

St. Paul. Minn.  
Nov 10/88

Sir W. Dawson F.R.S.

Dear Sir

I am in receipt  
of your esteemed answer in re "Athens".  
Subsequent to writing you after  
hunting up all I knew of Greece & I arrived  
at the solution which you may be a little  
interested to see.

Some difficult questions  
at a time referred to me by the Editor of "The  
Picnic Press". When you get through "Lesta  
Pati" - I shall much esteem your opinion.

Q. (1) Why was Athens called "The City of the Violet Crown?" (2) Is not Olympus now in Greece? If not, to what nation does it belong, and when did it come into possession of it? A. Athens is so called by Aristophanes. Macaulay also refers to Athens as "the violet crowned city." Greece in Asia Minor was called Ionia. The first three letters of this latter are "ION" - being the Greek word for violet or the violet plant. The greatest representative king of Athens was King ION, a native of Ionia. He gave four distinguished sons to Athens. Hence for a pun Athens was called the city of the "Ion crowned king." "The Ion crowned" - or King Ion's city, "The violet crowned city." Of course the pun is the chief point and was quite legitimate in comedy. A similar pun calls Paris the city of "the lilies," and London is called "the noisy." (2) The old Olympus of the Grecian mythology was situated on the island of Cyprus, now owned by Great Britain for the past ten years. The ancient city of Olympus was located between Macedonia and Thessaly in Greece, but it has no present status of observation.

Yours obediently  
Wm. Chipman

Chapman

Dec 1888

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