Daily Alta California.

FRED. MacCRELLISH & CO.
FRED'K MacCRELLISH.....W. A. WOODWARD

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CITY ITEMS.

PARACHUTES AND THINGS.—Flying parachutes—little gay-colored affairs, made of square bits of paper, with strings depending from the four corners, and attached to a light weight hanging under the centre—are common amusements with the boys of San Francisco. A day or two since, as we were walking down Bush street, we noticed a number of boys engaged in this amusement, and stopped a moment to witness their efforts. The wind at the instant came in a rude blast, whirling dust, bits of papers, sticks, and possibly, also, paving stones and other trifles before it down the street. "Hi! hi! there comes a parachute for you! Jerusalem! ain't it a stunner?" yelled one of the graceless youths aforesaid, in an ecstacy of delight, pointing to something coming dancing and swaying in the wind around the corner. We looked in the direction indicated, and saw a sight which made us gasp for breath. It was a parachute of mammoth size, to all appearances. A light framework, of birdcage style, shaped like a druggist's filtering glass, supported a mass of light gauzy material of various colors in the air, and some heavier substance depended below, like the nozzle of a common grocer's tunnel, below the widespread rim. Looking more closely, we noticed at the bottom of the affair a neat pair of gaiter boots, laced on with red strings, and ornamented with buttons. The tips of the gaiters just touching the ground as the machine skimmed along the street before the gale. A little higher, we saw what looked for all the world like a pair of velvet clastics, and a thought struck us like the kick of a colt. Dashing our hat frantically down on our forehead, we prepared to turn our head deliberately the other way and make off at full speed, when two arms fell mechanically from the upper part of the parachute, bringing down the funnel-shaped bird-cage affair and its superstructure, as an umbrella is closed down by the moving of the slide, and, to our amazement, in place of the gay-colored parachute, we beheld a perfect copy of Gaston's best gift to man, fearfully, as to expense, and wonderfully gotten up and adorned, smiling and blushing, away from our sight. Going thoughtfully to our office, we commenced searching diligently among our exchanges for hints to explain the phenomenon we had witnessed, and discovered the following items, evidently having some bearing on the subject:

"Garters with diamond buckles are worn with the new hoops of Paris."—*Ex.*

"The new hoops are quite prevalent in this city, but we observe no buckles. Most of the garters are of red tape and tied above the knee."—*Memphis Bulletin.*

"We have seen but few of them. Those we have noticed are of different styles. Some of them look like bits of sash ribbon, tied with a bow knot. Some of the stockings are striped and ornamented at the top with a fringe of lace about two inches deep, which falls gracefully over the knee."—*Paducah Journal.*

"Tilting skirts" are all the rage this season. I notice that the ladies have already thrown off their flannel underclothing."—*New York Letter.*

We are satisfied with what we have read and seen, and do not wish to pursue the subject further.

THE VETERANS OF 1846.—A correspondent makes the following pertinent suggestions:

Editors Alta: It is a well known fact that among our oldest citizens there are quite a large number of men who participated in that glorious event in our country's history which resulted in the acquisition of this golden State to the North American people—an event which crowned a Scott and a Taylor with imperishable honors, and which preserved as a primary school in war for the distinguished men who figured in our late domestic difficulties. Hitherto there has been no general organization of the veterans of '46 on the coast, and I am glad to see that a movement has been made by a number of the old pioneers, who served in the army and navy during the Mexican war in the procession on Wednesday next, in honor of our National Independence. The occasion is a propitious one to enroll the names of every citizen who contributed by his patriotic devotion to the old flag in extending the area of freedom to these western shores.

The past twenty years have somewhat thinned the ranks of that gallant band, but the laurels with which surrounds their achievements has not been dimmed by subsequent events. The few thousands of men who participated therein, and the hundreds of millions of people, skilled in the science of war, and detesting forms of peace which resulted in ushering in the modern Age and enhancing in an unprecedented degree the prosperity of the nation, have everything to be proud of and future historians will award to that gallant band the highest meed of praise. The rising generation, who will be enabled to realize the full magnificent consequence of the valor and patriotism of those who served in Mexico, will wonder at their apathy and indifference in not contributing to perpetuate their well-earned fame by deeds of fraternal sympathy and benevolence. I say it with regret, that I have known men, who served from the hospitals of this city to an unmarked grave in the sand hills, who, time and again, faced death heroically under the flag of our country, content to die in penury and want, far from their friends and relations, while many of their former comrades in arms were near them, in affluent circumstances, who would have been proud to contribute to their necessities and they known of them. A repetition of such scenes could be avoided by each person who served in the army or navy during the Mexican war, now residing in California, enrolling their names, with the company, regiment, etc., in which they served, and appointing a vigilant committee to attend to such cases, and perpetuate the other sets as would be calculated to promote the welfare of their old comrades, and maintain the honor and dignity of the veteran organization.

