

THE WATER GOD STILL IN HONOR.

Continuous Pour of His Blessings Over the Earth.

ALL CROPS BENEFITED.

Many Rivers Rising and Anxiety Is Felt in Railway Quarters.

THE YOLO BASIN IS FLOODED.

Confidence Expressed by the Railway Managers About Keeping Traffic Open.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Jan. 19.—In many a home in this city to-night there are anxious watchers to whose eyes no sleep will come until they are assured that their loved ones have safely arrived at the end of their allotted night's run.

Rivers, creeks and sloughs are high and rising. The continuance of the storm has aroused increased anxiety among railroad officials at this place, and they are using every possible precaution to insure the continuance of traffic facilities.

Every train which passes over the hill division to-night will be preceded by relays of trackwalkers, to insure safety. As far as Sacramento itself is concerned there is absolutely no danger from flood this winter, as the old breaks in the levee, which have never been repaired, will carry all the surplus water into the great Yolo basin at Butcher's break, situated twelve miles up the river on the Yolo side.

The levee along the city's water front has been raised three feet this winter, and even if the American River should get into one of its tantrums and send down a sea of water, the levees opposite the city would overflow long before the water could reach within two feet of the top of Sacramento's levees.

The local railroad authorities express themselves as confident that they can keep traffic moving, and claim that, although there may be some stoppages of trains, they will be brief.

BEDDING AGAIN LIGHTED.

REDDING, CAL., Jan. 19.—Another rain and wind storm broke over this city to-night, and from reports from over the county the storm is general. The river, creeks and small streams, which had been running bank full from the terrific rain of the past few days, and which had begun to fall to-day on account of the cessation of the storm yesterday, are again rising rapidly. Rain is now falling in torrents and the wind is blowing almost a gale.

The rain has been a great boon to the miners, and just as soon as the storm ends mining operations throughout the county will be resumed with vigor. The storm is impeding building progress in this city. Many new brick buildings are in course of construction, and work will necessarily be delayed.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVERS RISING.

STOCKTON, CAL., Jan. 19.—There has been a steady downpour of rain throughout the valley for six hours, and all of the streams have risen above the high-water mark. The Mokelumne River has risen thirteen feet within the past twenty-four hours, and at the Woodbridge dam the water is pouring over the spillway to a depth of three feet. Miner's channel, running through this city from east to west, has changed from a ditch to a river and Mormon channel is rapidly filling with water from the upper country.

Book to the Lompoc Valley.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., Jan. 19.—The present rains have been very welcome to all, but more especially to the dairymen of the Lompoc region, whose stock have suffered because of the dryness and the consequent lack of water. Had the drought lasted three weeks longer hundreds of cattle would have left their bones bleaching on the plains.

Rejoicing at Fresno.

FRESNO, CAL., Jan. 19.—A gentle rain began falling here at 8 o'clock, with prospects of continuing throughout the night. This is a most welcome event, as the drought has been so long and the crops are so parched.

Downfall at San Jose.

SAN JOSE, CAL., Jan. 19.—The rainfall for twenty-four hours, ending at 12 o'clock last night, was .39 of an inch, making a total of 2.93 inches for the storm. The rainfall for the season to date is 5.94 inches. Up to the same date last year 16.17 inches had fallen.

DEATH OF AN AUBURN MAN.

AUBURN, CAL., Jan. 19.—Doc Shurtleff, one of the best known mining characters hereabouts, died in Sacramento yesterday.

terday. Although he had taken out over \$100,000 from the Ophir mines near Auburn during the past twenty years, he died without a dollar.

He was a phenomenal gold-hunter, and after spending the fortune he had taken out of one hole in the ground he would not be long in finding another.

QUEER TRAMP AT PHOENIX.

He Is Educated and Took to the Road From Choice.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., Jan. 19.—George William Harris, after serving a sixty-day sentence for vagrancy, was released from jail here to-day. He is probably the most unique character that was ever incarcerated here, as he frankly admits his good family, education and early advantages.

