

Miscellaneous.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

Whereas, by the act approved July 4th, 1864, entitled "An act further to regulate and provide for the enrolling and calling out of the national forces, and for other purposes," it is provided that the President of the United States may at his discretion, at any time hereafter, call for any number of men as volunteers, for the respective terms of one, two or three years, for military service, and that in case the quota, or any part thereof, of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct, or election district, or of a county not so subdivided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year to fill such quota, or any part thereof, which may be unfilled; and whereas, by the credits allowed in accordance with the Act of Congress on the call for five hundred thousand men made July 15th, 1864, the number of men to be obtained under that call was reduced to 280,000; and, whereas, the operations of the enemy in certain States have rendered it impracticable to procure from them their full quotas of troops under the said call; and, whereas, from the foregoing cause, but 250,000 men have been put into the army, navy and marine corps under the said call of July 15, 1864, leaving a deficiency on that call of 260,000; now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, in order to supply the aforesaid deficiency, and to provide for casualties in the military and naval service of the United States, do issue this, my call, for three hundred thousand volunteers, to serve for one, two or three years. The quotas of the States, districts and sub-districts under this call will be assigned by the War Department, through the Bureau of the Provost Marshal General of the United States, and in case the quota or any part thereof of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct or election district, or of a county not so subdivided, shall not be filled before the 15th day of February, 1865, then a draft shall be made to fill such quota or any part thereof under this call, which may be unfilled on said 15th day of February, 1865.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. [L. S.] Done at the city of Washington this 19th day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President.

WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

WORK AND WAGES IN EUROPE.—The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture collected, during a recent visit to Europe, some interesting particulars in regard to the wages of farm laborers and others in England, Ireland, and on the Continent. 37 cents per day he reports as the highest sum paid; the laborer boarding himself. In some parts of Ireland the farm laborer gets but 25 cents per day, and boards and lodges himself—and at that rate he cannot get work half the time. The "day's work," moreover, is from daylight till dark, no ten hour system protecting the workman on the land.

In Ghent, Belgium, the average price is about a frank and a half, or about 30 cents a day, the workman finding themselves. In the neighborhood of Bonn, on the Rhine, it is about ten silver groschen, or about 25 cents per day. In Wiesbaden it is from 42 to 48 kreutzers a day for workman on farms and on roads, or from 30 to 35 cents. At the farm of the Agricultural Institute at Geisburg, near Wiesbaden, the price paid is 66 kreutzers a day, or 24 cents; the men in all cases boarding themselves. In and about Heidelberg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, it varies from 42 to 48 kreutzers. In and around Cassel the daily wages amount to 15 silver groschen, or 37 cents. At the Agricultural College at Weinhenstepen the pay for female laborers in the field is 24 kreutzers, or about 18 cents a day, finding themselves. This is in harvest time, when the price is higher than at other seasons.

"These prices everywhere seemed small for hard, earnest labor, and I could not help thinking how glad our own farmers would be to give double, and board their workman at that. Now, it is true that the price of living is not generally quite so high in the countries I have named as with us, yet the difference is nowhere so great, comparatively,

as the prices paid for labor. In fact, to live as well as our people of the same class do, the cost would be very nearly the same. The price of potatoes, for instance, in the neighborhood of Dublin is 7 pence a stone of 14 pounds. This is a cent a pound, or 60 cents a bushel. Parsnips are £4, or about \$20 a ton. The price of good butter throughout Ireland is on an average a shilling a pound, so that a man has to work hard 12 or 14 hours to earn a pound of butter. This is the price in town and country. The model farm at Glasnevin got 18 pence or 36 cents a pound in January of this year, 1864, and the lowest price at any time is a shilling or 13 pence—that is 24 and 26 cents. I made similar inquiries as to the price of common articles as a means of comparison everywhere I went, and I know about how the case stands, for I made it a practice to record such items on the spot. The price of flour is about as high on the continent as with us, and I think the same quality of meats about as high."

THE TRUE TEST.—Gail Hamilton writes to her fair sisterhood: We often have seen in the columns of religious newspapers sketches of eminent Christians. I read one lately, of a farmer's wife, who used to delight in prayer meeting, celebrated her children's birthdays by prayer and spent whole days in praying. All these are favorable signs; but before I pronounced her an eminent Christian, I should like to know whether, previous to her withdrawal from the family circle to pray all day, she made any provision for the extra labor that her absence would devolve on others or whether Bridget had to skim the milk and wash the pans, besides cooking, sweeping and dusting, or whether the next day went smoothly. I should like to know whether, when a little restless chubby hand upset the gravy boat on the clean table-cloth, she bound herself over to keep the peace; whether in her house cleanliness was made subservient to comfort, or comfort to cleanliness; whether she had ever laid down her sewing and took into her arms the half-sick and wholly cross, fretful and miserable four-year-old boy, to charm away his unhappiness with a fairy story, or any kind of story, or song, or simple talk; whether she gave her heretical neighbor credit for as much candor, sincerity, truthfulness, earnestness and unselfishness in his religion as he developed and she recognized in his character of citizen, neighbor and father; whether the delicious green-pea soup that she sent to the sick woman next door was the result of an extra amount made for the purpose, or whether her poor girl dined, per force, that day off cold boiled pork and potatoes; whether she was generally ready to step into the wagon when it came to the door on Sunday morning, or whether she provoked her husband to wrath by keeping them all waiting.

