

GUNBOATS AT VICKSBURG.

A NOVEL EXPEDITION TO PASS THE CONFEDERATE STRONGHOLD.

A Federal Florida Falls to Force a Passage Through Bogs and Swamps—Saved by Sherman.

Carrington Smith says, in the Detroit Free Press, that had any Confederate in or around Vicksburg asserted that the Federals would seek to pass that point by sending gunboats through the Yazoo, Sunflower and Yallobusha Rivers and a corps of men through the swamps and marshes and bogs which cover the entire country for fifty miles in length, he would have been hooted at as a fool. And yet, continues Mr. Smith, that was exactly what Grant planned as cool as ice and Sherman and Porter were sent to carry out.

To begin with, each of the streams named was hardly more than a creek. While they had a good depth of water, they were narrow, crooked and obstructed by sunken trees, and at that date were hardly known even to flat-boats. We made our start about the middle of March, having five gunboats, four or five large tugs mounting one gun each, but depending on pulling away obstructions, and two or three floats, or flat-bottoms, on which mortars were mounted. It was understood by the fleet that Sherman was to keep pace with us with about 10,000 men. The novelty of the situation was such as no fleet ever experienced. After ascending the Yazoo for a few miles details of axmen had to be sent on ahead to cut away the limbs which would have brushed away our smokestacks in the narrow channels. The woods, as far as the eye could see, were hung with moss, ivy and wild grapes, and the ground was hidden by water. The only way to find the channel was to sound for it, and to follow the lead of the pilot-boat. The sight of us frightened away great flocks of birds, and alligators rolled lazily aside and serpents swam hissing away.

We were no sooner out of the Yazoo than the tugs had to begin on the logs and stumps and fallen trees, and our progress was slow and tedious. At one point the channel ran between growing trees for three or four miles, and three-fifths of them had to be cut away before the fleet could pass. They were saved off, the trunks hauled off, and then a couple of tugs would hitch to the "stump" and snake it out by the roots. At this one spot we suffered a delay of thirty hours, and got our first inkling of the difficulties of the voyage. Each day we crept along at snail's pace, clearing away the obstructions, and each night our hawsers were made fast to trees along the banks and we turned in with bruised hands and aching bodies.

As soon as the Confederates discovered the movement our troubles vastly increased. Scores and hundreds of trees were felled across the stream in advance of us, and our working parties were continually fired upon by men hidden in the swamps for the purpose. We had not only to work the vessels, but to clear the stream of obstructions and keep the guns going. We now also had to work by night as well as by day, for if we rested the enemy were at work again with the ax.

On the fifth day, when the stream began to broaden and deepen, and there was a hope that we had seen the worst, we found our progress absolutely blocked. The entire bed of the river was filled with willows, bushes, canes and young trees, and a channel must be cut through or we must go back. A survey was made, and it was decided it would be a labor of weeks to cut a channel. We were even now under a hot fire, the Confederates having sent infantry and artillery from Vicksburg to head off the expedition. Sherman had found it impossible to keep the banks, and had sought to make cross-cuts. In this way we had left every Federal Infantryman miles behind, and all the fighting was being done by the men of the flotilla. Our retreat began at daylight on the morning of the sixth day of the expedition.

The waters were rising and the current increasing, and each vessel dropped down stern first and had to be "snubbed" from tree to tree in the narrow places. In less than three hours this method had to be abandoned, the enemy filling the woods with sharpshooters and killing off the men handling the hawsers. Indeed, it after awhile became impossible for any one to show himself on the deck of a single craft. Our men, protected by such barricades as they could form, were returning the fire with all possible vigor, when the fleet was brought to a sudden standstill by obstructions which had been felled in the rear. At the same moment the Confederates began felling trees a mile and a half above, and to also increase their rifle fire. We were nicely penned up, and nine men out of every ten among us felt certain that we must surrender. Every craft was short of ammunition, and the line was strung out in such a way, and one was so hidden from the other by the trees, that signals were of little use. However, after lying under a hot fire for about twenty minutes, a detail was sent off from every boat, making 500 or 600 men in all, and while some worked at the trees others held the Confederates at bay.

