## THE BOER COUNTRY.

Remarkable Growth of the South African Republic.

settlement of the Transvasl and Its Marposition of the Government.

The territory comprising the Trans-raal or South African republic covers an area larger than that of France. It is peopled by the Boers, who fled from the tyrannical form of government which the English sought to impose upon them further south. The Boers are the descendants of the sturdy Netherlanders, who constituted Holland a republic and a formidable power in the sixteenth century, and of the Hugue-nots, who were driven from France by the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1085 by Louis XIV. Thus in the Boers of South Africa there is a combination of the characteristics of two people who are conspicuous in European history for the struggles they waged for political and religious liberty. Since the days when the first band of hardy immigrant Boers crossed the Vanl river, where England's tyranny stopped at following them, and planted their cabins on the broad and sunny slopes of the Transvaal, the country has gone through the changes and throes which mark the life of individual and nation alike. Within the past five years a marvelous development of population, resources and industries has followed on the success which gold mining has achieved. Railway communication now connects Johannesburg via the diamond mines of Kimberly with the Cape of Good Hope, a distance of nine hundred and forty-five miles. Other connections are rapidly progressing from Natal and Delagon bay, centralizing at Pretoria, the capital and seat of governmen in the Transvaal. The constitution of the South African

republic, says Goldthwaite's Magazine, s based on Roman Dutch. The legislative power is vested in the volksraad, the members of which are elected by their constituents for four years. The executive consists of the president, elected for five years by a general election throughout the state, the state secretary elected by the volksrand for four years, and four unofficial members chosen for three years by the volks-raad. The chief officer in each district is the landdrost, who nets as magistrate and civil commissioner, with the assistance of a clerk, who is at the same time public prosecutor and dis-tributor of stamps. Each district is further provided with a baljuw or sheriff, gaoler and a staff of constables. With the exception of a corps of mounted artillery and police, com-manded by three officers with about sixty men, the republic has no armed force. The president, with the concurrence of the executive, has the right to declare war and call up a commando. la which the burghers are placed under the field cornets and commandants of each district. The whole force is commanded by the commandant general, who is elected by the country for the term of ten years. All inhabitants of the state between sixteen and gixty years of age, not exempt according to law, are liable to service on commando. President Kruger is now occupying his office for the third term. lie is a patriot, a man whose heroic life posterity will honor. Among the Hoers he is known exclusively as "Oom Paul." "Uncle Paul." Though a man regards the most elementary branches of education, he has shown a practical capacity for government that has been a match for the most finished diplomany and statecraft. For the conservation of the interests of the mining class, almost entirely English, he influenced the volksraad to establish a second chamber, to which they could send their representatives. This chamber legislates in the interest of the English class and for the local interests of the country, the volksmad holding the right of veto over its pro-

PERFUME MEASURED BY CENTS She Wanted Visitors to Smell the Dollarand-a-Half Roses.

"All flesh is not the same flesh," and there are people who eannot understand the esthetic delight in what to a grosser sense is at best a mere matter of sensuous pleasure and in many instances simply an affair of dollars and

What flowers are, for instance, to some feminine natures is incomprehensible to less poetic beings, who, however pleased they may be with the costly beauty of exotics are quite incapable of feeling the true spell of their loveliness.

One of these true lovers of flowers, calling on Mrs. Midas the other day, says the New York Tribune, was shown into her sumptuous drawingroom, which, in accordance with the delightful fashion of the day, was filled with costly roses in the greatest profusion, and was redolent of their perfume.

Quite entranced, the "lover of flowers" wandered from one fragant specimen to another, and finally was hanging with delight over a large bunch of 'Mme. Cousines," whose exquisite pink looked most enchantingly fresh in a large bowl of clear cut crystal, when

her hostess entered. "Admiring the roses, are you?" said the latter, after the first greetings had been said. "Yes, they are pretty nice this morning; I gave carte blanche to Blank to fill my vases every other day, so I have no trouble about them at all. But don't waste your praises over those twenty-five-cent things; only smell these," pointing to the superb cluster of American Beauties. "They cost one dollar and a half apiece."

Discard Their Tuits.

When suddenly frightened lizards will often drop their tails and scurry away. The discarded member, bouncing up and down, attracts the attention of the enemy and enables an escape to be

SNAKE STALKING.

