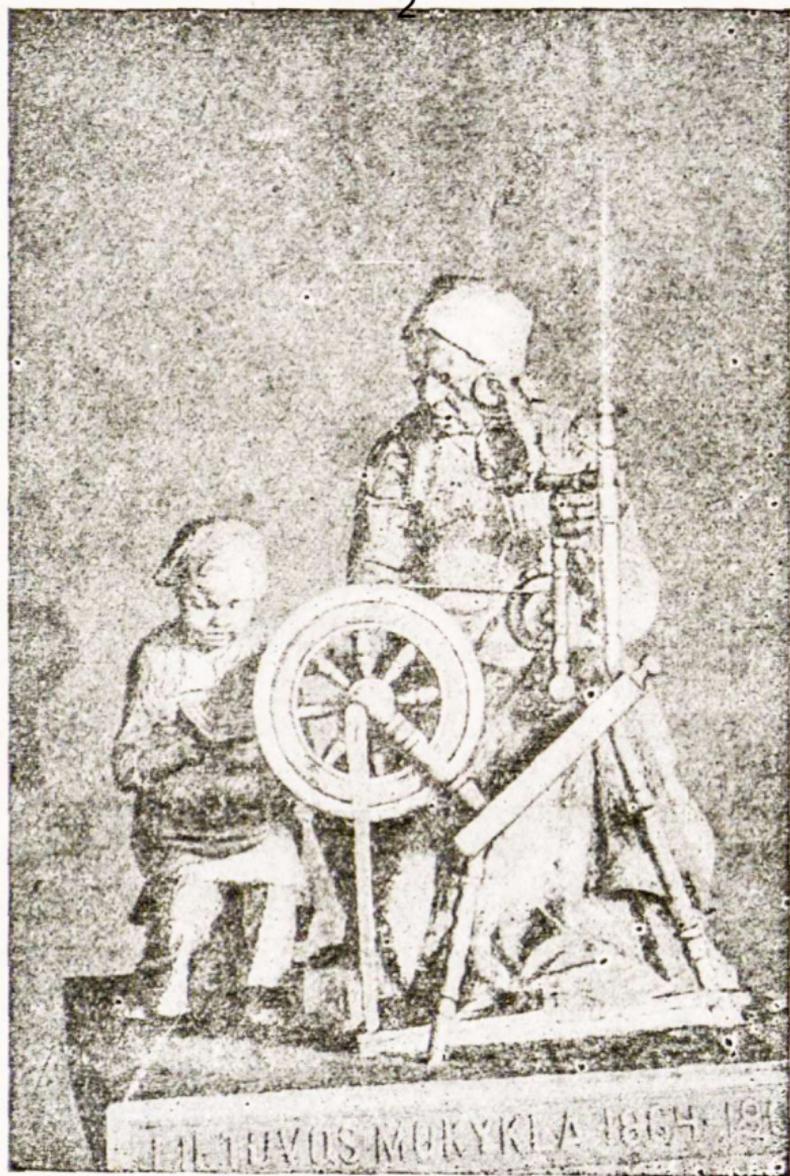


The  
Lithuanian  
Booster

THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor.

Five Cents the Copy

January, 1918





# THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

Thomas Shamis, Editor

Entered at Kingston, Pa., P. O. as Second Class Mail Matter.

Vol. 2

January, 1918

No. 8

## STATEMENT

I want it understood, that I am sole publisher of "The Lithuanian Booster." And I am going to make "The Lithuanian Booster" a success. I will not permit "The Lithuanian Booster" to become a mouthpiece of any faction or clique, nor will "The Lithuanian Booster" boost any party or parties who have not the interests of LITHUANIA First, Last and All Time.

THOMAS SHAMIS.



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## LITHUANIA

**L**ITHUANIA borders Prussia on the west, Poland on the south, Russia on the east and Letts on the north. During two years of the world war Lithuania has been reduced to ruin, starvation and untold sufferings by the Russian and German armies in the attack and retreat. Among the inhabitants there will only be found old people and a small number of children. All healthy Lithuanian men and women were either killed, died of starvation, deported or conscripted. There is no food and what few roofs were left untouched by the exploding shells. The Lithuanians are direct descendants of the Aryans. In number about six millions, they comprise four provinces in Western Russia and several districts in Eastern Prussia. The Letts who occupy Courland and Livonia are in reality Lithuanians since they trace their origin to the same source and differ in language only by dialect.