The expense of such an organization would be insignificant compared with the proud satisfaction its members would derive from its successful working. I hope this subject will attract the attention of those who are called upon to assemble on to-night in the Twelfth District Court, to make arrangements for celebrating the Fourth of July.

ENSIGN.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION.—There appears to be a feeling of bitterness among the architects of this city concerning certain "unprofessional" practices alleged to prevail among the members of the fraternity, as will be seen by the following:

Editors Alta: How does it happen that most of public buildings lately erected have not been placed out to public architectural competition for designs? Is it because parties inside wish to manage a little? We know of one popular institution in San Francisco that was managed very *scientifically*, and *commissions* are said to have been *considerably* divided among the members of the fraternity, who now know it to be proofed that some of the real estate agents are in the habit of getting cheap plans from architect, as ignorants as he is popular, because he works cheap, to attend to the business connected with procuring the owners, who want to pocket six or seven per cent. on the cost, while the Cheap-John gets his one and a half per cent. on the outlay. Who is the loser? Who pocket do you think it comes out of? Can justice be done under such circumstances? How is it with the Mercantile Library Association building, and how about the new Merchants' Exchange? NIX.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 29, 1866.

CELESTE AT THE CLIFF HOUSE.—Mlle. Celeste essayed her "terrific feat" at the Cliff House yesterday at 1 P. M., according to announcement, and in spite of the dense fog, which wet the rope and made the attempt almost equivalent to suicide, and the wind, which was blowing in sharp, unsteady gusts, adding greatly to the difficulty of retaining a footing on the rope, succeeded admirably. She was compelled to stop a number of times to regain her balance on the slippery, unsteady rope, but reached the Seal Rock in safety. She remained on the rock wrapped in a blanket, like "Patience sitting on a monument," or a rheumatic Russian lady taking an airing in a bath-house, for some half an hour, and then essayed the return trip. The return was accompanied by a dense fog, and under such circumstances which surrounded her, and at the Cliff she was welcomed with loud applause by the audience assembled. The number of spectators was not as large as on the previous Sunday, owing to the unfavorable weather.

SEVERE ACCIDENT.—About 3½ P. M. yesterday, as David De Groot was driving along Montgomery street, his buggy was upset by a short turn, opposite the "Old Corner," and he was thrown violently out upon the pavement. He struck upon his head and received such serious injuries as to cause concussion of the brain. He was taken up insensible and taken into Keith's drug store, where Dr. Murphy was called to attend him. From Keith's he was taken to the house of Mr. Francis Hook and Ladder Company, where he was at last accounts doing well. The horse ran down Montgomery street to Montgomery Block, where he turned a few somersaults, went on up the hill, got rid of the buggy and went off by himself in a little possess. Mr. De Groot is the steward of the St. Francis Hotel.

VETERAN CORPS.—The regular monthly meeting of this Association will be held at 8 o'clock this P. M., in the Police Court Room, City Hall. Their arrangements for the flag presentation and participation in the celebration of the Fourth are about complete, the prospect being favorable for a creditable display in the procession. In order that our readers may know of what material this corps is composed, we quote the following section from their Constitution, under the head of membership:

"Any person who has served in either the army or navy of the United States during the late rebellion, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, may become a member of this Corps." All veterans should and should not connect themselves with the organization.

SCHOOL HOUSE.—Some misapprehension has arisen as to the hour fixed for the opening of our public schools. This was caused by the fact that among the rules of the State Board of Education, recently published in the ALTA, is the following: "The schools, unless otherwise ordered by the Trustees or Board of Education, shall open at 9 A. M. and close at 4 P. M., with an intermission from 12 M. till 1 P. M., and a recess from 10:40 to 11 A. M., and from 3:20 to 3:30 P. M." Based on this adoption of the above rule by the State Board, the San Francisco Board have directed the opening and closing of the schools in this city at the usual hours. Our schools will therefore open at 10 A. M. to-day, as heretofore.

PRESENTATION.—The Lincoln Youth's Temperance Legion have been presented with a costly silk national flag. The flag was received with great applause by over two hundred enthusiastic boys. These boys are now uniformed, and will appear in the procession on the Fourth. The following officers: Commander, S. P. Jewell; Aids, J. A. Woodson, Warren Holt, R. R. Gardner, Thomas Hourigan, James Thompson, and L. Perkins; Captain Co. A, Master Mead; Captain Co. B, Master Smith; Captain Co. C, Master Kew. The boys will turn out two hundred strong.

WARNING SOUNDS.—The fog-bell on Alcatraz Island was continually doning yesterday, in consequence of the thick weather in the Golden Gate and outside the Heads. Up to a late hour last evening no vessels inward bound were reported. The fog at nightfall became so dense as to preclude the residents of the upper part of the city seeing the houses of their neighbors on the next block, and suggested the idea that Nature had burst her boiler, and the whole steam was escaping.

