## THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH.

PITTSBURG, SUNDAY,

## THE GOLD OF AFRICA.

Not True That the Great Queen's, Palace Has Been Found.

THE NATIVES OF MASHONALAND.

Fantastic Hair Dressing and Their Ideas of Calico and Beads.

ALITTLE FLY WHOSE BITE BRINGS DEATH some distant spot presumably for crushing.

[CORNESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCE.] HARTLEY HILLS, MASHONALAND, July 2.



producing country a somewhat extended mention was made in my last letter. High claim was made for the riches and fertility of the soil of a large portion of Mashonaland, for the evidences were so strong that there was no danger of exaggeration, and observations since that time have confirmed

all that was said. In treating of the gold wealth I was careful to avoid undue praise, and spoke with some reserve, as I was anxious to say nothing that would be misleading. Somehow it is very easy for grossly exaggerated reports to be spread far and wide when gold or any precious metal has been discovered in however small quantities in a country; after the facts are known.

South Africa offers a splendid illustration of the truth of these statements. For the past quarter of a century it has been known

able the company will make the holder an offer to float his claims and give him one-half the vender's interests. If, however, the holder receives a better offer for floation he may accept it, and must then give the company one-half the vender's interests. No licenses are to be paid until the claims

Who Marveled at King
Solomon's Glory.

STONE RUINS OF ZIMBALI.

STONE RUINS OF ZIMBALI. old workings (perhaps the term ancient may be used) as they are to-day consist both of shaft and cuttings of various kinds. The shafts are sometimes 40 or more feet deep, with tunnels of unknown lengths. The walls of some of these have fallen in, and others have large trees growing in them which show that they were made a very long time ago. On the surface of the ground about the openings of many shafts lav tons of broken quartz which carries a good amount of gold; again at the openings of others no loose quartz is to be seen, yet the work done below the surface shows that immense quantities have been excavated and conveyed to some distant spot presumably for crushing.

THE WONDERFUL OLD RUINS.

mystify the history of Mashonaland is the character of the ruins of buildings. There are a number of these in various parts of the country, but the most perfect and interest-ing are those called the Zimbali ruins to be seen about latitude 200 15', land longitude 31° 30' E. A very considerable area is covered by the entire ruins, but those of

two buildings are in a better state of pre-servation than the others.

One of these is situated on a high and bold granite hill and is built of granite hewn into blocks somewhat larger than bricks put together without mortar. The walls as they now stand are 30 feet high over 10 feet in thickness at the base and several less at the top. This building as well as the other was similar in form and seems from its position and construction to be a fort. There are a few slabs of granite protruding from the walls in places containing rough zig zag ornaments. The other and larger building stands several hundred feet below on rising ground. The walls of this building are also of granite, the same height and thickness of those just described. For about a third of its circum ference there is a row of plain ornamental figures at the top.

This builning was 150 yards in diameter and had but one or two entrances. Walls running in different directions stand inside,

A TOWER OF SOLID GRANITE.

but it is very difficult for the numerous ill within makes it impossible to learn anyeffects of such reports to be removed even thing definite of the sizes and shapes of the enclosures made by these inner walls. The most curious part of the whole building is that of the tower, which stands near the outside wall. It is constructed of the same pass quarter of a century it has been known that there was gold in Mashonaland, and of the various localities where natives obtained the metal, two were prominently mentioned.

The constructed of the same material as the building. This tower is cylindrical in shape up to the height of ten feet, but after that height tapers, and as it stands is a truncated cone. Its diameter at These were the Mazoe river district in north- I the base is 15 feet. There is no entrance to-

frequent and disastrous to the Mashonas hitherto have now ceased as the natives of Mashonaland are under the protection of the English. Imagine the terror in which these unfortunate natives used to live continually, not knowing when they would be swept down upon by a horde of Matabeles, who would kill all the men unable to escape, carry away the women and children for concubines and slaves; sieze their cattle and goats and even destroy their fields of grain. Is it any wonder that these men hailed the advent of the white men with delight? Now they may live in peace, in-

swept down upon by a horde of Matabeles, who would kill all the men unable to escape, carry away the women and children for concubines and slaves; sieze their cattle and goats and even destroy their fields of grain. Is it any wonder that these men hailed the advent of the white men with delight? Now they may live in peace, increase their herds and till the ground in perfect safety.

