

We have indeed found in California that trees immediately about a spring or directly upon a water-course do not always increase the flow of water, and may even diminish it, either by such a detention as allows the percolation of the water into the soil or by leaf evaporation.

With us riparian trees are gross water users and usually deciduous, such as sycamores, alders, willows, cottonwoods, etc. But upon the mountains the trees are of a different class, and their effect is, without known exception, beneficial to irrigators and water users in the valleys below.

Major Powell says (p. 920) that forests may be useful on river-courses in humid countries to prevent the streams from being too large and creating floods, but that in arid countries the trees take up and evaporate about forty per cent. of the rainfall into the air; that the snows melt faster in forests, and that the volume of water in a stream will be larger if its watershed be bare than if it were wooded. "For all these reasons the forests of the upper regions are not advantageous to the people of the valleys, who depend on the streams for the fertilization of the farms."

Such authorities as J. E. Brown, Becquerel, Marchand, Siemoni, Hummel, Piper, W. C. Bryant, Marsh, Van Reenan, Surell, Ladoucette, Cantegril, Wex, Berg-haus, Maass, Grebenan, Ebermayer, and a host of others are all, without an exception known to me, opposed to this view of Major Powell's. Time, place, and instance have been cited over and over again to show that the denudation of mountain districts is followed by increased torrent or flood action and diminished regular flow in springs and streams, often by the entire desiccation of these. In my reading, as in my observation as a forest officer, I have never read or known of an instance to warrant Major Powell's theory. It is at variance with all the known facts.

In regard to Major Powell's statement that the evaporation from a forest surface is greater than from denuded hillsides, I can say nothing because I know nothing. But a very considerable number of reliable experiments are accessible to show that Major Powell's inferences are totally wrong. According to Ebermayer, for instance, the following percentages of the rainfall were found in the summer at the depth of one meter:

	With Litter.		Without Litter.	
In open ground.....	19	19	14	11
In the forest.....	52	72	65	36
Difference.....	33	53	51	25

Every one with the most ordinary powers of observation and any experience knows that the soil remains humid longer in a forest than on bare open lands. So also snow remains longer under trees than in the open.

Here in California instances are already piled up for the inquirer. Some of these may be found in the first report of the State Board of Forestry. When the forests are destroyed the streams diminish. We have in such case our streams alternating between violent and destructive torrents and dry beds of sand and boulders.

Powell confutes himself, for he says, a few lines farther on, in speaking of the proposed storage reservoirs, "Storm waters wash the sands from naked hills and mountains, and bear them on to the creeks and rivers, by which they are carried to the storage basins."

Here the major describes torrent action, but he stops

at reservoirs and does not descend his detritus-laden stream to the farms below. As soon as such a stream leaves the steep grades of the mountains it drops its load, fills its bed, and changes its course. No one is safe in the bottom lands. I can show a number of instances of this sort of action in California alone.

Abbot Kinney.

LAMANDA PARK, LOS ANGELES CO., CAL.

The Case of Miss Carroll.

In the general legislation on the pension question it is not a little remarkable that no conclusive action has as yet been taken upon the claim of Miss Anna Ella Carroll, a claim of which perhaps not one in a thousand of the readers of THE CENTURY has ever heard.

Here is a cultivated and intelligent woman, the daughter of ex-Governor Carroll of Maryland, and now at an advanced age and in an invalid state, who presents to the House of Representatives *prima facie* evidence of having rendered distinguished and unusual services to the country during the civil war.

Three military committees of three Congresses have declared in favor of her claim, as below epitomized, and yet it has been neither satisfied nor rejected. Meanwhile Miss Carroll suffers the penalty of having generously withheld—for prudential reasons, in a time of peril—her claims to the authorship of plans of great importance.

The military and historical value of the point at issue puts this claim upon a basis different from one solely personal, and gives to it a wide national interest.

At the third application, made in 1881, Miss Carroll's claims were brought before Congress, and a military committee was appointed to inquire into them. General Bragg, as chairman of the committee, submitted a report, which was printed by order of Congress. It is headed:

FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS, THIRD SESSION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REPORT 386.

The principal points in this report are as follows:

1. In the autumn of 1861 the great question as to whether the Union could be saved, or whether it was hopelessly subverted, depended on the ability of the Government to open the Mississippi and deliver a fatal blow upon the resources of the Confederate power.
2. That the plan then proposed of descending the Mississippi was an unwise and incapable one.
3. That Miss Carroll devised a wise and capable plan, which she induced the Government to substitute for the unwise and incapable one.
4. It is also conclusively shown that no plan, order, letter, or telegram, or suggestion of the Tennessee River as their line of invasion, had ever been produced except in the paper submitted by Miss Carroll on the 30th of November, 1861, and her subsequent letters to the Government as the campaign progressed.
5. That this campaign prevented the recognition of Southern independence.
6. That the campaign defeated national bankruptcy, then imminent.
7. That the wisdom of the plan was proven by the absolute advantages which resulted, giving the mastery of the conflict to the National arms, and evermore assuring their success, even against the powers of all Europe should they have combined.
8. It is further shown that the able and patriotic publications of the memorialist in pamphlets and newspapers, with her high social influence, not only largely contributed to the cause of the Union in her own State, but exerted a wide and salutary influence on the border States.

9. That these publications were used by the Government as war measures, and that Miss Carroll was the first writer on the war powers of the Government.