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In the United States there are about a million Lithuanians who for a long time have been confused with the Slavonic nations. Their physical characteristics and their individuality and distinction as one of the oldest nations of the world. So closely is the Lithuanian language allied to the Sanskrit, that the Lithuanian peasant can readily understand the Sanskrit phrases composed by linguists. The great philosopher Kant, himself born in Prussia Lithuania, points to the Lithuanian language as the key and foundation of all linguistic studies, a fact recognized by Freeman, and all renowned linguists.

Prof. J. Gabrys, addressing the Congress of Nations set Lithuania's claim to Home Rule in the following: "Lithuania wishes to affirm her right to the preservation of her sacred patrimony, she wishes to perpetuate it in her race. She knows that races like individuals have a role to fill in humanity and she is bent, with all her force, toward the accomplishment of her destiny. This task has been rendered all the more

difficult because Lithuania, incorporated in Russia and Germanw, cannot possess any national unity.. The principle lines of a series of reforms which would bestow honor on the victor and secure little freedom to a loyal nation against whom the only grievance has been that she wishes to be her own life.. From the great differences which exist between the Lithuanians, the Slavs and Teutons it is quite evident that Lithuania will always be stopped in her development so long as she has no law to suit her wants. Laws suitable to one race are oftentimes prejudicial to another. Some great nations have understood this.. We must be given the right to use our ancient language; to have our own schools and universities; to follow the principal national occupation, that of agriculture, without let or hinderance and thus to stem the tide of emigration."

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## LOVE MAY LIVE

**I**T was a quiet, solemn day, this; the sun shone lazily thru a maize of wooly clouds. Hardly a breeze stirred the trees of the valley. The little brook chirruped more like the wee birds as it rippled and rolled over small rocks and falls on its way down the valley.

Above—the hill rose slowly at first, then suddenly where its summit was crowned with large boulders of immense proportions, silent guards of valley and dale for numberless generations. The lower part was covered by a beautiful field of green. The whole place spelt solitude for the busy social worker, a place of reminescences for the thinker, and rest for the tired one.

Gazing over all we see a large poplar grown as a beautiful dome, a dome of some ancient cathedral, stands proudly by, because beneath it, in its shade moves a soul, so large and infathomably deep.

Light silky hair, in beautiful twists, gracefully cover a head, within which abodes a mind strange and dark. The lovely face, not yet begun to fade, but more like a rose in full bloom, betrays a great inestimable longing. Deep eyes and barely curving lips told a tale of a great suffering. A lonely heart counts the weary hours and numbers them in pangs of pain that so frequently dart thru it. She treads about the trees, beneath her feet the grass hushing crumbles. A snow white dress murmurs a plaintive song. While her voice like a falling breath keeps pleading with something eternal, something of the unknown.

“My treasures you carried away. Whither have you secreted them? The joys, the blissful moments, the sunshine of my soul, all, you stole from me. You have been cruel, heartless. As a frost you destroyed the flower of my youth. Why punish me so?”

The wavy arms of her spirit reached into infinite space, endeavoring in vain to gather within her arms, the other soul she loved so tenderly, which had gone

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to live where numberless other spirits, that once in mortals dwelt, had gone to live.

'Twas into this darkness, with which night is incomparable that her whole soul was forcing itself.

"Oh Love!"

"Oh Fate! Won't you return to me the bliss that was mine once before. If like the lightening, quick, should come, and be as fatal as it strikes, happiness still would be mine. Or, like the cooing of the rills let it lull me into the sleep of no dawn. Let it whisper to me, like the birdies' whisphers to its mate of the dreams it dreamt before."

The hands that were raised in pleading fell listlessly and heavily to her sides, the eyes rolled in their sockets, as when a person has great pain in the head. Again, she breathed her prayer.

"Come upon the light wings of a breeze and smother my longing. Or, if it pleases God better, let it come as a rock about my throat, that would drown me in my sorrow."

The head fell and she dropped heavily to the bench encircling the tree. A butterfly fluttered about, making many dips and circles, and settling on to the bark of the tree. Unconsciously she stoops to pluck a daisy from the ground beneath her feet.

Then she saw a vision. From over the hill gayly swinging came he from the distance never travelled before.

She outstretched her hands.

"At last! My prayer is heard," sprung from the dying lips.

"You are badly hurt. What my God. You show me a shattered arm."

