

THE BLACK PERIL.

A HORRIBLE POSSIBILITY OF THE BOER-BRITISH WAR.

What an Outbreak of the Native Tribes of South Africa Would Mean May Occasion Atrocities that Would Appall the World.

One of the horrible possibilities of the British-Boer war is an outbreak of the black population in South Africa. The natives hate the Boers for the traditional cruelty of the latter, and if the British forces are unable to restrain them the blacks may work atrocities that will appall the world.

Table comparing the numbers of the two races: Country, Black, White. Cape Colony, 1,600,000, 400,000. Rhodesia, 1,000,000, 5,000. Transvaal, 850,000, 250,000. Natal, 530,000, 50,000. Basutoland, 250,000, 600. Orange Free State, 200,000, 80,000. Swaziland, 70,000, 500. British Cent. Africa, 850,000, 500. Bechuanaland, 250,000, 2,000.

The center of interest in the present juncture is naturally the Transvaal, where there are 850,000 natives and 250,000 whites. The natives are mostly confined to the northern portions of the republic, the Zoutpansberg, Spelonken and Letaba districts, and here they live and thrive in their thousands.

Happily the aim of the levithian was bad, for in his rush he missed the boat by some three or four feet and passed on like a whirlwind a considerable distance beyond. The rapid passage of the whale with half of his huge body above the water-line threshed the water into a miniature tidal wave, which swung the boat as though in an eddy and all but capsized it.

The men's guns stood at that end of the tent, butts resting on a piece of cracker box, the barrels held in some sort of a holder secured to the tent pole.

There was a seam, overlapped, running down the middle of the back of the tent, butts resting on a piece of cracker box, the barrels held in some sort of a holder secured to the tent pole.

This all used to seem kind of strange, then somehow, though practically it was just what I would have done in the old house at home and just what I'd do here now.

Anglo-Indians are passionately fond of sports, and have originated some clever and unusual outdoor entertainments. Not long ago a race was got up in which a camel, an elephant, a horse, a bicycle and an automobile were the entries.

Natal contains within its borders no fewer than 530,000 natives, almost all Zulus (Natal is reckoned as including Zululand proper), and 50,000 white folk. There are thus twelve natives to every white inhabitant.

By a curious concatenation of events which is not without its bearing upon the manner in which the Boers treat

natives, according to their immemorial custom, the Orange Free State presents the nearest approach to equality between the two races. Here there are 200,000 natives and 80,000 whites, or about two and one-half to one.

PACIFIC COAST FISHING INCIDENT. Narrow Escape of a Small Boats Party from a Whale's Mad Rush.

The theory that whales refuse to attack men unless they themselves are assailed was exploded a few days ago. At the hour stated a monster whale not less than sixty feet in length made a vicious charge at a boat anchored off Point Cavallo and badly frightened its occupants.

The boat, containing the fisherman and his three children, was pulled to a point about 1,500 feet off Point Cavallo and dropped anchor. The party were fishing industriously when a whale entered the Golden Gate and sped toward them. The spectacle of the animal excited the curiosity of the young fisher folk, but caused no alarm.

The time is rapidly approaching when all things will be utilized. Tools, from waste dust, are now being molded in large quantities in Tennessee, one concern having turned out 25,000,000 last year.

According to tables made by sporting men, over \$250,000,000 is lost on the turf every year. Of this \$50,000,000 is lost on English race courses, and, strange to say, about \$100,000,000 on Australian courses.

The flag of the Red Cross Association now floats over a fully equipped hospital in China, where from fifty to 100 patients are treated daily.

What becomes of all the pennies? A superficial answer might be that we spend them, as in truth we do; but did you ever stop to consider the enormous quantities of the little copper coins turned out by the Philadelphia Mint every year?

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It was at a society wedding. The clergyman after proclaiming the banns of matrimony between the young couple concluded by saying: "If there be any objections they can now be stated."

A fashionable youth, an old admirer of the intended bride, noticing the eyes of a portion of the congregation fixed upon him, rose up and exclaimed: "I have no objections for my own part, and then quietly resumed his seat as if he had attended to a mere formality."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It will cost \$250,000 to make the necessary repairs on the Olympia. But they would be made all the same, even if it cost four times that sum.

While spectacles may not always improve an individual's appearance, it cannot be denied that many people look better through them.

