

Miscellaneous.

THE TWO SHERMANS.

The Gen. Sherman who has conducted the great expedition through Georgia, and is now before Savannah, is William Tecumseh Sherman, a native of Ohio. He graduated at West Point in 1840, class rank six. He served in Florida in 1841, at Fort Moultrie in 1842, in California in 1846, as Commissary of Subsistence in 1850, engaged in the banking business in San Francisco in 1853, and was President of the State Military Academy of Louisiana in 1860. After the outbreak of the war he commanded in the first battle of Bull Run. May 17th, 1861, he was appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers, and ordered to the Department of Kentucky. In 1862 he was assigned to the command of the District of Cairo. After the capitulation of Donelson he was assigned to the Fifth Division, Army of the Tennessee, Gen. Grant commanding. He was made Major-General of Volunteers May 1st, 1862. His operations at Memphis, Vicksburg, Holly Springs and Jackson, are well known. July 4th, 1863, he was promoted to a Brigadier-Generalship in the regular army. From that time to this he has been successfully engaged in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia.

"Port Royal" Sherman, or more familiarly "Battery" Sherman, is Thomas W. Sherman, who was born in Rhode Island in 1817, and graduated at West Point in 1836. He was brevetted Major for gallantry at Buena Vista, in 1837, served in the Northwest in 1857, and was appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers, May 17, 1861. He commanded a division in the first battle of Bull Run, and was subsequently selected to command the land forces in the Port Royal expedition. He was superseded by General Hunter in March, 1862. He was afterwards severely wounded at or about New Orleans, and has not been in active service since.—[Atta.

A BIRD IN A BATTLE.—During the fierce cannonading at Nickjack, a small bird came and perched upon the shoulder of an artillery man—the man designated, we believe, as No. 1, whose duty it is to ram down the charge after ammunition is put in the gun. The piece was a Napoleon, which makes a loud report. The bird perched upon this man's shoulder, and could not be driven from its position by the violent motions of the gunner. When the piece was discharged the poor thing would run its beak and head up under the man's hair at the back of the neck, and when the report died away would resume its place upon his shoulder. Captain Babbit took the bird in his hand, but when he released his grasp, it immediately resumed its place on the shoulder of the smoke-begrimed gunner. The scene was witnessed by a large number of officers and men.

AIN'T GOT NO TIME TO SEND FOR A WHITE MAN.—A Nashville correspondent of the Cincinnati papers relates the following:

During the skirmish in the reconnaissance made by General Steadman on our left, a couple of soldiers of the colored brigade came upon three rebels whose guns were unloaded, and demanded their surrender. One of the Johnnies indignantly refused to surrender to a "d—d nigger." "Berry sorry, massa," said Sambo, bringing his gun to a "ready;" "but we's in a great hurry, and ain't got no time to send for a white man." The ominous click that accompanied this remark brought the seion of chivalry to time, and he was brought in crying, and swearing all the way that his father would kill him if he ever heard that he had surrendered to a nigger.

STATISTICS OF THE INDIANS.—There are at the present time thirteen superintendents and fifty-eight agencies and subagencies connected with the Indian service, and having the charge of about two hundred different tribes of Indians. The estimated number of Indians within the limits of the United States is 300,000. The number of schools reported is forty-seven, with sixty-one teachers and 1,458 pupils. The Indians have under cultivation 18,989 acres of land, in addition to 2,678 acres cultivated by the Government for and in connection with them. The wealth in individual property owned by Indians is reported at \$1,851,404.

THE PERCENTAGE OF ALIENS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.—It has been sometimes said that England is overdone with foreigners; but according to a paper entitled *Statistics of the Number*

and Occupation of Foreigners in England, by Professor Levi, it appears that in 1861, among the twenty millions of population in England, there were not more than 84,000 foreigners. This is much less than 1 per cent; in other words, we have 261 natives for every foreigner. It is not likely, therefore, that we shall be perverted to foreign ways of thinking. In France the proportion is 73 natives for every foreigner; while in the United States the proportion is so reduced that there are not more than 7 natives to every foreigner. In New York the foreigners are as 2 to 1 of the natives. In Spain the foreigners are fewer than in England not more than one for every 447 natives.—*Chambers' Journal*.