SENT TO THE HOSPITAL.—The veteran Union soldier George Smith, who was mentioned in the ALTA as having fallen down in the street on Saturday in fits, caused by injuries received in an abortive attempt to escape from Libby Prison, was attacked several times in the same distressing manner, towards evening, and was finally sent to the County Hospital, by Captain Douglass of the police. The poor fellow was about starting for Sacramento, where he has friends.

A SIGHTLY LOCATION.—The lot at the intersection of Leavenworth and Union streets, on which it is proposed to erect a new Public School-house, affords one of the finest views in San Francisco. Altogether, and the whole upper part of the bay of San Francisco, the Golden Gate, Mount Tamalpais, and the surrounding country on both sides of the bay, and the whole northern half of the city can be seen from it a glance.

FLAG OF THE VETERAN CORPS.—The glorious flag, hereafter to be borne by the Veteran Corps on public occasions, will be presented to them at Platt's Hall, with appropriate ceremonies, on the morning of the 4th of July, at 9 o'clock. The occasion will be a memorable one.

LATIN SCHOOL.—There will be to-day an examination of candidates for admission to the San Francisco Latin School, in the building on Post street, above Kearny, lately occupied by Dr. Cohn.

MORTUARY REPORT.—The following is Health Officer McNulty's report of deaths and interments from June 24th to June 30th, in San Francisco:

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Aneurism of arch of aorta	1	Debility, general	1
Atrophia	2	Delirium tremens	1
Asphyxia	1	Enteritis	1
Angina	2	Fever, typhoid	2
Bright's disease	1	Inflammation of bowels	1
Casualties	4	Inflammation of bladder	1
Congestion of the brain	1	Inflammation of lungs	3
Cholera infantum	4	Inflammation of stomach and bowels	1
Consumption of lungs	12	Lithotomy	1
Convulsions, infantile	4	Premature birth	1
Diphtheria	1	Paralysis	1
Dentition	1	Scrofula	1
Dropsy	1	Suicide	1
Disease of heart	1	Softening of the brain	1
Dysentery	3		
Total			54

Sex—Males, 38; females, 16; total, 54.
Color—White, 51; black, 0; copper, 3.
Age—Under 1 year, 18; from 1 to 5 years, 6; from 5 to 10 years, 1; from 10 to 15 years, 0; from 15 to 20 years, 3; from 20 to 30 years, 7; from 30 to 40 years, 5; from 40 to 50 years, 8; and over 50 years, 6.
Nativities—California, 25; New York, 3; Massachusetts, 2; Pennsylvania, 1; Missouri, 1; Maryland, 1. Foreigners—England, 1; Ireland, 7; Scotland, 1; British Provinces, 2; France, 1; Germany, 2; Norway, 1; Hanover, 1; Chile, 1; Mexico, 1; China, 3.
Distribution—Died in the city, 43; in the City and County Hospital, 9; St. Mary's Hospital, 2.
Wards—In the First, 6; Second, 2; Third, 0; Fourth, 6; Fifth, 0; Sixth, 3; Seventh, 1; Eighth, 3; Ninth, 3; Tenth, 10; Eleventh, 5; Twelfth, 4; Hospitals, 11.
In addition to the above there were 3 still-born cases reported.

INCREASED ALLOWANCE TO NAVAL OFFICERS.—The Secretary of the Navy issued the following order, May 23d:

"Congress having, in view of the call for increased compensation to officers of the navy, repealed the law which prohibited any allowance to them for rent of quarters or to pay rent for furniture, or for lights or fuel, &c., the Department, in order to prevent a recurrence of the irregularities, abuses and arbitrary allowance which occasioned the prohibition, deems it proper to establish a fixed rate of compensation in lieu of the extra allowances which were prohibited by the law now repealed. Accordingly from and after the first day of June proxima, officers who are not provided with quarters on shore stations will be allowed a sum equal to thirty-three and a third per centum of their pay in lieu of said allowance. The act of March 3, 1865, having increased the pay of midshipmen and mates, the allowance hereby authorized will not be extended to them."

This means that all officers of the navy, except midshipmen and mates, are to have an increase of thirty-three per cent. added to their salaries, when not attached to shore stations, in lieu of extra allowances heretofore allowed to them. Officers attached to shore stations not provided with quarters are to have an increase of twenty per cent. only. The order is equivalent to raising the pay of officers of the navy one-third above their present pay, with the exceptions named.

