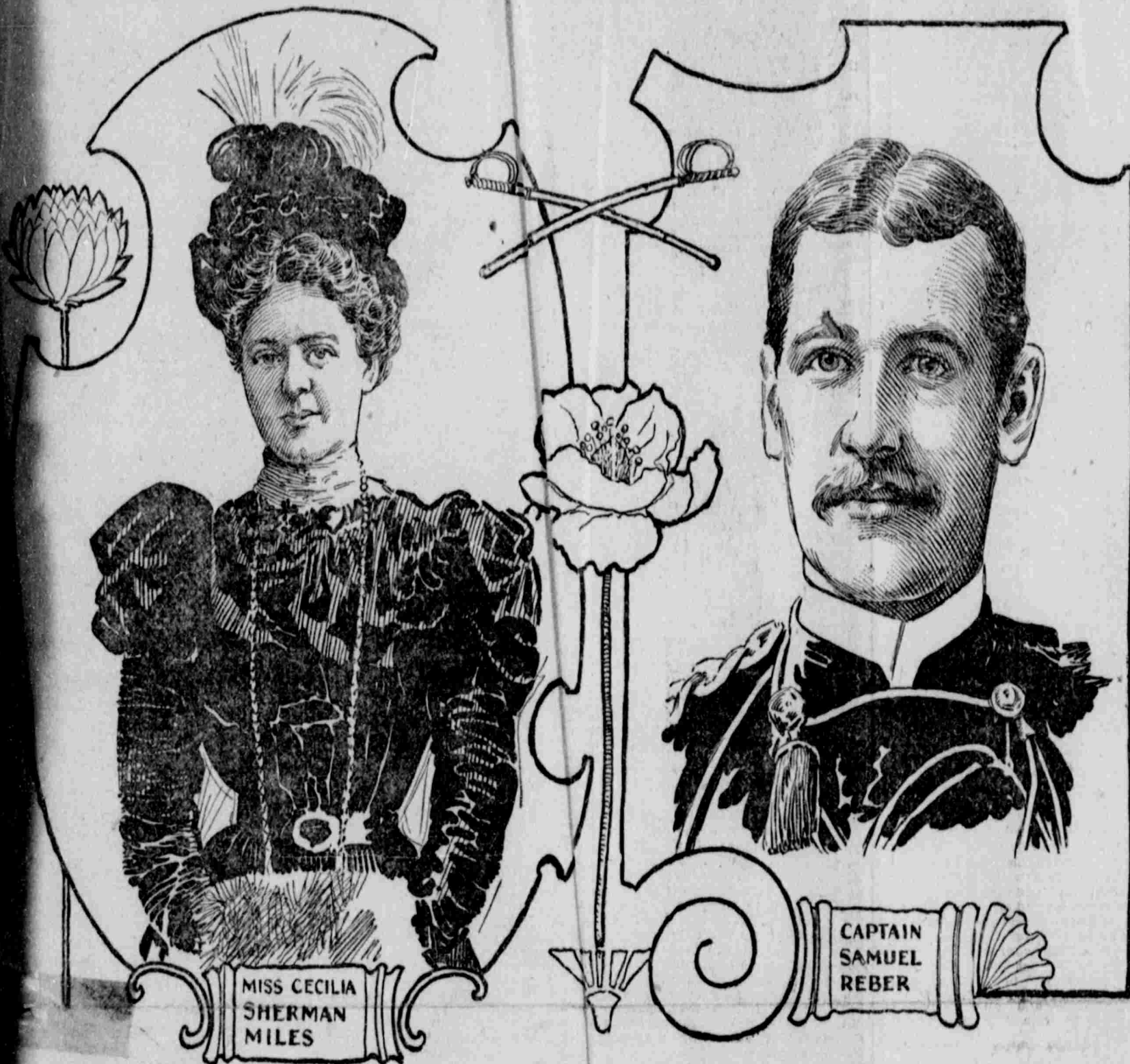


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# A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## A WEDDING IN ARMY CIRCLES.



One of the most important weddings of the early new year is that of Miss Cecilia Sherman Miles, the daughter of General Miles, to Captain Samuel Reber, which is to take place at Washington in January. The recent announcement of this impending marriage has made a stir not only in army circles, where Miss Miles has long been a leading figure, but also throughout the United States, owing to the popularity of the affianced couple. Miss Miles has been a general favorite in social circles that her name has frequently been coupled with those of well known army officers who have paid her marked attentions, and her marriage had been frequently prophesied by supposedly knowing ones. Captain Reber, however, is the fortunate man. He is several years the senior of his fiancée, and her second cousin. The two have known each other from childhood, and the alliance is termed an out and out love match.

