

GENERAL ALBERT J. MYER.

We present herewith an engraving of Gen. Albert J. Myer, Chief of the Signal Service Bureau, who died on the 24th ult. at Buffalo. Gen. Myer was known all over the country, although very few knew his face. He was better known as "Old Probabilities," a familiar cognomen applied to the official representative of the Signal Bureau. This distinguished officer was born at Newburg, in the State of New York, in 1828. He graduated at Hobart College, at Geneva, in that State, in 1847. After applying himself to the study of medicine, he took the degree of M. D. at the University of Buffalo in 1851; and in 1854 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the United States army. He served in the medical department until the breaking out of the civil war, when he was appointed Chief Signal officer. He continued in the service until the close of the war, and received the brevet rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier-General of Volunteers. In 1866 Gen. Myer was placed at the head of the Signal Service of the regular Army, and in 1870 he was charged with the taking of meteorological observations, at the military posts and other points in the country. It was largely owing to Gen. Myer's executive ability, scientific knowledge and capacity for mastering details that the Signal Service of the United States has succeeded in reaching its present condition of usefulness.

AFRICAN EXPLORERS KILLED.—Long before its exploration shall be achieved, Africa is likely to prove the graveyard of many of the most enterprising and brave men of the times. The *London Standard*, in commenting upon the sad news which had been received at Zanzibar of the murder of Capt. Carter and Mr. Cadenhead, remarks that it adds two more victims to the long list of those who have sacrificed their lives in the interest of African exploration. Hitherto disease and not violence has been the cause of the fatality which has overtaken so many of the explorers of the dark continent. From the facts which have reached us it would, however, appear that the gallant pioneers whose loss we have to deplore met their death at the hands of a chief named Wrambo. But, as the expedition which they commanded was, at the latest date, in the country of a robber king called Mercambo, not far from Lake Tanganyika, the name has, in all probability, been altered in telegraphing. Messrs. Carter and Cadenhead, though Englishmen, were employed under the auspices of the Belgian branch of the International Society for the exploration of Africa. The leading object of the expedition sent out under its auspices is not so much geographical discovery as the establishment of centers of civilizing influence and commerce at various points of the interior. The first of these stations was founded in August, 1879, by M. Cambier at Karema, on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, 140 miles south of Ujiji. In December M. Cambier was joined by Messrs. Popelin and Carter with the Indian elephants, of which only one remained. Another reinforcement, constituting the fourth expedition, under Messrs. Burdo, Rogers and Cadenhead, was far on its way when last heard of, and was sanguine of soon communicating with Mr. Stanley. The latter, by the aid of steam launches, is endeavoring to ascend the Congo, which, amid so many perils, he descended three years ago. The introduction of elephants into African exploration was a great step in advance, and it was fondly believed that one of the chief difficulties in the path of travel had at last been overcome.

A COMPANY has been experimenting in Florida with palmetto for making paper with such gratifying success, that they will build 20 paper mills in various parts of the State.

THE NATIONAL PARK.—It appears that the natural wonders of the Yellowstone National park have made a strong impression upon Secretary Schurz, who recently, with Gen. Crook for a companion, made a horseback tour through the region. He has expressed great indignation at the depredations that are annually perpetrated there. In the park game is very abundant, and includes elk, deer, antelope, bears, and other animals; but the gamekeepers provided by the Government are insufficient to prevent the wholesale destruction of hunters, who are killing the animals merely for their skins. The entire unwholesome brood of curiosity hunters is also inflicting much injury by removing treasures which would have exceeding value to intelligent

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.—Our distinguished countryman contemplates another, and, in his belief, final, visit to England next year. The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says Mr. Emerson has been moved to do this chiefly by what he has heard of the declining health of Mr. Carlyle, between whom and himself there has been, ever since they first met, the deepest sympathy and affection. Mr. Emerson is also anxious to make the acquaintance of several distinguished Englishmen, conspicuous among whom is Cardinal Newman, whom he characterizes as "the most religious man in England." As a proof of the growing favor of Mr. Emerson's writings, it may be mentioned that a well-known publishing house medi-



THE LATE ALBERT J. MYER, OF THE SIGNAL SERVICE BUREAU.

tourists. Around the geysers and other springs in the park there are many rare specimens of etalagmites and coralline depositions, which have required ages for their formation, all of which are liable to be injured or carried away by the vandals. The Secretary has expressed regret that proper action was not taken long ago for the preservation of the park, and it is his purpose to urge upon Congress the requisite legislation for the prevention of the depredations which are despoiling it of many of its beauties. We hope something efficient will be done at the earliest moment, for a further delay of five or ten years might work irreparable injury. Our forests are defaced and in course of destruction by the spoilers. Let us make an earnest effort to keep their ruthless hands off of the National park.

THE late Miss Adelaide Neilson, instead of having been born in Saragossa, Spain, in 1850, really was born in Leeds, England, March 3, 1849. Her real name was Elizabeth Ann Brown, and her mother, who is still living, is a gypsy.

itates the issue of a cheap edition of them, about which it will negotiate with Mr. Emerson on the occasion of his visit to London.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE UPPER MISSOURI.—We learn from the *Helena Independent* of the 2d inst. that about 70 men are now employed by the Government in making improvements in the upper Missouri river, near Dauphan's Rapids, and it is informed that hereafter there will be little difficulty in navigating the stream until quite late in the fall. Boats have already transported to Benton about 9,000 tons of freight, and some 2,000 tons more will, it is hoped, be brought up the river before the season closes. This has proved so far an excellent season for freighting, and the river is two ft. higher than it was at the same time last year.

M. GAMBETTA speaks very fast in public. Most men pronounce but about 180 words a minute, but M. Gambetta talks at the rate of 235 a minute.