THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL SHAFTER.

GENERAL SHAFTER

GENERAL SHAFTER'S BIRTHPLACE.

SINCE Major General William Rufus Shafter was born on the 16th of October, 1835, and because of the fact that he is the retiring age in the army of the United States, this officer will, after the 16th of October, 1899, be on the retired list of the American army, thereby to this fact removing himself from the active service. Hence his market personality and career of the man who assembled our late Cuban campaign (not although General Shafter, like all public men, has his admirers and critics, even those people who are neither his friends nor his supporters must confess that his life has been a successful one.

The conqueror of Santiago was born at Galesburg, Mich., and his childhood and youth were passed amid agricultural surroundings of the most sentimental character. Here he worked on his father's farm, ploughed and "laugh and toed as drudgery" until the outbreak of the civil war, when both young William R. Shafter and his brothers John enlisted in a volunteer regiment and went marching off to camp. William Rufus began his military career with a first lieutenant's commission in the Seventh Michigan Infantry, and Brigadier General Rosecrans' official report of the battle of Fair Oaks contains the following statement: "Lieutenant Shafter, Seventh Michigan Volunteers, in charge of the gunners, who was slightly wounded but kept the field, furnished beautiful exhibitions of gallant conduct and intelligent activity."

The young Democrat was now made a major, and in 1863 found himself promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and a little later a full colonel in the Seventeenth United States colored infantry. Just before the close of the war he was given the brevet rank of brigadier general.

It was in July, 1866, that Shafter was made lieutenant colonel of the Forty-first regiment of regular infantry, and in that year was mustered out of the volunteers, even those people who are neither his friends nor his supporters must confess that his life has been a successful one.

The conqueror of Santiago was born and reared in the right ideas of decorum. It is said that all officers and men under his command were distinguishable by their efficiency, general good behavior, and excellent appearance on parade.

During the Indian campaigns in Texas and also during those in New Mexico, Colonel Shafter served with distinction, and so at the outbreak of the Spanish war with Spain it was not a matter of surprise to learning men that he was appointed major general of volunteers. He had some time previous to this been promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

The particulars of his campaign in Cuba and the taking of Santiago are of such recent date and are so well known that they need merely to be mentioned here. Under a staff, and sometimes misgoverning, whether this robust officer carries a warm heart and a stern sense of duty. A table of varying but what he thinks has perhaps frightened off many of his admirers who would have been counted as friends but they never authorized the man. But no one can say that General Shafter's career has not been a success. To this fields he pressed suddenly from a Michigan farm to one of the most responsible military positions in his country's service is no small thing. Mingled with his military instinct is also an excellent capacity for business. In fact, it is said that today General Shafter, once the little homestead farm boy of Galesburg, is a millionaire, all of his fortune having been made principally by judicious investments in the mortgaging interest.

THE WORLD'S BEST PIPER.

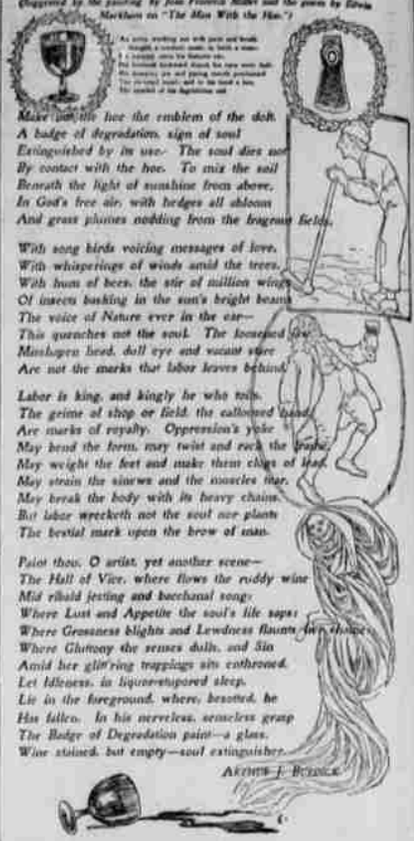
Here is the distinctive piper of the British army. The bagpipe and their variegated sporrans are distinctly an acquired taste, though the skill which the musician required for the proper manipulation of his instrument is seldom realized by the unsophisticated. Each year a competition is held at Stamford bridge, not too close to civilized quarters, and a prize is given to the champion. The winner of this year's competition was Piper Ross, whose long power is described as phenomenal. Piper Ross, whose portrait accompanies this article, is a big, lusty Highlander and has twice won the prize for being the most accomplished piper in the British army.

A PET OF THE PRINCE.