Captain Reber is one of the most talented and promising of the younger army officers. He was born in Missouri 35 years ago and graduated with the class of 1886 from West Point. Soon after he was appointed a second lieutenant of the Fourth cavalry, and in 1892 was made a first lieutenant of the Fifth cavalry. Later he became chief signal officer with the army corps and of the department of Matanzas and Santa Clara, and also acting superintendent of the telegraph lines of the island of Cuba. In 1899 he was made chief signal officer of the department of the east, with headquarters at Governors Island, which is his present station.

Captain Reber was also a member of the intercontinental railway commission, and during the Hispano-American war was on duty with the American army in Porto Rico, accompanying General Miles in his campaign across the island.

### AMERICA'S SWEETEST SINGER.



Biles Carman, the recognized leader of that somewhat numerous choir of Canadian poets, has made his name familiar to Americans by the refinement and delicacy of his work, which for the last few years has been appearing in the different magazines of the country. Mr. Carman is just turning his fortieth year and was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He studied at Edinburgh and Harvard and has been connected editorially with several American periodicals. His first volume of verse was published in 1893 and was called "Low Tide on Grand Pre." This was soon followed by "Songs From Vagabondia," a delightful little volume of lyrics in the production of which Mr. Carman collaborated with Richard Hovey. Although Mr. Carman has since published several small books of verse, the great majority of his poems remains uncollected. The accompanying picture of this Canadian lyricist is from his latest photograph.

### THINGS THAT ARE TALKED OF.

Instruction in the English language is now obligatory in Russian commercial schools.  
Utah is to be a great coal state.  
There are over 1,250 miners employed at Scotland, Clear Creek, Castle Gate and Sunnyside, and the daily output at the first three places is over 1,200 tons.  
A postmaster in some village or hamlet on the Rocky mountains recently closed his office to go on a bear hunt and sent word to the postmaster general that he had done so, adding, "You

can discharge me if you want to, but I warn you beforehand that I am the only man that can read and write in the neighborhood."  
Ex-Senator John M. Palmer, at the age of 82 years, is in Washington gathering material for his forthcoming book of recollections. As an Illinois lawyer in antebellum times, an officer who

served throughout the rebellion, governor of Illinois and United States senator, he is able to look back upon a long and eventful life.  
An interesting anniversary is to be celebrated soon in London, the jubilee of the coal exchange. It recalls the fact that in the fourteenth century the burning of coal was prohibited, and in

the early days of Lord Mayor Whittington a man was actually hanged for indulging in a coal fire. The law has never been repealed.  
Brooklyn physicians have started a movement of reform in the drug business. It comprises three propositions: namely, the suppression of the sale of poisons as now carried on, the preven-

tion of the use of substitutes in prescriptions and the enforcement of a law granting shorter hours to drug clerks.  
Chinese papers state that there are at present six smokeless powder factories in operation in the Chinese empire. John J. Albright of Buffalo, who gave

to that city a rare collection of palms and tropical plants, valued at \$40,000, is having the new conservatory for the collection erected at his own expense.  
Oil has been tried for sprinkling roads in Dallas, Tex., recently, with the same success which has attended its use elsewhere, but the complaint is made that the oil injures bicycle tires.

### POSTAL DELIVERY IN PARIS.

While it is a fashion at present to sneer at everything French, it is worth while remembering that in many things Paris today stands ahead of our most advanced American cities. One of the evidences of the progressiveness of the Parisian is the recent adoption in the French capital of the automobile mail