BAGGAGE EXPRESS.—We understand that reliable parties in this city, under the name of "The California Baggage Express Company," have perfected a plan of delivering baggage that will be of great convenience to the public generally. Persons can have baggage taken from their residences and delivered to any destination for a small consideration. An anxiety need be felt, as the Company assume the responsibility of what is entrusted to them. Agents will represent the Company at all terminal points, so that, upon notice, they will be able to secure and deliver all species of baggage with despatch. In Eastern cities, these Companies monopolize all baggage transportation, receiving and delivering at all points, relieving travellers of the annoyance, delay and expense that are inevitable where there has been no such agency. Some gentlemen connected with the enterprise are reliable, and they are willing and able to accept all the responsibilities of their business.

EFFECTS OF THE HEAT ON THE RAILROAD TRACKS.—The San Mateo *Gazette* says that on Tuesday last, two of the rails of the San José Railroad track, near the crossing opposite C. N. Fox's residence in Menlo, were found to have sprung some seven inches out of place. The railroad men were notified of the fact, and it was replaced in season for the next train. The rails it appears were sprung by the expansion caused by the intense heat of the sun on that day. The spikes were torn out as if they had been cambric needles, at all of the ties from each end of the rail. Each rail had to be cut off before the new one could be replaced. It is quite necessary that the section men should keep a sharp look-out for the entire track on warm days, as it would be impossible for the engineer to discover this class of danger in time to prevent his train from going off the track.

ACCIDENT WITH FIREARMS.—A few days since we published an account of a fatal accident in this city through carelessness with firearms, a negro boy being instantly killed while fooling with an old pistol, supposed to be unloaded. An exchange says that a boy named Samuel Griffiths was accidentally shot by another boy named George Lewis, in San Antonio, on Sunday afternoon of last week. Lewis picked up an old pistol which he found lying in a desk and snapped it at Griffiths, not thinking it was loaded. An old piece of shot had remained in the pistol since January last, a portion of which lodged in Griffiths' breast. Dr. Newcomb was immediately sent for, who rendered the necessary medical aid. The wounds were found not to be of a dangerous character.

AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

MAGUIRE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Miss Kate Denin will make her reappearance on the California stage after an absence of nearly ten years, this evening, as "Camille," supported by Mr. John Wilson, late of the Boston theatres, as "Armand." During the week she is announced to appear nightly in different roles, and we learn that Mr. John McCullough will also sustain several leading characters in her support.

ENGLISH OPERA.—The Howson Opera Troupe will commence their season at Maguire's Opera House Monday evening next with "La Sonnambula." The members of the company come to us endorsed by the Australian press as artistes of merit. Miss Emma Howson, who sustains the part of "Amina," being of colonial birth, is the first vocalist the "gold fields" have sent to "our placers." The Melbourne Argus, speaking of her efforts, remarks: "Her 'Amina' pleased us greatly. It was a natural embodiment of the simple, loving, pure minded village maiden. Her treatment of the musical part surprised us. Her voice surprised us, her audience that, young as she is, she has long passed her noviciate as operatic vocalist, and is far on the road which leads to the accomplishment of the aim of the genuine artist. The opening cavatina was delightfully warbled, and the encore received the most delicate interpretation. It was really like a gush of spontaneous joy, subdued, from the heart of a happy maiden." The troupe commenced their engagement at Melbourne, the subscribed list, Mr. Frank Howson, F. A. Howson, John Howson, Miss Emma Howson, Mrs. Emma Howson, Mrs. Chris Plein Howson, H. Herberte, Mr. Frazer and lady, and E. S. Gould.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL.—A dramatic entertainment was given in the school room of this institution last Friday evening. The pieces performed were Talfourd's "Ion," and the farce, "Slasher and Crasher." In the tragedy, S. F. Baldwin (Ion) showed himself to be an accomplished elocutionist, while S. H. Daniels filled the *role* of the King with great ease and dignity, and embodied the character in a manner that called forth frequent cheers. The minor characters were also well played by J. C. H. Cook, (Agenor,) T. Olmstead, (Sophron,) G. H. Lawrence, (Phoenix,) A. A. Wheeler, (Cleon,) and others. The farce was so much enjoyed by the actors themselves that the audience caught the infection and laughed, some intermission, from beginning to end. The room was crowded, and many were unable to obtain admittance. The calls before the curtain were very numerous, and the stage was half covered with bouquets. After the tragedy, the Principal made a short speech.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.—The second annual ball of the St. Andrew's Benevolent Society will take place this evening at Platt's Hall.

THE FENIAN SISTERHOOD give a ball in aid of the Irish National Fund, at Union Hall, Howard street, on the evening of the 4th inst.

EUREKA.—Dr. Jordan's famous anatomical collection continues on exhibition day and evening.

