

SKIRMISH IN CUBA—DRAWN FROM A SKETCH ON THE SPOT.



—Chicago Times-Herald.

ENLISTED AS A PRIVATE.

Louis H. Carpenter Has Now Risen to Brigadier General.

One of the most striking examples of the democracy of the United States army is presented by the career of Louis H. Carpenter, who entered the army as a private and has risen to be a brigadier general. Carpenter was at the University of Pennsylvania in 1861, when he was seized with the war fever and enlisted in the regular cavalry. Within six months his soldierly qualities won him a commission as second lieutenant in the regular cavalry. Before the civil war closed he was repeat-



LOUIS H. CARPENTER.

edly brevetted for bravery displayed in campaign and on the field of battle—to first lieutenant 1863 for "gallant and meritorious services at Gettysburg," captain 1864 for "gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Winchester," then lieutenant colonel United States army and colonel of volunteers for "gallant and meritorious services during the war."

He was in nearly all the cavalry fights of the Army of the Potomac. In the battle of Fairbairn, near Gettysburg, he rescued and brought off the field the colors of his regiment when the regiment was surrounded by an overwhelming force of the enemy. His bravery was so conspicuous that General Sheridan, one of the greatest cavalry commanders in history, called him to his side as one of the most trusted officers of his staff. After the war of the rebellion he returned to his regiment and again became conspicuous as an Indian fighter. At the beginning of the present war he was made a brigadier general and put in command of the brigade made by the famous Fifth Maryland Regiment, the crack First Regiment of the District of Columbia and the celebrated Second New York Regiment of volunteers.

How Slate Pencils Are Made.

Slate pencils undergo a number of processes before they are ready for use, and in making them nearly all of the manual labor is done by boys. First broken pieces of slate are put into a mortar run by steam and are crushed to a powder, which is then bolted in a machine such as is used in flouring mills. A fine slate flour results, which is thoroughly mixed in a large tub with steatite flour and other materials, the whole making a stiff dough. The dough is kneaded by being passed between iron rollers a number of times, and it is then taken to a table, where it is made into short cylinders four or five inches in thickness and containing from eight to ten pounds of material each.

Four of these cylinders are placed in a strong iron retort which has a changeable nozzle so that the size of the pencils may be regulated. In the retort the material is subjected to great hydraulic pressure and is thus pushed through the nozzle in the shape of a long cord. As the cord comes through the nozzle it passes over a knife and is cut into the desired lengths. The lengths are laid on boards to dry and are then placed on sheets of corrugated zinc, the corrugation preventing the pencils from warping during the baking process. The baking is done in a kiln which superheated steam is passed through pipes.

The pencils go from the kiln to the finishing and packing room, where the ends are held for an instant under a

rapidly revolving emery wheel, which neatly points them.

Finally they are packed in pasteboard boxes, 100 pencils in each box, then 100 of the pasteboard boxes are packed in a wooden box, and they are ready for shipment. — Philadelphia Times.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAU.

The Show of Gallantry Rebuked by Genuine Courtesy.

The car was crowded. It happened that only men were standing, with the exception of a colored woman in the middle of the car. But at a corner a woman dressed in the top of the mode got on. She stood next the door, and plainly here was a chance for some masculine person to be gallant. An old beau, who was seated near the center, was obviously fascinated by the appearance of this beautiful female, and bobbed his head to catch her eye. Finally succeeding he arose, beckoned to her, and murmured:

"Won't you take my seat, madam?" The colored woman, standing directly in front of him, heard this, and, turning, thanked him gratefully as she made a movement toward the vacant space. With indignation wrinkling his tinted nose, and spitting for a moment the gracious air which he had assumed, he pushed her back, with both hands at her elbows, as he exclaimed: "Oh, no; not for you, ma'am!" His adjustment of expression was rapid as he turned once more to her of the handsome face and fashionable clothes and made way. Then, with a smile at his neighbors which plainly said, "Didn't I manage that well?" he leaned comfortably on his stick.

The favored one had not noticed the little play which had been enacted for her benefit, but a young girl who sat in the next seat was an observer, and saw the warm red deeply flush under the black skin of the other woman and the tears come in the dark eyes. She saw the mouth quivering, and her own eyes snapped. With a glance at "His Complacency," unmistakably expressive of her scorn and indignation, she quickly rose, touched the woman on the arm, and gently said:

"Take my seat; I'm getting out at the next corner."