A BLOODY JUDGMENT IN JAPAN.—Galignani's Messengers says: "We have received, by the way of Holland, a letter from Japan three days later than the news already published. It has been already stated that the Prince of Nagato, having refused to pay the war indemnity stipulated in the treaty of peace signed by him, a judgment of the criminal tribunal of Yeddo had decided that his two palaces should be razed to the ground, and his servants put to death. We now learn that this singular and sanguinary sentence was approved of by the Mikado and by the Tycoon—the spiritual and temporal sovereigns of Japan—and that the number of servants killed in execution of it was four hundred and twenty men and two hundred and fifteen women and children. The prince, on learning these facts, was deeply concerned, and sent to the capital his first minister on board the English corvette Barossa, which was placed at his disposal by Vice-Admiral Kuper. The minister, on arriving at Yeddo, waited on the representatives of France, England, Holland, America, and Russia, and besought them to intercede with the Tycoon in favor of the prince, his master, who had decided on executing all the provisions of the treaty, and immediately paying the sums due. Such was the situation of affairs at the last date."

A HIDDEN TREASURE.—The Emperor Maximilian, says a German journal, has a chance of digging out a hidden treasure. The highly romantic story was as follows: When Napoleon I. dethroned the Bourbons in Spain, the Mexicans (whose eyes had been opened by Humboldt to the effect that they were a nation of seven millions, and subdued by eighty thousand Spaniards) became encouraged and threw off the Spanish yoke. The vice-king sent, during the revolution, four millions of gold

pieces, together with other numerous treasures, to Madrid. This happened in June, 1808. The escort was, however, attacked by one hundred men and massacred, save one cavalry officer and a few of his men, who acted in concert with the robbers. To avoid the vigilance of the government, the bandits concluded to hide the treasure in the ground, and to divide it after the expiration of one year. At the foot of a precipice one thousand feet high, of a hollow deep in the mountain, was a cave; there the treasure was dragged, the cave walled up by the same kind of rocks, the intervals filled with earth and plants, and finally, a little brook was directed in such a manner as to pass, like a cataract, over the place. Now the robbers spread out the rumor that the whole story of the robbery was invented by the vice king himself, and that he had brought the treasure in safety. The so accused was called to account. But the robbers did not enjoy their treasure, as already before the expiration of the year they had either killed themselves among each other, or were defunct. A German traveler named Muller, celebrated by his climbing the Pic of Orizaba, learned the secret from the lips of an aged, dying Indian. The imperial government, to whom the place has been pointed out by Muller, is now about to search for the treasure, as the historical facts seem to justify the truth of the story.

CRINOLINE.—Is a nuisance, and we are glad to see it stated that the Empress of Austria, among others, has exerted herself to put it down. She has ceased to wear it herself, and forbidden all persons to wear it in her presence. The curates of several provincial churches, supported by their vestry, have levied a tax of twenty cents on every person habited in crinoline who enters their church. One curate has been so bold as to interdict his church to crinoline, and he has provided a dressing room where the offensive article of dress may be taken off. The manager of the Paris Grand Opera has likewise forbidden all persons connected with the Opera from wearing it.

THEY NEVER SPEAK.—In the villages of Antignano, Arenella and Due Porte, which stands on the same hill in the province of Naples, says the *Nazione*, of Florence, resides about thirty men and women, who, from a singular religious fanaticism, have made a vow never to speak. For some years past they have maintained silence. A tradesman (a grocer) is mentioned, who carries on his business without uttering a word. Should a customer enter his shop to purchase anything, he weighs and sells. If the buyer has any observation to make, he listens and does as he is required.

A LETTER.—Of credit was demanded of M. de Rothschild for the Empress, the terms of which it was desired should be different to the ordinary letter of credit. M. de Rothschild, who has a witty turn, it appears, though he might afford, from his wealth, to do without such an article, wrote the following curious circular letter:—"M. de Rothschild, of Paris, begs M. de Rothschild of Frankfurt, to place at the disposition of the Countess de Montereau himself and his fortune."—[The Hebrew.

