

THE WORLD'S FAIR TREE

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIG SEQUOIA THAT IS TO BE AT CHICAGO.

A Land of Giants—Magnificent Groves 6,000 Feet Above the Ocean—The Glorious Mountain Wilderness of the New National Reservation.

[Special Correspondence.] SAN FRANCISCO, June 6.—The largest trees in the world grow in the California Sierras. Australia has some eucalyptus



A TYPICAL SEQUOIA STANDING IN THE FOREST.

that are taller: Africa has baobabs that have a greater girth; but, nevertheless, the superb sequoias of California are unique in the realm of vegetable life.

A section of one of the great sequoias is to be an exhibition at the coming World's fair at Chicago. The history of the enterprise is therefore timely, and of general interest.

Few persons, even in California, know the great sequoia in its own Sierra home. It is a rare tree, found in only a few groups or small forests of a few acres, in the midst of pine, cedar and other mountain trees. The groves of sequoia are all mapped, and have been described by competent observers. They are scattered along the axis of the Sierras for some 300 miles; some are less than twenty acres in extent, and others cover nearly a thousand acres. The total acreage is small, and, worse than all, the species is slowly dying out in its own home. There are more specimens of young sequoias in England today, twice over, than in all America. The forests are hard trampled by cattle, and few young trees manage to survive.



CUTTING THE CHICAGO TREE.

So much for the general view. As soon as there was talk of a World's fair a young man from the south, named Van Doorman, began to consider a scheme of exhibiting a sequoia. He did not know that about 1860 a Californian had tried the same thing and had failed completely. This Californian cut down one of the largest trees then known, hallowed out a section and shipped it to the Atlantic seaboard. When put together it was shown in the larger cities, but the experiment proved a complete failure. No one was prepared to believe in a tree trunk twenty feet in diameter.

Van Doorman, however, had been a dime museum proprietor, and knew the value of "one of the largest trees in the world." He went into Tulare county, in the San Joaquin valley, and began inquiries. There were groves of sequoias in the eastern part of that county. People called them "red-woods," and felled them for firewood and lumber.



ONE-HALF OF THE SECTION CUT.

Porterville is the railroad station for the district. It is a new colony on the eastern verge of the broad valley, and the growth of fruit is the leading industry. Some time in 1888 Mr. Doorman, with his assistants, visited Porterville, and finally heard of a particularly fine tree that stood where it was accessible with wagons. They bought this tree from the rancher who owned the land, paying him \$1,000, and then engaged teams and men for the work in hand.

The tree chosen stood thirty-five miles from Porterville, on a high ridge between two mountain streams, and surrounded with splendid sugar pines. The altitude of the place was 6,325 feet above the sea. The particular tree chosen was 312 feet high and 99 feet in circumference at the base. Forest fires had eaten deeply into the huge buttresses of the giant tree, and so it was necessary to cut a section higher

up, twenty-eight feet from the ground. In fact, at which point it was more than sixty feet in circumference.

All that was done after the tree was felled was to secure a section 20 feet in diameter and 9 feet in height, also a solid section 1 foot high for the base and a similar section for the roof. The rest of the tree, excepting a small part used for ornamental purposes, was practically wasted. The wood of the giant sequoia is much like red cedar; it takes a fine polish, works easily and is a favorite with wood turners and cabinet makers.

When a section of the tree was obtained it was hollowed out, or rather there were immense staves cut from the outside, leaving the bark intact. In this way a room was formed that held 100 or more people at one time. It was set on carved pedestals, lit with electric lights, and steps were built leading to it. It was then taken apart, the staves numbered, and all the sections were loaded on huge mountain wagons and hauled to Porterville. The weight of the sections was more than 70,000 pounds. Nearly 20,000 pounds of this represented the weight of the base.

Thirty men had camped for six months in the mountains, felling the giant and hewing out the staves of the hollow section; they had built roads and loaded great wagons. At last, in the spring of 1890, the teamsters began to move. After many mishaps the tree was landed safely at Porterville and loaded upon the freight cars. The entire enterprise had involved an expenditure of more than \$5,000 long before a dollar of returns was in sight. The section was taken to San Francisco and placed on exhibition; thence it went to the Atlantic states, and it is booked for the Chicago fair.

