

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The August Meteors. A very ancient tradition prevails in the mountain districts which surround Mount Pelion, that on the night of the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) the heavens are open, and lights, such as those which surround the altar during the solemn festivals of the Greek Church, appear in the midst of the opening. It has been thought by Quetelet, and Humboldt considered the origin probable, that this tradition had its origin in the meteoric showers which have been well marked displays of the August meteors. It is to be so, the date of the shower has slowly shifted—as that of the November shower is known to have done—until now another holiday is associated with it, the simple peasants of Southern Europe recognize the simple legends of August the "tears of good St. Lawrence the Martyr."

The spectroscope has taught us something of the constitution of these bodies, though they never reach the limit of the simple spectrum of the conversion and history brought them up, that General Grant himself either dictated or wrote sentences and papers which, for picturesque terseness and vigor, have since become historic. Among such phrases was that of Fort Donelson—"I propose to move immediately upon your works;" the order of congratulation after Shiloh; the famous congratulatory order after Mission Ridge; the direction to Sheridan to make the Shenandoah Valley "so bare that a crow flying over it would have to carry his own rations."

The Chicago Republican of the 20th says:—We have received a brief note from Major Powell, dated Mouth of Virgin River, August 30, announcing the safe arrival of his expedition at that point. Virgin river is at the head of navigation on the Colorado, and the exploration, therefore, of the dangerous succession of that river may be considered as successful. In a few days we hope to receive from Major Powell the full report he promises of his adventures and observations.

The Omaha Republican has the following:—Samuel Adams, Esq., a gentleman who has been for the last four years in the service of the War Department, engaged in exploring the Colorado river and the unexplored region of country lying West of the Rocky Mountain range contiguous to that river, arrived in this city yesterday on his way to Washington, where he will submit to the Secretary of War an official report of his explorations and discoveries. Mr. Adams has furnished the following synopsis of his forthcoming report:—

At your request, I give you a few hasty facts respecting the individual exploring enterprise with which I have been connected for the last four years, having for its object the exploration of the Colorado river and its tributaries. This river and the almost unknown country through which it winds its way from the rocky mountains to the Gulf of California has been so much misrepresented by professional letter-writers and a more recent explorer, who has expended nothing individually and incurred none of the hardships inseparably connected with the development of the (terra incognita) West. The public, in consequence, have been much deceived, and very great injustice has been done to the mineral and agricultural resources of a neglected section of territory, which must soon attract the attention of the Government.

Personal Reminiscences of the Late Secretary of War. A Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette gives the following personal reminiscences of the late Secretary Rawlins:—There are but few anecdotes current about Rawlins, and most of them relate to the quiet energy and persistence with which he pursued his duties. A friend who commanded a gunboat in Porter's fleet before Vicksburg tells me of finding Rawlins so constantly at his desk or other duties as to make one wonder when he found time necessary for sleep. Another officer who served on the staff there declares that he was on duty for 24 hours in his labor. He was a man of unbending will. It is affirmed that at Cairo, soon after on-

tering the service, there was a good deal too much carelessness manifested in the matter of drinking, which, it became evident, might impair the usefulness of men so renowned. Rawlins at once, as a matter of example to others, became a total abstainer, and so abided until his death. He was especially careful to give no countenance to the idea that Grant was, in any manner, other than for the legitimate counsel, etc., he was entitled to offer, unduly indebted to John A. Rawlins for any portion of the fame which was due to him. I remember having, last summer, when brought into contact with the Chief of Staff while engaged in the preparation of some political documents which involved the examination of portions of General Grant's earlier orders and official correspondence, and how careful General Rawlins was to point out, here and there, as lines of demarcation between the military and political, that General Grant himself either dictated or wrote sentences and papers which, for picturesque terseness and vigor, have since become historic.

The Return of Colonel Powell.—The Reported Return of Colonel Powell. The Chicago Republican of the 20th says:—We have received a brief note from Major Powell, dated Mouth of Virgin River, August 30, announcing the safe arrival of his expedition at that point. Virgin river is at the head of navigation on the Colorado, and the exploration, therefore, of the dangerous succession of that river may be considered as successful. In a few days we hope to receive from Major Powell the full report he promises of his adventures and observations.

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THE COLORADO. Exploration of the Canyons—A Governmental Report. The Omaha Republican has the following:—Samuel Adams, Esq., a gentleman who has been for the last four years in the service of the War Department, engaged in exploring the Colorado river and the unexplored region of country lying West of the Rocky Mountain range contiguous to that river, arrived in this city yesterday on his way to Washington, where he will submit to the Secretary of War an official report of his explorations and discoveries.

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AUCTION SALES. M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 M. S. FOURTH STREET. Sale of 2000 Cases Boots, Shoes, etc. on Tuesday Morning, at 10 o'clock, at No. 141 South Second Street, corner of Pine, by catalogue, the entire household furniture, comprising walnut parlor furniture, French plate painted mirrors, pier mirror, dining-room furniture, china, cut glass, silver, and plated ware; walnut and mahogany chamber furniture, bed mattresses, feather beds, blankets and bedding, fine velvet, turgan, and Venetian carpets; kitchen furniture, etc. 9 24

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