

# THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL WESLEY MERRITT.

MAJOR GENERAL WESLEY MERRITT, who is to be retired from active army life on the 16th of this month, is a living illustration of what can be accomplished by one possessed of grit and ambition.

Born in a modest house at 67 North Moore street, New York, June 16, 1836, and brought up on a farm in Illinois, he was early instructed in the school of

adversity. Corn was 15 cents a bushel when young Merritt took his father's produce to market; luxuries were scarce and dear. Having a hankering for something better than the farm afforded, he worked awhile on a newspaper, and at 18 became a cadet at West Point academy. This determined his career and gave to the country the soldier who at 26 was a captain and had received

six brevets for bravery. Just before the battle of Gettysburg Merritt was made one of that quartet of "boy brigadiers" which included Mackenzie, Upton and Custer. He is the only survivor.

Graduated from West Point at the right time to take part in the most stirring scenes of the civil war and almost always in the saddle, he escaped his numerous battles without a dis-

division of the southwest and subsequently of the Gulf. Afterward, in the west, he became known as an intrepid Indian fighter and led several expeditions into hostile country, the most famous of which was a forced march to relieve a band of soldiers hemmed in by Utes in 1879. The redskins had caught the white men in a trap, had killed half their number, had killed or wounded

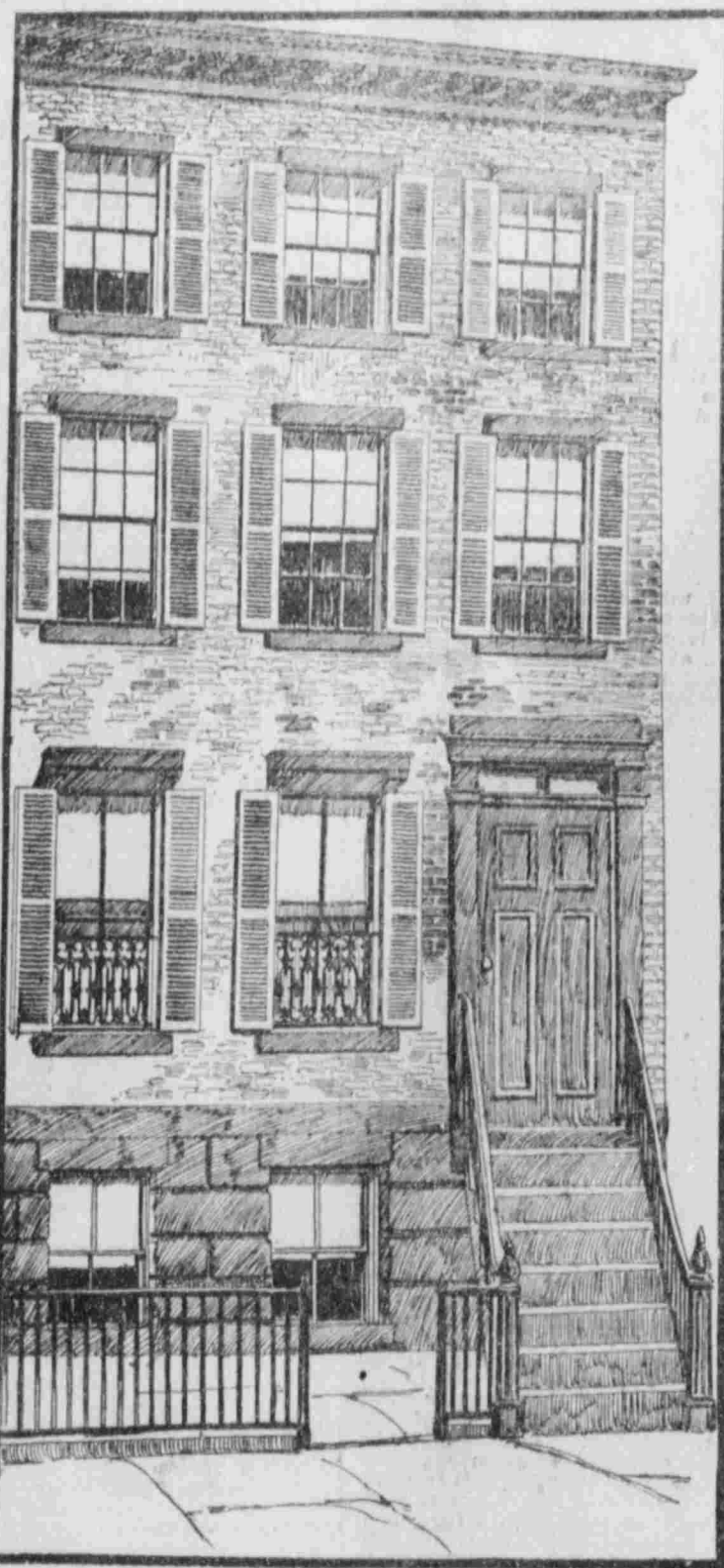
soldiers two weeks later won the victory of Aug. 13, 1898, by which Manila fell before the onslaught of American arms. The insurgent chief had requested an interview for that day, but General Merritt declined it on the plea of a previous engagement, and he never saw Aguinaldo.