We were still at work, suffering severely from the enemy's fire, when word was sent back from the front that the Confederates had received a large reinforcement, and that a body of regular troops, accompanied by artillery, was advancing to a bold attack. There was a panic among us for a few moments, each one feeling certain that this was the end, and every boat made ready for the final struggle. After what seemed a criminal waste of time, and with men dropping dead at the rate of three or four per minute, we received orders to return to our ships. The movement was being executed when the head of one of Sherman's columns came up and struck the advancing Confederate force in flank, and after a brief fight scattered it through the woods. The providential arrival of the infantry certainly saved that whole fleet from capture, penned up as it was.

The British Museum has one of the largest libraries in the world, and it is greatly used by students and readers engaged in special research. So great is the overcrowding in the reading-room that it is now proposed to provide an additional room for general readers.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

A California electrician has invented a process whereby gold, silver, and copper can be instantly melted by a lightning stroke.

It is now claimed that one of the results of the recent earthquake is the diminution of the flow of natural gas from certain wells, and a considerable feeling of anxiety is consequently pervading the circles interested.

The project of a South Polar expedition is being seriously ventilated in the scientific circles of Australia, the Government having expressed its intention of assisting the enterprise. The Australian whalers are also becoming interested in the project, inquiries having already reached London whether whaling vessels for an anti-Arctic voyage would be subsidized by the Government.

Paper doors cost about the same as wood, and are said to be much better, because there is no shrinking, swelling, or warping. The paper door is composed of two thick paper boards stamped and molded into panels, and glazed together with glue and potash, and then rolled through heavy rollers. It is first covered with a waterproof coating, and then with a fireproof coating, and is painted and varnished and hung in the ordinary way.

It is said that the great glacier of Alaska is moving at the rate of a quarter of a mile per annum toward the sea. The front presents a wall of ice some five hundred feet in thickness; its breadth varies from three to ten miles, and it is about 150 miles long. Almost every quarter of an hour hundreds of tons of ice in large blocks fall into the sea, which they agitate in the most violent manner, the waves being such as to toss about the largest vessels that approach the glacier as if they were small boats.

Even sea-weed has a certain value, and some day may be in considerable demand. A new English method of utilizing it consists in boiling it with carbonate of soda, filtering and treating with sulphuric acid. This is obtained a substance to be known as "algina," which has more viscosity than starch, or even gum-arabic, and may be profitably used in stiffening textile fabrics. It is said to be also adapted for the making of syrups and for culinary purposes. From the matter left after extracting this substance a very good writing paper may be cheaply made.

The duration of the infectious stages of various diseases is thus given by Dr. J. F. Pearson, an English physician: Measles, from the second day of the disease, for three weeks; small-pox, from the fourth day, for four weeks; scarlet fever, from the fourth day, for seven weeks; mumps, from the second day, for three weeks; diphtheria, from the first day, for three weeks. The incubation periods, or intervals occurring between exposure to infection and the first symptoms, are as follows: Whooping-cough, fourteen days; mumps, eighteen days; measles, ten days; small-pox, twelve days; scarlet fever, three days; diphtheria, fourteen days.

HEALTH HINTS.

Drinking a cupful of southernwood tea will often cure a headache.

Frosted feet are said to be cured by holding them in the smoke made by sprinkling corn meal on live coals; best to have it under cover, so as to get the full benefit of the smoke.

In case of sickness a call for old linen does not mean worn-out shirt bosoms (as many seem to think), but soft pieces of handkerchiefs, napkins and tablecloths; or even old cotton goods, if very fine and soft. All such pieces should be saved; if you have more than you want give part to some one less fortunate than yourself.