He said, however, that he determined to become a tramp several years ago and has been one ever since.

He arrived at this determination because, he said, fate is against him. When he left, he placed in the hands of Jaior Boyle a perfect representation of a twenty-page newspaper fully illustrated and containing all the regular departments, all of which were done with an ordinary pen and the work is very fine. He is the same man who did something similar in the Oakland jail several years ago. He says he is acquainted with all the jails of the country.

SEATTLE LUMBER CONTRACT.

Port Blakeley Mills Engage for Three Hundred Million Feet of Logs.

SEATTLE, WASH., Jan. 19.—Last Saturday Sol Simpson, of this city, entered into a contract to cut and deliver to the Port Blakeley Mill Company eight hundred million feet of logs, constituting what the local loggers say is the biggest deal of the kind ever made.

By the terms of the contract the delivery extends over a period of ten years. The logs are to be selected principally from timber standing between Olympia and Grays Harbor. During the building of their road the Northern Pacific Company gave a single contract for nine million feet of logs, and that at that time was considered a mammoth timber transaction.

MILL VALLEY SONG BIRDS.

A Movement on Foot to Import Several Species From England.

Differences Between the American and Foreign Thrush, Blackbird and Skylark.

MILL VALLEY, CAL., Jan. 18.—Some gentlemen, noticing the absence of song birds in Mill Valley and yearning for the sweet music of the feathered songsters of their native land, have long been wishing to start a concerted movement and import some songsters from Europe.

Louis L. James, secretary of the Tamalpais Land and Water Company, and, therefore, a representative of the paternal local government, was approached, and he at once advised that the Mill Valley Improvement Club be communicated with upon the subject. Some influential gentlemen called upon Secretary Thomas Fottrell and laid the matter before him.

Judge Fottrell said: I think the idea a good one and will give you every assistance in my power regarding what the club may do in the matter. You have mentioned the blackbird, thrush and skylark. These would be excellent species of birds to import, and would thrive well in Mill Valley. The Irish blackbird must not be confounded with the American species. The Turdus merula, the blackbird of the British isles, is somewhat similar in shape and color to the Oriolus penicillatus or red-winged blackbird of America.

The skylark, known as the Alauda avis, when in song, keeps mounting, and sings as he flies. He must not be confounded with your much larger meadowlark, or Alauda magna. He is not a perching bird, but lives and builds his nest upon the ground.

The thrush is a detestable singing bird, but in color, and is known in science as the Merula musca. His song is loud, and he has many notes similar to the mockingbird of this country. He would do well here. He builds his nest, generally, in a tree near a running stream.

It would like to have the Irish breed of these birds in preference to that of other parts of the British isles. The Limerick thrush, like the Limerick girl, is famous for its fulsome and noisy notes. The Wicklow skylark inspired Moore to sing in verse, as did his English brother suggest the song of Shelley.

SHOULD AT MARYSVILLE.

My Lord and Lady Are Starring the State With Their Company.

The Favorite Son of Queensberry Denies That He Has Been Disinherited.

MARYSVILLE, CAL., Jan. 19.—Lord Sholto Douglas, the youthful husband of the sprightly little dame who was formerly Loretta Addis, was in Marysville yesterday with his theatrical company. He says the cablegram from London announcing that his father had cut off his annual allowance of \$1500 is an invention pure and simple.

"My father knows I am married to a California actress, and he is not trying to control my actions at all. He does not care. I am not worrying," interposed Lady Douglas, who was present, "we'll fix him. We'll take a trip to London and organize a company and both go on the stage there, using our titles just as we do here. That will bring him around. We do this because we think he 'has no kick coming.' My name and title in English society's blue book? Why not? I'm his wife, and he will certainly recognize me."

His lordship, Lady Douglas and their company left for Oroville by stage, a distance of thirty-two miles, in a petting train this afternoon. They play there tomorrow night and floods having cut off railroad connection this was the only way to make the trip.