"Only your spirit propels you."

"Your face, your eyes, all torn to bits. How strange! Your beauty is marred."

"The hand of Love has lead you."

"I wish I was given a share of your pain. Go with you, I was ready. All these long century-like days."

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Later an old man, presumably a relation, with wistful eyes, came trudging through the field.

He gazed up and down, hither and thither searching seemingly for some that was very precious to him.

His quest brought him to the tree. His eyes filled with tears as he beheld a most wonderful sight. A soul that was happy, so much so, the smile lingered with death foretold, had passed away. Her hand clutched the daisy, in her lap fluttered a letter shaken by the breeze.

It was an old story repeated. The chum of her childhood days, who had grown with her was by nature filled with a desire, a desire that for centuries unknown had inspired all youth, he went into the world's big sea to prove his worth.

Many dreams had they both dreamt together under this tree. when perfect happiness and everlasting joys should be theirs.

Fate, whose hand works even during the dark hours of the night but decreed otherwise; misfortune

ill luck had been marked for the boy.

Then the war. Hate and Love were engaged in a death grapple. Love taugth for centuries was being trampled and destroyed. Prompted by a desire to preserve the only thing worth while he joined the armies fighting for Love.

The letter told the rest Upon the battlefield he fell his brother warrior heard his last words:

“Marija, I die that Love may live.

And at the end of the letter she had written:  
“Jonas, take me with you.”

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## ENGLISH OPINION

**H**ERBERT Adams Gibbons, Ph. D. in "The New Map of Europe" writing on the Polish partition writes: "Poland was a country of feudal nobles, whose inability to group under a dynasty for the formation of a modern state, made the disappearance of the kingdom an inexorable necessity in the economic evolution of Europe, and of ignorant peasants who were indifferent concerning the political status of the land in which they lived."

The writer, Mr. Gibbons, gives reasons for the failure of Polish insurrections. The same feeling was at height in Lithuania at the same time.

"These movements (insurrections) against the Russian Government were conducted by the same elements of protest against autocracy that were at work in the larger cities and universities throughout Europe during the middle of the nineteenth century. Nationalism was the reason given rather than the cause

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prompted. The revolutions were unsuccessful because they were not supported by the nation. The mass of the people were indifferent to the cause, just as in other countries similar revolutions against despotism failed for lack of real support. The apathy of the masses has always been the bulwark of defence for autocracy and reactionary policies. Popular rights do not come to people until the masses demand them. Education alone brings self-government. This is the history of the evolution of modern Europe.

“The Polish question in Lithuania, Podolia and the Ukraine was a totally different matter. These provinces had been added to Russia in her logical development towards the west and the south-west. Their possession was absolutely essential to the existence of the Empire. Their population was not Polish, but Lithuanian, Ruthenian, and Russian. From the Baltic to the Black sea, the acquisition of these territories made possible the entrance of Russia into concert of European nations. . . . In Lithuania, the

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Lithuanian language was proscribed. The Russians had no intention of blotting out a Polish question in order to make place for a Lithuanian one.

“Where the Poles were few in number, these measures, which were exactly the same as the Poles had employed themselves in the same territories several centuries before, were successful. (?) The peasants were glad to see their traditional persecutors get a taste of their own medicine. It was not difficult to make these provinces Russian. ! They have gradually been assimilated into the Empire. In all fairness, one can hardly condemn the Russian point of view, as regards the Poles in Lithuania, Podolia, and the Ukraine. Only youthful Polish irredentists still dream of the restoration of the Empire of the Jagellons. (Marked, Ed.)

“The birth of an anti-semitic movement has been disastrous to Polish solidarity during recent years. The Polish nationalists suspected the Jews of working either for German or Russian interests. They were

especially bitter against the Litvak, or Lithuanian and south Russian Jews, who had been forced by Russia to establish themselves in the cities of Poland. (And Lithuania. Ed.)”

Arnold Toynbee, in “Nationality and the War” writes: “About the gobbling of of East Prussia by that vulture of today in form of Prussianism. If historical arguments must needs be answered, we may point out that the folks they dispossessed were not Poles nor even Slavs. The original Prussians belonged to a separate branch of the Indo-European family, were kinsmen of the Lithuanians across the Niemen; but the German crusaders who set themselves to root out heathenism from this secluded corner of Europe, did their work so thoroughly that they annihilated the heathen themselves together with their beliefs. No native Prussian now survives to claim his ancestral inheritance, and the title remains with his destroyers, who robbed him even of his name, and raised it from an obscure tribal appellation to be the official style of

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the greatest political organism that Germany has yet created.