Then flashing a look at the man, under which his expression of self-congratulation rapidly changed to something near to sheepishness, she passed out of the car; and more than one man there would have bet that she had not intended to get off at that corner. — New York Sun.

Chat of the War.

Spain has 50,000 Gypsies. Patti made her debut in Cuba. Frisco to Manila—6,600 miles. Cadiz to New York—2,800 miles. Key West to Havana—ninety miles. Spain has 28,922,609 inhabitants. Russia's common soldier gets \$2.25 a year.

Our daily output of powder is 16,000 tons. Cuba has 10,000,000 acres of virgin forest.

War has doubled the price of army horses.

"Frisco Chinese are making soldiers' clothes.

During our civil war there were 3,125 battles.

Italy's war department utilizes \$45,000,000 a year.

Cuba has 1,631,000 inhabitants; Philadelphia 1,350,000.

Prior to the war the annual net revenue of Cuba was \$80,000,000.

Every Spaniard is liable to be called to military service on attaining 20 years of age.

Policemen in Boston have been instructed to salute the flag whenever it is carried past them in a parade.

A Cuban insurgent, in order to get cigarettes, risked death by going into a town with Spanish soldiers.

A Salt-Laker who writes poetry frantically thinks there was a Merry Mac in the White House when the news came that the Santiago bottle had been corked by that coal ship. — Philadelphia Record.

No one who is compelled to buy it, is very fond of champagne.

THEY WALK ON THE CEILING.

Two Heresses with Inherited Love for Gymnastics.

Perhaps the most daring performance to be seen in all the many places of entertainment at Coney Island, New York, is that given by two girls, who seem to be altogether out of harmony with their surroundings. These are the Austin sisters, each of them refined, well educated and of charming personality in every way. Their home is a beautiful place at Bath Beach, L. I., where their parents live. The latter are persons of good manners and easy deportment, many years of travel in all parts of the world having given them the indefinable polish which your stay-at-home can never hope to attain. Mr. and Mrs. Austin were trapeze performers since early childhood. In the course of their professional journeyings they met and married, traveling and performing together for years. Unlike many others in the same business, they took care of their earnings, increasing the same handsomely by several judicious investments. When their two daughters were still little girls



WALKING ON THE CEILING.

they retired and purchased their present home at Bath Beach.

The two children were sent to a first-class school in Brooklyn, from which they recently graduated with marked credit. From their earliest childhood they were carefully trained by Mr. Austin, his object being to develop their frames so as to make them healthy and hearty young women. In this he has been entirely successful, but the training the girls received in the spacious gymnasium at Bath Beach also developed the love for such exercise, which they inherited from their parents, and last fall they obtained permission to prepare themselves for public appearance. Now they show daily in a daring trapeze act and also as ceiling walkers. The latter performance is especially thrilling.

The girls make a charming modest picture when seen together dressed for their act. Almee, the elder girl, has a great mass of chestnut hair, beautiful blue-gray eyes, and an exceedingly dainty appearance. Marie, the younger, a real beauty, was born in Vienna. Her eyes are dark and she wears her hair pompadoured over her face. The girls are attended by their father at all performances and are at present attracting much attention by their topsyturvy feats.

Plea for Beer on Sundays.

An extraordinary argument for Sunday opening was quoted by one of the speakers recently at a temperance convention. He related that at a public meeting once held in Coventry, England, an orator urged that public houses should be opened at noon on Sunday, in order that workmen should have an opportunity of discussing together the sermons they had heard in the morning.

VULTURES IN WAR.

Flock to the Fields of Battle to Prey Upon the Dead and Dying.

The part played by the vulture, or turkey buzzard in the war in Cuba is not so well understood by the soldier boys from the North as it is by those from the South, said Frank N. Jordan, a Chicagoan, who formerly lived in Charleston, S. C. This thought occurred to me upon reading some of the recent reports of the war correspondents concerning this bird of evil omen. Reports from the battle before Santiago July 1 say that thousands of vultures could be seen soaring in the air above the dead, wounded and dying, in a hurry to get at their prey. The other soldiers did not desert the men whose strength gave out, but lay down on the ground and with their revolvers kept the buzzards away from their suffering comrades until the latter were picked up and hurried out of reach of the rapacious birds.