PLUCKY CHICAGO DRUMMER.

Attacked by a Highwayman at Phoenix, He Turns the Tables.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., Jan. 19.—An attempt was made here last night to rob W. S. Cox, a Chicago drummer.

Mr. Cox had spent the evening at the Maricopa Club and started for his hotel about 4 o'clock. As he got away from the center of the city and when near the corner of Fourth and Van Buren streets, the highwayman stepped out and ordered him to throw up his hands.

Not less noticeable than his peculiarities of manner and living was his appearance. His face much resembled that of Edwin Booth, a fact of which he was proud. It was strong, expressive and intellectual. His hair was always worn long and he never touched it with brush or comb. He always dressed his long dark locks by running his fingers through them from his forehead backward. His physique was striking and his manner somewhat tragic.

PASSED AWAY AT PASO ROBLES.

Death of Dr. Somerset Robinson, a Retired Officer of the Navy.

A REMARKABLE MAN.

Became a Spiritualist During the Declining Years of His Life.

ONCE HE WAS ALMOST STARVED.

But the Surgeon Made a Good Record While in the Service of the Nation.

PASO ROBLES, CAL., Jan. 19.—Dr. Somerset Robinson, U. S. N. (retired), died at his residence here to-day. He had been in poor health for a long time and the end was not unexpected. No man in this section of the State was better known than Dr. Robinson. He was unmarried and just 60 years of age. He was a native of Maryland and entered the navy in 1861. He served with distinction during the Civil War, most of the time being attached to the gulf squadron. In 1881 he was fleet surgeon of the North Atlantic squadron, and from 1884 to 1886 was in charge of the Naval Hospital at Mare Island. He was retired in 1887 and soon afterward located in this village, where he has since resided.

While one of the most eccentric characters in the State, he always displayed qualities which won for him the respect and love of his fellows, and his gentleness of nature, generosity and hospitality were proverbial.

Before his retirement he was afflicted with rheumatic gout, and as inheritances and lucky investments in Washington real estate provided him with plenty of means he traveled extensively for relief, visiting famous doctors and famous springs. He journeyed on his quest for health until he found his first considerable relief in the hot springs in Paso Robles, and he decided to spend here the rest of his life. With this end in view he set about surrounding himself with all the comforts and luxuries that his tastes craved.

Securing fifteen acres of land on a steep hill not far back of the Hotel de Paso Robles he lavished money in its adornment. He built a large brick house of Southern type, with wide verandas encircling each story. A highway ran through his grounds, and the smaller portion across from his house he made a garden of wonderful beauty, with flowers, shrubs and trees arranged with much taste for landscape effects, but never trimmed, for he believed that a tree was most beautiful when it grew as God made it grow. In these ornamental grounds he placed a large pond, which was stocked with goldfish and water-lilies, and under the roadway he built an expensive tunnel for a private passageway.

About his house were many flowers and ornamental trees, and up the hill to the rear his grounds became vineyards and orchards, full of variety, in which he took much pride. Though his life had been largely passed on salt water, he had in his garden a board many a ship acquired wisdom about chickens, fruit-raising, the most scientific ways of draining wet land, etc. Perhaps he was born for a pastoral life, and that streak in his nature asserted itself when he indulged in fancies; but at any rate the man whose active life had been devoted to doctoring marines and Jack tars could give pointers to San Luis Obispo farmers when he went to Paso Robles. So it was an expert that superintended the fifteen acres of flowers and fruits.

His residence he furnished with simple elegance, but he made it, too, his own ideal of comfort. His library was large, and in his grounds were all sorts of summer houses fashioned to filter every harshness from the sun and wind and to afford every means of extracting enjoyment that the hours could bring there. Few people would build a summer house up in a live oak tree, but that was what Dr. Robinson did, and he didn't care whether anybody laughed or not.