“As far as the left bank of the Niemen, East Prussia, with the possible exception of the Masurian unit, will thus maintain its present connections. We have still to consider the fragment of the province beyond the river's further bank. This is the only portion of East Prussia that ought undoubtedly to be ceded to the Russian Empire. The majority of the inhabitants are Lithuanians, at the present separated by an artificial line from the mass of their fellow-countrymen on the Russian side of the frontier. The only considerable German enclave is the port of Memel situated on the exit from the “Kurisches Haff” or lagoon, into which the Niemen debouches; but we can write off against Memel the Lithuanian enclaves on the south bank of the river, which we propose to leave within the German frontier, and from the economic point of view Russia's claim to Memel is as strong as Poland's to West Prussia. The upper system of the

Niemen provides waterways for traffic of Russia's Lithuanian provinces, and Memel is the natural point of connection between this internal trade and the sea.

"The Empire yoked together diverse nationalities and national fragments. Its nucleus was the union of two Catholic populations, the Poles on the Vistula and the Lithuanians North-East of them, between the Niemen and the Duna. They were linked first in 1386 by the acceptance of a common dynasty, and were subsequently fused into a single constitutional kingdom by the Act of Lublin in 1569. From that date the strong monarchy gradually degenerated into an inept oligarchic republic. The Polo-Lithuanian noble caste was paralysed by family feuds, and more inclined, when its members met in diet mounted and armed, to relieve its feelings in bloodshed than to carry on the business of the government.

"If the Polish nobility had reduced merely their own country to anarchy, it would have been bad enough; but they were visting their incompetence upon

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large alien populations as well, and the eighteenth-century Partitions, while they opened the Polish national question, closed once and for all several others of long standing.

1. In the fourteenth century, after the Mongol invasion had shattered Russia into fragments, Poland and Lithuania incorporated by conquest vast districts stretching South-Eastward into the Cossack steppes towards the Black sea. The population of all this region was Russian by language, creed and tradition. It included the White Russians, who lay North of the Pripet marshes, and were hardly distinguishable from the Muscovites in dialect, and the Ruthenes or Little Russians, extending South and South-East of them from the Carpathian mountains to Kieff half-way down the course of the Dnieper. The eighteenth-century partitions reunited these peoples with the national Russian state, except for a Westerly fragment of the Ruthenes in Galicia, which fell to Austria in 1772. We shall find later on that the relation between the

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Russian Empire and these branches of the Russian race still requires adjustment, but their transfer from Poland to the Muscovite state at least advanced the problem many stages nearer solution.

2. Besides these Russian-speaking regions, which became a more or less integral part of the Russian national organism, the Russian Empire had incorporated by 1795 the whole Lithuanian nation. (Minor Lithuania was taken by Prussia. Ed.)

3. The highly-civilized German townspeople of West Prussia were annexed by the Berlin government in 1772, and have never since severed again politically from the entirely German-speaking provinces between which they lie. We have already explained the reasons, racial and geographical, why West Prussia must remain part of the German national state.

"Having disposed of Poland's alien subjects, let us turn to the fate of the Poles themselves. The Partition gave them, no less than their subjects, the much needed strong government in place of the extreme

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choas under which they had suffered for more than a century; but in doing so it deprived them of the one priceless possession they had won and kept, their national unity. There was no question for [them, as for their former Russian subjects, of rejoining a larger national unit. They did not even pass, like the Lithuanians, under the dominion of a single state. (Mr. Toynbee knows that the Lithuanians were cut in twain by the same two vultures of which he writes further on. Ed.) The carcass of Poland herself was shared by two Western vultures, for Russia, though, reckoning by mere extent of territory, the lion's share of the spoils had fallen to her, had not acquired a single Polish-speaking district. Warsaw, the Polish capital on the middle of Vistula, became a Prussian frontier fortress, Cracow, the second city of the country near the river's source, was assigned to Austria. The Poles drank the cup of national humiliation to the dregs.

“The Baltic coast populations, from the North-

East frontier of Prussia to the Gulf of Finland, are none of them Russian in nationality, and, till their successive absorption in the Russian Empire during the course of the eighteenth century, they have all had a distinctive history of their own.