The victorious general did not wait to gather the fruits of his labor, but

Painters at dizzy heights, when the Eiffel tower at Paris was being constructed, speculation was rife as to the possibility of the workmen performing their labors at the dizzy height to which it was intended to carry that now famous structure. At Eiffel had demonstrated his ability to perform gigantic engineering works in the way of bridges and viaducts, but this new attempt of his was the first of its kind

to rise so far toward the clouds. It is, as everybody knows, nearly a thousand feet high or twice the height of the great pyramid of Egypt and almost twice as high as the Washington monument.

The ascent to the top is easy enough, for one has only to step into an elevator, consigned to the care of the engineer, and in a few minutes the dead is done. But the daring men who have engaged to repaint this gigantic structure have a proposition of a different sort. They coolly work away, unmindful of their peril, while hundreds of feet below them flows the river Seine, dotted with its various craft, reduced by distance to diminutive toys. They raise and lower themselves by dextrous handling of their frail "boatswain's chairs," hanging in midair by the strength of a single knot, the slipping of one of which would mean instant death.



GENERAL MERRITT'S BIRTHPLACE.



GENERAL WESLEY MERRITT.

every officer and then had sat down like a band of coyotes, to await their death by starvation or surrender. A single soldier escaped through the living cordon and took the news to Merritt, 200 miles away. Without losing an hour, he set his command on the march and arrived just in time to disperse the Indians and effect a rescue.

The following year Merritt was sent to command at Fort Laramie, and in 1882, owing to his superior knowledge as a tactician, he was placed at the head of the Military academy at West Point, where he remained five years. In 1887 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the regular army, and in April, 1895, was made a major general, ranking second to General Miles. In 1897 he was appointed to the department of the east, with headquarters at Governors Island, New York, whence, in May, 1898, he was ordered to Manila in command of the military expedition for reducing the Philippines and as military governor.

General Merritt left San Francisco June 30, 1898, and on July 25 he was welcomed by the guns of Dewey's fleet in Cavite bay.

At once assuming command of the military operations, in co-operation with Admiral Dewey, he and his brave

sailed away from Manila on the 30th of August, after but little more than a month in the Philippines, to meet the Spanish-American peace commissioners at Paris.

The real motive, however, which gave an impulse to his hasty departure seems to have again been a "previous engagement," for in London on the 24th of October he was married to Miss Laura Williams, a beautiful young lady of Chicago 24 years his junior. With her General Merritt returned to New York in December. This last adventure of the grizzled hero of many wars, who in seven months, between June and December, gridded the globe, conducted a military expedition to the Philippines, guided our soldiers to victory, acted as adviser to an august assemblage of notables and carried a bride back to his native land, is considered without a parallel in recent history.

That Major General Merritt has been one of the fortunate ones all must admit, but that he has deserved well of his country nobody can deny, and it is doubtless the universal wish that he may live long to enjoy the hard earned honors of a noble life and in dignified retirement reap the rewards that a grateful nation bestows upon its soldiers.