By day the Robinson place was always a gem of striking beauty seen from the town below, but at night it was still more noticeable. The big house was filled with incandescent lights, while outside and on a tower rising above the roof arc lights with colored globes were placed. These always burned brightly far into the night, and one of the doctor's peculiarities was to always leave his doors wide open at night through some strange notion that was nobody's business; the house always suggested to a stranger at midnight that some great social event must be going on there. Many a patient, sleeping in the small hours in the hotel below, has watched the weird radiance up on the hill and gone to sleep to let strange nightmares come.

In that place of beauty Dr. Robinson lived the life of his choosing for nine years, and there he indulged every wish that could be indulged up to the time when his health gave way. His household and his assistance and service about his home and place were furnished by two elderly men. No woman ever set foot on his property if he could help it. He had for many years showed an intense dislike for the society of females, and would always avoid meeting ladies that he well knew if he could do so. The reasons of his being a woman-hater are not generally known, and that has been accounted merely one of his peculiarities.

But though no ties of friendship rooted him to the hearth, and though woman's presence was unwelcome, Robinson was no recluse. When in health he went to the postoffice downtown daily, and generally welcomed strangers with a warm hospitality. When his naval or other friends came to see him his hospitality was princely, and his checkbook was always at their disposal. He liked to go to Mare Island frequently, and when there would visit a friend who is a butcher and with whom he liked to discuss the best and most scientific ways of killing cattle and such practical questions.

Not less noticeable than his peculiarities of manner and living was his appearance. His face much resembled that of Edwin Booth, a fact of which he was proud. It was strong, expressive and intellectual. His hair was always worn long and he never touched it with brush or comb. He always dressed his long dark locks by running his fingers through them from his forehead backward. His physique was striking and his manner somewhat tragic.

His hat was invariably a stovepipe, generally tilted back. When in the service he suffered much discomfort when compelled by naval regulations to attend some function that required full-dress uniform, with brass buttons and gold braid. He liked civilian's attire and never cared whether the cut was fashionable or not.

When he was in charge of the naval hospital at Mare Island this cultured man and tireless student liked the society of an old stableman named "Barney" better than that of most anybody else. He and Barney would pace the stable-yard for hours discussing the raising of chickens and turkeys and such things as Barney's experience and the doctor's reading had given them a common interest in. He was always loved by his inferiors in the service, and while he was recognized as a man of great executive ability it is said that he was never known to speak harshly to any one.

The doctor's aversion to cats was even stronger than his aversion to women. In a case of cats he would kill one whenever he could, and he generally used a small rifle, with which he was expert.

The peculiarities most talked about among those who knew him were, perhaps, his gastronomic tastes. He was always making strange experiments in the kitchen. While serving on the Asiatic station he learned to appreciate the deliciousness of the Japanese eels. Later he proved by experiment that the American rattlesnake is even a greater delicacy than the Japanese eel. It took considerable experimenting to acquire the highest art of frying rattlesnakes, but he acquired it and was happy.

It is said that another toothsome dish he discovered was afforded by young rats. He would take rodents when quite young and feed them for forty days on wheat to fatten them, and then he would have them served in a ragout, for which he found them superior to rabbits. He was always a great smoker, and his taste for the weed was gratified by the choicest brand of tobacco from all over the world. Champagne was his favorite beverage, occasionally varied with a special brand of good old French brandy.

During the years he spent in retirement at Paso Robles he gratified himself to the full, but his intellectual taste was in the ascendency. He passed his time largely in the study of abstruse subjects, and especially of spiritualism and the occult. Dr. Robinson's belief in spiritualism was quite strong, and about a year ago he became so infatuated with its mysteries that he was completely under the control of the spirits. He said that the forms of his friends had gathered around him and beckoned him alluringly to their happier world. He trustfully tried to cross to them, and not being willing to take his own life in any of the usual ways, he decided to starve himself to death. In this he would have probably succeeded had it not been that an old naval friend happened to arrive at the springs at the time and he induced his comrade to linger a while among the living. A mutual friend, the medical director at Mare Island, was hastily summoned, and when he left Dr. Robinson's bedside the latter had been induced to resume eating. Since then, however, he rarely left his house and his physical strength failed gradually until he passed away.