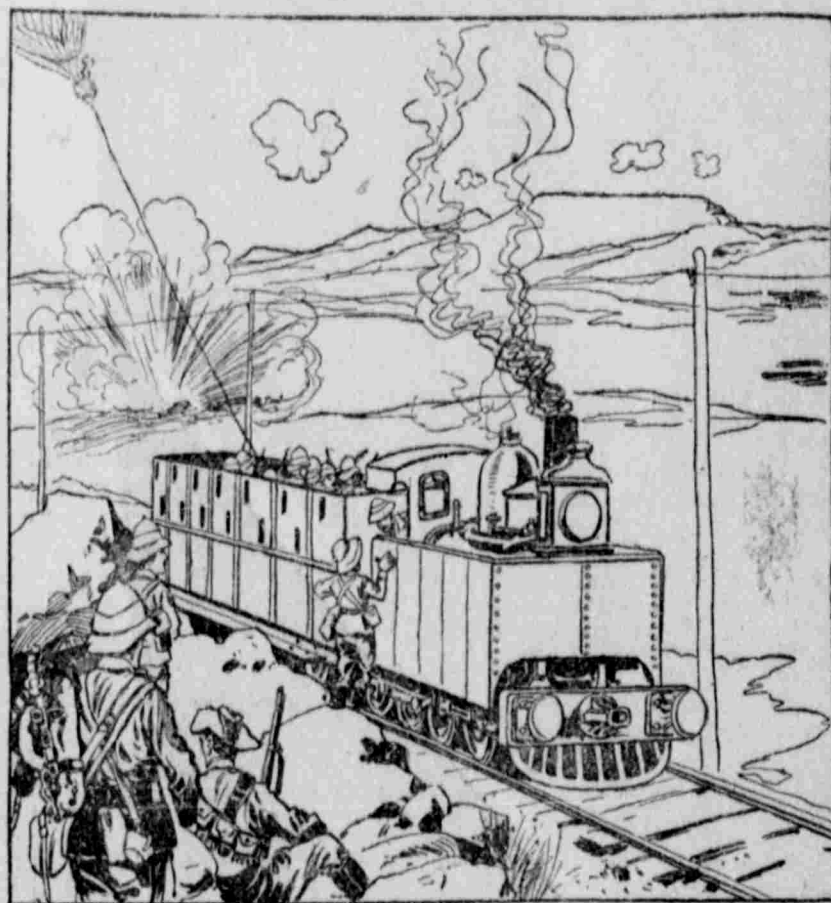


carrier, the general character of which may be appreciated from the accompanying illustration. This new postal carrier is a lightly constructed auto-cycle able to run about the boulevards of the city in a very speedy fashion.

### LUTHER WAS NOT A SUICIDE.

The question of whether Luther committed suicide is again being discussed in Germany. An authoritative denial of the story, based on exhaustive and critical research, is made in the eighteenth edition of Janssen's "History of Germany," which has just appeared.

### RECONNOITERING IN THE CLOUDS.



One of the extraordinary features of the battle of Farquhar's Farm in the Anglo-Boer war was the use of a captive balloon attached to an armored train. This balloon was utilized as a sort of movable conning tower, and during the engagement an officer took observations of the enemy's position and movements and signaled the same to his forces below. Both train and balloon on this occasion were under fire, but the daring aeronaut escaped uninjured. The success with which the balloon detachment of the engineer corps has been operating during the war seems to point to the fact that the balloon will certainly be a fixture in all warfare of the future, unless, of course, the world grows tired of all the bloodshed that is now taking place and asks for another and more effective Hague peace conference.

### A TITLED WAR NURSE IN AFRICA.



War, it has been said, never affects the English middle classes. It is always the Tommy Atkins, recruited from the lowest stratum of society, and the officers, from among the aristocracy, who suffer. Not only the sons of the belted earl, but also his proud daughters, have responded to the call of England for assistance, and today there are a number of titled English women acting in different capacities in South Africa. The accompanying illustration, for instance, shows Lady Sarah Wilson acting as a nurse during the siege of Mafeking. This photograph was taken just a few days before the news came from South Africa that Lady Wilson had been taken prisoner by the Boers.

### WHITE'S WINGED MESSENGER.

Here is a picture of the more or less famous carrier pigeon which brought General White's message for the Prince of Wales from Ladysmith to Durban not long ago. This message, it will be remembered, was a birthday greeting



to the heir apparent of the British throne. These little winged messengers have been put to great use during the South African campaign, the birds which are so distinguishing themselves for active service being mostly of the class known as "homing Afs." Their training was carried out months at the Cape by Colonel Sars, a member of the Royal staff.

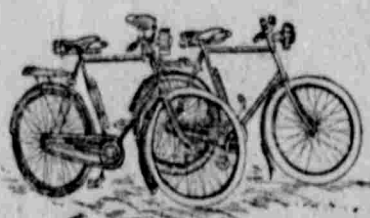
### THE GENERAL HOSPITAL AT JOHANNESBURG.



The accompanying illustration shows the general hospital at Johannesburg, a building which just at the present time is crowded from basement to roof with wounded Boers. Johannesburg hospital is a large, handsome building, with well laid out grounds surrounding it, and capable of accommodating several hundred patients. So great has been the number of wounded recently brought into Johannesburg, however, that a great number of the outlander houses had to be taken over and fitted up with beds for the wounded, and in that city today one may behold the sorrowful aftermath of all war.

