

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE OIL WELLS OF MECCA.

by DR. J. S. NEWBERRY.

Within the past week I have made a pilgrimage to Mecca, somewhat to my edification, and now perhaps you would be interested in a very brief description of this newly found "city of the profit."

This modern Mecca is, as you are perhaps aware, situated near the centre of Trumbull county, ten miles north-east of Warren. Till recently—like so many towns on the Reserve, and their prototypes, the farming towns of New England—simply the pleasant and very quiet home of a peaceful and thrifty rural population. In March last, however, the Oil Springs, which had been well known to the inhabitants for fifty years, and from their contaminating influence on the water, regarded as anything but a blessing—attracted the attention of some Pennsylvanians, whose eyes had been opened by the wonders of Oil Creek. These parties leased from the proprietors most of the lands in the vicinity of the springs and wells containing oil. In the face of general incredulity and much ridicule, a well was bored at Powers' Corners by Messrs. Burnell, Jordan & Woods, and a pump set in it some six weeks since. This has continued to discharge three or four barrels of oil daily, from that time to the present, silencing ridicule but producing little excitement.

Many were encouraged to bore on their lots, and two weeks ago to-day the second pump was put in operation. This was owned by two Germans who were quite poor, and who had struggled on, nearly discouraged, until their somewhat rude machinery could be put in motion. With the first stroke of the pump the oil began to flow, as it has done steadily since, at the rate of about twenty-five gallons per hour, or from 12 to 16 barrels per day. The proprietors are raised from their poverty and despondence to a point far above their wildest hopes. After seeing the oil flowing in a copious and steady stream, and the triumphant success of the experiment demonstrated, one of them turned to the crowd, and carried away by his feelings, said, "I tell you now, gentlemen, if