The Sultan of Turkey denies the report that he drowned a number of the harem ladies suspected of conspiracy. The Sultan evidently does not desire to furnish the basis for an aggressive equal rights movement in his domain.

We are apt to look upon Russia as a somewhat backward country in industrial enterprise, but it is a fact that Russia leads all the countries of Europe in the use of air brakes and other safety appliances for railroads.

The latest educational novelty at Chicago is a school just opened under university auspices. It is designed as a home for abnormal pupils or defectives who will receive special instruction under supervision of mind experts.

A century ago Adam Smith, noted as a remarkable accomplishment of the manufacture of 48,000 pins by ten men in a day. In these times it is considered an ordinary achievement for three men to make 7,500,000 pins in the same time.

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The railroads of Australia have never discovered that it is possible to take up tickets on the train, hence the passengers are locked in the cars to prevent any of them stealing a ride, and when they arrive at their station are hustled out through a turnstile and held up for tickets.

According to the Blue Book of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, the percentage of National schools in which vocal music is taught is 14.48 per cent. In 1898, for the first time, candidates for places as teachers in those schools were examined in practical vocal music, and were marked according to their skill in singing.

Newspaper readers are now beginning another extensive course in geography. Just as the war with Spain made them familiar with the geography of Cuba and Porto Rico and the insurrection in the Philippines furnished valuable information concerning those faraway islands, the Boer-British war will give them geographical instruction regarding South Africa.

Facts multiplying daily go to prove that the car famine from which the railroads are suffering at the present time is the most widespread ever known, and, what is worse, instead of being likely to terminate in the course of a couple of months, as has been the experience with such lack of transportation in the past, indications point to a strong probability of its lasting all winter.

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culty without removing the house, Schomp issued a lease to Maire for the part of the property occupied by the structure. Some time ago the house burned down and Schomp then declared the lease at an end; but this was contested by Maire, who said that the cellar under the house that burned still maintained the lease.

A change for the better in the character of Italian immigration is noticed by the Pittsburgh Dispatch among the Italians arriving in the city. Until recently the immigration was composed principally of men, who came with the intention of remaining only until they had accumulated enough money to make their condition easier on their return to their native land.

The Chronicle Fire Tables which are published annually by the organ of fire underwriters give some curious details regarding the fire losses in the United States during the past year. They show that the average loss by fire has been reduced in ten years from \$6,322 in 1888 to \$1,860 in 1898.

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TINY DEATH MESSENGER.

Terrible Opportunities of Secret Murder Lurk in a Late Device.

Warden Hagen, of the Tombs Prison, New York City, has in his possession a novel weapon, perhaps the most dangerous ever taken from a prisoner. The origin of this deadly implement was an ordinary hypodermic syringe. It is the hypodermic syringe adapted to crime.

The slender, hollow needle with which the puncture is made and the drug injected in ordinary use is made into a sort of tiny blow-pipe dart which, when the piston is pressed, will fly for a distance of several feet with sufficient force to puncture the flesh and remain buried in the almost imperceptible wound it makes. Its hollow core is large enough to carry sufficient quantity of a drug to cause speedy unconsciousness or death itself.

Commissioner Lantry, Dr. Campbell, of the prison's medical corps, and a number of experts in criminal devices have examined the weapon, and all pronounced it not only something new in the implements of crime, but something more deadly in its possibilities than they have ever seen.

"We found the thing hidden away in the coat-lining of a notorious criminal of New York," said Warden Hagen. "He was arrested for highway robbery, and is now serving a sentence. It showed evidence of recent use."

The Warden, by way of illustration, barely touched the end of the piston, and the dart shot out and remained sticking in the coat of the reporter, seated fully four feet away.

"All the autopsies in the world would not be likely to reveal the cause of death in a person killed with this thing," he said.

"The implement was made for criminal purposes. Not long after the prisoner who had it was sent to prison a villainous looking scoundrel came here and asked for the syringe. He had an order from the convict for it but I would not let him have it."

"The syringe, two long, slender phials, a number of needles and a small extension tube were compactly stowed away in a little aluminum case that could be slipped into the waistcoat pocket. The extension tube is made to fit into the end of the syringe, thereby extending it and making of it a miniature rifle barrel from which the deadly darts could be thrown to a much greater distance than from the syringe itself.

This particular outfit Commissioner Lantry says is clearly of foreign make.

Grape Seed and Appendicitis.

