



A Singular Frond of the Christmas Fern.

## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

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### A SINGULAR FORM OF THE CHRISTMAS FERN.

The accompanying plate shows two curiously transformed fronds of the common Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott, collected on May 25th, 1901, in the picturesque vicinity of Glen Carlyn, which is not far from Falls Church, Virginia. Both fronds are ordinarily fertile at their apices, and these portions alone, it will be observed, lie in the normal plane. The sterile pinnae have assumed a semi-circular form in a plane perpendicular to the fertile portion; each is curved upward into a semicircle and folded lengthwise upon itself, the midvein forming the keel or boundary of the inner curve. The views here presented of the two fronds supplement each other admirably; but after all, the print fails to convey an adequate impression of the extreme oddity of the fresh specimens. Except for the flat fertile tips the fronds were like latticed green tubes.

The fronds were collected hastily near a path in a rich woodland by an acquaintance while "a-birding," and no particular notice was taken of the surroundings or of the plant itself; consequently a later search did not avail in locating the plant, and we do not know whether the other fronds were of this sort. It would have been of the greatest interest to develop the form under cultivation, and it is scarcely to be doubted that so well-marked a type of variation could have been made permanent and very likely could have been multiplied successfully. I shall make a further search for the plant, during the present spring. The plate herewith presented is from a photograph by Mr. Henry E. Baum, and shows the plant at its natural size.—WILLIAM R. MAXON, *Washington, D. C.*

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### THE SEQUOIA FORESTS.

The part of the Twenty-first Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey devoted to Forest Reserves, by Mr. Henry Gannett, Geographer, now in press, but not yet published, contains the reports on the Yosemite and Sonora quadrangles, by Mr. C. H. Fitch, and on the Markleeville, Pyramid Peak, Placerville, Dardanelles, Big Trees, and Jackson quadrangles, by Mr. Geo. B. Sudworth. The total area included in the