

THE ARIZONIAN.

Birth-Spot Memories.

BY GEO. D. FRENCH.

Ah, how the silent memories of years
Are stirring in my spirit. I have been
A lone and joyless wanderer. I have roamed
Abroad through other climes, where tropic flowers
Were offering up their incense, and the stars
Swimming like living creatures; I have strayed
Where the softest skies of Italy were hung
In beautiful transparency above,
And glory floating like a lovely dream
O'er the rich landscape; yet dear fancy still,
Mid all the ruder glow of brighter realms,
Of turned to picture the remembered home,
That blest its earliest day-dreams. Must I go
Forth in the world again? I've proved its joys,
Till joy was turned to bitterness—I've felt
Its sorrows till I thought my heart would burst
With the fierce rush of tears! The sorrowing babe
Clings to its mother breast. The bleeding dove
Flies to her native vale, and nestles there.
To die amid the quiet grove, where first
She tried her tender pinion. I could love
Thus to repose amid these peaceful scenes
To memory dear. Oh, it were passing sweet
To rest forever on this lovely spot,
Where passed my days of innocence—to dream
Of the pure stream of infant happiness
Sunk in life's wild and burning sands—to dwell
On visions faded, till my broken heart
Should cease to throb—to purify my soul
With high and holy musings—and to lift
Its aspirations to the central home
Of love and peace and holiness in heaven.

THE WIND A MUSICIAN.—The wind is a musician at birth. We extend a silken thread in the crevice of a window, and the wind finds it and sings over it, and goes up and down the scale upon it, and poor Paganini must go somewhere else for his honor, for lo! the wind is performing with a single string!

It tries almost everything upon earth to see if there is music in it: it persuades a tone out of the great bell in the tower, when the sexton is at home and asleep; it makes a mournful harp of the giant pines, and it does not disdain to try what sort of a whistle can be made of the humblest chimney in the world. How it will play upon a great tree, till every leaf thrills with the note in it, and the wind up the river that runs at its base, for a sort of murmuring accompaniment.

And what a melody it sings when it gives a concert with the full choir of the waves of the sea, and performs an anthem between the two worlds, that goes up, perhaps, to the stars that love music most and sing it the first.

Then how fondly it haunts old houses; morning under the eaves, sighing in the halls, opening old doors without fingers, and singing a measure of some sad old song, around the fireless and deserted hearth.

Two centuries ago, not one in one hundred were stockings. Fifty years ago, not a boy in a thousand was allowed to run at large at night. Fifty years ago, not one girl in a thousand made a waiting-maid of her mother. Wonderful improvements in this wonderful age.

Spit in Your Hand and Try Again.

Such has been the encouraging advice given to many a man who has failed in some attempt, his utterance calls up images of the log cabin in the clearing, with the sturdy pioneer chopping away at some giant of the forest, and stopping to "spit in his hand" previous to taking a few more vigorous strokes. The phrase recalls a story we once heard of one of the early settlers of Cleveland. So accustomed had he become to the axe, and to the little peculiarities connected with its constant use, that he commenced every task as if about to fell a mighty tree. Whether it were to roll a log or write a letter, (a task not often undertaken,) he always spit in his hand before grasping the lever or chattering the old worn goose-quill. Time passed, and our hero fell in love and "made up" to a buxom lass. Whether his first osculation was prefaced by the usual expectation, we cannot say, but in course of time the eventual question was "popped," answered in the affirmative and the day fixed. A friend offered to wager a dollar with the happy bridegroom, on the eventful morning, that he would spit in his hand, previous to taking that of the bride. The wager was judiciously taken. The happy pair drew up before the altar. The ceremony proceeded. The bridegroom kept grim watch over himself, and thought of the dollar at stake. At last the important moment arrived, and the "squire ordered" the bride room to take the hand of the bride, so that the "rain might be made indissolubly one flesh." In the hurry and the excitement of the awful moment, the bridegroom forgot everything, but the terrible blow he was about to give to all his bachelor habits, and as preparatory to the stroke, he of course—spit in his hand! As quick as lightning, the consequences flashed upon his mind, and, turning to his betting supporter, he gravely whispered: "I'll owe you that dollar!"

Whether the remembrance of that dollar tended to break up his habit, deponent sayeth not.

THE MILKY WAY.—This well-known phenomenon is a great luminous band which stretches every evening all across the sky. At one part it sends off a kind of branch which again unites with the main body, after remaining distant for about 150°. This remarkable belt has, from the earliest ages of which we have any record, maintained the same place among the stars; and when examined through a powerful telescope it is found to be composed of myriads of glittering stars, scattered in groups of millions, like glistening dust, on the black ground of the general heavens. Sir William Herschel has divided it into a number of nebulous systems, or separate clusters of stars, and has described their appearances and shapes: but, as yet, it is to us but the shadowy outline of another branch of astronomical research which will require more powerful instruments and more human genius than is now at command for its exploration. The same authority above referred to thinks that the phenomena of the milky way agree with the supposition that the stars of our firmament, instead of being scattered in all directions indifferently through space, form a stratum, of which the thickness is small in comparison with its length and breadth, and in which the earth occupies a place somewhere about the middle of its thickness.

Sneezing.