FIRE UPON BY PORTLAND THUGS.

Officer Wilhelm Exchanges Shots With a Pair of Footpads.

THEIR AIM IS POOR.

Neither the Policeman Nor His Assaultants Injured in the Affray.

HOLD-UPS ON THE EAST SIDE.

An Unknown Man the Latest Victim of the Gang That Is Halting Pedestrians.

PORTLAND, OR., Jan. 19.—The usual east side hold-up to take place about 11:30 o'clock last night at East Morrison and East Ninth streets. The name of the victim and the extent of his loss are not known to the police.

Patrolman Wilhelm was coming down East Morrison street, when a man rushed up to him and said he had been held up and robbed by two men at the corner of Ninth street a few minutes before. Officer Wilhelm ran back with the man to the scene of the hold-up, which is on an elevated plank railway. At the corner of Ninth street is an open shed, in which stand several wagons, and as they neared this spot the man pointed it out to the officer as the place where he was robbed.

Officer Wilhelm decided to make a closer investigation of the premises and had approached to within ten feet of the building when the figures of two men suddenly emerged from the darkness and two shots were fired at the officer, fortunately missing him. No sooner were the shots fired than the victim of the hold-up took to his heels and disappeared, but the policeman made a stand, and as the thugs rushed by him, he fired several shots at them. None took effect and the two men made for the side of the plank road, over which they leaped and quickly disappeared beneath the bridge.

By that time several citizens who had been attracted by the shots arrived and Officer Wilhelm had them mount guard on one side of the roadway while he watched on the other. A few minutes later the patrol-wagon arrived and Officer Wilhelm, assisted by Officer Nicolai, made a search beneath the roadway for the two highwaymen, but they were not to be found.

Neither was the victim of the hold-up, when he was subsequently looked for in the police van, and as he had neglected to tell the policeman his name and what he had lost the officer had to be content with very meager particulars of the affair.

HE TALKED TOO MUCH.

Garrulity of an Alameda Thief Leads to His Arrest.

PORTLAND, OREGON, Jan. 19.—Phillip Krall's boastful nature has got him into serious trouble. During the series of hold-ups on the east side he had dropped certain remarks intimating that he knew something concerning them, and was not at all averse to posing as the hero of the sorties. As a result he last night found himself in the custody of the detectives, but it was quickly discovered that Krall had only been romancing, and not stopping at that, had brought in the names of innocent parties whom he had claimed as his accomplices.

Krall would have been well satisfied to be dismissed as a liar, but while he was squaring himself with Chief Minto Detectives Griffin and Holsapple were otherwise employed. Both were going over some records, at times taking furtive glances at the suspect until they came upon the description of a man wanted in Alameda, Cal., and further investigation stopped.

Krall is wanted in California for stealing \$50 from an Alameda creamery, and when charged with the crime made no denial of his being the man. He came to Portland several weeks ago, went to Fisher's Landing, where he worked for a while, and then to Boise City, Idaho, whence he returned to Portland. The Alameda officials were notified of the arrest of the man and Krall will soon go there for trial.

STOLE FROM THE MAILS.

Portland Officers Capture a North Dakota Criminal.

PORTLAND, OR., Jan. 19.—Joseph Walters, wanted in Bismarck, N. D., for unlawfully taking a letter from the Postoffice and appropriating a check which it contained, was arrested last night by Deputy United States Marshal Humphreys. Walters was followed to this city by Special Agent E. C. Clement. The warrant for the arrest of Walters charges that he stole from the Postoffice at Bismarck a letter addressed to Joseph Weber, containing a draft dated at Sioux City, Iowa, for \$18 75, drawn by H. E. Hedges, captain of the United States engineer corps, in favor of Joseph Weber.