### THE BICYCLE IN WAR.

One of the orders sent out by the British war office was a command to an English firm to supply a large number of bicycles, specially built and equipped in every respect for immediate use



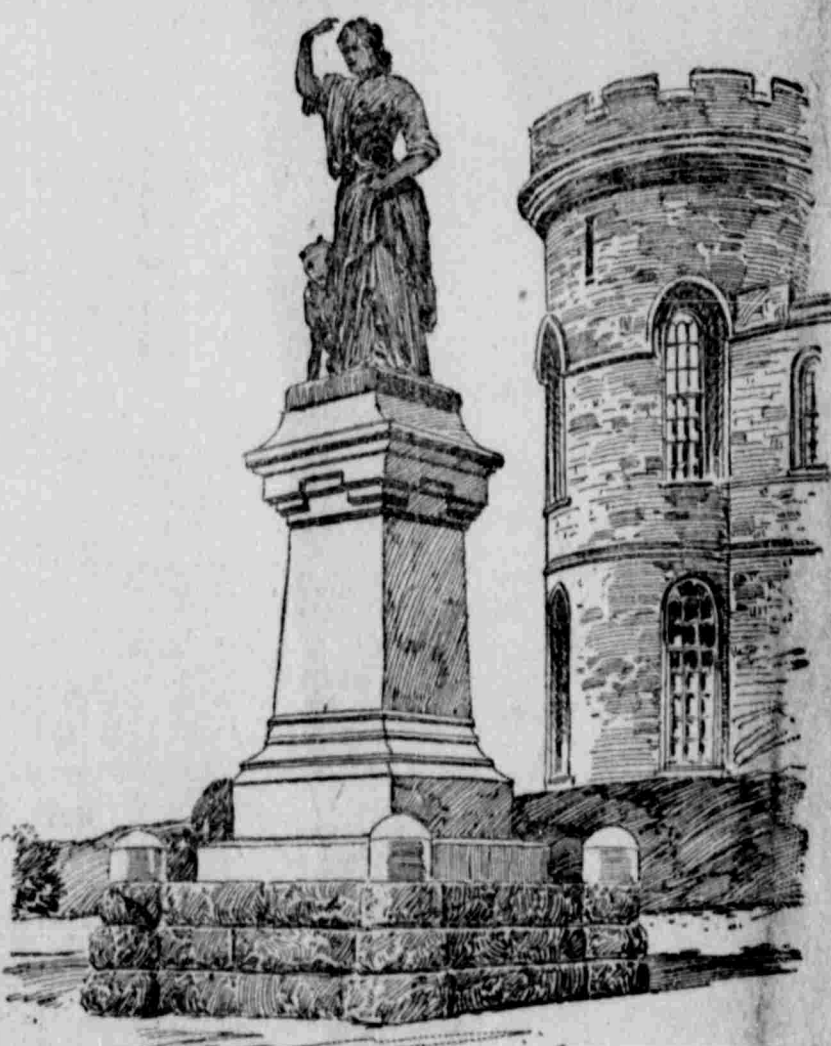
In the South African campaign, these bicycles are stoutly built, pneumatic tired safeties and are enameled in khaki. They are already seeing active service at the front, and the occasion is unique owing to the fact that this is the first instance in which bicycles have been used by the British regular army in actual warfare.

### WHY THE MULE IS NEEDED IN WAR.



One of the necessities for active campaigning in South Africa is the mountain battery. Such a battery is made up of field guns that can be taken to pieces and transported over rough and broken country on the backs of mules, or sometimes horses, as shown in the accompanying illustration, which is from a recent photograph of a mountain battery in the neighborhood of Ladysmith. It was a section of such a battery, it will be remembered, that was captured by the Boers owing to the mules stampeding at Elandslaagte.

### IN MEMORY OF FLORA MACDONALD.



Lest future generations should forget the romantic story of Flora MacDonald, the noble girl who saved the life of the fugitive Prince Charles after the battle of Culloden, a statue has been erected to her memory on the Castle Hill of Inverness. This monument, of which a picture is herewith reproduced, stands on an imposing hill directly in front of Inverness castle, and in it the highland heroine is represented with her right hand raised to her brow, gazing away toward the west, where the picturesque drama of her life was enacted. A tartan plaid hangs loosely from her right shoulder and a Scotch collie stands looking up at her side. The statue itself, which is of bronze, is nine feet in height and was cast in a Roman foundry. With its substantial granite base the entire monument is about 25 feet in height.