The Stores of Paris.

Paris beautifies herself as much for the rest of the world as for her own people. She lives off her visitors, and her store windows are put up to catch the eye of the passer-by. These great boulevard windows are lined with stores which at night are illuminated brilliantly, both outside and in. Lines of gas-jets with reflectors are placed above the windows on the outside so that they may cast a strong blaze down upon the goods displayed. Nearly all the goods of the store, as a rule, are in the windows, and the interior is not to be entered except for purchase. Small stocks are carried, I judge, and as a general thing a first-class Paris store is not more than twelve feet square on the inside. Except, of course, the grand establishments of the "Magasin du Louvre" and the "Bon Marche."

Your average Parisian merchant begins business at about 8 and closes at about 9 in the evening. At noon he takes a recess for two hours for his breakfast, and between 1 and 2 little business is done all over the city. The man and his wife, as a rule, work together, and the wife here is the better half in a business way. It is she who keeps the cash account, and the books of Paris may be said to be kept by women. There are no smarter women in the world than these Parisiennes. They are not beautiful, but they are intensely practical, and they make excellent wives and good mothers. The love for family is strong in France, general reports to the contrary notwithstanding, and no nation has more loving fathers and doting mothers than this.—Paris Letter.

Mr. Ed. P. Wells, Thetis P. O., Stevens Co., Wash. Territory, was entirely cured of rheumatism by the use of St. Jacobs Oil. He says: "I consider it a wonderful remedy and will always speak a good word for it."

"Does the rock hurt you much, Pat?" inquired a sympathizer of an Irishman whose foot was imbedded under a rock. "No, it don't hurt me a bit," groaned Pat. "It's me foot that's hurt!"

Architect Edmond Legendre, 419 Sutter street, San Francisco, Cal., states that having suffered for a long time with a severe cough, and failing to obtain any relief from doctors and the numerous preparations he took, he became alarmed. Tried tried Star Cough Cure, and one bottle entirely cured him.

A FASHION item asserts that "snowballs make a lovely trimming for a tulle bonnet." It may be rather unreasonable to observe that small boys consider snowballs appropriate trimmings for men's hats also.

A NEW VIEW OF CONSUMPTION.

And One which Appeals to Common Sense, Many Curable Cases.

"Many persons die of Consumption who could easily be cured," says Dr. S. K. Clark, of Watertown, N. Y., "if they would go at it right. I have an entirely new view of Consumption is not always of lung origin." "How so? What is it then?" "Many cases of consumption are secondary. The disease itself prevails everywhere, but the best practitioners refuse to attribute it entirely to inheritance or the weather. If a person lives in the most favorable climate in the world and has any tendency to lung weakness, if certain conditions exist in the system, that climate, however favorable, will not prevent development of the disease. The disorder in such cases is only a secondary symptom in the lungs of some other ailment, and can never be cured until approached through its source."

"Yes, doctor; but what is the method of approach?" "If you dip your finger in acid you burn it; do you not?" "Yes."

"If you wash this burnt finger every second with the acid, what is the result?" "Why, it cures the inflammation, festering and eventual destruction of the finger." "Precisely! Now then for my method, which commends itself to the reason and judgment of every skillful practitioner. You know certain acids are developed in the body. Well, if the system is right these acids are neutralized or utilized and carried out. If the system is run down by excesses, anxiety, continual exposure or overwork, these acids accumulate in the blood. If there is any natural weakness in the lung, this acid attacks it, having a natural affinity for it, and if the acid is not neutralized or passed out of the system, it burns, ulcerates and finally destroys the lung. Is this clear?" "Perfectly! But how do you prevent the accumulation of these acids in the system?" "Irregularities of the liver and kidneys create this excess of acid and the supply can be cut off only by correcting the wrong action of these organs. The kidneys alone should carry out in quantity, in solution, enough of this acid, which, if left in the blood, would kill four men. When the stomach, liver and the kidneys are all conspiring to increase the acid, the wonder is that weak lungs resist death as long as they do!"

