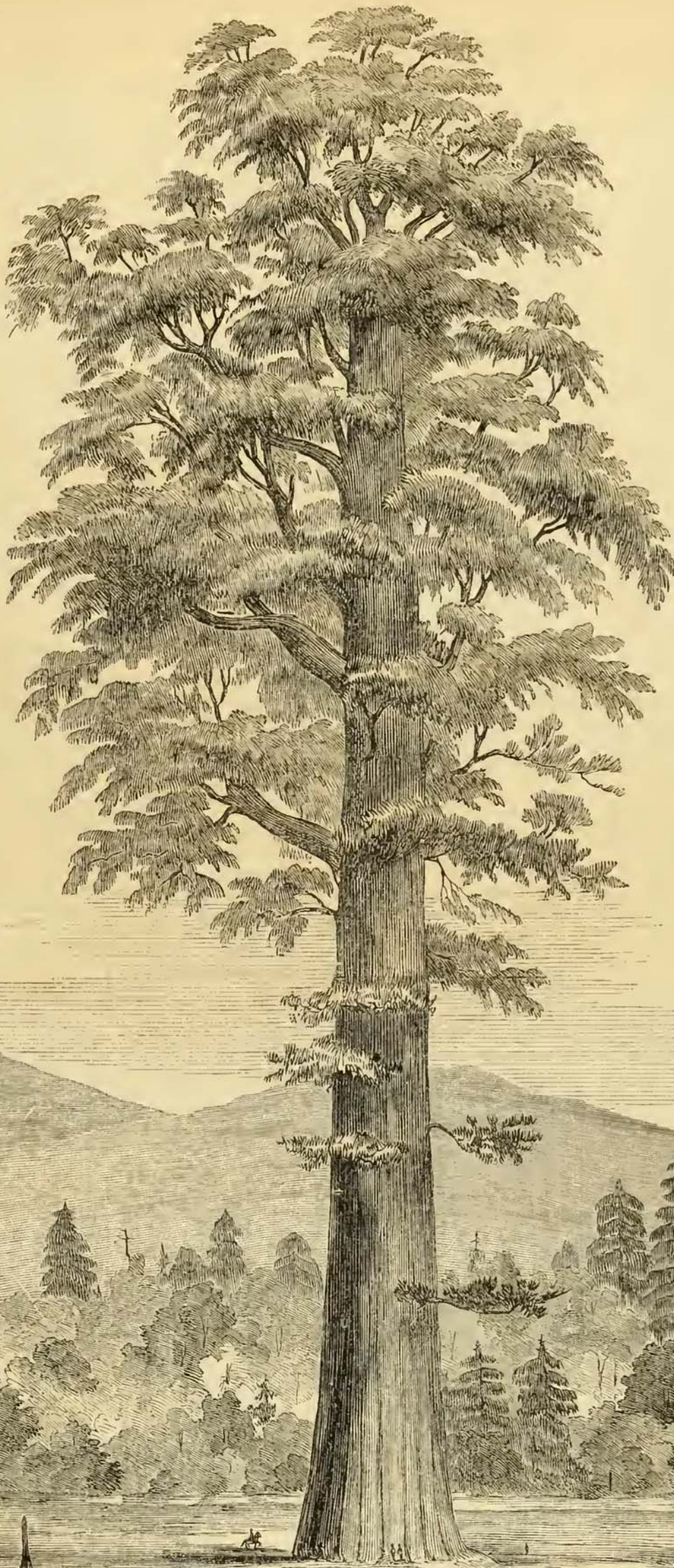