## AN AFRICAN CHIEFTAIN.

The English have been so busy lately in sending recruits to Africa that they nearly overlooked the fact that there was a young chief of an important tribe on a visit of observation. Chief Cuntete's visit to London afforded him the first opportunity to mingle in civilized society, except for the brief glimpse he got of it in the British colonies on his way down to Cape Town. He was somewhat bewildered by the sights he witnessed, especially the electric lights, which he imagined to be lightning chained in glass cages.



Down in Africa, he said, a gum torch or a lightning bolt was all they needed to guide them at night through the forests; but, then, they never had anything there to equal the real London fog, or, if they did, they were wise enough to stay in their huts while it prevailed.

## A GIGANTIC CONTRA BASSOON.

One of the musical curiosities of the year is a gigantic contra bassoon, the keys of which are as large as soap plates, and from which extraordinary results are predicted. It is to be used for the first time at a concert to be given in London to members of the British aristocracy, and it may be recalled that it is now nearly 150 years since the first instrument of this class was introduced into London by no less a personage than the great Handel.

Little thought the inventor of the primitive musical instrument of this sort when he evolved his "fagotto," with its plaintive tones, in 1529, that nearly 400 years later it would develop into a musical monstrosity like this.

## OUR CHURCH POPULATION.

By the last census there were 20,012,566 communicants in all the churches of the United States. Of these 6,577,411 were Catholics, 4,589,234 Methodists, 2,712,168 Baptists, 1,278,332 Presbyterians, 1,341,972 Lutherans and 548,559 Episcopalians.

## ADMIRAL DEWEY'S LETTER HEAD.

As there is but one president of the United States and commander in chief of the army, so there is only one admiral and supreme commander of the navy.

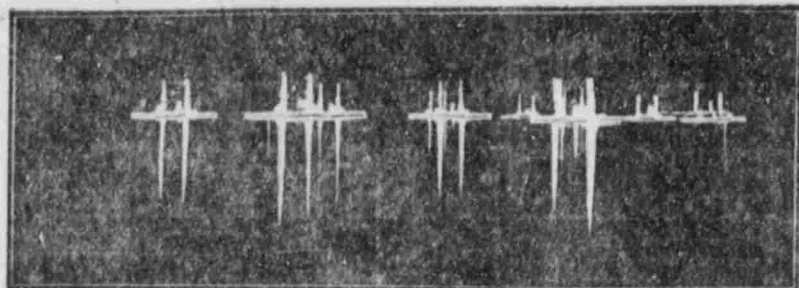
And, while the chief magistrate has his headquarters in the White House, which is officially known as the "executive mansion," the admiral has established his in the dwelling presented him by a grateful people, and his letter heads bear the imprint of which the following is a facsimile:

OFFICE OF THE ADMIRAL  
1747 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE.

These two show places of Washington are not far apart, but there is a vast difference in their appearance, for while the one is ambitious in its architecture and attractive in the setting of its beautiful grounds, the other is modest, unpretentious and situated, as it is, on one of the lesser avenues of the Capital City, would never be noticed at all were it not the "office of the admiral."

The mines of South Africa give work to between 60,000 and 70,000 men.