WATER INSTEAD OF OIL.—The Chicago *Times* of December 10th contains a lengthy account of a wonderful discovery then just made a few miles outside of that city. It appears that in the year 1863, after the petroleum developments in Pennsylvania, some parties who owned the only stone quarry any where near Chicago, were led from indications of oil on their quarried rock to conclude that they had a lake of petroleum under the surface somewhere. After employing scientific men to examine and report upon these indications, a company of Chicago merchants was organized with the purpose of boring for oil. They purchased forty acres of land, including this stone quarry, and on or about Christmas, 1863, commenced boring. After going down some 200 feet through several strata of rock, including limestone, sandstone and shale, the auger or drill struck into a hard rock and broke off. They concluded, rather than attempt to drill out this piece of a steel drill, to start a new shaft, which they did early in February, 1864, close to the first one. Since then the drill has been constantly kept at work up to the 15th of December last, when it penetrated through 35 feet of hard limestone, such as in the quarry above noted, all of which was deeply impregnated with oil. Then it entered a stratum of white marble 80 feet thick and which contained no oil. Then 40 feet of hard limestone with oil indications, the rods coming out dripping with that substance. Then 10 feet of freestone, with a trace of oil. Then 6 feet of brown sandstone, oily. Then through 156 feet of shale, all saturated with oil. At this point the water rose in the well nearly to the surface, rising and subsiding irregularly. The drill next entered a stratum of galena limestone, which for the first 13 feet was oily, but for the remainder not. This stratum was 110 feet thick. The next 30 feet of flinty sandstone—oily. Next 15 feet of hard clay, which had no oil. Next hard stone was encountered, through which the drill could only make 4 inches in 6 hours. After penetrating through 4 inches of this, the drill struck a softer stone, and immediately water began to flow slowly out of the mouth of the well. There was 4 feet of this soft rock, and the drill went through it in some 7 hours. This was on the morning of the 15th of December; and says the *Times* report:

Soon after daylight on Thursday morning, the drill suddenly dropped down some two and a half feet, which was as far as the machinery would allow it to go, and the water, with a loud noise, rushed in an immense volume from the top of the well, deluging the drill-house and completely drenching the workmen.

Since Thursday morning the water has been pouring from the mouth of the well, which is four and a half inches in diameter, and has already formed large ponds upon the prairie, which are hourly growing wider and deeper. The stone quarry adjacent is already flooded to the depth of several feet. Hundreds of acres will soon be covered.—[Ex.

CALIFORNIA ORANGES AND LEMONS.—The attempt to grow oranges and lemons in this State is every year becoming more and more successful. The principal groves are at Los Angeles, where there are some half a dozen men engaged in the business. Oranges are grown in other places in the State, but mainly in gardens and for private use. There were about 60,000 oranges and 30,000 lemons grown last year at Los Angeles. This year nearly 100,000 oranges and about 40,000 lemons have been raised in that vicinity. The oranges grown this year are larger and in every way better than last year's growth, and also cheaper. The orange crop one year ago sold for one dollar per dozen. The crop of the past season has been retailing at seventy-five cents. They have been sold this season at the groves at three dollars per hundred. An orange

tree in this State does not bear much before its sixth year. This market is favorably situated for a supply of oranges the year round. The California crop begins to come in during the month of December and lasts until February, when oranges begin to come in freely from Tahiti, one of the Society Islands, where they are constantly in season, though more plentiful during the spring and summer months than in the winter. A large number of oranges have been received into this market during the last three months from the Sandwich Islands. Over 200,000 oranges have been imported from the island of Hilo, which is one of the group. The lemons raised in Los Angeles are generally shipped for a market, and have been sold at the wharf for \$4 and \$5 per hundred. There are two kinds of lemons at Los Angeles—one being, it is said, of the Sicily seed and the other of the Chinese seed. Of course, the first is far superior to the second, and is regarded by some as equal to the Malaga lemon. The rind of the other is quite thick and rough, and the acidity inferior to the imported. With pure seed, or with proper pruning, the quality of the California lemon may equal that of the Malaga variety. They are now retailing at 75 cents and \$1 per dozen. A citron resembling the lemon in color, though much larger, is also grown at Los Angeles. It is much used.—[S. F. *Bulletin*.

An Egg.—The Wellington correspondent of the Nelson (New Zealand) *Excaminer*, writing on the 27th Dec., informs his readers as follows: "A moa's egg is now being exhibited at Messrs. Bethune and Hunter's offices. It is about ten inches long and five in diameter, of a dirty white color. It was found at the Kaikoros, in the middle island, under singular circumstances. A laborer in Mr. Fyffe's employ who was digging the foundation for a house, came upon the egg, and unfortunately, with his pick broke some portions of the shell. It was found in the hands of the skeleton of a Maori, who was buried in a sitting posture, with the egg resting in his hands and held opposite to his head. The egg has been placed in a box of rimu, and protected with a sheet of glass on the top. In a drawer beneath, securely covered with glass, are the fragments of the shell, which have been carefully preserved. The injury, as the egg is placed in the box, is not perceptible, and it appears to be perfect." This curious discovery seems to answer one question which has been asked by scientific men at home—viz.: Is there any proof that the moa has lived within the time of the present race of Maories? Some of the wandering miners in New Zealand not only answer this question in the affirmative, but aver that the moa exists how.

MUTILATED TREASURY NOTES AND FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.—The United States *Mail*, the official paper of the Post Office Department, says that "Postmasters are obliged to receive all Treasury notes for stamps and postages, if clearly genuine, no matter how torn or defaced they may be, provided one-twentieth part thereof be not missing—and fractional currency, if not one tenth part be missing. Such notes and currency received as are unfit for reissue should be kept separate and distinct, and returned as occasion requires to the Treasurer of the United States, at Washington, in sums of not less than three dollars, to be exchanged for new."

