THE COLUMBIA SPY.

AMUEL WRIGHT, Editor and Proprietor. "NO ENTERTAINMENT IS SO CHEAP AS READING, NOR ANY PLEASURE SO LASTING." $1,50 PER YEAR VA CE; $2,00 IF NOT I ADVANCE

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 52.] COLUMBIA, PENNSYLVANIA, SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 27, 1861. [WHOLE NUMBER 1,614.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

Office in Carpet Hall, North-west corner of Front and Locust streets.

Terms of Subscription.

One Copy per annum, if paid in advance. $1 50
" " if not paid within three months from commencement of the year. 2 00

4 Cents a copy.

No subscription received for a less time than six months; and no paper will be discontinued until all arrearage are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

☞ Money may be remitted by mail at the publisher's risk.

Rates of Advertising.

1 square (8 lines) one week.		$0 38
"	three weeks,	75
	each subsequent insertion,	10
(12 lines) one week		50
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November 28, 1857.

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Columbia, September 6, 1856-tf

S. Atlee Bekius, D. D. S.

PRACTICES the Operative, Surgical and Mechanical Departments of Dentistry.

OFFICE Locust street, between the Franklin House and Post Office, Columbia, Pa

May 7, 1859.

Harrison's Coumbian Ink.

WHICH is a superior article, permanently black, and not corroding the pen, can be had in any quantity, at the Family Medicine Store, and blacker yet is that English Boot Polish.

Columbia, June 9, 1859

We Have Just Received

DR. CUTTER'S Improved Chest Expanding Suspender and Shoulder Brace, for Gentlemen, and Patent Skirt Supporter and Brace for Ladies, just the article that is wanted at this time. Come and see them at *Family Medicine Store, Odd Fellows' Hall.* [April 9, 1859

Prof. Gardner's Soap.

WE have the New England Soap for those who did not obtain it from the Soap man; it is pleasant to the skin, and *will* take grease spots from Woollen Goods, *it is therefore no humbug, for you get the* worth of your money at the Family Medicine Store.

Columbia, June 11, 1859.

GRAHAM, or, Bond's Boston Crackers, for Dyspeptics, and Arrow Root Crackers, for invalids and children—new articles in Columbia, at *the Family Medicine Store,*

April 16, 1859

SPALDING'S PREPARED GLUE.—The want of such an article is felt in every family, and now it can be supplied; for mending furniture, chinaware, ornamental work, toys, &c., there is nothing *superior. We have found it a-useful in repairing many* articles which have been useless for months. You

Jan 29—1 at the

FMILY MEDICINE STORE.

IRON AND STEEL!

THE Subscribers have received a New and Large Stock of all kinds and sizes of

BAR IRON AND STEEL!

They are constantly supplied with stock in this branch of this business, and can furnish it to customers in large or small quantities, at the lowest rates

J RUMPLE & SON,

Locust street below Second, Columbia, Pa.

April 2—1y, 1860.

RITTER'S Compound Syrup of Tar and Wild Cherry, *for coughs, Colds &c. For sale* at the Golden Mortar DrugStore, Front st. [July 2

AYER'S Compound Concentrated Extract Sarsaparilla for the cure of Scrofula, King's *Evil*, and all scrofulous affections, a fresh article just received and for sale by

R. WILLIAMS, Front st, Columbia,

sept. 24, 1859,

FOR SALE.

200 GROSS Friction Matches, very low for cash. June 25, '59. R. WILLIAMS.

Dutch Herring!

ANY one fond of a good Herring can be supplied at S. F. EBERLEIN'S

Nov. 19, 1859. Grocery Store, No. 71 Locust st.

LYON'S PURE OHIO CATAWBA BRANDY and PURE WINES especially for Medicines and Sacramental purposes, at the

Jan. 28 FAMILY MEDICINE STORE.

NICE RAISINS for 8 cts. per pound, are to be had only at

EBERLEIN'S Grocery Store,

March 10, 1860. No. 71 Locust street.

