

*Note relative to the history of the mass of meteoric iron brought by Dr. F. P. Moreno from Caperr, Patagonia.*

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**T**HE mass of meteoric iron brought from Patagonia<sup>1</sup> in 1896 by Dr. Francisco P. Moreno, Founder and Director of the State Museum of La Plata, had been sought for by him, while exploring that region, because of a reference which had been made to it in Captain G. C. Musters's book, 'At Home with the Patagonians,' published in 1871.

Dr. Moreno believed the mass to be really identical with a block of supposed marble, referred to on page 87 of that work as having been seen by Captain Musters in 1869 at Amakaken, which is situated in longitude 71° 56' W. and latitude 48° 10' S.

As Dr. Moreno found the mass of iron not at Amakaken, but at longitude 70° 20' W. and latitude 45° 15' S., not far from the tribal encampment Caperr (Capperr or Capper), south of Rio Senguerr (or Senguer), there was great discrepancy as regards both the nature of the material and the position and name of the encampment or village; the discrepancy was thought to be a result of confusion of memoranda, or lapse of memory, on the part of Captain Musters, who died as long ago as 1879.

Caperr is indicated as *Capper* on the 'Plano preliminar y parcial de los territorios del Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut y Santa Cruz,' published in tomo ix, 1899, of the *Revista del Museo de La Plata*, dirigida por F. P. Moreno.

Through the courtesy of Professor Rodolfo Hauthal, of the Geological Section of the Museum of La Plata, my attention has been called to the following paragraph from page 101 of the book of Captain Musters, in which specific mention is made of a mass of iron heard of, not seen, by the author:—

'In the range of hills described as visible from Kaimak, there is

<sup>1</sup> *Revista del Museo de La Plata*, 1898, tomo viii, p. 305: plate 34 of the same volume gives a figure of the mass. *Mineralogical Magazine*, 1899, vol. xii, p. 167.

a mine or vein of iron ore, about a mile due west from the brook, and marked by a large mass of white quartz. This is used by the Indians in the manufacture of bolas, and an excursion was made to it. We brought back numerous pieces, some of which, now in my possession, have been examined and pronounced to be brown and magnetic iron ore. The Indians also told me that some leagues to the east of this spot a mass of iron, having, as well as could be gathered from their account, the shape of a bar-shot, lies in the middle of a barren plain, and is regarded by them with superstitious awe. Whether this be an aerolite, or has any connection with the cre on the hill side, it was not in my power to determine, for in the critical state of feeling then prevalent, a visit of inspection was impracticable.'

Yaiken-Kaimak is shown in Musters's map at longitude  $72^{\circ}$  W. and latitude  $45^{\circ} 45'$  S.: 'some leagues to the east of' Kaimak would thus agree satisfactorily with Dr. Moreno's statement of the locality where the iron-mass was found.

There can thus be no doubt that the block transported by Dr. Moreno is the one mentioned on page 101, not that mentioned on page 87, of the late Captain Musters's book.

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