The popular impression that appendicitis is always caused by some small foreign body which sets up an inflammation in the vermiform appendix is a popular delusion, remarked an experienced surgeon the other day.

The old "grape seed" theory caused a great deal of unnecessary anxiety to early operators. When they used the knife and failed to find anything unusual in the sac of the appendix they were disposed to fear that they had made a mistake in the diagnosis and that the case was, after all, not one of appendicitis.

"Strange!" he exclaimed. "What can be the reason of it?"

In order to ascertain he walked round to the other side of the lamp, and in doing so encountered one of the light-house men, who touched his cap, and said, in an undertone, "thank you, sir."

The man, seeing the coin coming toward him, had procured it, thinking it was meant for a tip.

Big Trees in the Tarheel State.

Mr. Thomas Garrison has given the News some valuable information in regard to another very large poplar tree. The tree is 26 feet and 10 inches in circumference.

Nearly every citizen in Springville District, Greenup County, Ky., was arrested recently for refusing to work on the roads, as required by the Kentucky road law.

has a small shell and there projects from the under part of the body a long tongue-like piece of flesh. This is the raft, and it is built upon most scientific principles, for it has compartments in it for air. It is broad and the air compartments are underneath, so that it cannot capsize.

Moreover, the snail knows how to stow away its cargo, for the oldest eggs and those which hatch the soonest are placed in the center and the lightest and newest on the side of the raft.

Reported in the *London Journal*. Col. Sheffield Phelps, owner of the *Jersey City Journal*, was the richest newspaper man in America several years ago.

REPORTER WORTH A MILLION.

Col. Sheffield Phelps, owner of the *Jersey City Journal*, was the richest newspaper man in America several years ago. From his father, the late William Walter Phelps, he inherited a fortune of several millions, and under his active and practical management he made his newspaper the foremost journal of the State.

After his graduation from Yale, in 1886, Col. Phelps began active newspaper work as a reporter on the *World* at New York. Later he became an editorial writer on the *Mail* and *Express*, and afterward filled the position of acting managing editor on the same paper.

Once, while on the *World* staff, he was sent to report the wedding of the daughter of a Wall street man recently from the West. The reporters were met at the front door by a trained servant, who quickly separated them from the guests and led them to the host's private room, where the banker met them in person, and gave them type-written slips containing the information they were sent for.

"Have one," he said to Phelps. "They're genuine conchas. I import them myself."

"Thanks," said Phelps pleasantly, as he took the cigar. "Have one of mine. They're real *apura maduras*." Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

A Singular Friendship.

That the lion and the lamb will never lie down together is a matter on which the most optimistic can have little doubt. One is not surprised when such noble animals as the dog and horse affiliate, nor the equally interesting cat and monkey, for they have much in common, and many of them, but that Tabby and a chicken should fraternize with the utmost good will is surely worthy of remark.

A suburbanite had a pet hen, who, mounting into her lap, with cackles and delight, would deposit its morning offering in the improvised nest. The creature was finally set in a special box in the carriage house, and the family waited with interest for the coming brood. One morning they noticed the hen at breakfast, and again, half an hour later, the fowl was strutting about, in apparent indifference to her cooling eggs.

"She'll make no setter," was the disgusting comment. "She's been too pampered."

Following her to the carriage house, the woman was just in time to see a fluffy mass leap from the box and the hen serenely take its place on the nest. This continued throughout the three weeks. When Madam Hen took her morning constitutional Tabby would obligingly keep house and look after her interests, leaving the moment the little lady returned.—New York Herald.

Light and Airy.

The Abyssinian soldier's ordinary dress is not very attractive. It consists, it is said, of a white linen shirt down to his knees and a pair of light linen trousers to half-way down his calf. Over this he wears a belt of folded linen, and, as a rule, a "shamma," or white cotton sheet, draped round him. Cloaks of blue, red, green, yellow or violet, ornamented with rough embroidery, leopard skins, sheepskins and even lion skins are worn on special occasions by the officers and small chiefs, and the army then presents a noble show.

Any man who has killed a lion or an elephant, or has distinguished himself much in battle, wears an aureole, or lion's mane, on his head. For each five men he has killed he wears a silver band on his sword scabbard. The highest recompense for valor is a sort of velvet top hat ornamented with silver, and great officers are given shields covered with velvet and ornamented with gold and silver.