

WATER IN THE DESERT.

EVER since the discovery of gold in 1848, California has proved itself a land of wonders. Its big trees, big ranches and big millionaires have been themes for the marvellous all over the world. Now it comes to the front with a mild sensation, in the form of a new lake or inland sea.

San Diego is one of the most southern counties in that State. That county is remarkable for a vast expanse of arid plain, known as the Colorado desert. This desert has an area of about 3000 square miles. "On the map, part of it is designated "Dry Lake." One of its curious topographical features is, that the lowest part of it is 270 feet below sea level. Yuma, at the southeast corner of this desert, is 169 feet above sea level. The Colorado river flows by Yuma, and is, consequently, at this point 400 feet higher than the lowest part of the desert.

The lake of which so much is being said at present, is that in process of formation on the central portion of this desolate tract. The question arises, where does the water come from? By some it is contended that it comes from the Colorado river, while others maintain that it is being fed from the sea. In the absence of demonstrative proof both theories are feasible. The fact that the water in the new lake is salt does not antagonize the river theory; because the soil through which the water would flow is essentially saline and would impart its properties to the fresh water.

At present the lake is said to be 100 square miles in extent, its greatest width being only five miles, and depth only a few feet. But if the whole valley should be filled up, there would be a lake 100 miles long, fifty miles wide, and 400 feet at its lowest depth. The temperature in the valley at present is reported to be 120 degrees. Such heat in that region, where there is water, would cause an evaporation equal to nearly nine inches of rain in a month. So that if the lake is fed from the river, it will soon be dissolved into thin air. The Indiana state, however, that a similar lake was formed fifty years ago by an overflow of the Colorado.

One of the dispatches stated that a salt-water fish had been found in the lake. If this is correct the ocean theory would then be the most conclusive. It is admitted by geologists the valley was at one time connected with the sea by a channel, long since closed up. But it must be remembered that there was a perceptible touch of earthquake in that region a short time ago, and it was possible that

either the old channel was opened up, or a new one was made.

In 1849 the question of turning the Colorado river into this valley was agitated to such a degree that a Congressional committee reported favorably on it. In 1873 this matter was again revived, but dropped soon after. It was supposed the evaporation would be so great that little could be effected in the way of agriculture.

One writer, a Chicago man, says that in vol. v, of Pacific Railroad Explorations, page 109, there will be found an account of an overflow from the Colorado river which occurred in 1849. On page 228 of the same book is a geological map showing the extent of country that was formerly a part of the Gulf and is now much lower than the Pacific.

In our time a matter of this kind cannot remain very long a mystery. It will soon be demonstrated beyond doubt where this water comes from, and whether from the sea or the river, the question of submerging or irrigating the Colorado desert will be revived. Science and nature most probably, will be made to work hand in hand, and in the near future climatic and topographical changes may be witnessed in the arid regions of Arizona, California and New Mexico, that will surprise the oldest inhabitant.

PEERAGE FOR CANADA.

THE government of England has got an idea. The rebellious blood of Canada that has been making itself so troublesome of late Lord Salisbury thinks of soothing into instant and eternal passivity, by making Mrs. Macdonald a British peeress. There is no doubt that Mrs. Sir John and all her near relatives will be Her Majesty's most humble and dutiful servants from this time forth, and that the Canadian disciples of royalty generally will more than ever lavish their sentimental devotions upon the "person of the Queen."

But what has all that to do with the crowd that is making the trouble? If they were out of humor with aristocracy before, they will be most likely to abhor it now that it has set up a branch agency in their midst. If Lord Salisbury wanted to reconcile Republicans in Canada he would much better have granted them representation in the Commons, which they have been wanting these many years, and for which this titular embellishment to the name of their opponent seems a rather silly, if not rash substitute.

The English fleet bombarded Alexandria July 11, 1882.

AN IMPENDING DUTY.

IT is to be hoped that the dissolution of the People's party will not have the effect of making many of its former members indifferent as to results at election times. Quite a number of them are still unconnected with either of the national party organizations, and it may be that this will cause them to hold aloof from the polls.

This would be a grave mistake. The next election will take place next Monday and will be for school trustees. The general desire is that party politics shall cut no figure in school affairs. That is eminently proper. But the "Liberal" faction intend to antagonize this. They mean to work for "Liberal" nominees. The people ought by this time to know what that means. It signifies an effort to obtain by hook or crook—principally crook—every office that can be grabbed for a "Liberal."

We ask the decent voters of Salt Lake City of all shades of political faith to render abortive this intended attempt to place avowed "Liberals" in the office of school trustees. Vote for men who represent the idea of freedom in school matters from party issues. And all go to the polls. Let there be no absentees. Every man should feel that it is his duty to record his vote against "Liberalism," and in favor of unpartizan nominees.

If the respectable citizens will unite on that occasion, the "Liberal" faction will receive a blow which will affect its digestion badly and sicken it for the next encounter. Let the vote next Monday be a big one and an unmistakeable sign of the times.

A STUPID STORY.

AMONG other misrepresentations indulged in by the "Liberal" faction is the story, now in circulation, that the People's party is not dissolved in fact, but only in appearance, and the falsehood is told that "all through the Territory the teachers are telling the people that in the immediate future it is to be called together again, and is to absolutely rule the Territory under the Priesthood."

"Of course there is no truth whatever in the story. The action taken by the Territorial Central Committee has been recognized by the various county and precinct organizations, and a formal dissolution of the party has followed.

The Teachers have nothing to do with the matter in any way. They are not telling the people anything in relation to the party which has been disbanded that its former members