GARDEN SEEDS.—Fresh Garden Seeds, warranted pure, of all kinds, just received at

EBERLEIN'S Grocery Store,

March 10, 1860. No. 71 Locust street.

POCKET BOOKS AND PURSES.

A LARGE lot of Fine and Common Pocket Books and Purses, at from 13 cents to two dollars each

Headquarters and News Depot.

Columbia, April 14, 1860.

A FEW more of those beautiful Prints left, which will be sold cheap, at

SAYLOR & McDONALD'S

April 14. Columbia, Pa.

Just Received and For Sale.

1500 SACKS Ground Alum Salt, in large or small quantities, at

APPOLD'S

May 3, '60. Warehouse, Canal Basin.

GOLD CREAM OF GLYCERINE.—For the cure and prevention of chapped hands, &c. For sale at the GOLDEN MORTAR DRUG STORE,

Dec 3, 1859. Front street, Columbia.

Turkish Prunes!

FOR a first rate article of Prunes you must go to S. F. EBERLEIN'S

Nov. 19, 1859. Grocery Store, No 71 Locust st

GOLD PENS, GOLD PENS.

JUST received a large and fine assortment of Gold Pens, of Newton and Griswold's manufacture, at

SAYLOR & McDONALD'S Book Store,

April 14 Front street, above Locust.

FRESH GROCERIES.

WE continue to sell the best "Levy" Syrup, White and Brown Sugars, good Coffees and choice Teas, to be had in Columbia at the New Corner Store, opposite Odd Fellows' Hall, and at the old stand adjoining the bank.

H. C. FONDERSMITH.

Segars, Tobacco, &c.

A LOT of first rate Segars, Tobacco and Snuff will be found at the store of the subscriber. He keeps only a first rate article. Call in.

S. F. EBERLEIN'S Grocery Store,

Oct. 6, '6 Locust st, Columbia, Pa.

CRANBERRIES,

NEW Crop Prunes, New Currants

Oct. 20, 1860. A. M. RAMBO'S.

SARDINES,

Worcestershire Sauce, Refined Cocoa, &c., just received and for sale by S. F. EBERLEIN.

Oct. 20, 1860. No 71 Locust St.

CRANBERRIES.

JUST received a fresh lot of Cranberries and New Currants, at No. 71 Locust Street.

Oct 21, 1860. S. F. EBERLEIN.

Selections.

Facts about Japan.

RELIGIONS OF THE JAPANESE.

The religious element enters so largely into the social condition of the Japanese people that we must allude to some of the different forms of faith and superstition, the distinction being but small. Recent visitors to Jeddo, as well as those of olden time, have been struck with the superior condition of the priesthood there as compared with those of China. The attendance in the temples, the orderly and reverent performance of the religious services, all attest the fact that in Japan there is none of that sad social indifference to any faith, to over ruling Providence, or a future state, which renders the *Chinaman such a hopeless object of conversion to Christianity.* The old Jesuits who did not love the Japanese priesthood, acknowledged, nevertheless, that amongst the higher orders, there were men eloquently impressive in their preaching, and that their rhetoric, logic, as well as good manners and elegance of style—whether in conversation or their writings—was not a little to be admired; in short, that the church of the devil—as they charitably styled the Japanese religion—was quite as well adapted to enlist the feelings and touch the senses of the lower orders as that of Rome.

There is much confusion as to the particular form of faith which might be considered the State religion of Japan; but so far as we can gean, it appears to be a form of Budhism modified by the spiritualism of the ancient Sintoo faith. We hear of many orders of priesthood, but those of the highest class are indubitably better educated, more intelligent, and far more respected than in China. They are spoken of as the encouragers of intellectual progress and education, and the natives give them credit as the introducers and inventors of many of their arts and science. Next to these stood formerly, and in all probability do still, three or more orders of military clergy somewhat resembling in character the knightly priesthood of ancient Europe. They are, however said to be unpopular on account of their turbulence, and of the bad odor they fell into in the sixteenth century, when, by way of checking the progress of Christianity, and other innovations, they, to the number of 30,000, took up arms against their sovereign, and actually captured the spiritual capital. The Emperor Nebonanga punished them with great severity; but it seems likely that his assassination was brought about by this reactionary party, and that the severities of Taiko-sama and his hostility to Christians arose from a fear of this powerful confederacy of warlike priests.