IN FRANCE, when a lad arrives at the age twenty-one he may be drafted into the army; whether noble or ignoble, he is liable to be of the 100,000 youths who are annually, by the imperial decree, called to the military service of the empire. To the rich there is a chance for escape by supplying a substitute at a price ranging from \$300 to \$500, according to the exigencies of the service, for the Government—no brokers allowed. The term of enlistment is seven years, but may be reduced by good conduct; and at the expiration of that time, the soldier joins "the army of the reserve," if after the vicissitudes of a dangerous service he is still alive. In this manner a force of 450,000 men is maintained, which can easily be raised to 750,000.

HEART DISEASE AND TOBACCO.—M. Decasine, in a communication to the *Academie des Sciences*, exhibits another clause in the heavy bill of indictment against the use of tobacco.

He states that in the course of three years he has met, among eight-three inveterate smokers, twenty-one instances of marked intermittence of the pulse, occurring in men from 27 to 42 years of age, and not to be explained by organic lesion of the heart. The absence of such

lesion or other condition of health capable of inducing intermission of the action of the heart, and the fact that in nine of these instances, in which the use of tobacco was abandoned, the normal action of the heart was restored, M. Decasine believes that facts will justify him in concluding that, in certain subjects, the abuse of tobacco may give rise to a condition which may be termed "narcotism of the heart," characterized by intermission in the movements of that organ and in the pulsations of the radial artery; and that, in some cases, a suspension or diminution in the practice of smoking is sufficient to cause an entire disappearance of this irregularity.—[*Medical Times and Gazette*.

NEW MATERIAL FOR PAPER.—The Cincinnati *Times* states that a Mr. Sellers, of Hardin county, Ill., has succeeded in making from the fibre of common cane, such as covers the valley of the lower Mississippi and its tributaries, wrapping paper of a quality superior to anything of the kind heretofore produced. Mr. Sellers is satisfied that he can produce a superior article of printing paper from the same substance, at a less cost than from rags, and has begun its manufacture.

BENEFITS OF THE TELEGRAPH.—Admiral Fitzroy and his connection with the telegraph is now one of the wonders of Great Britain. He sits in his office near London, and every morning receives detailed telegraphic reports from all prominent points, regarding all the meteorological phenomena of the day, and combining them he is enabled to predict with great accuracy the weather for the next day, and the next few days. This he does and telegraphs his predictions back for the guidance of mariners. Two days before a gale the Admiral predicted its appearance from the north, the storm flag was hoisted, and every precaution taken. Sometimes, of course, he is mistaken, but as a general thing he is surprisingly correct. But that he can do this is certainly one of the great triumphs of modern meteorological science.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.—The Nevada *Gazette* furnishes the following description of a locomotive invented by a Mr. Shankland of that city, intended to climb steep grades. The experiments thus far made have been on the segment of a track with an acclination of two and a half inches to the foot, or eleven thousand feet to the mile. The *Gazette* speaks of it as a success.—[S. F. *Flag*.

The locomotive and tender are of miniature size, but completely finished, and propelled by steam. The driving-wheels have cogs, beveled inward, fitted to the face of the inner rim. At the place where the steep grade is encountered a double track is laid inside of the ordinary track; and on the outside of these inner rails cogs corresponding with those on the driving-wheels. These cogged rails are fastened with pivots to the cross-ties, and are braced with heavy spiral springs, so that they will yield to lateral pressure, but are immovable in a longitudinal direction. By this arrangement, should the cogs on the track and those on the wheel fail to connect on coming together, the wheels are not stopped, but pass on between the rails until the locomotive cannot climb the grade on the ordinary rail. The driving-wheels, however, will continue to revolve when they can no longer move ahead; and in a twinkling they turn so as to catch the cogs of the segment rails, and immediately run along with as much speed and power as if they were upon level ground. The connection is formed so quickly after the progress of the wheels onward ceases, that it is only noticeable by a slight jar when the rails spring into place, and by the accelerated speed of the train. In most localities a single track of cogged rail would be sufficient for all practical uses; but there are grades where a double track would be desirable, if not indispensable.

MAXIMILIAN AND THE CHURCH PROPERTY.

MEXICO, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1864.

My Dear Minister Escudero: In order to smooth the difficulties which have arisen on account of the Reform law, we propose to adopt a means which, while satisfying the just requirements of the country, shall re-establish peace in the minds and tranquility in the conscience of all the inhabitants of the empire. For this purpose, when we were at Rome we opened negotiations with the Holy Father as universal chief of the Catholic Church.

The Papal Nuncio is now in Mexico; but to our extreme surprise, he has declared that he is without instructions and has to await them from Rome.

The unnatural situation in which we have continued, with difficulty, during