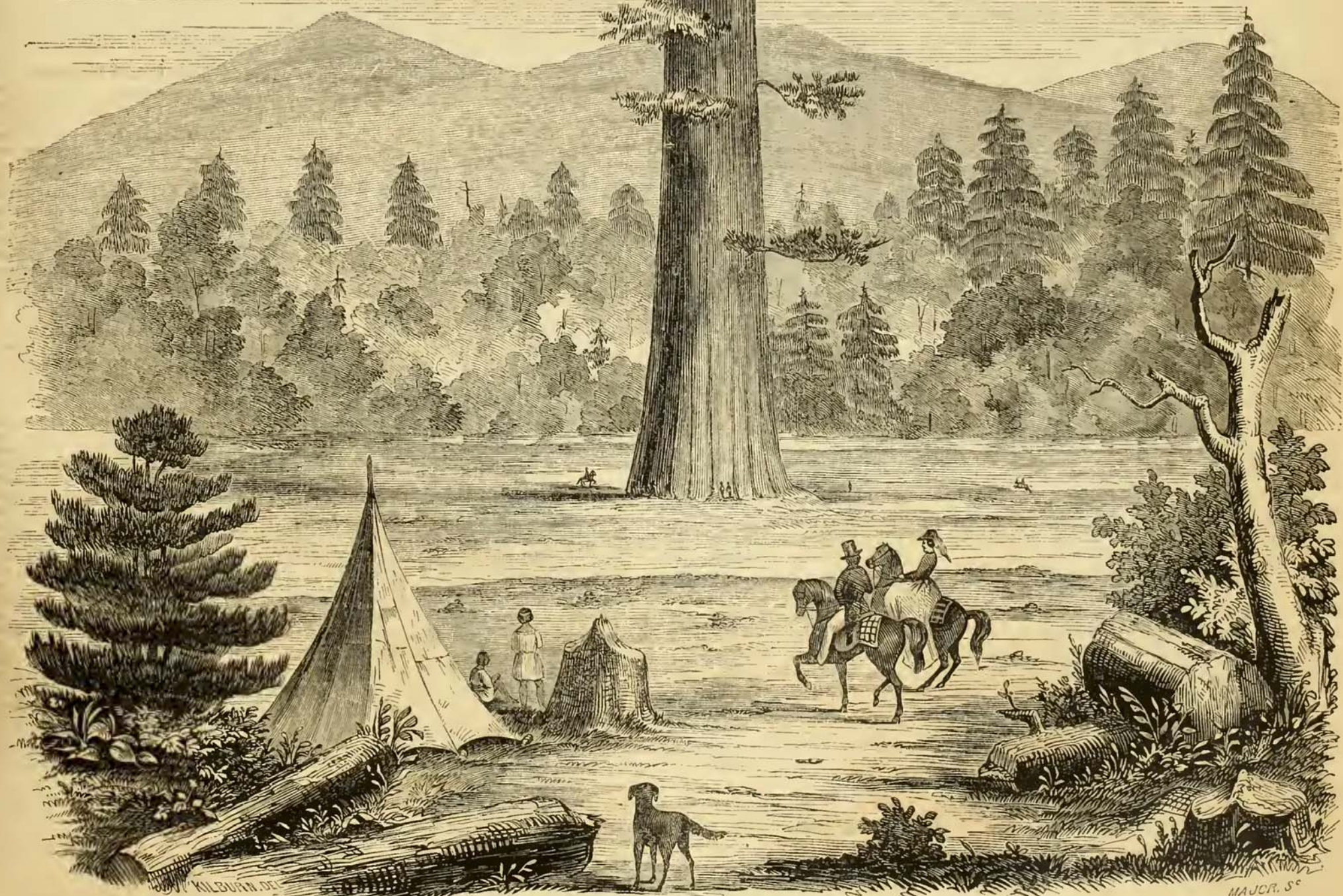
AN IMMENSE TREE.