PECULIARITIES.

There are other sects of the priesthood who rigidly abstain from all animal food, and spend a life of penance and mortification. Celibacy, though not general amongst the Japanese priests, is enforced amongst particular sects with severe penalties, incontinence being punished with death. The Ikkois take charge of certain temples, in which hospitality and kindness are carried out to a very profane extent; they never, says a scandalized father, trouble each other or dispute with the citizens upon the question of faith; their temples are the houses of good fellowship, built in pleasant places; in short, these are the Friars Tuck of Japan. And lastly, we have the mountain priesthood, the Yamanboos before mentioned.—All these sects are more or less mendicants, and amongst these thrifty people a system of loans, not gifts to the ministers of their gods, has been introduced, which is as perfectly unique as the conclusion they arrived at, to prevent a dispute about the color of the "evil one" bringing about a schism in the church. Each sect declared the said personage to be of a particular hue; all the churches were by the ears upon the subject; all authorities at variance; the dispute became serious, and was referred to the Emperor; he solved the question with a wisdom worthy of Solomon.

THEIR VIEW OF THE EVIL ONE.

The devil he declared to be of all colors, and we suppose the harlequin attire of the Japanese policeman, as seen to-day, is to remind those who stray from the paths of virtue and the law that that representative of the many colored one will have them unless they mend their ways. But to return to the loans to the church. It is a standing law amongst the Japanese bonzes that he who lends them cash in this world will receive in the next world the capital and ten per cent. at simple interest. Bills of exchange payable hereafter are duly given to the lender, who carefully preserves them, and it is not unusual for dying persons to leave especial directions as to these bills. They are generally buried with the corpse, in order that the principal and interest may be claimed in the other world, as well as to frighten off the evil one, who is reputed to have a very natural horror of such I. O. U.'s.—

THE COLLEGE OF CONAY—SUICIDE.

Another religious custom of a truly painful nature is often spoken of by old writers upon Japan, and that is the self-sacrifice of the more enthusiastic priests in their desire to inherit more quickly the blessings of the future state. The neighborhood of the great religious College of Conay is especially mentioned as the scene of these suicides. This College of Conay appears to be close to the ancient city of Scrunga, about half way between Jekdo and Osaca. It was visited in 1649 by a Dutch Embassy, who say hither repair all the learned of Japan to dispute in theology and philosophy, and they appear to have witnessed some of these suicidal attempts to reach Paradise. The enthusiasts usually announced their intention of proceeding to the other world on a given day, and expressed a willingness to undertake any commissions for departed friends or relatives. They carefully noted down all such messages in books carried for the purpose, they loaded their wallets with alms, and armed themselves with a sharp scythe to clear the road of the many thorns and briars said to impede the paths of Paradise. Thus equipped, the poor creatures would embark on a deep lake in a small canoe; paddling out a distance, they attached heavy weights to their bodies and sprang into the water, whilst their admiring fraternity calmly regarded them as men much to be envied, and took care that the canoe should be burnt with fire, as a vessel too sacred to be ever defiled by being applied to less noble purposes.

JAPANESE MODE OF TRAVELLING.

The Gazette of St. Petersburg publishes a letter from Madame Albrecht, wife of a physician, dated from Hakodadi, in the Island of Japan, the 15th April, giving an account of an excursion into the interior of that singular country. It required many efforts and more time to cause the Japanese to consent to our project. According to treaties Consul General alone have the right of travelling by land in the interior, and the Russians have here only a simple Consul; but as he enjoys the same privileges as a Consul General, the authorities could not maintain any objection on that score. We purchased Japanese litters, or, as they are called here, cages (kahas). They contained no sort of seats, and are not long enough to enable the legs to be extended; so that we were obliged to sit cross-legged in Japanese fashion, we had, however, the back supported by a cushion. We were five in number—the Consul, his wife, their son, myself and lady's maid, and each of us had a litter or cage. Seven Japanese functionaries were ordered to be in attendance on us, and each of them had a litter and two domestics; we had also two guides. The litter is suspended from a long pole placed on the shoulders of men—two before and two behind—and each one is attended by bearers to relieve each other in turns, some of them having as many as ten.