Larger trees than the one I have described—the Doorman tree—are found in the Tulare forests, on the headwaters of the Kern, Kings and Kaweah rivers, but no more of them will be allowed to be cut. One of the largest ever measured in California has been named "General Grant," and has a girth of 110 feet. Last summer a large party of campers from Visalia, Tulon City and Porterville



"GENERAL GRANT," THE LARGEST TREE IN TULARE, WITH CAMPERS, ETC.

visited this tree, and a photograph taken by one of the number shows more than fifty men seated on the rough projections of the vast, buttressed trunk. If the base of this giant tree could be hollowed out a room would be obtained of a third greater size than that in the Doorman tree section. But it would be criminal folly to sacrifice the largest tree in the United States to the ambitions of an exhibitor or the exigencies of a World's fair. The tree that has been secured is large enough.

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.

The Grandezza. NEW YORK, June 11.—The "grandezza" was first instituted by Charles V in 1520, just after his return to Spain from Germany, where he had been crowned emperor. Desirous of imitating Charlemagne in everything, he created at the time of his coronation twelve peers or grandees, whose number has gradually been increased to the present figure of 243. Admission to the "grandezza" is exceedingly difficult to obtain, for it is necessary to prove such a long line of blue blooded ancestry, un sullied either on the paternal or on the maternal side by any plebeian strain, that few venture to become postulants for the honor. The ancient ceremony of conferring the grandezza is termed an "Almohada," which literally translated means "taking the pillow," and is not only extremely quaint and interesting, but also exceedingly rare. Queen Christina has held but one since her husband's death, while there were three, one of which I witnessed, during the reign of King Alfonso XII.

It took place in the small throne room of the royal palace at Madrid. The two of grandee rank were to the right of the dais, and the ladies to the left. On the king exclaiming, "Be seated," they all took their places upon tabourets, or stools of carved wood, topped with large purple velvet cushions. Everybody else, such as the members of the diplomatic corps and of the royal household, remained standing. Then the doors at the further end of the room opened, and preceded by a herald and two chamberlains, and accompanied by the two grandees acting as sponsors, the postulant for admission to the "grandezza" appeared, and approached the throne with three low obeisances.

A tabouret, with purple cushion, having been brought and placed on the lowest of the steps leading up to the throne, the king commanded the candidate to be seated, and thereupon addressed a few complimentary words to him, recalling the services of his family to the dynasty in bygone ages. Alfonso concluded his little speech by extending his hand to be kissed, at the same time directing him to take his place among his peers. Retiring backward from the royal presence, the newly-fledged grandee was conducted by his sponsors to the side of the hall occupied by the ladies of the grandee rank, to whom he made a low bow, and then to that of the men, whom he saluted in the same manner. He thereupon put his hat upon his head, his example being instantaneously followed by every grandee present, who all remained covered until his stool and cushion having been removed from the steps of the throne and placed beside those of his peers, he had seated himself thereon. This brought to a close the actual ceremony of the "Almohada," which was rendered extraordinarily picturesque by the superb toilets of the ladies, by the gorgeous tabards of the royal heralds, and by the brilliant uniforms of the generals, the court officials, the ministers of state, and last, but not least, by those of the diplomats.

AN EX-DIPLOMATIST.



How to Brew Tea.

The old English fashion in brewing tea is this: Heat the teapot—which must be perfectly dry—to about the temperature of boiling water, then put in the tea, the proper quantity being one teaspoonful for every cup of water and one additional spoonful. The dry tea is allowed to rest in the pot for a few minutes, after which the boiling water is added. After this the teapot is to be kept on the fire, but the decoction must not be allowed to boil again for eight to ten minutes. It is then ready for the table; but it is always well to keep a "cozy" over the teapot to keep it at a proper temperature. If, after the water is poured on the leaves, it is allowed to boil, the tannin is extracted and the beverage rendered bitter and unpleasant. An earthenware pot is always the best.

How to Remove the Smell of Onions.

Parsley eaten with vinegar will remove the unpleasant effects of eating onions.

How to Give a Theater Party.

Say it is given by three young men to three young ladies. Each young man should write to the young lady he is to escort a note of invitation in the third person. Here is a form considered good in the city of New York:

Mr. John Smith presents his compliments to Miss Clara Jones, and requests the pleasure of her company on Thursday evening, January thirtieth, Madison Square theater. Carriage will call at seven o'clock.