“Lithuanians, occupying the provinces of Kovno, Vilna and Suvalki, [And Grodno. Ed.] are not Slavs, but speak a separate language of the Indo-European family. Its closest relations are with Slavonic on the one hand and Teutonic on the other, and its development, like that of its speakers, has been arrested in a phase more archaic than any other living form of Indo-European speech.

“The Lithuanians have remained Roman Catholics since their voluntary conversion from tribal heathendom in the fourteenth century A. D., and they were in political partnership with the Poles between that time and the Partitions, so that neither language, religion nor tradition bind them to the Russian people. (Nor to the Poles. Ed.) Though geographical considera-

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tions have made it advantageous to both parties that this little country should come within the frontiers of the great Empire, (Never. Ed.) Imperial Government has no call here to cognisance of other such Imperial business as communications and defence, and might satisfactorily leave the whole internal administration of Lithuania to Home Rule.

2. The Letts, inhabiting Courland and Livland on either baek of the Duna, lie next to the Lithuanians in the Northward direction. They speak a variety of the same language, but their history has been different. They were converted to Christianity by the sword of the Teutonic Knights, and at the reformation submissively followed their masters into the Protestant camp like the Masurians in Prussia. After the dissolution of the Order, this territory was partitioned between Sweden and Poland, and, when it became one again under Russian government, the German landed aristocracy, descended from the secularised knights, played for a time a prominent part in the history of

the Empire, owing to their superior education and acquaintance with European life.

3. The Northern part of Livland, from a line drawn East and West between the Lake of Pskov and the Gulf of Riga, together with Esthland, the sister province along the Southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, has shared the political and religious history of the Lettish districts; but the population here speaks a language of entirely different origin, a dialect of the great Ugro-Finnish group.

“The bond of common Protestantism and German culture may override these differences of native speech, and incline the people of Courland, Livland and Esthland to consolidate all three provinces into a single self-governing area; or, inasmuch as public education in the national language is one of the chief objects of devolution, the Lettish-speaking and Esthonian-speaking sections may elect to organise themselves apart. The alternatives can be decided by the plebiscite alone.

“We have passed in review four nationalities—the

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Poles, Lithuanians, Letts and Esths—lining the whole Western fringe of the Russian Empire, on whom Home Rule should be devolved in varying degrees, corresponding to their respective material importance as political units, and to the strength of their national self-conscious. Before the war, such a policy would have seemed to the Russian government little less than a dissolution of the Empire. For a century the autocracy of the Czar had been leagued with the autocracies of Central Europe in the struggle to repress all nationalists aspirations wherever manifested. But the vitality of Nationalism proved so great that it swallowed up in itself Autocracy's point of view, and ever since Bismarck effected his concordat between these two political forces, the contest of principles in Europe has been gradually shifting its ground and changing its character. It has ceased to be waged between ruler and people on the issues of 'strong government' and self-government, and the nations themselves have come to man the opposing camps,

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with their former despots at their head as their chosen leaders, while the issue now at stake is whether the strong nation shall use the freedom that it won for the oppression of its neighbor, or whether all nations, great and small, shall live orderly side by side as members of a wider commonwealth."

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**J**UST The truth, for that's enough;  
**J**OIN The Boosters—that's the stuff.

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## POLANDS LOVE

**M**R. Ignacy Paderewski, well known musician a few months ago at a gathering of Sokolos (Falcons) said:

“Narod Polski moze tylko wysce z niewoli jak rycerz z mieczem w reku, kryzem na piersiach i ze sztandarem Orla i Pogoni.”

In English:

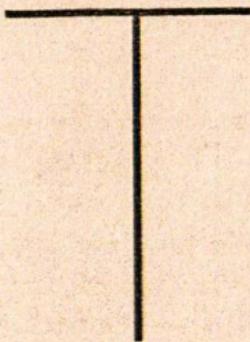
“The Polish Nation will liberate itself from bondage when the horseman with sword in hand, with a Cross on his breast, and with the Eagle and Knight banner.”

The eagle means Poland, and the knight represents Lithuania.

Poland's propagandists still dream of “Pogoni” lands and its treasures. The works of Captain Kidd and his ilk would size a mere toy compared to the effects brought on by the Polish propagandists in Lithuania.

**PINNACLE**

Polish "PAN" being above All.