We were also accompanied by a vast number of police officers, who walked before and on each side of the litters, and who cried in a melancholy tone to all the common people we met on the road, "Sara," which means "sit down." This order was obeyed. In the towns, where the inhabitants collected in crowds to see us pass, the same order was given, and the people immediately sat down, in spite of mud and rain. In certain towns however, which are occupied by princes, the people were exempt from this formality. So great, in some places, was the curiosity of the people to see us, that they pressed close to the litters, and endeavored to open the doors (there is one on each side), but the police, who were armed with long sticks, and with small iron rods (the latter carried in the sleeve), kept them off. This rod is a mark of authority, and it is said that the Japanese greatly fear being touched by one as they are then placed under arrest. At every station at which we stopped we found prepared for us a chamber, which was very clean, and decorated with magnificent paper hangings; and, for us to sit down, benches with a sort of cushion were provided. These stations are designed for functionaries who travel on the public service. They are all constructed on the same plan; the chamber we occupied in each was only separated from the street by one for the domestics, and war divided into different compartments by sliding partitions. Every room we were in was very cold at night, notwithstanding the braziers were lighted on our retiring to rest.

The roads were very good. Those in the first part of our journey were very wide and planted with high trees, the branches of which extended across. On each side of the road were rice fields. The second part of our journey was through a mountainous country; we there saw a large quantity of snow, and was greatly inconvenienced with rain. We frequently found the roads cut by large rivers, and we crossed them in ferry boats. The reception we obtained in every town was very ceremonious. First of all, an elder in uniform came forth to meet us, and saluted each litter with profound respect; on each side of the street were police officers with polished sticks, and at some distance from them were public functionaries in groups, seated on stools. The uniform of these officials is singular; it consists of a sort of gown in gauze, with at the shoulders a projection resembling wings.—In consequence of this we called them "functionaries with wings." Behind them were attendants bearing wands, lances, something resembling horses' tails, and other articles—indicating no doubt, their difference in rank. In certain towns we found drawn up large bodies of men, with bows and arrows; in others *lines of soldiers*, with a musket in one hand and a match in the other. We completed the journey in twenty-two days, having traveled at the rate of from fifteen to twenty miles a day.—*From Once a Week.*

A Soldier's Emotion in Battle.

Our citizen soldiers, inexperienced in the battle-field will find the most terrible moments just before the combat begins. A soldier, in his narration of personal adventures in the Mexican war, published in "Howe's Achievements of Americans," gives some interesting items on this head in his description of the battle of Palo Alto, the opening battle of the war.

When all was ready both armies stood still for about twenty minutes, each waiting for the other to begin the work of death, and during this time I did not see a single man of the enemy move—they stood like statutes.

We remained quiet with two exceptions. General Taylor, followed by his staff, rode from left to right at a slow pace, with his leg thrown over like a woman, and as he passed each regiment, he spoke words of encouragement. I know not what he said to the others but when he came to where we stood he looked steadily at us, I suppose to see what effect the novel circumstances in which we were placed had upon us, and, as he gazed, he said: "The bayonet, my hardy oaks! the bayonet is the thing!" The other was that of Lieutenant Blake, of the engineers, who volunteered to gallop along the enemy's line in front of both armies, and count their guns; and so close did he go that he might have been shot a hundred times. One of the officers of the enemy, doubtless thinking he had some communications to make rode out to meet him; Blake, however, paid no attention to him, but rode on, and then returned and reported to Taylor.