For some time past the papers of the day have been chronicling the discovery of an enormous tree in California, of such gigantic proportions, as to be at once a wonder and curiosity to behold. The first reports that reached us concerning this immense giant of the forest seemed fabulous, so extraordinary were the particulars; but the largest story did not exceed the truth, as the result shows. We have been kindly furnished with an original picture of this wonder of the world by Moses Kimball, Esq., of the Boston Museum, and hasten to lay it before the readers of the Pictorial, as an exceedingly interesting engraving. The tree is a cedar, and was first discovered by some miners in the mountains of Calaveras, California, in a forest called the Redwoods, on Trinidad Bay, some twenty or thirty miles from the mouth of Klamath River, on the northern seacoast of the State—a region that has been but very little explored. A correspondent of the Sonora Herald, who recently made an excursion to see it, thus describes it:—At the ground its circumference was ninety-two feet; four feet above that, it was eighty-eight; and ten feet above that, it was sixty-one feet in circumference; and the tapering of the shaft was very gradual. Its height, as measured by Captain H., is three hundred feet, but we made it but two hundred and eighty-five. This tree is by no means a deformity, as most trees with large trunks are. It is throughout one of perfect symmetry, while its enormous proportions are inseparable concomitants of its grandeur. I have said that this is the largest tree yet discovered in the world. It is so. The celebrated tree of Fremont would have to grow many centuries before it could pretend to be called anything but a younger brother. It is said that a tree was once found in Senegal, in Africa, whose trunk measured ninety feet in circumference. But no other has ever been able to find it since its first discovery. It is called by the natives, Baobab; by botanists, *Adansonia digitata*. But it is admitted by all that none can now be found with a circumference greater than eighty-one feet. There is a tree in Mexico called the Taxodium, which is said to be one hundred and seventeen feet in circumference, but some have said that it was formed by the union of several trees. The height of all these foreign trees is not more, in any case, than seventy feet; and none of the trunks are more than ten feet. The age of this mammoth cedar of California, if each zone may be reckoned one year, is about two thousand five hundred and twenty years. A section of the wood which I brought home with me, exclusive of the sap, which is only about one inch thick, numbers about fourteen zones or grains to the inch. At that rate, if it were permitted to grow, it would increase its diameter one seventh of an inch every year. In eighty-four years its diame-



ter would be increased one foot; in eight hundred and forty years, ten feet; so that it would then be forty feet in diameter, and one hundred and twenty feet in circumference.

To our mind it seems a cruel idea, a perfect desecration, to cut down such a splendid tree. But this has been done, not, however, without a vast deal of labor. It was accomplished by first boring holes through the body with long augers, worked by machinery, and afterward sawing from one to the other. Of course, as the sawing drew to a close, the workmen were on the alert to notice the first sign of toppling, but none came; the tree was so straight and evenly balanced on all sides that it retained its upright position after it had been sawed through. Wedges were then forced in, and a breeze happening to spring up, over went the monster with a crash which was heard for miles around. The bark was stripped from it for the length of fifty feet from the base, and is from one to two feet in thickness. It was taken off in sections, so that it can be placed, relatively, in its original position, and thus give the beholder a just idea of the gigantic dimensions of the tree. So placed it will occupy a space of about thirty feet in diameter, or ninety feet in circumference, and fifty feet in height. A piece of the wood will be shown, which has been cut out from the tree across the whole diameter. We are told that this piece of wood shows a vestige of bark near the middle, and that this bark was evidently charred many centuries ago, when the tree was comparatively a sapling. At last accounts the tree was at Stockton, on the way to San Francisco, where it was to be exhibited previous to its shipment to the Atlantic States. Probably it will not be very long, therefore, before our readers will be able to get a view of this monster of the California woods for a trifling admission fee. In Europe, such a natural production would have been cherished and protected, if necessary, by law; but in this money-making, go-ahead community, thirty or forty thousand dollars are paid for it, and the purchaser chops it down, and ships it off for a shilling show! We hope that no one will conceive the idea of purchasing Niagara Falls with the same purpose! The Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, is comparatively safe, being *underground*; and then it would be impossible to get it all away through the limited size of the entrance! So, for the present, at least, we need not except the cave this way. But, seriously, what in the world could have possessed any mortal to embark in such a speculation with this mountain of wood? In its natural condition, rearing its majestic head towards heaven, and waving in all its native vigor, strength and verdure, it was a sight worth a pilgrimage to see; but now, alas! it is only a monument of the cupidity of those who have destroyed all there was of interest connected with it.



THE GREAT CALIFORNIA CEDAR TREE.