One of the most valuable pet dogs in existence today is little Major Macgregor, who was purchased from a Chelsea bloodstock breeder last year by the Prince of Wales. He is a very small animal, is this tiny pet terrier, weighing only six pounds, but he has heart of eight times of coal, and, when curled up, resembles a ball of the softest and whitest silk. Major Macgregor is also a very merry and active little fellow, enjoying nothing better than a frolic along a set of open country when the chance offers. He is a great favorite of the prince, who is about as fond of a good dog as he is of a first class horse.

THE BADGE OF DEGRADATION

(Suggested by the painting by Jean Francois Millet and the poem by Edwin Markham on "The Man With the Hoe.")



Make love the lee the emblem of the doll.
A badge of degradation, sign of soul
Extinguished by its use. The soul dies not
By contact with the hoe. To mix the soil
Beneath the light of sunshine from above,
In God's free air, with hedges all abloom
And grass plumes nodding from the bugeous fields,

With song birds voicing messages of love,
With whisperings of winds amid the trees,
With hum of bees, the stir of million wings
Of insects basking in the sun's bright beams
The voice of Nature ever in the ear—
This quenches not the soul. The loosened lip,
Mashgaes head, dull eye and vacant stare
Are not the marks that labor leaves behind.

Labor is king, and kingly he who toils.
The grime of shop or field, the callowed hands
Are marks of royalty. Oppression's yoke
May bend the form, may twist and rack the frame,
May weight the feet and make them clogs of lead,
May strain the sinews and the muscles tear,
May break the body with its heavy chains.
But labor wrecketh not the soul nor plants
The bestial mark upon the brow of man.

Paint thou, O artist, yet another scene—
The Hall of Vice, where flows the ruddy wine
Mid ribald jesting and bacchanal song;
Where Lust and Appetite the soul's life sapes;
Where Grossness blights and Lewdness flaunts her charms;
Where Gluttony the senses dulls, and Sin
Amid her glitt'ring trappings sits enthroned.
Let Idleness, in liquor-whipped sleep,
Lie in the foreground, where, besotted, he
His fallen. In his nerveless, senseless grasp
The Badge of Degradation paint—a glass,
Wine stained, but empty—soul extinguisher.

ARTHUR J. BURDICK.

THE PRIDE OF THE REGIMENT.

Since the battle of Inkermann in 1710 the antelope has been the crest of the Royal Warwickshire regiment. It was at this famous battle that the Warwickshire men distinguished themselves by capturing no less than 31 standards. In one of these standards was the device of an antelope, and this animal Queen Anne made the badge of the regiment. The Second battalion of the regiment is at present at Colchester, where they have some fine specimens of a buck antelope, a sort of animated regimental badge, which they use as a mascot.

AN AMERICAN SIGNAL CORPS IN THE FIELD.

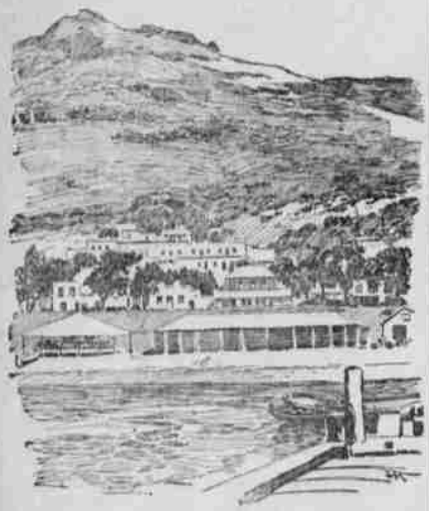
An epigrammatist has said that modern warfare is a business and modern business a warfare. The first part of this statement, at least, is undeniably true, for the general adoption of modern mechanical inventions and devices in campaigning has so revolutionized all out of the century military methods that the up to date army is now something like a vast machine. The part which electricity alone now plays in war has made serious changes in the methods of military men. The accompanying picture, for instance, is from a photograph taken in Luzon showing the operation of an American signal corps in the field during an engagement with the followers of Aguinaldo.

"WHO SAID KRUGER?"

The accompanying picture is a strange mixture of what might be called English humor and English nonsense. It was first published in a London journal over the signature pictured, "Who said Kruger?" and is supposed to represent, of course, the spirit of the Anglo-Saxon in resenting any encroachments upon what he regards as his rights. Englishmen as a rule object to the bulldog as a representation of their national characteristics, yet when the belligerency and the obstinacy of Great Britain are borne in mind the illustration is a more or less apt one.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the popular British ambassador at Washington who has just become Baron Pauncefote of Preston, takes the latter part of his title from Preston court, the ancestral seat of his forefathers.

BRITAIN'S NEW NAVAL BASE.