Thus stood those two belligerent armies face to face. What were the feelings of those thousands! *How many thoughts and* fears were crowded into those few moments! Look at our men; a clammy sweat is settled all over faces slightly pale, not from cowardly fear, but from an awful sense of peril, combined with a determination not to flinch from *duty*. These are the moments in which true soldiers resign themselves to their fate, and console themselves with the reflection that whatever may befall them they will act with *honor*; these are the moments when the absolute coward suffers more than death—when, if not certain he would be shot in his tracks, he would turn and flee. Fighting is very hard work; the man who has passed through a two hours' fight has lived through a great amount of mental and physical labor. At the end of a battle I had always found that I perspired so profusely as to wet through all my thick woollen clothing, and when I had got cool, I was as sore as if I had been beaten all over with a club.

When the battle commences the feelings undergo a change. Reader, did you ever see your house on fire? if so, it was then you rushed into great danger; it was then you went over places, climbed over walls, lifted heavy loads, which you never could have done in your cooler moments; you then have experienced some of the excitement of a soldier in battle. I always know my danger—that at any moment I was liable to be killed, yet such was *my excitement that I* never fully realized it. All men are not alike; some are cool, some are perfectly wild or crazy; others are so prostrated with fear that they are completely unnerved—an awful sinking and relaxation of all their energies takes place, awful to behold; they tremble like aspen, sink into ditches and covert places, cry like children, and are totally insensible to shame—dead to every emotion but the overwhelming fear of instant death. We had a few, and but a few, of such in our army.

As the two armies were facing each other it was remarkable to see the coolness of our men; there they stood, chewing bits of biscuit, and talking about the Mexicans, some wondering if they would fight; others allowlowing that they would, and like demons, etc. I kept my eyes on the artillery of the enemy, and happened to be looking toward their right wing, when suddenly a white curl of smoke sprang up their from one of their guns, and then I saw the dust fly some distance in front where the ball struck. Instantly another, and then another rich curl of smoke arose, succeeded by a booming sound, and the shot came crashing towards us. The enemy fired very rapidly, and their balls knocked the dust about us in all directions—some went over our heads, others struck the ground in front and bounced away.

Our batteries now went to work and poured in upon them a perfect storm of iron; Lieut. Churchill and his men began with their eighteen-pounders, and when the first was fired, it made such a loud report that our men gave a spontaneous shout, which seemed to inspire us with renewed confidence. I could hear every word the Lieutenant said to his men. When the first shot was fired, he watched the ball, saying, "Too high, men; try another!"—"too low, men; try again—the third time is the charm!"—The third shot was fired, and I saw with my own eyes the dreadful effect of that and the following shots. "That's it, my boys!" shouted Churchill, jumping up about two feet; "you have them now! keep at that;" and so they did, and every shot tore complete lanes through the enemy's lines; but they stood it manfully. The full chorus of battle now raged; twenty-three pieces of artillery belched forth their iron hail.

We were ordered to lie down in the grass to avoid the shot; this puzzled the enemy, and they could not bring their guns to bear upon us, making our loss very small. Many were the narrow escapes; one ball came within six inches of my left side. The force of the shot was tremendous; a horse's body was no obstacle at all; a man's leg was a mere pipe stem. I watched the shot as it struck the roots of the grass, and it was astonishing how the dust flew. In about an hour the grass caught on fire, and the clouds of smoke shut out the opposing armies from view. We had not as yet lost a man from our regiment. In the obscurity the enemy changed their line, and the eighteen-pounders, supported by our regiment, took a new position on a little rise of ground. As we moved on to the spot a six pound shot carried away the lower jaw of Capt. Page, and then took off a man's head on the right as clean as with a knife.

The blood of poor Page was the first I saw; he was knocked down in the grass, and as he endeavored to raise himself, he presented such a ghastly spectacle that a sickly, fainting sensation came over me, and the memory of that night I shall carry with me to my dying day. A little later Major Ringgold was mortally wounded at his battery; I saw him just after it. The shot had torn away a portion of the flesh from his thighs; its force was tremendous, cutting off both his pistols at the locks, and also the withers of his horse—a splendid steed, which was killed to relieve him of his misery. The enemy tried hard, but without avail, to hit our eigeteen pounders. The battle continued until night put an end to the scene. We bivouacked where we were, and laid on our arms: we slept however, but little, thinkwe might be attacked in our sleep.

