

Varieties.

THE MAMMOTH TREES.—A Western clergyman who has recently visited California, gives a detailed account of the most noticeable of the 94 monster trees found in the "Big Tree Grove" in the Yosemite valley, the largest of which are unquestionably more than three thousand years old. The first two, called the Guardsmen, are very straight and perfect, 300 feet high, and 20 and 22 feet in diameter. The three Graces, growing from the same root, nearly 300 feet high, and together measuring 92 feet in circumference, are perfect and beautiful, their lowest limbs being 200 feet from the ground. Hercules, the largest perfect standing tree, measures 29 yards in circumference, and is computed to contain 725,000 feet of lumber, or enough to load a large clipper ship. The Husband and Wife are 250 feet high and 60 each in circumference, and lean towards each other so that their tops touch. The Family Group consists of two very large trees with a family of 24 children. The Father blew down many years ago, and its hollow trunk, which would accommodate half a regiment, lies embedded in the ground. Its circumference was 110 feet, and its height 450 feet, equal to the dome of St. Peter's at Rome. The Mother still stands 327 feet high and 91 in circumference. The Horseback Ride is an old hollow tree, fallen and broken in two, through which the clergyman and his wife rode on a good sized horse a distance of 75 feet. The stump of a tree cut down in 1853, an account of which we gave at the time, stands seven feet high, measuring *thirty feet in diameter*. A concert was given on the top to about fifty persons, the performers and audience occupying the stump. If the reader would step off thirty feet on the ground, and then imagine the circumference, he would get some conception of the size of this tree. These trees, though of such immense age, having begun their growth when Solomon's Temple was commenced, and being more than a thousand years old when Christ was born, where they have been unmolested by man and unscathed by fire, seem sound

and vigorous, their foliage being bright and constantly growing, and they may live one or two thousand years more. Another grove, containing 600 monster trees, has been discovered in Mariposa county, the largest of which measures 114 feet in circumference. The circumference of one of the trees 100 feet from the ground was 66 feet, and it had a branch 18 feet in circumference.

POMPEY'S STATUE.—The special travelling correspondent of the *Christian Watchman and Reflector* in his closing letter from Rome, thus speaks of a memorable work of art:—

In one of the palaces, of which the city is full, and which generally contain more or less of art, I saw the statue of Pompey, which is now almost universally supposed to be the identical one at the base of which "great Cæsar fell" at the hands of Brutus and his associate assassins. For centuries the existence of this statue was unknown; but subsequently it was discovered, exhumed, and brought to light. It had only lost one arm, which has been restored. It is identified both by its form and the place of its discovery, which corresponds with the statements made in history as to the locality in which it was last left. It is unquestionably an antique, and is worthy to have been that of the illustrious Pompey. It is most dignified and noble in its port, bearing the aspect of a god rather than a mortal. Its right arm is extended as in command. It was a fitting ornament of the place it occupied, as it has a countenance and bearing realizing our highest ideas of Roman valor and dignity. My sensations were peculiar, as I gazed at it, and thought of what it had witnessed. To that noble form the haughty Cæsar clung when pierced by many wounds, and upon its base the blood of false conspiracy flowed. There are those that pretend that some red stains upon one of the limbs of the figure were made by the blood shed on that occasion; but this is hardly credible, especially as the statue was buried for many years. This glorious work.