Simons Town, the little South African seaport shown in the accompanying illustration, will be the headquarters for the British naval detachment so long as the world's sea lanes over the Cape and to the east continent. Simons Town's bay nearly a mile of docks and extended forts in process of completion, and therefore will be digestible to the station of the Cape and West Coast Royal squadron. When the proposed harbor has been artificially strengthened, Simons Town will form one more of those impregnable citadels for the British navy whose the war office in London always has in mind in its collection. This stronghold is about 30 miles from Cape Town, with which it is connected by a railway. So whatever the outcome of the Transvaal situation, Britain will have one more point never been in the southern seas.

THE BULL FIGHT IN AMERICA.

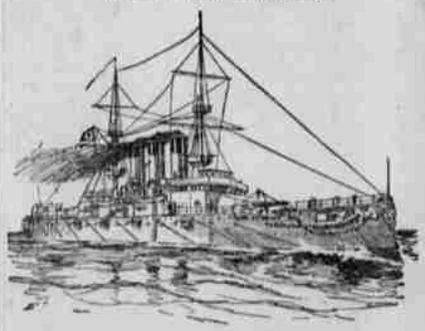
Accompanying the revival of the gentle art of bull fighting in Europe is a rumor to the effect that a syndicate exists for the encouragement and propagation of the sanguinary sport. It is also rumored that that same syndicate will attempt to introduce this more sanguinary pastime into the United States, but owing to the storm of contemptuous criticism which has been following the attempts to establish bull fighting at Boulogne in France, where many English people were spectators, it has been shown that the Anglo-Saxon conscience is still too healthily sensitive to permit of such a brutal sport ever becoming popular either in England or America. The accompanying illustration is the latest picture of Felix Robert, the "hero" of the Boulogne fiasco, who received a recent offer to come to America.

THE DRAGON TREE OF TENERIFE.

Although different pictures of dragon trees have been published of late, the most perfect specimen of this strange and interesting tropical growth is the far famed dragon tree of Tenerife, a picture of which is shown in the accompanying illustration. Among the particular tree there is a tradition among the native Canaries to the effect that its roots were originally watered with dragon's blood, an idea which originated in all probability from the extreme darkness of the dragon tree's sap. This strange tree is supposed by naturalists to be a sort of giant asparagus, and one of its peculiar features is the fact that when it gets very aged and hollow it sends out shoots and suckers around the original trunk.

As an article of commerce the dragon tree is attaining considerable importance, as it has been found of especial use for embalming purposes, and large quantities of it are now shipped from the island.

JAPAN'S NEW IRONCLAD.



Japan has of late become such an important factor in that mysterious table which is vaguely known as "the eastern question" that the addition of a new ironclad to her increasing navy is a matter of considerable international importance. Not long ago the beautiful new cruiser The Shikishima, shown in the accompanying illustration, was put on trial from the great shipbuilding docks of the Thames after more than two years of incessant hammering and welding and bolting and was found to be a most satisfactory fighting machine. The Shikishima carries as armament four 12 inch and fourteen 6 inch guns, the former in two barbettes and the latter on the main and upper decks. Thus, along with twenty 12 pounders and twelve 3 pounders, make her a very formidable man-of-war.

ITEMS PICKED AT RANDOM.

Dr. Koch, the discoverer of the bacillus, has gone to Java and Singapore to study malaria.

Professor Tyndall, formerly a Shakespeare in the army, but for the past few years a professional preacher of the end of the world, is out with a new prediction. He says that the infant son of the Duke of York is destined to gather the Jews from the four quarters of the earth and to unite them under his leadership.

The New England Educational league is laboring for a cheap book, not to which books from public libraries may be conveyed as second class matter at 1 cent per pound. Some institutes who have been consulted suggest that if that rate could not be made several it might be applied for a short carriage, as in or 100 miles, and prove profitable to the government, or, at least, cover the cost of transportation.

M. Rou thinks that the English are of the capital "I" is one of the most curious features of the language. He calls attention to the fact that "a Frenchman, referring to himself, writes 'je' with a small 'j,' a German, though he may scarcely utter his substantives with capital letters, employs a small 'i' in writing 'ich;' a Spaniard, when he uses the personal pronoun at all, believes a small 'y' as his 'yo,' while he honors the phrase he addresses with a capital 'Y.'" The English "I" alone Zola as being very arrogant.

Four Richards and six of their relatives have been governors of South Carolina.

The origin of saying "as clean as a whistle" is ascribed to the "whistle tankard" of olden times, in which the whistle came into play when the tankard was emptied or "cleared out," to announce to the waiter that more liquor was required.

G. W. Watts, the artist, although 82 years of age, is always at work at 4 o'clock a. m. and says that is the secret of his good health.

The youngest major in the British army is John Campbell of the Cameron highlanders. He is only 31—three years younger than any other major in the service. He has attained his promotion so rapidly owing to active service. The two captains above him in his regiment were shot at Omdurman. Major Campbell comes of a long line of soldiers, his father and grandfather were both in the Cameron highlanders and three of his mother's brothers are commanding regiments in India.