Perilons Springtime Sport Indulged In by Mon of Maryland. "They have a novel and exciting

spring sport down in Anna Arundel county, Maryland," said a man from Baltimore to a writer for the New York Sun. "It is snake shooting. Long, long ago the native sportsmen down there discovered that in the spring of the year blacksnakes, garter snakes and moceasins-and Anne Arundel county seems to have a good many hundred of these to the acre—are engaged in their little lovemaking affairs. They hover together in dry spots, and make so much noise with their hissing and wriggling that it is no trouble to stalk them from a long distance away. At the season named they are not only bold and fearless, but they will not hesitate to attack an intruder on their trysting places. The moccasin snake looks dull and rusty on land, but his back lights up into beautiful kal-cidoscopic markings when in the water. The moccasin is the easiest snake to kill, they say. When the warm spring sun showers its rays down on the pools in which the moccasin lives and finds his prey he comes to the surface and hangs on to a jutting bush or weed, or crawls out on the banks and lies stretched on the grass or sand. He is shy and will run quickly at an approach, except at mat-ing time, and then he will show you a pretty fight. And you hadn't better let him bite you. His bite may not kill you, but it would be better if a whole nest of hornets rested on you and enjoyed themselves than that one little water moccasin should touch you with his fangs. But his cousin, the cottonmouth, or stubtail moceasin, will bring your last will and testament into service nearly surer than the cholera or yellow fever. His poison tooth is as deadly as the rattlesnake's, and when he hears you coming he won't run away or warn you like the rattlesnake, but will lie still and wait for you and plug venom into you if he can. There is considerable vim in stalking a stumptail moccasin when he is absorbed in his lovemaking, and you want to make sure of your shots when you draw bead on him.

"The proper and sportsmanlike way of hunting snakes in Anne Arundel county is to shoot them with a small rifle, and the sportsman who doesn't bag his game by shooting it in the head isn't looked up to much. The man who would go out after snakes with a shotgun down there would lose caste immediately, and be sadly talked about. The favorite rifle is one of 22 calther, and twenty yards' range is the least an expert snake stalker asks. A moccasin head can be plainly seen at that distance, and many a shot among the snake hunters doesn't brag any if he doesn't knock eight heads off out of ten at that distance.

NAMES OF CHILDREN. Custom of Haptismal Christening and Odd

Results of Mistakes. Down to the early port of the present century it was usual to name a child after the saint on whose day he happened to be born. A writer to Notes and Queries in 1853 states that he had recently baptized a child by the name of Benjamin Simon Jude. On his expressing some surprise at this somewhat singular conjunction of names, he was informed that the birth had taken place on the festival of SS. Simon and Jude, and that it was always considered very unlucky to take the day from a child.

The custom of naming children after of rapped exterior, untutored even as | any particular saint has fallen into general disuse, except in those countries where the population is composed almost entirely of Roman Catholics. The giving of a name in boptism is really no essential part of the rite, but is merely a custom derived apparently from the Jews, and which through long practice has become an important

element in the eeremony.

Many instances might be furnished of children who have inadvertently received wrong names. The registers in Warminster church contain the following entries:

1700, January 17, Charles, daughter of John and Betty Haines. This child ought to have been christened Charlotte, but owing to a mistake of the

sponsors, it was wrong named."
"1791, July 31, William, daughter of
William and Sarah Weiddick. N. B.— It was intended that this child, being a girl, should have been christened Maria, but through a mistake of the godfather it was named William."

WILL WITH A TIME LOCK. Odd Testamentary Freak of an Eccentric

Polish Land Owner. The contents of a most eccentric will. left by M. Zalesky, a rich Polish landed proprietor, who died in the province of Taurida in March, 1889, were recently published, says the London Telegraph The property left by the deceased was valued at seventy-five thousand dollars, and his will was inclosed in an envelope bearing the words: "To be opened after my death." On this envelope being opened, the executor found a scaled envelope, on which was written: "To be opened six weeks after my death." The stipulated time having elapsed, the second envelope was opened and a third was found with the words: "To be opened a year after my death." At the end of the year a fourth envelope was discovered which was to be opened two years after the death of the deceased.

This continued for five years, and when, at length, in 1894, the actual will was read, it was found to be as eccentric in its dispositions as in the directions attaching to its opening. The testator bequeathed half of his fortune to such one of his heirs as has the greatest number of children. The rest of his money he directed to be placed in a bank, and at the end of one hundred years, distributed, with the ac-cumulated interest, among the de-

scendants of the testator. The heirs of the decessed, however have taken proceedings to test the legality of the will, on the ground that M. Zalesky was not in a sound dispos-

ing mind

SACRED MONKEYS.

Disturbance of the Adjuncts to the Brahmin Worship.

