

A REMARKABLE SPRING IN FLORIDA.

There is near Ocala a remarkable spring, one of the largest of the great number known in Florida. It is called Silver Spring. I found it in the midst of a lone hummock, overflowing its banks. It bubbled up in a basin thirty-seven feet deep and about an acre in extent, filling and overflowing it, and sending from it a deep stream fifty or sixty feet wide, and extending eight or nine miles to the Oklawaha river, into which it empties. In the spring, itself, fifty steamboats may lie at anchor, and the stream admits steamboats of considerable draught. The spring thus forms a natural inland port, to which these steamboats come to run regular routes. The character of the water is truly wonderful. It seems even more transparent than air. You see on the bottom, thirty feet below the bottom of your boat, the exact form of the smallest pebble, the outline, color, and shades of color of the leaf which has sunk. Large fish swim in it, every scale visible and every movement observable. The water is impregnated with lime and magnesia, but has no appreciable taste, and is excellent drinking water. If you go over the land, you will see the fissures in the rocks, from which the river pours upwards like an inverted cataract. There are more of these springs in the channel of the stream, further down. Such springs are most common in Florida. Clay Spring, near the east bank of Lake Apopka, pours forth a noble stream into the St. Johns. Big Spring on the west side of Lake Harisi is nearly as large as Silver Spring. I have laughed at the story of a spring in Iowa large enough to turn a mill, but I can swallow all such tales now, after having seen one that will float a fleet. (Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.)

THE ROYAL PALACE OF SPAIN.

It is far more splendid than the Tuilleries, or any palace in France, England, Germany or Italy. It cost more than five million of dollars a hundred years ago, and that was a much greater sum of money then than now. It has been enlarged and embellished from year to year ever since. When we drove up to the grand court, it was so splendidly filled with cavalry that we thought the predicted insurrection was imminent, and the army had been summoned to the defence of the palace. Not at all. These mounted soldiers are only the regular guard that, day and night, stand sentries to protect the sacred person of her serene and Catholic majesty from the violent hands of her loving people. In this inner court, or square, the cavalry, in long line and fierce array, are ready for a fight with the revolutionists, if they are brave enough or mad enough, to try their hands in a tussel with the troops of government, trained and paid to preserve the existing order of things. From the windows of the armory this martial parade was imposing, though there were but a few hundreds of mounted men. The officers were clad in polished steel back and breast plates, which flash brightly in the sun. The uniform is brilliant and the riding splendid. Artillery companies, with cannon mounted, drawn by horses, maneuver in the square, crossing and recrossing constantly, under the eye of the royal household. A long line of lounging people look on also; and as they go and come all day, an impression is certainly instilled by this military parade that the government is always ready to take care of itself. The palace stands on the verge of a height that commands a wide and exciting view of the plains of Castile. The thought of what those plains have been in the last two thousand years, makes them of more than romantic interest to one who takes in the past with the present. What successive tides of conquest have there ebbed and flowed! To know that Charles V. and Napoleon and Wellington have followed one another up those shaded avenues to this summit, with their legions, is enough to invest them with grandeur. And here, in this armory, is the very sword that Gonzalo of Cordova wore, and the sword with which Ferdinand, and the saint, here smote the Moors; and the sword of Charles V., and the complete suit of armor which the great emperor wore, and in which he was painted by Titian; and the suit of armor worn by Bobadil, the last Moorish king, who sat on the throne of his Alhambra, and who left it behind, doubtless, when he delivered his sword into the hands of Ferdinand and Isabella, at the foot of the hill on which I am writing. We had thought of modern invention, but here are elegant pistols on the same principle, used in the 17th century, and now as good as the modern crown, a sword, a helmet, or some other weapon, illustrates the life of all the heroes of Spanish history; and the number of warlike memorials here displayed is about three thousand. How men managed to fight while clad from head to foot in these suits of steel armor is to me, a non-combatant, one of the mysteries of the art of war. We read of tournaments, and more to be wondered at, of battle fields, where all the knights were clothed from head to foot in the identical garments that are now before us, or in others made after the same pattern; and how, with such a weight of steel, and so constrained in the freedom of action, they could manage to wield their swords and thrust their spears, I do not understand. They were not men of more physical power than our soldiers. Some of them were less than the present average size of men. But they were mighty men with the sword. The Toledo blade was quite equal to that of Damascus; and the helmet was often insufficient to save the brain, when the sword, in a strong hand came down, cleaving through steel and skull. (Letter to N. Y. Observer.)

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THE PROFOUNDEST SPEECH OF THE AGE.—At a recent meeting in New Granada, South America, a gentleman, someone resident in the United States, expressed the hope that the adoption of American institutions would place Colombia on a level with the Great Republic of North America. He was himself summarily levelled by the following speech from a fully reconstructed Colombian. We quote from the Panama Star.

Mr. President: In proposing that we should adopt North American institutions,

How, in order that we may rank amongst the most civilized nations of the world, our friend is merely repeating a vulgarism against which I do most solemnly protest. We are represented as an uncivilized people, but, sir, if to have done it before them is to be ahead of them, then we are at the head of civilization. For what do the Americans boast of? They have not recently abolished slavery; we abolished slavery long ago. They have just proclaimed the equality of races, and are trying to hold up the negro; we have proclaimed the equality and held up the negro long ago. They have only finished their first civil war, rendered money scarce, and made a paper dollar not worth a dollar. We have had dozens of civil wars; have rendered money scarce, and made paper dollars not worth a dollar long ago. They are beginning to tear up their constitution, impeach their President, set up dictators; we have done all that long ago. They are at last going to the devil as fast as they can; we have gone to the devil long ago. (Silver Bend Reporter.)

Most men work for it, beg for it, starve for it, and die for it; and all the while, from the cradle to the grave, God and nature are thundering in our ears the solemn question: "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The madness for money is the strongest and lowest of the passions, for it is the insatiable Moloch of the human heart, before whose remorseless altar all the finer attributes of humanity are sacrificed. It makes merchandise of all that is sacred in the human affections, and even traffics in the awful solemnities of the eternal.

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The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 11 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over that of the preceding day. The utmost good humor and enthusiasm reigned among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old F. B. principle of "may the best win."

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Mr. Buck's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one!"

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