REGATTA.—In all the principal Atlantic cities, there is on the Fourth of July, a regatta. In New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and Boston, the authorities appropriate money to be distributed as prizes to the winners in the regatta. In San Francisco, the celebration of the Fourth is dependent upon private subscription, and consequently an appropriation for such a purpose is out of the question. A number of gentlemen, fond of this delightful exercise of boat-racing, have subscribed money for a single scull boat-race, open to all, to take place on the afternoon of the Fourth; the boats to go over the usual course, starting from the foot of Third street, between the hours of 4 and 5, P. M. From the time the procession is dismissed, and the exercises at the theatre concluded, till the time for the fireworks, the people have heretofore had no place to go, publicly, for amusement. Regattas will fill the vacuum admirably. There will come off *certainly*, and there is no charge for witnessing it, as the race-course is visible, the whole length, from the long bridge, foot of Third street. Already five boats have entered, viz: The *Coquette*, *Unknown*, *Fort Hill Boy*, *Amelia*, and the *W. Hoff*. Powers, Jones, Kirby, Duffy, and Huse—some of our best boat pullers—are the contestants, and an exciting struggle may be looked for. Entries can be made at the Boat-race Saloon, on the bridge, at any time previous to the morning of the Fourth. A log-rolling match will also take place immediately after the boat-race. The skillful and amicable contest is between two well known lumbermen. Both men stand on a smooth, round log, in the water, and roll the log with their feet, using every possible means (without actually touching each other) each to roll the other off the log. It is the sport of the Eastern lumbermen, and the present contestants are experts. Somebody *has* to take a swim.

NEW INSURANCE FIRM.—Our advertising columns contain an announcement this morning of the firm of A. D. Smith & Co., Insurance Agents, successors of Bigelow Brothers. Mr. Smith for a long time held the position of Minute Clerk of the Twelfth District Court, in which capacity he gave satisfaction to the Judges, the bar, and the suitors and the Press. As a slight return for his disposition to oblige on all hands, we cannot do less than wish him success in the new occupation.

DIAMOND CARTERS OUTDONE.—Our exchanges speak of the extravagance prevailing in Paris and New York, as evidenced by the wearing of diamond garters by the fair sex, but we are assured that California leads Paris. There is a rich bachelor in Nevada county who has pillow-cases trimmed with Valenciennes lace and buttoned by diamond studs. He wears gold garters himself, and yet is afraid of extravagance! His bedroom is furnished with princely luxuriousness.

—Thomas B. Leighton, a man of wealth, who died at the Isle of Shoals, near Portsmouth, N. H., a few days ago, desired to have no religious rites performed at his funeral, and requested his friends to bury him in his own garden, on Smuttynose Island, between two granite rocks, on one of which he wanted his initials cut. He was formerly a prominent Democratic politician in New Hampshire, but had lived for many years on a small island, in the Shoals group, refusing even to visit the main land, lest the boat might shake his nerves.

—On the 19th ult. four boys started out into the lake at Chicago, in an open yawl boat, for the purpose of visiting the crib. When about half the distance a frightful storm began blowing off the shore, which drove the frail craft and its navigators before it. Since then, though several tugs went out and remained out during Sunday night, nothing has been heard of the lads.

—Samuel Downing, of Edinburgh, Saratoga county, is said to be the last of the Revolutionary soldiers belonging to New York. He was a private in the Second New Hampshire, and served in the army under Generals Schuyler and Yates against General Burgoyne. The only other survivor of the Revolution on the pension roll is James Barham, of Missouri.

—The weekly returns of the Bank of England see the most extraordinary ever issued. The Bank increased its private advances in one week over ten millions sterling, and still did not avail itself of the liberty given to extend its charter.

BY STATE TELEGRAPH.

NO EASTERN NEWS.

SALT LAKE, July 1st.—We have no communication with the East, and will have no report tonight. AGT. TEL. CO.

LOSSING'S HISTORY OF THE WAR.

We have received from A. Roman & Co., agents for California, a copy of a "Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States of America, by Benson J. Lossing." Illustrated by many hundred engravings. Volume 1. Philadelphia: G. W. Childs, 1866." This is a book that has attracted much attention, and has been received with general commendation. It is later in date, larger in size, fuller in material, and more lively in its style of composition than any of the other histories of the war. The fact that the first volume of 608 octavo pages brings us down only to the battle of Bull's Run, gives some idea of the extent that the completed work is to have. The book cannot be classed as a philosophical history, and the author says in his preface: "Back for it no longer consideration than that of a faithful chronicle, having the form of history and aspiring to perform its highest duty, namely, to inspire mankind with a love of justice and a hatred of its opposite, and of everything that impedes the onward and upward march of humanity." In this aspiration he has succeeded, presenting a very entertaining and a very instructive record of the principal events of the war, and so arranging and explaining his facts that the reader gets a clear idea, not only of the important occurrences in each State, but of their connection with, and influence upon, other occurrences elsewhere. Gentlemen who have had occasion to critically examine the books as to questions of fact say it is written with remarkable accuracy. The engravings are very numerous, well executed, and of a character to add interest to the text. The following extract may serve to show the style in the narrative portions of the book:

"The capture of the United States Arsenal at St. Louis, with its large supplies of munitions of war, and the holding of the city of St. Louis, the metropolis of the Mississippi Valley, formed a capital feature in the plan of the conspirators. Already an unguarded Arsenal at Liberty, in Clay county, had been seized and garrisoned by the secessionists, under the direction of the Governor, and its contents distributed among the disloyal inhabitants of that region capable of bearing arms. The Arsenal at St. Louis could not be so easily taken. It was guarded by a garrison of between four and five hundred regular troops, under Captain Nathaniel Lyon, one of the bravest and best men in the army, who had lately been appointed commandant of the post, in place of Major Bell, who was unable to work or be thrown up for the protection of this important depository of arms.

"Two weeks before the president's call for troops, the secessionists of St. Louis held secret meetings in the Rethold Mansion, belonging to one of the leading French families, at which plans and means were drilled in the use of firearms, and were so bold as to fling out a secession flag during a portion of the sittings of the political events, and were furnished with State arms; and many of them there received commissions from the Governor, and were secretly sworn in to support the cause of the State. They were closely watched from the beginning by a few vigilant Unionists, who met in secret in the law office of Messrs. Blair & Dick. Brigadier Lyon frequently met them in consultation; and when it was evident that the secessionists were preparing to seize the Arsenal and hoist the flag of the first Washington Hall and then Turners' Hall (both belonging to the Germans) placed for rendezvous of the Union men, and drill them in secret (mostly Germans) were formed into military companies, drilled in the use of firearms, and thus were prepared to meet the traitors at any time. Finally, on the President's call for troops came, they drilled openly, marched in their ranks, and, with a quick movement, gained the Arsenal, and kept up continual communication with the Arsenal. They succeeded in the secession movement of laws, incendiaries, and miscreants, preparing to make war on Missouri; and it was with the greatest difficulty that they were recognized by the government at Washington. They were finally relieved of much anxiety and embarrassment by an order issued by the President, on the 29th of April, for Captain Lyon to enroll in the military service of the United States the loyal citizens of St. Louis, in number not exceeding ten thousand. This order was procured chiefly through the instrumentality of Colonel (afterwards Major-General) Frank P. Blair, who, within ten days after the date of the President for troops was received, had raised and organized a regiment of Missourians, and assisted in the organization of four others. Within ten days Captain Lyon leaned much on this emergency.

"In the mean time Gen. Wool's timely order to Governor Yates, to send a regiment of infantry to hold the St. Louis Arsenal, had been acted upon. Yates sent Capt. Stokes, of Chicago, on that delicate mission. He found St. Louis alive with excitement, and, after consultation with Capt. Lyon and Colonel Blair, it was determined to place in a large portion of the arms secretly to Illinois. This was done between midnight and daylight on the morning of the 20th April. They were taken to Alton in a steamboat, and from thence to Springfield by railway.

"The Governor and the secessionists of St. Louis were unsuspicious, or at least uninformed, of the removal of so many arms from the Arsenal, and, under orders for their establishment in a place of construction, they prepared to seize it with its valuable contents. The Governor's zealous adviser, General Frost, formed a camp in Lindell's Grove, in the suburbs of St. Louis, on the designated day, and there was collected a considerable force of State troops. He called the place of rendezvous 'Camp Jackson,' in honor of Governor Jackson, and in compliment to the chief civil and military leader of the rebellion, he named two of the principal avenues formed by the tents, 'Davis' and 'Beauregard.' To deceive the people, he kept the National flag waving over this camp of disloyalists.

"Captain Lyon, in the meantime, had been very watchful. Under the orders of the President, of the 30th April, he enrolled a large number of volunteers. These constituted the General Reserve, and some of them, for want of room thereon, were quartered outside of the Arsenal. The Reserve soon brought the Metropolitan Police into action, and they demanded the return of the troops to the Government ground, because the presence of them was a force violating the rights of the sovereign State of Missouri, which had 'exclusive jurisdiction over the military in her territory.' In one sense this was argument, and paid little attention to their folly, but continued his preparations to defend and hold the Arsenal. To make the little force appear more or than it really was, he sent out squads of soldiers in disguise, during the hours of night, while the secessionists slept, with instructions to march to a distant point, and march back to the Arsenal next morning in uniform, with drums beating and flags flying.