## UNCLE SAM'S WHITE SQUADRON BY NIGHT.

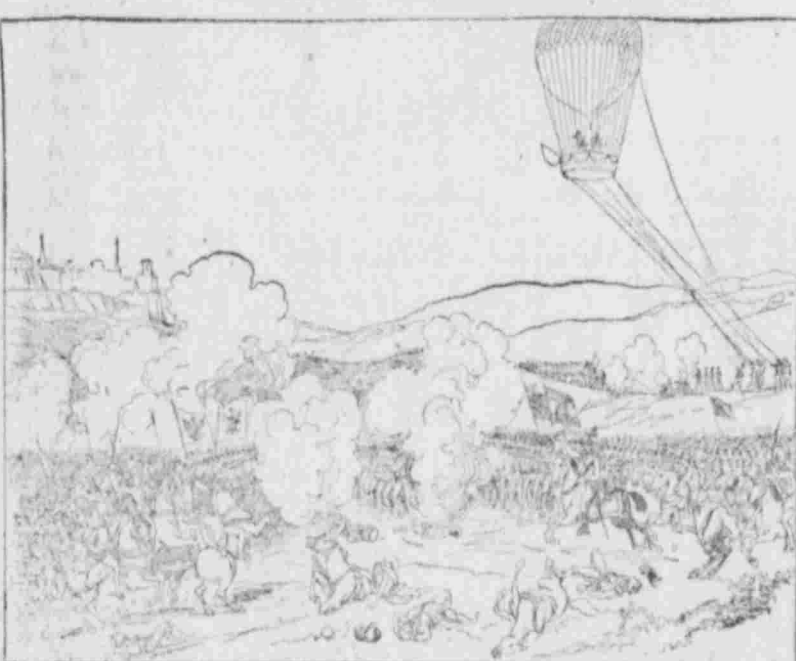


Except when it is cooling and the coat of white paint with which it is covered is overlaid with sooty dust and grime, almost any member of the great "white squadron," as Uncle Sam's fleet of war vessels has been called, is a thing of grace and beauty.

But at night, when illumined by the electric light, nothing can surpass the effectiveness of the picture produced by those great water giants, shining silver white, with their duplicates as reflections in the water. They appear then more "like painted ships upon a painted ocean" than creations of substantial steel and wood, reminding one of fairylike stalactites depending from the arched roof of some dark cavern.

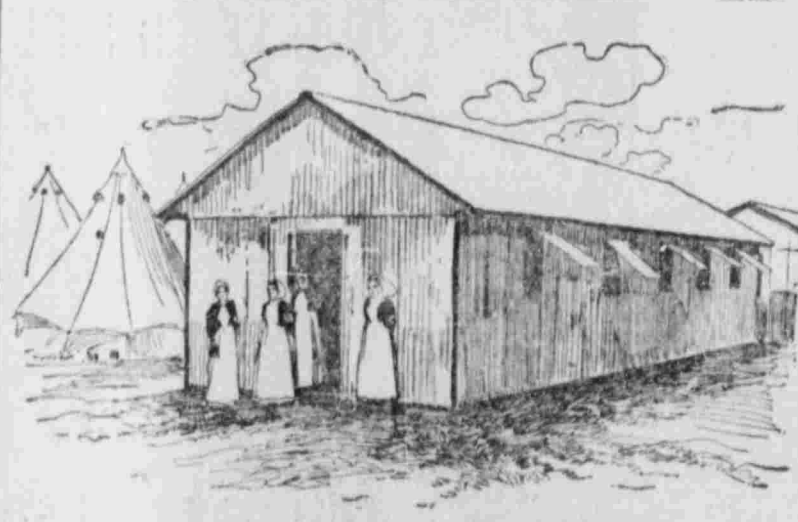
It was for a long time thought that photographs by moonlight were an impossibility, the belief being general that there was no "actinic" or chemical force in the lunar beams. But the illustration shows the error of this, besides demonstrating what fine results may be obtained with the aid of the camera.

## NAPOLION'S WAR BALLOON.



It has been said that the present campaign in South Africa is the first war in which the military balloon has been made use of with any degree of success. This seems to have been a mistake, for from an old print found not long ago it has been discovered that Napoleon had a company of aeronauts attached to his army at the battle of Fleurus, which was fought on the 26th of June, 1794. The accompanying illustration is a reproduction of this interesting old print, and from it may be obtained a very good idea of just how this balloon corps of a century ago carried on its operations. As is the case today, the balloon seems to have been considered valuable chiefly for the sake of securing information regarding the strength of the enemy and the movements and disposition of the opposing troops.