The report then mentions the two previous decisions which had been made in Congress to the same effect, and concludes :

In view of all these facts this committee believe that the thanks of the nation are due to Miss Carroll, and that they are fully justified in recommending that she be placed on the pension rolls of the Government as a partial measure of recognition for her public services, and report herewith a bill for such purpose, and recommend its passage.

Besides the remarkable list of distinguished men whose testimony had been alluded to, the following letter from the Hon. B. F. Wade, Chairman of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, was appended to the report :

Dear Miss Carroll: I had no part in getting up the Committee [on the Conduct of the War]. The first intimation to me was that I had been made the head of it. But I never shirked a public duty, and at once went to work to do all that was possible to save the country. We went fully into the examination of the several plans for military operations then known to the Government, and we saw plainly enough that the time it must take to execute any of them would make it fatal to the Union.

We were in the deepest despair, until just at this time Colonel Scott informed me that there was a plan already devised which, if executed with secrecy, would open the Tennessee and save the National cause. I went immediately to Mr. Lincoln and talked the whole matter over. He said he did not himself doubt that the plan was feasible, but said there was one difficulty in the way : that no military or naval man had any idea of such a movement, it being the work of a civilian, and none of them would believe it safe to make such an advance upon only a navigable river, with no protection but a gunboat fleet, and they would not want to take the risk. He said it was devised by Miss Carroll, and military men were extremely jealous of all outside interference. I pleaded earnestly with him, for I found there were influences in his Cabinet then averse to his taking the responsibility, and wanting everything done in deference to the views of McClellan and Halleck. I said to Mr. Lincoln, "You know we are now in the last extremity, and you have to choose between adopting and at once executing a plan which you believe to be the right one, and save the country, or defer to the opinions of military men in command, and lose the country." He finally decided that he would take the initiative; but there was Mr. Bates, who had suggested the gunboat fleet, and wanted to advance down the Mississippi, as originally designed; but after a little he came to see that no result could be achieved on that mode of attack, and he united with us in favor of the change of expedition as you recommended.

After repeated talks with Mr. Stanton, I was entirely convinced that if placed at the head of the War Department he would have your plan executed vigorously, as he fully believed it was the only means of safety, as I did. Mr. Lincoln, on my suggesting Stanton, asked me how the leading Republicans would take it — that Stanton was

fresh from the Buchanan Cabinet, and many things said of him. I insisted he was our man withal, and brought him and Lincoln into communication, and Lincoln was entirely satisfied; but so soon as it got out the doubters came to the front. Senators and members called on me. I sent them to Stanton and told them to decide for themselves. The gunboats were then nearly ready for the Mississippi expedition, and Mr. Lincoln agreed, as soon as they were, to start the Tennessee movement. It was determined that as soon as Mr. Stanton came into the department then Colonel Scott should go out to the Western armies and make ready for the campaign in pursuance of your plan, as he has testified before committees. It was a great work to get the matter started; you have no idea of it. We almost fought for it. If ever there was a righteous claim on earth, you have one. I have often been sorry that, knowing all this, as I did then, I had not publicly declared you as the author. But we were fully alive to the importance of absolute secrecy. I trusted but few of our people; but to pacify the country I announced from the Senate that the armies were about to move, and inaction was no longer to be tolerated. Mr. Fessenden, head of the finance committee, who had been told of the proposed advance, also stated to the Senate that what would be achieved in a few more days would satisfy the country and astound the world.

As the expedition advanced, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Stanton, and myself frequently alluded to your extraordinary sagacity and unselfish patriotism, but all agreed that you should be recognized for your most noble service, and properly rewarded for the same.

The last time I saw Mr. Stanton he was on his death-bed; he was then most earnest in his desire to have you come before Congress, as I told you soon after, and said that if he lived he would see that justice was awarded you. This I have told you often since, and I believe the truth in this matter will finally prevail.

B. F. WADE.

General Bragg prepared the following bill to accompany the report :

Be it enacted that the same sum and emoluments given by the Government to the major-generals of the United States Army be paid to Anna Ella Carroll from the date of her services to the country in November, 1861, to the time of the passage of this act, and the further payment of the same amount as the pay and emoluments of a major-general of the United States Army be paid to her in quarterly instalments, to the end of her life, as a partial measure of recognition of her services to the nation, and recommend its passage.

S. E. Blackwell.

NEW YORK.

"A Study of Consciousness."

DR. H. C. WOOD in his article "A Study of Consciousness," in the May number of THE CENTURY, through a "lapse of consciousness" wrote, "a man named Yellowlees," instead of, as he intended, "a case reported by Dr. Yellowlees." Dr. Yellowlees is the genial Medical Superintendent of the Glasgow Royal Asylum for the Insane.

BRIC-À-BRAC.

The Negro in the Overflow.

DE warters keeps er-risin' an' er-risin' on de bank,
De lebies keeps er-breakin', an' de plows am in
de wet,
De niggers all vamousin' ter de dry lan' ever'whar',
But dis nigger hain't er-gwine ter leab de ole planta-
tion yet.

De young uns all kin make new homes an' prosper,
anywhar',
An' 'buse de lan' dat borned 'em, w'en dey moves out
f'om de State,
But de years is w'arin' on me, an' dar's sumpin' I cain't
tote
Hid upon de ole plantation here, an' here I gwine ter
wait.