"On the morning of the 19th, word came to Capt. Lyon that heavy cannon and mortars, in boxes, marked 'marble,' and shipped in marble cutters, had been landed at St. Louis from the steamer *J. C. Swan*, and taken to Camp Jackson. Reports concerning the matter were contradictory, and the commander resolved to make a personal reconnoissance in disguise. Accompanied by a man whom he was closely veiled, he rode in a carriage up to and around the camp unsuspected, and was convinced that the boxes of marble contained cannon. Fired. That had become uneasy, and on the morning of the 10th he wrote to Lyon, saying that he was convinced of the real intention of the traitors, and that the time for the rescue of the Arsenal was at hand. The strong case was contemplated, because of the impression that had gone abroad that he was about to attack the Arsenal. Men, with the cloak of hypocrisy, he solemnly declared that he had no hostile designs against the property of the United States or its representatives, and that he had never such hostility had never been entertained by him nor any one else in the State. He was acting, he said, only in accordance with his constitutional duties. In support of his assertion he pointed to the fact, that he had offered the services of the troops under his command for the protection of the public property. He desired to know 'personally' from Capt. Lyon whether the rumor of his attack on Camp Jackson was true.

"Lyon refused to receive Frost's note, but the traitor was answered by the vile calumny circulated 'personally' that day, in a way to silence all further inquiries. Early in the afternoon, Lyon, by a quick movement, surrounded the camp, with about six thousand troops and heavy cannon, so placed as to command the entire grove. Guards were so placed as to prevent egress and ingress, and between the town and the camp. Then Lyon sent a note to Frost, demanding an immediate surrender of them and munitions of the camp. The traitor demand, and giving him only thirty minutes for deliberation.

"In the meantime, information of this movement had spread over the town. Rumors of an attack on Camp Jackson had been exciting the people for two days, and now a portion of the population, who sympathized with the rebellion, were in a state of frenzy, and, armed with whatever weapon they could find—rifles, pistols, knives, clubs, etc., hurried toward Lindell's Grove to assist the State troops. They found the south side of the camp open, and manned their cannon, and joined their friends. They were too late. Frost perceived by the arrival of reinforcements to his camp that resistance with his twelve hundred militia would be useless, and he surrendered before the half hour allowed by the commander had expired.

"With his men Frost surrendered twenty cannon, twelve hundred new rifles, several chests of muskets, and large quantities of ammunition. The most of these materials of war had been stolen from the Arsenal at Baton Rouge.

"Lyon offered to release the State troops, who were now prisoners, on condition of their taking an oath of allegiance to the National Government, and promising not to take up arms against it. Nearly all of them declined the offer, and toward sunset they were marched out of the camp between two regiments (Blair's and Boyle's) of Union troops, by the excited crowd, who yelled and cursed like madmen, as they were. They huzzaed for Jefferson Davis and the Southern Confederacy, and waved their handkerchiefs in token of friendship for the prisoners; and upon the German Unionists in the ranks the most insulting epithets were poured out. At length, just as the last of the prisoners and guard were leaving the camp, some of the rabble in the grove fired, and a German sausage-stein's command, fired upon the rear of the attack in kind. More than twenty of the rebels were wounded, including some women and children, some of them mortally. Lyon instantly ordered the firing to cease, and with his staff and officers in hand were conveyed to the Arsenal. Many had escaped.

"The night of the 10th was a fearful one in St. Louis. The secessionists were determined on revenge. They gathered in excited throngs in the streets, and were alternately listening to inflammatory speeches, and quieted by judicious harangues by distinguished citizens. They marched in procession with significant banners and drums, and gun-store and seized some of the arms in it; and all the night long the air was resonant with the shouts of an excited multitude. The morning came, through the exertion of the Mayor and police, the populace dispersed to their homes, with hearts filled with deep-seated hatred of the Union people, especially of the Germans, who formed a greater portion of the 'Home Guard.' This hatred was violently exhibited the evening of the 21st of April, when some of these troops were entering the town from the Arsenal. A great crowd had gathered on the Olive street and Pine street, and on Third and at the corner of Fifth and Walnut streets, a boy in the crowd fired a pistol at the soldiers. Their rear line turned and fired into the crowd, and then the column was broken, and bullets from their guns flew thick among the people on the sidewalks, and in the streets. Several were killed and wounded, and a number of the soldiers themselves suffered from the wild firing of their exasperated comrades. Mayor Taylor and a heavy police force soon appeared, and quiet was restored.

"General William S. Harney, of the National Army had arrived at St. Louis from the East during the excitement, and on the 12th, he resumed the command of the Department of the West, of which he was then head. The hot indignation of the populace was smothered, and, with one or two exceptions, the city of St. Louis (which remained under Union control) was spared from other scenes of bloodshed during the war. When all the facts became known, the conduct of Captain Lyon was approved by his Government, and by the loyal people of the country. By his promptness and skill, and with the assistance of loyal and zealous men, he saved the Arsenal and the city of St. Louis from the grasp of the conspirators, and so consolidated and encouraged the Union sentiment of the Commonwealth that Missouri was saved from the disgrace of being rightfully called a 'seceded State.'"