The enemy had been very severely handled, owing to the superiority of our artillery. The gunners went into it more like butchers than military men; each stripped off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and tied his suspenders around his waist; they all wore red flannel shirts, and, therefore, were in uniform. To see them limbering and unlimbering, firing a few shots, then dashing through the smoke and then to fire again with lightning like rapidity, partly hid from view by dense clouds of smoke and dust, with their dark red shirts and naked arms, yelling at every shot they made, reminded me of a band of demons rather than men.

Sharpe's the Word.

I recently procured a Sharpe's rifle—Sharpe's the word. Breech-loading. It's a good thing to have in the family in a war time. Said I to that estimable woman, my wife, he that careth not for his own household is worse than an infidel, or something like it. I dare say you can find the passage if you look for it. It is a beautiful trait, finely seen in the least specimens of the brute creation. Have a scar on my hand where fifteen years ago a woodchuck advertised the fact in *three insertions*. He cared for his house, he did, and it was the worse for me that I was an infidel on that point, and put my hand into his hole to draw him out.

My Sharpe's rifle cost me $60, Eastern currency, paid for with my even check of $100, on Messrs. Sort & Company, my Chicago bankers; this of itself I thought rather a sharp *rifle*, but then, said I, all for country. I took the weapon in my hand and admired it. It had none of the high flashy sheen of burnished metal and varnished wood, seen in our common shooting irons, but the tone of the clouded barrel and black walnut stock was eminently quiet and respectable, made for service. This, said I, shall be an heir-loom in the family. Decidedly, I shall hand this down to posterity as a memento of these times.

Thus armed and equipped I went home to that estimable woman, my wife. "My dear," said I, "this is a Sharpe's rifle." She immediately sent our girl Jane into the room over-head with the baby, a movement I saw she regretted, when she observed how studiously I kept the muzzle pointed at the ceiling. "Oh, if it *should go off*," said she. "It is not loaded," said I. Then I called her to notice that these were times when it was a good thing to have weapons in the family.

Said I, "My dear, this is the celebrated Sharpe's rifle." "Such as they used in Kansas?" she asked. I assured her it was the very same. "But the piece has'nt any ramrod," said my wife. "That," said I, repressing a gleam of gratification of the consciousness of superior knowledge, "is because it is breech-loading." "Is it," said she quietly, and was leaving the room. I was burning to show my newly acquired familiarity with the wonderful weapon, and felt piqued because she had so little curiosity. "If you will sit here, my dear, I will show you."

"In this breech-loading rifle, the lever moves just so, and that thingumbob there flies back, and if you look now your eye can follow the fine rifle twist of the barrel." "I see," said my wife, "but I am afraid the piece is loaded." "And yet, estimable woman, you are looking straight through the barrel, now an open tube from one end to the other." "How do you touch it off?" asked my wife. "That, my dear, is a beautiful peculiarity of this weapon. The percussion caps are all concealed here under the hammer, and are automaton primers." "What is that," said she. "Self-acting," said I. Then I slid back a spring to show her, and out flew a small shower of percussion caps. "I shall do this better in time," said I.

"Now, my dear," said I, oracularly, "this beautiful firearm carries a minnie ball. I can fire from eight to ten shots a minute, at a mark from a mile to a mile and a half distant. Think what a weapon this will prove in case of an attack." My wife was so charmed that she insisted that she herself should learn how to fire it. "A mile and a half," said she. "Then you could hit a man somewhere in the vicinity of Bill's Head." I made a little estimate and thought it might be done.

"There is one objection that strikes me," said my estimable wife. "You are so very near sighted my dear. Don't you recollect that you cannot distinguish persons across the street, and often ask me whether it is our dear rector that is sitting in the desk? How are you to see to hit a man a mile and a half off?" "That indeed, is an objection," said I, "but that may be obviated by the use of a glass. I shall procure one at once."