## A TWENTY BED FIELD HOSPITAL.



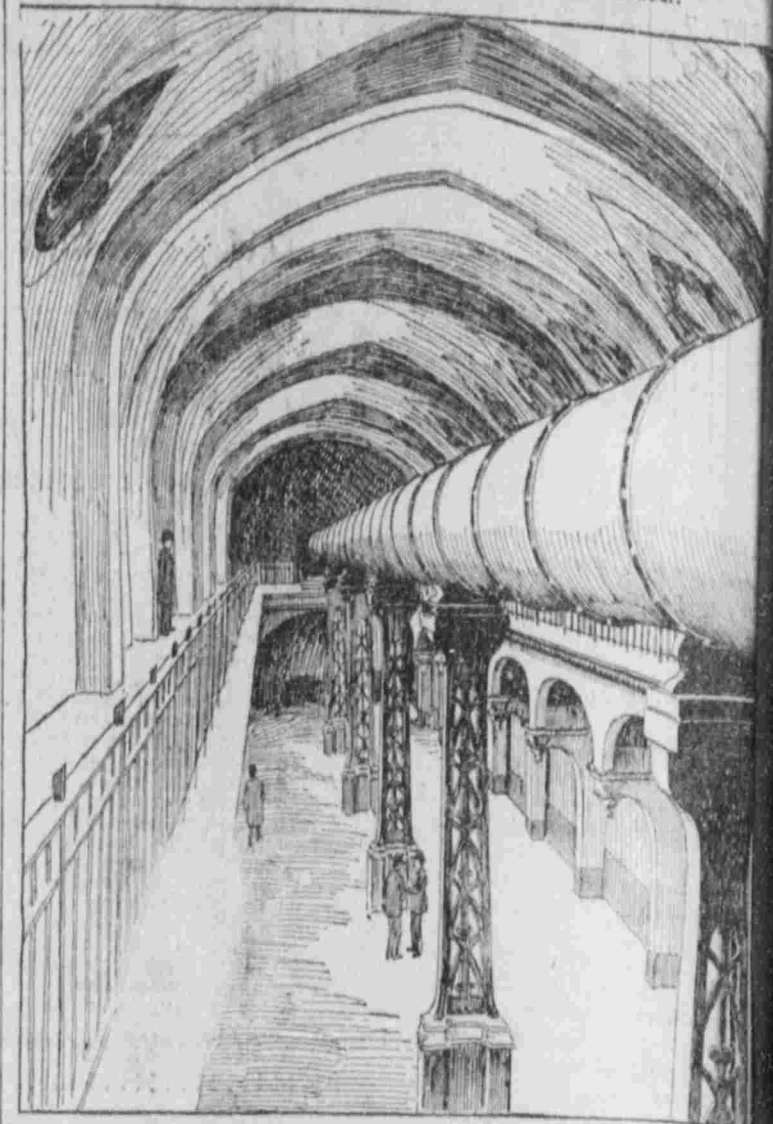
One of the most completely equipped of the temporary hospitals set up in South Africa was by a curious freak located at Delfontein, or as the "medicos" called it, the Devil's Fountain. It was the beginning of a small but rapidly rising settlement, composed mainly of nurses, surgeons, medical students, clerks and orderlies to the number of about 200. Large supplies of stores and building materials were already on the ground when they arrived, but eight small tents and one brick building were the only structures available for use. The force went right to work, however, and before nightfall more than 20 additional tents had been pitched and a permanent building of wood and corrugated iron erected, which latter is shown in the illustration. At first this building was used for storage, but as the poor fellows came in wounded from the front it was quickly transformed into a hospital, as was originally intended.

When the British made this place the site of their hospital, Delfontein consisted solely of a railroad station, a siding and a pumping engine, but later on it had many structures like the one shown, with accommodations for 400 beds, a newspaper called The Devil's Fountain and a floating population of 200 patients.

before heard of an English bishop accompanying an army. "Perhaps not," replied the ecclesiastic, "but did you ever before hear of an English bishop whose diocese was invaded by an enemy?"

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## THE GREAT TELESCOPE AT THE EXPOSITION.



It was hoped that the immense telescope at the Paris exposition might be finished in time to observe the recent eclipse of the sun, for the experiment made in solar observations were highly successful. The "Blanc parallaxes," which have hitherto been observed only on the apparent edge of the sun, were clearly visible on the disk itself. Reasoning theoretically, this gigantic instrument, the largest attempted in its line up to the present, the astronomers say, should display an image of the moon at an apparent distance of a mile from the earth. Some of the French wits have predicted that it will draw the queen of night so close that we shall have to dodge her, and then wish we hadn't been quite so rash as to invent such an instrument.

This telescope, which greatly exceeds the largest shown at the Columbian exposition at Chicago in 1893, is the latest and boldest attempt to solve the astronomical problems that have puzzled humanity since the very beginning of time and is expected to be the means of adding much to the sum of human knowledge.