In certain parts of India monkeys are regarded as objects of worship. In "Reminiscences of Seventy Years' Life, Travel and Adventure," the author was about to enter the court of a large monkey temple at Nuddea, when the officiating Brahmin said: "No person must visit the court of Huniman"—the monkey god—"with his shoes on." After some discussion, however, the point was yielded, the party entering without removing their shoes. Of another occasion he writes:

In passing up the country, when near to Nuddea, I happened to stroll into a bamboo tope, or jungle, when the boat had put to for the night. I had not advanced far before I heard a terrible up-roar all around, and was not a little alarmed, on looking up, to behold a whole army of the largest monkeys

making towards me from all quarters. Some jumped on the ground before me, others swung by the bamboos over my head, and many closed up the path in my rear. Several females had young ones clinging to them, but this did not seem to render them less agile than the others. A few of the largest, and apparently the oldest, chattered for about half a minute together; then the whole tribe responded, while all closed

in upon me. What to do I knew not. However, I hallooed as loudly as I could to make my people hear, and to my great comfort the monkeys retreated a few paces every time I did so. This encouraged me to persevere, but I perceived that when I began to retreat they closed upon me again, without being affected by my noise.

Once more I stood still and gave a tremendous shout, when back they went again. I gained full twenty yards this time before they came jumping around; and just as I was about to repeat the call, my hopes were raised by beholding a poor, decrepit old woman some hobbling through the midst of them.

She shook two or three of them by the paws as she passed; but no sooner had she come within hearing than she opened upon me a torrent of abuse for disturbing the sacred animals in their retirement. She motioned me, with almost frantic gestures, to depart quickly, and her tongue never ceased till I was quite out of hearing.

I was not long in fulfilling her comwands, as the monkeys all seemed implicitly to obey her bidding, and made a way for my retreat. When I quitted the jungle I met my servant, who said he was coming to tell me not to disturb the monkeys, as Huniman owned that bamboo grove. The old woman, 'it appeared, was employed by the Brahmins to give the monkeys food every day; beside which they were worshiped by all the people in the country round, who brought offerings of rice and sweetments to them continnally.

AN EXPENSIVE DINNER.

It Cost at the Rate of Seven Hundred Doblara a Plate. "History of the enisine fairly teems with descriptions of costly meals," re-marked a resident of Brooklyn recently to a writer for the Washington Star. "We read how that profligate Heliogabalus, the Roman emperor, had a single dish on his table once that cost two hundred thousand dollars, and how another Roman, Aclin Verus, gave a supper to a dozen cronies that cost a quarter of a million dollars. Then Vitellius, still another Roman and an emperor, likewise entertained his brother at a little smack that used up a couple of hundred thousand; but these were ancient fellows, who had nightingales' tongues and humming birds' brains and similar marvelous dainties. Coming down to modern days and plain, ordinary, everyday ham and eggs, I ate a supper once in this very town that cost a friend of mine four teen hundred dollars. A gentleman named Parker kept an establishment devoted to entertaining gentlemen at sundry games of chance. One night the friend I speak of and myself were killing an evening here together, when we conceived the idea that a visit to Parker's would be just the thing. We put it into execution at once. I have never gambled in my life, and my friend has not done it since. We went upstairs and entered the room just as supper was announced. My friend did not want to eat anything, but I was hungry, and when some plausible rascal of a dealer told me that there was brolled Smithfield ham flanked with pullets' eggs as a sort of side issue to the otherwise gorgeous feast I-broke for the supper room, despite my com-

panion's pleadings. Of course he fol-

lowed me when he found his protesta-

tions were useless, and we enjoyed the feed immensely. When we came out

my friend pulled out a twenty-dollar bill and said he would play a turn or

two to pay for our supper. I begged

him in turn not to do it, but he was as

obdurate as I had been. He lost his

twenty-dollar bill and tried to get it

back. In two hours fourteen hundred

dollars were gone glimmering. I have

never felt so downright hungry since

that a slight request from a mere acquaintance cannot keep me away from a dead-head feed." The Tullest of the Races. According to an investigation conducted under the auspices of the International Society of Anthropologists of London, which has just concluded an inquiry respecting the average height of the various races and nationalities, English and American citizens average taller than any other representatives of the human family. The English professional classes, who head the list as the tallest of adult males, attain the average of 5 feet 0.14 inches. Next on the list come the males of all classes in the United States, and a minute fraction behind them come the English of all classes. In other European countries the average for the male adult is but 5 feet 6 inches; the Austrians, the Portuguese and the Spaniards fall somewhat below the general European prerage.

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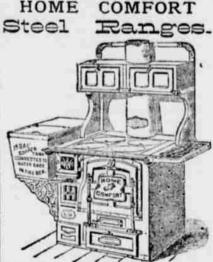
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find this range to be best I have ever used. It gives perfect satisfaction in every respect.
In fact would use no other.
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Wrought Iron Range Co., St. Louis, Mo.
GENTLEMEN:—This is to certify that we purchased a Home Comfort range of your agent and it has indeed proved itself a comfort. We have used it with the utmost satisfaction for all cooking, and for baking qualities think it cannot be excelled. We have told our friends that we would not give up this range for one hundred dollars unless we were sure we could purchase another. It affords us great pleasure in recommending it to any family in need of a first-class range.

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