But Aunt Jemima's robust health will last for aye, I fear, Tho' I'd gain the precious wealth, She lives from year to year, I envy her, tho' I like Hypocrisy and cant. This part I play L'exorcist, And I am sick of aunt. —Rambler.

"More than all other Lung Remedies," is what Dr. W. Fairman, druggist, Dayton, Ind., writes of Allen's Lung Balm. He has sold it for eight years, and it gives satisfaction in all cases. 25c., 50c. & \$1 per bottle. Druggists.

An Italian savant has discovered a new and simple method of catching fish. The bait is a small one. It is strung on the Italian goes down to the river's edge and plays a hand organ, and when the fish come to the surface to throw stones at him, he scoops 'em in with a net. Very simple indeed.

Agents Wanted In every town in New York State for the Mutual Benefit Life Company, of Hartford, Conn.

One of the strongest Companies in America Life and Accident. Call on or write to B. BROOKS BACON, General Agent, Syracuse, N. Y.

A New Wonder is not often recorded, but those who write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, will learn of a cure which earned them \$250 in a day. You can do the work and live at home, wherever you are located. Full particulars will be sent you free. Some have earned over \$500 a day. Capital not needed. You are started in business free. Both sexes. All ages. Immense profits sure for those who start at once. Your first act should be to write for particulars.

No lady should live in perpetual fear, and suffer from the more serious troubles that so often appear, when Dr. Kilmer's COMPLETE Female Remedy is certain to prevent and cure Tumor and Cancer there.

LYON'S Patent Metallic Stiffeners prevents boots and shoes from running over, ripping in the seams or wearing unevenly on the heels. If afflicted with sore eyes see Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye-water. Druggists sell at 25c. per bottle. Piso's Remedy for Catarrh is agreeable to use. It is not a liquid or a snuff. 50c.

A Case Not Beyond Help. Dr. M. R. Hinsdale, Kewanee, Ill., advises us of a remarkable cure of Consumption. He says: "A neighbor's wife was attacked with violent lung disease and remained beyond help from Quack Consumption. As a last resort the family was persuaded to try Dr. Wm. Hall's Balm for the Lungs. To the astonishment of all, by the time she had used one bottle she was able to do her household duties and her own work. I saw her at her work and had no idea she could recover."

Boils

And pimples and other like affections caused by impure blood are readily cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla. While it purifies, this medicine also vitalizes and enriches the blood and builds up every function of the body. Scrofula, humors of all kinds, swellings in the neck, hives, rheumatism, tetter, abscesses, ulcers, sores, salt, ringworm, scald head, etc., are also cured by this excellent blood purifier.

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Fish Ponds in Saxony.

In traveling through Saxony, says a correspondent, one is struck with the large number of ponds of all sizes which stud the fields in every direction. Whether these ponds are the result of accident or design, they are as carefully tended as are the fields themselves. They, too, are a source of income to their owners. They team with carp, tench and other fish that will thrive in sluggish water, which are taken out in the fall and sold at prices ranging from 12 to 20 cents per pound. The ponds are then re-stocked with a young brood, which costs from 50 cents to \$1.25 per hundred, according to size. These fish are left to shift for themselves until they are a year old, when they are generally large enough for the market. In winter the ponds yield a crop of ice which is readily disposed of at a fair price. Where their services are not required to turn a mill, they at least serve as watering places for the cattle, and where they are situated near a village or hamlet they even feed the hand engine in case of fire. Where these ponds are made the land taken for the purpose generally is unsuited for other purposes.

A Sycophant.

My Aunt Jemima—bless her soul—is ancient and wealthy; But fate, which is perverse and droll, Has made her strong and healthy; Still as I am the only heir Of her, my antique aunt, I cultivate her age with care And play the sycophant.

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