In the Southern States the people are familiar with these birds and their habits. Turkey buzzards are the scavengers of Southern cities, and are so useful in this respect that they are protected by law. There is a sharp penalty attached to the law forbidding the killing or wounding of the buzzards.

The buzzard has long since been voted a great success as a sanitary inspector. Not only in Southern cities, but in oriental towns and villages, as I have read, sanitary precautions, so far as garbage is concerned, are wholly ignored, for the problem of its removal and purification has been solved by the vulture. The turkey buzzard, which is the species of the vulture family known to the Southern States and Central America, has prodigious strength of beak and claws and it can tear and strip a carcass, leaving nothing but the clean-picked bones, in a phenomenally short time. It seems to have the strength and rapacity of the wolf or hyena.

I have noticed in the letters telling me of the battles at Santiago and vicinity that in many cases scores of our brave boys were reported missing after an engagement. The bodies of many must have become prey to the buzzards. With their telescope-like eyes, these vultures can see a fallen soldier, horse or mule from distances that render themselves invisible. So impatient are they with hunger that they begin their attack even before the man or animal is quite dead, and so sharp is their sight that a vulture which first discovers prey is soon joined by others, until at last

Some of these establishments contain over 300 monks, and nearly as many servants. Their riches are mainly derived from splendid estates in Russia, Roumania, Bulgaria and Servia. For many hundreds of years no woman has ever been permitted to set foot anywhere in Athos. The fact is the more remarkable because extreme honor is accorded to the Virgin Mary in all these



MOUNT ATHOS.

monasteries. It is related, and implicitly believed by the monks, that the Virgin Mary herself originated the exclusion of her own sex from the sacred soil of the place.

Mount Athos proper is a beautiful peak of white marble, which soars up at the very end of the promontory far out at sea. It reaches a height of nearly 7,000 feet. Running back from this apex is a range of lovely hills, often thickly wooded, and in some places nearly four miles wide, which diminish in height more and more towards the base of the promontory. In various romantic nooks of these hills the twenty ancient monasteries are scattered. Some are perched on these cliffs, in almost inaccessible positions, and others nestle in the woods.

ABSORBS WATER FROM BELOW.

Soil in the San Joaquin Valley Moistened by Subterranean Streams.

Investigations made by Professor Milton Whitney, who is in charge of the division of soils in the Department of Agriculture, have revealed the curious phenomenon that the soils of the San Joaquin valley and of the great Palouse district (comprising the fertile wheat-growing regions) contain a considerable quantity of moisture in excess of the amount received from rainfall or surface irrigation. A similar phenomenon has been observed in the Yellowstone valley and in parts of the Red River valley, and this would seem to explain the mystery why these regions, which are semiarid, rarely suffer from drouth.

PART PLAYED BY VULTURES IN WAR.



the carcass is almost covered with the birds.

In civilized warfare the victors always search the field of the battle, rescue the wounded and bury the dead, whether they be friends or foes. But many are reported "among the missing." There the buzzards find their prey. In savage or partly civilized warfare the dead of the vanquished are intentionally left by the victors to be devoured by the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air.

A curious phenomenon in regard to vultures is that they seem to be able to locate the scene of a battle before the fight takes place. One of the most curious examples of their astonishing instinct was observed in the Crimean war. In the neighborhood of Sebastopol the vulture was a very rare bird, from the same reason which has made it extinct in England, lack of food. Yet the war had hardly begun to assume a serious aspect when the vultures arrived in largely increased numbers and fed upon the dead horses. Whence did these vultures come? Many came from Northern Africa, for the Arabs declared that during the war very few vultures were to be found in the places where they usually abounded. Many also appeared to have come from Asia, as the same phenomenon was observed in several parts of India.

Just as sharks follow a slave ship, so do vultures accompany a slave caravan and the legions of battle, knowing that many of the captives and the slain will in some way become their prey.

MOUNT ATHOS.

A Lovely Spot from Which Women Are Excluded.

One of the most romantic spots in Europe, though one of the least known to people generally, is Mount Athos. This is the name given to an immense and magnificent promontory, which runs about forty miles into the Aegean sea, from that grand peninsula of Macedonia called Chalcide.