—The Department of State learns from the United States Minister at Paris that if naturalized citizens of the United States liable to conscription in France but for their naturalization, will go at once upon their arrival in France and report themselves at the district in which their names are enrolled, produce their evidences of naturalization as citizens of the United States, and ask to have their names erased from the conscription list, they will probably be relieved from all difficulties or apprehensions in this regard.

—The anniversary of the Sunday Schools in Brooklyn took place on the 22d of May. Twenty thousand children were in procession, and presented a very fine appearance. The Rev. Mr. Beecher was visited, serenaded, and deluged with flowers. Altogether, the exercises were a grand and gratifying success. The Sunday Schools of Williamsburg had a celebration on the 23d, with a procession numbering about 10,500 persons.

—Many people have forgotten that there is at Prague a still living ex-Emperor of Austria, the nonogenarian Ferdinand, who abdicated in favor of the reigning Kaiser. The pacific abode of that venerable personage being likely to become the theatre of active hostilities, his removal from that city is provided for, and preparations are in progress for his transfer elsewhere.

STATE CORRESPONDENCE.

SUMMER SOJOURNINGS.—No. 1.

(By a Lady Correspondent of the ALTA CALIFORNIA.)

GILROY, June 28th, 1866.

EDITORS ALTA:—Reading the articles in your paper of the many different watering places of this State, I became infected with the idea that I could endure the cramping of the city no longer, but must start out in search of the picturesque beauties described by your many pleasant correspondents. Belonging to the "gentler sex," (though like Desdemona, I would exclaim: "Oh! that heaven had made me a man!") and not being possessed of the pedestrian capabilities of the English ladies in general, I thought it best not to search after these beauties as William and Mary Howitt made the tour of Germany, on foot, but with hasty preparation immediately took the cars, 4 o'clock P. M., ordering effects to follow; in short, I was actually embarked and moving at the velocity of twenty-five miles an hour toward the beautiful Valley of Santa Clara, making my grand *entrée* into San José at 6 o'clock P. M.

Santa Clara Valley.

It is a very pleasant season to be in the country: every tree and flower, large and small, seems to have brought its blossoms to perfection; they are literally loaded and bent down with their delicious burthen, hanging in rich luxuriance, weighing them to the ground, and their fragrance imparting a pleasant odor to the air, giving it a peculiar sweetness. Many thanks to the numerous kind friends in that charming valley, who made my visit more than pleasant. From San José I passed on with a party to the

Pacific Congress Springs—The Saratoga of the Pacific.

These Springs are situated in the Coast Range of mountains, eight miles southeast of Santa Clara, and are so shut in by the hills that their existence cannot be detected by the traveller till they burst at once in all their beauty upon him. Here, in such a picturesque spot, with the rocks around and the mountains above, are these Springs, sparkling and flashing in the summer sunlight amid their masses of green. Mountains and rocks, peaks on peaks, rolling in an endless sea of heights along the horizon, combine to render it a scene of indescribable interest. To the left of the Springs rises one immense rock—a mountain in itself. In some ancient convulsion it split at the summit, leaving an enormous crevice, through which flows a pure, cool stream, falling at the foot, lacing the mountain side, and then rushing on to join the Springs. The ready music of the pine trees as the cool breezes steal gently among their dancing leaves. A lovely place to retire to, where nature has spread a thick down hours to moments. To a mind fond of solitude a more perfect little paradise could not be imagined. But the view must be seen to appreciate scenes when the heart longs for sympathy—for companionship. About three-quarters of a mile from the Springs is a fine hotel, with every necessary, not of easy execution. The ray is usually caught at an hour's sailing at least from the coast, and it does not take more than twenty minutes for one to reach it. Owing to its size and shape, it is not easy to keep in a vessel with sea water; nor is it possible to conduct delicate physiological and electrical experiments in a fishing boat; so that for a long time M. Robin's efforts were fruitless. Fortunately the experimental basins now built at Concarneau, under the superintendence of M. Coste, have removed these difficulties. The aquaria at that place are large basins in which the sea water is constantly renewed by the tide, and in which fish may live and multiply under the most advantageous circumstances. Here M. Robin carried on his experiments with a galvanometer and a sufficient number of electroscopic frogs. Sometimes the ray, when out of the water, makes violent muscular efforts, and flaps its pectoral fins.

During these efforts an electric discharge is precisely ever obtained, but after a few seconds' rest, there comes a succession of small discharges. At other times the fish remains quiet for three or four minutes, and then begins as before to make great exertions, during which the galvanometer and the frogs give no sign of electricity, and then comes a short period of rest, when a few discharges are obtained. In some instances, however, after three or four minutes rest, the animal suddenly and voluntarily discharges electricity. Discharges may also be obtained by pricking, pinching, or otherwise exciting the fish. But, under whatever circumstances the phenomenon be produced, it is always accompanied by a slight motion of the ocular globes and a contraction of the bronchial cavity, as also by similar contractions