

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE CALAVERAS NATIONAL FOREST.

COMMUNICATED BY THE FORESTER.

By signing the bill for the creation of the Calaveras National Forest, California, President Roosevelt has completed the legislative act which saves for all time the most famous grove of trees in the world. The people of California, particularly the 500 women of the California Club, have been working to interest the Government in this wonderful grove of Big Trees for more than nine years, but not until now has it been possible to arrange a plan satisfactory alike to the owner of the land and to Congress.

The Senate Bill has been passed by the House of Representatives and signed by the President. Every one interested in the great natural wonders rejoices that as a means of saving the Big Trees, the way has been paved for a practical exchange of the timber in the groves for stumpage on other forest land owned by the Government. The first Calaveras Bill was introduced in the Senate four years ago by Senator Perkins of California. Bills for the same purpose were passed in the upper house of Congress a number of times, but always failed of favorable consideration in the House until Senate Bill 1574, also introduced by Senator Perkins, was called up by Congressman S. C. Smith, of California.

Robert B. Whiteside, of Duluth, Minnesota, a prominent lumberman operating in the Lake States and on the Pacific Coast, is the owner of the Calaveras Big Trees. After his agreement to the proposals which are simply a practical exchange of timber for timber, the entire California delegation gave its solid and enthusiastic support to the bill. No appropriation is needed to carry out the provisions of the act.

The land to be acquired under the bill includes about 960 acres in what is known as the North Calaveras Grove in Calaveras County, and 3040 acres in the South Grove in Tuolumne County. The North Grove contains ninety-three Big Trees, and in the South Grove there are 1380 of these giant sequoias. Any tree under eighteen feet in circumference, or six feet through, is not considered in the count of large trees. Besides the giant sequoias there are hundreds of sugar pines and yellow pines of astonishing proportions, ranging to the height of 275 feet and often attaining a diameter of eight to ten feet. There are also many white firs and incense cedars in the two tracts. A government study of the land was made by a field party under the direction of Fred. G. Plummer, United States Forest Service, in 1906.

The Calaveras Big Trees are known the world over. The North Grove contains ten trees each having a diameter of twenty-five feet or over, and

more than seventy having a diameter of fifteen to twenty-five feet. Most of the trees have been named, some for famous generals of the United States and others for statesmen and various states of the Union. "The Father of the Forests," now down, is estimated by Hittel, in his *Resources of California*, to have had a height of 450 feet and a diameter at the ground of more than forty feet when it was standing. "Massachusetts" contains 118,000 board feet of lumber; "Governor Stoneman" contains 108,000 board feet, and the "Mother of the Forest," burned in the terrible forest fire which licked its way into a part of the grove last summer, contains 105,000 board feet. Each of these trees named grows as much lumber as is grown ordinarily on fifteen or twenty acres of timberland. The bark runs from six inches to two feet in thickness. Among the other large named trees in the two groves are: Waterloo, Pennsylvania, James King, Old Bachelor, Pride of the Forest, Daniel Webster, Sir John Franklin, Empire State, U. S. Grant, W. T. Sherman, J. P. McPherson, Abraham Lincoln, Connecticut, Ohio, Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Dr. Nelson, General Custer, Dr. J. W. Dawson, General Hancock, Knight of the Forest, Two Sentinels, and Old Dowd.

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#### BROADENING.

BY CHARLES J. WOODBURY.

Mary may not have been of all  
 Immaculate of mothers.  
 May be the flash that blinded Paul  
 Has blinded more good brothers.  
 Perhaps from Patmos what John saw  
 Was but a passing panic  
 Of sea and sky disturbed by law,  
 A spectacle volcanic.  
 What if within Messiah lurked  
 Some flaw that found correction?  
 What if there were no wonders worked;  
 And if no resurrection?  
 Yet dreams and gleams as high as these  
 Come, blessing and unsealing,  
 To those who seek the verities  
 And follow their revealing.  
 And Heaven is his who now on earth  
 Gives Heaven or tries to give it.  
 There is no faith of better worth;  
 And good believers live it.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

ASCHERA UND ASTARTE. Von *Paul Torge*. Leipsic: J. C. Hinrichs, 1902.  
 Pp. 58. Price, \$2.50.

The name and the meaning of Aschera has offered many difficulties to translators of the Old Testament. Professor Smend regards it as a substitute for a holy tree. Professors Guthe and Hoffmann speak of it in a similar