As a rule the number of the house should be at the top, and the date at the bottom. Inclosed in the note should be the cards of the other gentlemen. Plain white paper, unruled, is the only correct form. On the street each gentleman should offer the lady his right arm, and never take hers. He should precede her down the aisle of the theater, and should endeavor to quickly remove his coat in the lobby beforehand. This prevents unnecessary confusion in the seat. If the party are to be seated in the box the gentleman should be careful to arrange the chairs for the ladies. If there is a chaperone, she should be given the place of honor invariably. It should never appear to her or any one else that she is simply tolerated.

How to Stop Shoes Squeaking.

Drive a peg into the middle of the sole. Leather saturated with castor oil becomes waterproof.

How a Corpse is Cremated.

There are several methods of cremation. Among the most practical is that of Dr. Polli, of Italy, who obtains complete incineration or calcination by the use of coal gas mixed with atmospheric air, applied to a cylindrical retort of refracting clay, so as to consume the gaseous products of combustion. This process occupies two hours. In the Siemens regenerative furnace, which has been approved by several high authorities, only the hot blast is used, the body supplying hydrogen and carbon; or a stream of heated hydrocarbon mixed with heated air is sent from a gasometer supplied with coal, charcoal, peat or wood, the brick or iron cased chamber being thus heated to a high degree before cremation begins.

How Long It Would Take a Train to Reach the Sun.

If a railway were built to the sun, and trains were to run without intermission upon it at the rate of sixty miles per hour, it would require 175 years to make the journey to the sun, which is 92,000,000 miles distant.

How to Make Milk Toast.

Melt two ounces of butter in one quart of milk; add a teaspoonful of flour wet with a little cold milk, and then beat it in half a cupful of the hot milk before adding it to the remainder. Beat two eggs in a portion of the hot milk, and then stir them well in the mixture. Strain the cream and return it to the stove, beating it carefully until it comes to the boiling point and thickens. Send thin slices of well browned toast to the table dipped in this cream, and ladle the remaining cream over each slice as it is served.

How to Make Pistachio Ice Cream.

Blanch two ounces of pistachio nuts in exactly the same way as you would almonds. Lay them on a plate in the oven to brown a little; then put them in a mortar with a tablespoonful of sugar and pound them to a paste. Add a pint of sweet cream gradually and stir the mixture carefully. Prepare a custard with a pint of rich boiling milk and half a pound of sugar, beaten with the yolks of four eggs. Set the bowl containing the custard in a basin of boiling water, and stir till it begins to thicken; then add a saltspoonful of salt and finally the cream and pistachio paste. When the cream is nearly cold freeze it.

How to Manage Brooms.