What a moment, what a doubt!
All my nose is inside out—
All my thrilling, tickling exustic
Pyramid rhinocrotic,
Wants to sneeze and cannot do it.
How it yearns me, thrills me, stings me,
How with rapturous torment fills me;
Now says, 'sneeze, you fool—get thro' it,'
Shee—shee—oh, 'tis most del-lish—
Ish—ish—most del-lish—
(Hang it, I shall sneeze till Spring.)
Snuff is a delicious thing.

Table of Distances.

For the benefit of travelers, we give the following table of distances between the stations on the Overland Mail Route from San Francisco to St. Louis, via Arizona:

San Francisco to Clark's 12, Sun Water 9; Redwood City 9, Mountain View, 12, San Jose 14, Seventeen Mile House 17, Gilroy 13, Paoloco Pass 18, St. Louis Rancho 17, Lone Willow 18, Temple Ranch 18, Firebaugh's Ferry 15, Fresno City 19, Elk Horn Spring 22, Whitmore's Ferry 17, Cross Creek 12, Visalia 12, Packwood 12, Tule River 14, Fountain Spring 14, Mountain House 12, Posey Creek 15, Gordon's Ferry 10, Kern River Slough 12, Sick of Tejon 14, Fort Tejon 15, Reed's 8, French John's 14, Widow Smith's 24, King's 10, Hart's 12, San Fernando Mission 8, Canuengo 12, Los Angeles 12, Total 462 miles; time 80 hours.

Los Angeles to Monte 13, San Jose 12, Rancho del Chino 12, Tomascal 20, Laguna Grande 10, Temecula 21, Tejano 14, Oak Grove 12, Warner's Ranch 19, San Felipe 10, Vallecito 18, Palm Spring 9, Carriso Creek 9, Indian Wells (without water) 32, Alamo Mucho (without water) Cook's Wells (without water) 22, Pilot Knob 18, Fort Yuma, 10, Total, 282 miles; time, 72 hours and 20 minutes.

Fort Yuma to Swiveler's 20, Ellibuster Camp 18, Peterman's 10, Griswell's 12, Flap Jack Rancho 15, Quaman Flat 20, Murderer's Grave 20, Gila Rancho 17, Maricopa Wells 40, Socaton 22, Picachio 37, Pointer Mountain 22, Tucson 18. Total 280 miles; time 71 hours 45 minutes.

Tucson to the Cienega 35, San Pedro (without water) 24, Dragon Springs (without water) 23, Apache Pass (without water) 40, Steen's Peak (without water) 33, Soldier's Farewell (without water) 42, Ojo de Vaca 14, Mimbres River 16, Cook's Spring 18, Picachio (without water) 52, Fort Fillmore 14, Cottonwoods 25, Franklin 22. Total 300 miles; time 82 hours.

Franklin to Waco Tanks 20, Canodrus 36, Pinery (without water) 56, Delaware Springs 24, Pope's Camp 40, Emigrant Crossing 65, Horsehead Crossing 55, Head of Concho (without water) 70, Grape Creek 22, Fort Chadbourne 30. Total, 425 miles; time, 128 hours 40 minutes.

Fort Chadbourne to Station No. 1, 12, Mountain Pass 16, Phantom Hill 30, Smith's 12, Clear Fork 26, Francis's 13, Fort Belknap 22, Murphy's 16, Jackboro's 19, Earhart's 16, Conolly's 16, Davidson's 24, Gainesville 17, Diamond's 15, Sherman's 15, Colbert's Ferry (Red River) 13½. Total, 282½ miles; time 65 hours 25 minutes.

Colbert's to Fisher's 13, Wallis 14, Boggy Depot 17, Gary's 17, Waddell's 15, Blackburn's 16, Pusley's 17, Riddell's 17, Holloway's 17, Truxton's 17, Walker's 17, Fort Smith 15. Total 192 miles; time 58 hours.

Fort Smith to Woolsey's 16, Brodie's 12, Park's 20, Fayetteville 14, —'s Station 12, Callahan's 22, Hachern's 19, Couch's 16, Smith's 13, Ashmore 20, Springfield 13, Evans's 9½, Smith's 11, Bolivar 11, Yost's 16, Bailey's 10, Warsaw 11, Byrns's 10, Mulholland's 20, Shaekelford's 13, Tipton 7. Total, 318½ miles; time, 48 hours 55 minutes.

Tipton to St. Louis, 160 miles; time, 11 hours and 40 minutes.

RECAPITULATION.

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| From San Francisco to Los Angeles, 462 miles. |
| Los Angeles to Fort Yuma, 282 " |
| Fort Yuma to Tucson, 280 " |
| Tucson to Franklin (El Paso), 300 " |
| Franklin to Ft. Chadbourne, 428 " |
| Ft. Chadbourne to Red River, 282½ " |
| Red River to Fort Smith, 192 " |
| Fort Smith to Tipton, 318½ " |
| Tipton to St. Louis, 160 " |

Total, 2,766

Total time, 25 days. Time from Tubac to San Francisco, 11 days; to St. Louis, 16 days.

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|-------------------------------------|-------|
| San Antonio to San Diego, | \$200 |
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| " " El Paso, | 100 |

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