A few days after, I went home earlier than usual and took my Sharpe's rifle under my arm for a little practice. Said I, I shall go to the quiet suburbs, and there get up my target and practice a little. I took my wife's opera glass with me. I selected a rectangular bit of board, and attached it to a fence, and sweeping the field of vision with my glass, saw nothing to prevent my making a few pretty shots.

As the piece and I, mechanically, were on familiar terms already, I loaded it without difficulty. Shutting the Minnie ball in his chamber, "Go, little one," said I, sighting through the opera glass as I took aim at the board. Laying down the piece, I ran towards the board. It was a good run—quite a little distance, in fact. The board I found whole—there was not the trace of a Minnie ball to be seen. "Decidedly," said I, "that ball has gone astray," and again I swept the field with my glass. This time I was struck with the contortions and antics of a red cow a quarter of a mile away. She was trying to get up, with a strong tendency to lie down. To my naked eye she was invisible. With the glass I saw her lie down and roll over on her back. A suspicion flashed across me—a new light on the subject of long range guns.

I have paid thirty dollars for that cow; my Sharp's rifle has thus cost me a sum you can estimate from data I have given you. I begin to suspect that it is less an acquisition to the family than I thought. Sure enough, one might be called to shoot a burglar, but then the latter doings of that ball, which might travel half a mile after passing through the burglar, are not pleasant to contemplate in a city. I doubt if I am as happy with my Sharp's rifle as a family piece, as I fondly hoped I should be. On a war-footing, in the tented field you know, it would be a capital thing, said I. "If one wasn't near-sighted," said that estimable woman my wife, "for he might kill a cow or his own general officer," said she. "I should use an opera glass, of course," said I, nettled, I confess, as I carefully rolled up my Sharp's rifle in an old blanket. I have not disturbed it since. I am ready for enemies at a mile and a half, however.

The Big Tree of California.

DESCRIBED BY REV. THOMAS STARR KING.

In a late number of the *Boston Transcript*, the most graphic account yet written of the grove of mighty trees at Mariposa, California, is contributed by Rev. Thos. Starr King The following extracts will be found interesting:

"There are two large groves of the mammoth trees in California. The one which is usually visited is in Calaveras county. It contains hardly a third as many trees as the Mariposa cluster which we were in search of in this letter, but is more easy of access.—It covers about as much space as the Common, and a good carriage road leads to the heart of it. At the portal of the grove stand a pair of sentinels, *twenty-five feet apart*, which are sixty feet in circumference and three hundred feet high. They are well called the "Two Guardsmen." What a pity, for Dumas' sake, that there is not one more! Passing these warders, you drive up to a hotel, and find the grounds trimmed up and the trees named and labeled for guests. Some of the labels are of gilt letters on marble, we are told, and are tastefully inlaid in the bark from six to twenty feet above the ground. The "Hercules" in this group is ninety-three feet in circumference. The "California," seventy-three feet in circuit, shoots up straight as an arrow three hundred and ten feet. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is a tree in circumference, and will lodge twenty persons. The "Mother of the Forest," is three hundred and twenty-seven feet high, and nearly eighty feet in girth.

* * * * One of these Calaveras trees, three hundred feet high, was cut down a few years ago, eight feet from the ground. Part of the trunk is used as a bowling alley, and the stump, twenty-five feet in diameter, covered with a canopy of green boughs, is now a dancing saloon. To cut it down, pump augers were used from either side until the tree was completely severed from the base. But so nicely poised was it that it would not fall. Only by driving in large wedges with immense battering rams, could its equilibrium be disturbed sufficiently to make it top heavy. Five men were at work twenty five days in this drudgery of destruction.

The Mariposa grove stands as the Creator has fashioned it, unprofaned except by fire, which, long before the advent of Saxon white men, charred the base of the larger portion of the stalwart trees. We rode on for an hour, climbing all the time till we reached a forest planted five thousand feet above the sea. This in New England is the height of Mount Madison, where not a shrub can grow.