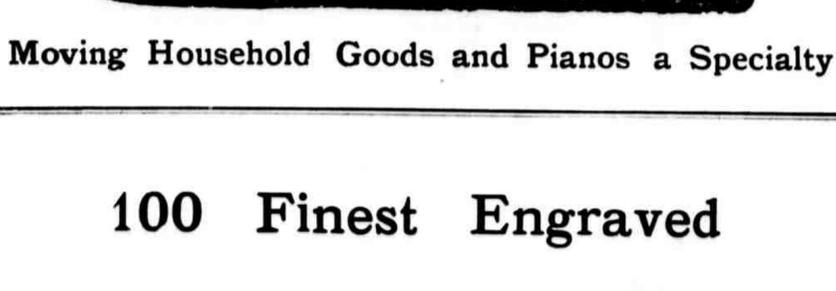
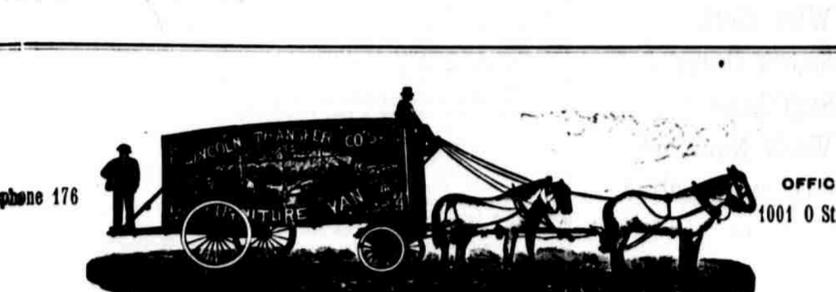
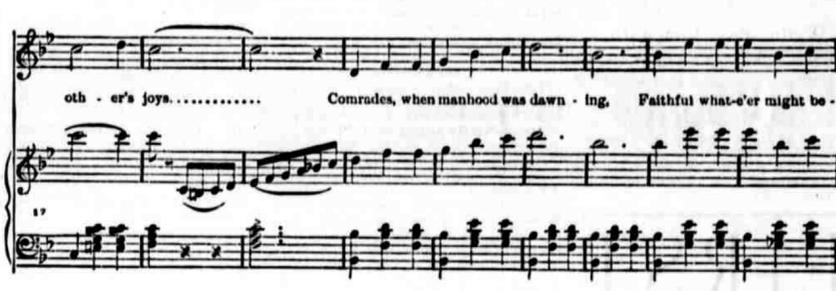
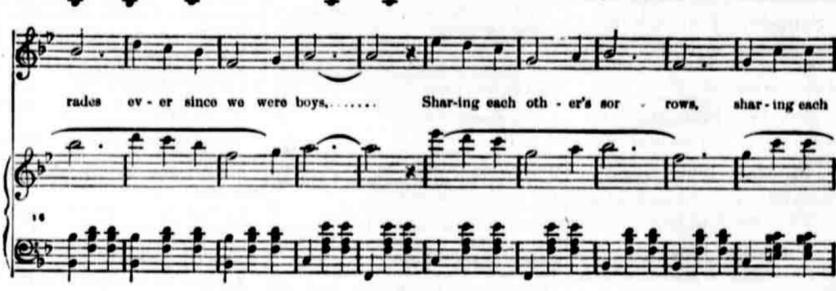
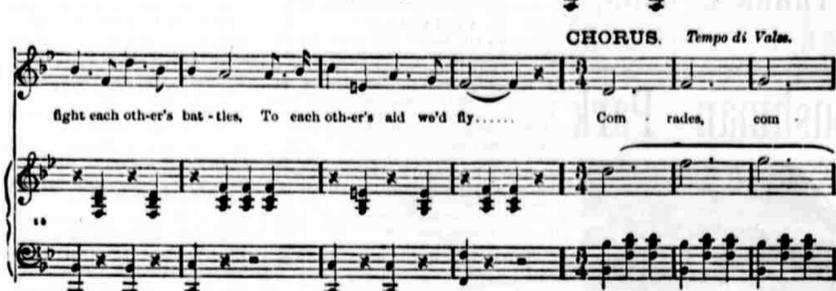
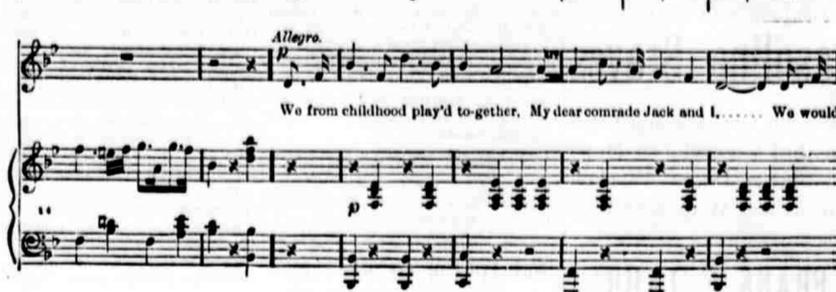
By wetting brooms in boiling suds once a week they will become very tough and will not cut a carpet. They will also last much longer and always sweep like a new broom.

How and Where to Use a Toothpick.

It is never comely to use a toothpick at the dinner table, but it is essentially vulgar to use one and endeavor to hide your ill manners by covering the operation with a table napkin. If an accident arises that necessitates your using one at table do so openly; the necessity will excuse you; the napkin hiding trick would only attract attention. When the covers are removed and the ladies gone it is pardonable to use toothpicks. But their constant use, which some individuals indulge, is not alone unmannerly but injurious. When they must be used, wooden ones are less injurious than quills or gold.

"COMRADES."

Arr. by E. JONGHMANS. Words and Music by FELIX McGLENNON.



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