A WOMAN HAS TWINS WITH SNAKE-HEADS.—Wonders never cease, and the greatest wonder in these modern times has just come to our knowledge from entirely reliable authority. It fully disproves the wisdom of Solomon, when he proclaimed that "There is nothing new under the sun." The facts, as related to us, are:

About two weeks ago, the wife of a market-gardener, residing at Eagle Point, in this city, gave birth to twins, which, instead of being provided with the head and features of the "human face divine," had each the head and neck of a snake!

Below the head and shoulders, the children were of natural and comely form—from the shoulders up they presented the horrible shape and characteristics of the serpent; immediately after their birth, a consultation of physicians was held, at which it was very properly decided to bleed the monsters to death, which was accordingly done. What disposition was made of the bodies we have not learned.

The cause assigned for this *lusu natura* is, that several months ago, shortly after the woman became *enciente*, her husband playfully threw a snake's head into her face, which so frightened her that the fetus assumed the horrible shape into which they were brought into the world.—[Dubuque Herald, August 21.

DESPERATE ENCOUNTER WITH A

SHARK.—A gentleman writing from Macao, says:

I was witness to an extraordinary scene in the outward harbor on Saturday last. Several boys from the French Messageries Imperiales ship were bathing, when a shark was observed making for them. They heard the cries of their shipmates, and attempted to regain their vessel, distant half a mile. They would have been too late but for an officer belonging to the celebrated Liverpool clipper, Black Seneca, Mr. Lamb, who, arming himself with a sheath knife, sprang from the rail and attacked the monster in his own element. The shark immediately turned upon his antagonist, when occurred a scene more easily imagined than described. Mr. Lamb dived again and again, each time coming up beneath the monster, and succeeded in inflicting several wounds. The sea was literally dyed with the blood of the shark. Several boats having been put off, he was finally dispatched with a harpoon and hauled ashore on the beach. He proved to be a blue shark, fully fifteen feet long.

A LITTLE LESSON FOR WELL-DISPOSED WIVES.—"Why is it," asked a lady, "that so many men are anxious to get rid of their wives?" "Because," was the reply, "so few women exert themselves after marriage to make themselves indispensable to the happiness of their husbands!" When husband and wife have become thoroughly accustomed to each other—when all the little battery of charms which both played on so skillfully before the wedding-day has been exhausted—too many seem to think that nothing remains but the clanking of the legal chains which bind them to each other. The wife seeks to develop in her affection no new attraction for her husband; and the latter, perceiving the *lapses*, begins to brood over an uncongeniality which does not exist, and to magnify the ills that do exist into insurpassable obstacles in the way of his earthly felicity. This is the true secret. The woman who charmed before marriage can charm afterward, if she will, though not of course by the same means. There are a thousand ways if she will only study them out, in which she can make home so attractive that her husband will unconsciously dislike to absent himself from it, and so she can readily make herself the particular deity of the domestic paradise. This done, she may quietly laugh at all attempts to alienate her husband's inclinations; and with those inclinations will always, go in such cases, his active judgment.

There is no estimating the immense yield of fruit and vegetables on Wheeling Island, near Louisville, Ky.; this year. It is the most productive spot of ground to be found anywhere in the country. A gentleman says that the orchards on the island have yielded this year at least ten thousand barrels of apples, beside an abundance of grapes, fruits of all kinds and vegetables by the wagon load. The visitor, after entering the orchards, is completely lost so far as he is dependent on his sight, for one can scarcely see a rod in any direction.—[Agricultural.

HINTS TO STUDENTS.—Reading without purpose is sauntering, not exercise. More is got from one book on which the thought settles for a definite end in knowledge, than from libraries skimmed over by a wandering eye. A cottage flower gives honey to the bee, a king's none to the butterfly. Youths who are destined for active careers, or ambitious of distinction in such forms of literature as require freshness of invention or originality of thought, should avoid the habit of intense study for many hours at a stretch. There is a point in all tension of the intellect beyond which effort is only waste of strength. Fresh ideas do not readily spring up within a weary brain; and whatever exhausts the mind not only enfeebles its power, but narrows its scope. We often see men who have over-read at college, entering upon life as languidly as if they were about to leave it. They have not the vigor to cope with their own generation; for their own generation is young, and they have wasted the nervous energy which supplies the sinews of war to youth, in its contest for fame or fortune.

Study with regularity at settled hours. Those in the forenoon are the best, if they can be secured. The man who has acquired the habit of study, though for only one hour every day in the year, and keeps to the one thing studied till it is mastered, will be startled to see the way he has made at the end of a twelve-month. He is seldom overworked who can contrive to be in advance of his work. If you have three weeks before