## CARRYING THE BOER WOUNDED OFF THE FIELD.



While the Boer arrangements for caring for their wounded have not been so complete as those of the British and their transportation and ambulance service has not been so well equipped, it is universally conceded that they have done the best they could with the facilities at their disposal. After the fighting had ceased and the ground was covered with wounded and slain, on every occasion they at once hastened to the rescue of the poor fellows stretched helplessly on the field, exposed to the terrible heat of the sun or chilled by the dews and damps of night.

Their sufferings have been more awful than mere words can tell, and in some instances in the war now going on the wounded have been left for 48 hours unattended. Without waiting for the arrival of their more completely organized bands of "helpers," the sturdy Boer farmers have improvised stretchers and ambulances from whatever came to hand, and the illustration represents one such relief party plodding back to camp with its load of suffering humanity.

## THE COMING FORCE.

There can be but little doubt that the coming method of propelling vessels is by steam turbines. The days of ordinary marine engines, such as are at present utilized, are without doubt numbered. The first real success was the now historical Turbina, which astonished the shipbuilding world a few years ago, and with the newly launched torpedo destroyer Viper proved capable of steaming 41 miles an hour the general adoption of the system has become practically certain. But even here the rate of locomotion is not calculated to stop. We may ere long expect to race across the Atlantic in two or three days.

## A STATUE THAT CAME TOO LATE.



Life has its little ironies, and one of them may be found in the large statue of Paul Kruger which a sculptor of Rome has just finished modeling. It was originally intended for erection in Pretoria, but as things now look it is more than likely that this handsome but rather inopportune work of art will never be put up in the Transvaal capital, as the authorities of Great Britain naturally object very strongly to the importation into Africa of any such reminder of the greatness of the man who was for so many years their arch enemy. Just what shall be done with the statue is, accordingly, a problem which only time will be able to answer. The accompanying illustration shows the design of the work. About the base at the four corners are four typical Boer figures, at work. The shaft is surmounted by a large sized figure of Com Paul Kruger himself in his customary attitude while addressing his countrymen in the Volksraad.

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS.

Senator Pettus of Alabama is a well read man, but often declares that a library consisting of the Bible, Shakespeare and Burns' poems is enough for any one.

Some one asked Herbert Spencer the other day when he thought society would be perfect. "When it is truthful," replied the author. "No one is

now. We all exaggerate; we all use 'very' when we do not mean it. Truth is the foundation stone possible for perfection."

The Scotsman of Edinburgh appears to be surprised that American Presbyterians should try to discipline ministers who reject the Westminster Confession. It is 454 that few Presbyter-

ians in Scotland trouble their heads about the clause in the creed which Dr. Hille recently rejected.

William Claflin, who recently celebrated his eighty-second birthday, is one of the seven famous governors of Massachusetts who were born in the same year—1818. While he was the executive of the Bay State he had the unique honor of officially placing his signature upon the charter of Welles-

ley college and the Boston university. He has been a trustee of each institution from the beginning and president of the corporation of the latter since 1872.

Dr. Baynes, the Anglican bishop of Natal-Maritzburg, has been very active in assisting to care for the wounded on the battlefields in South Africa. Recently an officer remarked in the presence of Dr. Baynes that he had never

before heard of an English bishop accompanying an army. "Perhaps not," replied the ecclesiastic, "but did you ever before hear of an English bishop whose diocese was invaded by an enemy?"

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trical motive power has been installed there. At the time of the outbreak of the Spanish war the government ropewalk had been allowed to deteriorate, and the navy department was obliged to buy large quantities of supplies outside. But the improvements made since then, at a cost of over \$100,000, have so increased the capacity of the plant that it is now one of the largest in the world. Here's the story of Majuba Hill in a

nutshell: Sir George Colley had between 600 and 700 men; the Boers numbered about 150 men under General Buller. The British camped in a natural hollow at the top of the hill and set no sentries. The Boers clambered up the hill by night and attacked in the early morning, taking the British completely by surprise. Every square mile of sea is estimated to contain some 125,000,000 fish.