Riding on a few rods, through ordinary evergreens with dark stems, we at last catch a glimpse of a strange color in the foliage.—It is a tree in the distance of a cinnamon hue. We ride nearer and nearer, seeing others of the same complexion starting out in the most impressive contrast with the sombre columns of the wilderness. We are now in the grove of the Titans. The bark has a right loonine effect on the eye. We single out one of them for a first acquaintance, and soon dismount at the root.

I must confess that my own feelings, as I first scanned it, and let the eye run up to the tawny pillar, was of intense disappointment. But then I said to myself, this is one of the striplings of the Anak brood—only a small affair of some forty feet in girth. I took out the measuring line, fastening it to the trunk with a knife, and walked around unwinding it as I went. The line was seventy-five feet long. I came to the end of the line before completing the circuit. Nine feet more were needed. I had dismounted before a structure eighty-four feet in circumference and nearly three hundred feet high, and I should not have guessed that it would have measured more than fifteen feet through. It did not look to me twice as large as the Big Elm on the Common, although that is only eighteen feet in circumference, and this was twenty-eight in diameter. During the day I had seen a dozen sugar pines which appeared to be far more lofty.

The next one we measured was 89 feet and 2 inches in girth; the third was 90 feet. There are nearly three times as many of the giant species in the grove as in the Calaveras structure. Divided into two groups, there are six hundred and fifty of them within a space of a mile and three-quarters. Colonel Warren, the faithful and self-sacrificing friend of agricultural interests in the State, proprietor and editor of the *California Farmer*, measured the principal trees of one group on this ridge, some three years ago, and found one of 102 feet, two of 100, one of 97, one of 92, one of 86, one of 80, two of 77, three of 76, and thus gradually diminishing, till more than one hundred trees were on his list that measured fifty feet and upwards in circumference."

Central Africa.

A venturous traveler, Mr. John Pethevick, has lately penetrated into the wild regions of Central Africa, and has given his experience to the world in the form of a most entertaining volume ("Egypt, Soudan, and Central Africa") just published by Blackwood & Co. Amongst the personal descriptions we find the following very interesting picture of a dancing girl:

"The singing and accompaniment having continued for some time without any apparent inclination to dance, a very pretty dark-colored girl, wearing a scarf over her shoulders, throwing it open, exposing her chest, sprang gracefully into the centre of the open space, and standing erect, looked coquettishly around; then with her naked right-foot she indicated a change in the measure. Throwing her head back, and her finely-moulded chest forward, raising her hands horizontally with her elbows, and keeping time with her right foot, she slowly advanced, moving head and chest backwards and forwards with a most serene countenance, and in a manner not devoid of grace, retired in the same style. One quick movement of her foot changed the music from an adagio to an allegro; and bounding in the air, disrobing her waist and shoulders of the scarf, she went through a series of performances with legs and arms that, exciting to look at, spoke volumes for her muscular powers. The measure gradually quickened, which she responded to until, after dancing *al presto*, one hound forward brought her, I scarcely knew how, up to the couch, and almost into my arms, and bending her head to the right and the left, she saluted my cheeks with her tresses of greasy plaited hair. She showed to much greater advantage at a distance; the exertion she had gone through, and the wretched pomatum, exuded odors which I much doubt whether any quantity of eau-de-Cologne could have counteracted; by moistening a small gold coin, a rubyeh, (about fourpence,) in my mouth, and sticking it to her forehead, she retired apparently as much pleased as myself."

A glimpse of the country and the natives is thus agreeably afforded:

"Several herds of cattle, camels, and donkeys were browsing off the herbage in the fields; and in front of the village which we were now approaching, a number of women were collected round the well, their long row of pitchers indicating that they were waiting their turn to fill them. The dark brown Arab women were easily discernable from the black imported negroes, but the girls of mixed blood so much resembled their mistresses in color, that it required a more intimate knowledge to recognize them. The older negresses wore only a wrapper of native coarse white cotton cloth around the loins; whereas their mistresses, in addition to a wrapper of grey shirting, wore a scarf, with red or blue border, covering alike the head and body. The young unmarried girls wore the leather stripped rachat round the loins; while some of them covered their