THE LATE STANFORD NEWS.

Result of the Final Debate of the Preliminaries for the Intercollegiate.

Winning Trio Elected to Represent Stanford in the Intercollegiate Debate.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL., Jan. 19.—The debate last evening was the final of the preliminaries and was fully as interesting as any of the whole series. Inasmuch as the evening was free to students, the attendance was better than at any previous debates this semester. This may be attributed, however, partly to the fact that the judges were to announce the name of Stanford's representative after the debate was ended.

J. M. Ross, arguing on the negative side of the question, "Resolved, that the protective tariff policy has been detrimental to the best interests of American agriculture," made the best showing of the four speakers.

It was a foregone conclusion when he finished his argument that he would be one of the winning trio. Evidently the judges were practically of one opinion when they retired, for they soon returned from their deliberation and announced their decision. A. M. Cathcart '96, H. D. Sheldon '96 and J. M. Ross '97 were the names announced, while W. E. Harrington, '96, was named as substitute. The announcement was met with enthusiastic cheers, and the selection is certainly approved in every instance by the students generally.

BIG WHALES OF MONTEREY BAY.

A New York Company Organized for Their Capture.

EXTENSIVE PLANS MADE.

A Large Capital Leaves but Little Doubt of Their Success.

STATION TO BE ESTABLISHED.

The Oil to Be Shipped to New York During the First Six Months.

MONTEREY, CAL., Jan. 19.—The killing of a calf whale in Monterey Bay a few weeks ago is likely to lead to results most important to the city of Monterey. Arrangements have just about been completed by which an experimental whaling outfit is to be placed here. The project is backed by New York parties and there will be no lack of capital to make the venture a success. C. S. Fackenthal, their representative here, is enthusiastic on the subject and says that money will not be spared to make the equipments first-class in all respects.

THE NEWS OF SAN JOSE.

A Million-Dollar Benefit to Santa Clara From the Rains.

An Important Suit for the Division of \$40,000 of Landed Property.

SAN JOSE, CAL., Jan. 18.—Colonel Philo Hersey, president of the Santa Clara County Fruit Exchange, said yesterday in speaking of the benefits accruing to the fruit interests from the late storm: "The rain we have just had means several millions of dollars to the people of Santa Clara Valley. One more such storm and a few showers to keep the ground moist and we will be assured of a good crop as far as rain is concerned."

"The rain came at a time when the trees were ready to receive it. With a moderate amount of rain and a safe passage through the trees the oranges in this county will be equal to the fruit crop seldom before equaled. A large number of acres of new orchards come into bearing this year, which will materially increase the fruit crop."

"Under favorable conditions it is estimated that the prune crop of the year will equal 80,000,000 pounds against 40,000,000 pounds last year. Hundreds of acres of land are being set out in prune trees this season, and the demand for trees has been so great that nurserymen everywhere have raised the price of their trees."

It is expected that the fruit market will pick up about the 1st of February, and what little remains of last year's crop will be quickly disposed of. A mass-meeting of fruit-growers will be held in this city between the 1st and 15th of February to discuss means for extending the market in the East for California dried fruits.

EASY SOOTHING COMFORTING JOY'S VEGETABLE SARSAPARILLA.

THE NEWS OF SAN JOSE.

A Million-Dollar Benefit to Santa Clara From the Rains.

An Important Suit for the Division of \$40,000 of Landed Property.

SAN JOSE, CAL., Jan. 18.—Colonel Philo Hersey, president of the Santa Clara County Fruit Exchange, said yesterday in speaking of the benefits accruing to the fruit interests from the late storm: "The rain we have just had means several millions of dollars to the people of Santa Clara Valley. One more such storm and a few showers to keep the ground moist and we will be assured of a good crop as far as rain is concerned."

"The rain came at a time when the trees were ready to receive it. With a moderate amount of rain and a safe passage through the trees