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## ILLUSTRATIONS

**T**HE picture in the front of this issue is: LITHUANIAN MOTHER which was made into a work of art by Mr. Peter Rimša, Lithuanian sculptor, dedicated to her unpriceable worth to our nation—for keeping “Lithuanian School” thru two score years (from 1864 to 1904). The darkest and most intolerable to the Lithuanian Nation.

Mr. A. Zmuidzinavicius has sketched Lithuania as she is to come. (The picture in the back of this issue) The sketch is precious to the Lithuanian as it takes a peep into the past and gives us the insight of the future. In the background we see a son of Aryan who is ever alert to defend Lithuania. His army is large and GINTAUTAS can feel proud.

## LECTURES

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### HISTORIC LITHUANIA.

### THE LITHUANIAN QUESTION.

These talks are designed for churches, lodges, literary and historical societies, and trade and commercial bodies. They are an attempt to make people think to some purpose about the Lithuanian.

For dates and terms address,

**Thomas Shamis,**

**27 Short Street,**

**Kingston, Pa.**

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Edited by THOMAS SHAMIS

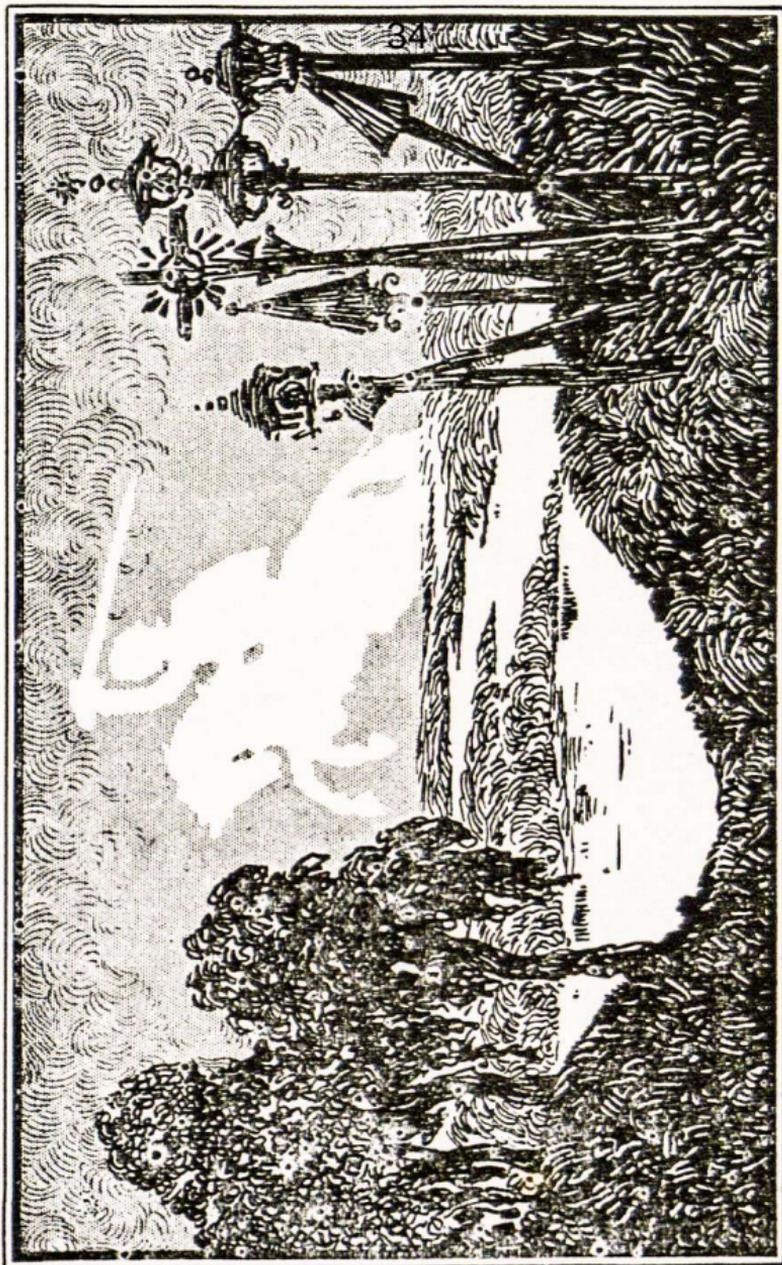
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Published Monthly by THOMAS SHAMIS

27 Short Street

Kingston, Pa.



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