For more than 1,000 years Mount Athos has been considered the Holy Land of the great Russo-Greek Church. It is impossible to express the veneration and affection with which millions of people regard this locality. It is in the power of the Turks. Twenty magnificent and wealthy convents are scattered over this lovely promontory, which is a mountain garden in the sea.

the needle and as close to it as possible, then places the potato once again on the assistant's hand. After making a few flourishes with the sword, he cuts through the potato, dividing it in half. In striking the potato with the sword he makes sure that the sword will come exactly crosswise on the needle; consequently, when the sword reaches the needle it can go no farther, and the brittle nature of the potato will cause it to fall apart, the very thin portion below the needle offering no resistance to the separation.

DISCOVERIES IN LEAP CASTLE.

Eleventh Century Staircase Found in an Early English Structure.

A Brit correspondent writes that a series of interesting "finds," just discovered in the historic Leap castle, have been shown to a number of visitors. The first and most important was an eleventh century stone spiral staircase springing from the first floor level and terminating at the summit of the great tower, 100 feet high. This relic of a remote past is in a splendid state of preservation. The finely cut stone steps are laid with mathematical accuracy and are large, like the passage itself. The O'Carrolls, princes of Ely, whose chief stronghold this castle was, were all big men—in fact, a race of giants—as the few relics of their extant attest. Hence the reason why everything about the castle is large.

The second "find" is an entrance to the guard room cut out of the rock, and which was up to the present believed to be a mass of solid masonry. Here numerous bones, coins of the reign of Edward the Confessor and other relics were found. Human bones in large quantities, flints and spear heads were also found in the extensive range of dungeons which have been brought to light beneath the castle, these curious prison-houses being rock-hewn, and their existence having been previously unknown to the owner of the castle and lord of the soil, Jonathan C. Darby. This gentleman is the descendant of the royal house of O'Carrolls of Ely, whose family have remained in uninterrupted possession of the Leap for many centuries.

The present owner, aided by Mrs. Darby, has put into a complete state of preservation the ancient chapel, an apartment twenty-five feet square and high, which is on top of the tower, and here has been discovered a very large and fine early English window, which

from its great elevation commands a view embracing eight counties. A little below this is a remarkable room, which none of the servants will enter after nightfall. It was the state bedroom of one of the princesses of Ely, who was murdered six centuries ago by her lord, and the solid oak floor retains the bloodstains of the royal victim. This part of the building is reputed to be haunted, and Mr. and Mrs. Darby, who do not believe in ghosts, admit that they cannot account for the extraordinary noises that occasionally come from the death chamber of the murdered princess, and which make it nearly impossible for them to retain their female servants in their employment. The manifestations are reputed to take the form of shrieks, which resound and reverberate through the building and set all the dogs in the kennels whining and barking. — Leeds Mercury.

A Home-Thrust.

"You women are much like Spaniards, after all."
"What do you mean?"
"Well, when you aim you never hit anything."

"Now, boys, I have a few questions in fractions to ask," said a teacher; "suppose I have a piece of beefsteak and cut it into sixteen pieces, what would those pieces be called?" "Sixteenths," answered one boy, after meditating a moment. "Very good. And when the sixteenths were cut in half, what would they be?" There was silence in the class; but presently a little boy at the foot put up his hand. "Do you know, Johnny?" "Hash," answered Johnny, confidently. — Current Literature.

"How did this happen?" asked the surgeon, as he dressed the wound in the cheek and applied a soothing poultice to the damaged eye. "Got hit with a stone," replied the patient. "Who threw it?" "My—my wife," was the reluctant answer. "Hum; it's the first time I knew a woman hit anything she aimed at," muttered the surgeon. "She was throwing at the neighbor's hens," explained the sufferer. "I was behind her." — Tid-Bits.

"When a woman can't find any place else to put a thing she holds it in her mouth."

A young man's sweetheart is now known as his "leech."



CUTTING ON THE HAND.

the potato near the bottom. After showing the sword to be really sharp, by cutting paper and slicing one or two up one of the prepared potatoes and places it on the assistant's hand; but apparently it does not lie to suit him, so he slices off one side of it, using care to cut away the side just under