The Mashonas live in round huts, 10 or 12 feet in diameter and 4 feet or more high. They are made of small poles placed perpendicularly on the ground close together and fastened with the bark of a tree. The entire inside of the poles is plastered with earth. The roofs are also made of small poles all joining at a point in the center higher than the walls. They are then thatched with grass. Every village has a place set apart for its granaries which are constructed much like the huts, but often



THE ZIMBALI RUINS FROM THE DISPATCH CORRESPONDENT'S PHOTOGRAPH.

upon high and solitary granite bowlders, thus making access most difficult. In these storehouses you will find corn, Kaffir corn, and the very finely ground meal of each, also rice, and in the proper season potatoes, tomatoes and ground nuts. Lying about the ground there will likely be pumpkins, which the Mashonas raise in large numbers. which the Mashonas raise in large numbers.

Tobacco, too, is extensively cultivated and after being treated by some process is made into conical-shaped cakes. The Mashona tobacco, sespecially that known as the "Minyoka" is considered to be very good by a large number of white men who, during the present famine use it. ing the present famine, use it.

MASHONAS ARE NOT NEGROES.

The Mashonas, unlike their neighbors on the East and West are far from war-like, the East and West are far from war-like, and consequently do not have many of those cruel and barbarous practices invariably found among such people. They are a quiet and peaceful tribe (if such they may be called) as their physiognomies indicate. For many decades they have been subdied and harassed by the Matabele and other neighboring tribes, and this accounts for that lack of manly bearing and that weakness of character so manifest among them. As I have not been able to notice any destructive physical tribal characteristics I am led to believe that the Mashonas did not spring from one common ancestral

gular without the great nasal ridge, very nick lips and broad nose of the true negro. Many of them have a face which could easily be termed handsome. One very often sees men whose features are perfectly in-compatible with the black color and plainly show the presence of the blood of a foreign

HOW THEY DRESS THEIR HAIR.

The most distinguished mark of the Mashonas is the manner in which they dress their hair. It would be impossible to describe or even enumerate the numerous fantastic fashions of hair-dressing. Some of the men cultivate a heavy growth and work it into small bunches, upon which is be-stowed a plentiful supply of some greasy substance; others shave the head, save a small part of the crown, where tufts of every imaginable form are left, into which grasses of various colors are entwined. Another fashion less frequently seen is that of leaving small bunches of hair an meh or so apart either on the top or sides of the head. The bunches are bound tightly with some thready material, nearly to the ends, which are left to spread. This fashion gives the individual a very wild and fierce appearance. Bright red or blue beads are

irequently added as ornaments.

The females seem to be less particular about hair dressing and generally shave either the whole head or part of it. The dress of the Mashonas consists of the "Ingulo" or small piece of leather which hangs from a cord round the waist in front and the "Mapa" or similar piece which hangs behind. Usually, however, the "Ingulo" is worn. Since our arrival many wear calico instead of the leather and a large number of men and boys have worked for a shirt, an article all are very anxious to possess and one which constitutes their entire clothing.

WORK A MONTH FOR A SHIRT.

of Natal, but as many as 20 are given for a girl who belongs to a family of rank. PAID THE DEBT OF HIS ANCESTOR.

While speaking upon the subject of the purchase of wives, let me relate a rather extraordinary case which happened in the colony of Natal a few years since. First, it should be stated according to the law of the Zulus, a man is responsible for the debts of his ancestors. A certain Zulu by some means learned that the man who married a great-great-great aunt of his, never had paid the cattle for her, so the Zulu traced the heir of the man, and sued him for 250 cattle, he having taken the original ten which he having taken the original ten which should have been given for his ancient relative for a wife, and calculated about what the increase would have been. The defendant appeared in court and admitted the debt of his ancester, but said he could be the court and admitted the debt of his ancester, but said he could be the court and admitted the debt of his ancester, but said he could not pay it. Of course, so large a number of cattle is never owned by a man of no rank. The magistrate decided that the defendant should pay 15 cattle, as that number seemed

to be a just one under the circumstances. Whether the Mashona buy their wives, I

PESTS OF MASHONALAND.

Mashonaland has its share of the nuis them should be mentioned the "Tre-tre thy and the disease commonly known as horse-sickness. The first of them is fatal to all domestic animals, and the second usually so to horses. The Tre-Tre-thy is a small fly very little larger than the common horse fly and not very different in apperance. It may always be recognized by one character-istic which no other fly, at least in this country, posseses. The wings open and close horizontally like a pair of scissors. The effects of the bits of this fly

upon any domestic animal are most peculiar and scientists bave not yet been able to understand them. A fly-bitten animal does not die at once but lives for months gradually wasting away and becoming weak that it finally falls down unable rise. It may live in this position for days until it dies from what seems to be exhaustion. A horse or oxen which has been bitten will not show it for a longer or shorter time according to whether the animal has been bitten much and whether it is exposed to rain which certainly hastens death. It is not true as many claim that death ensues after the first rain that falls on the animal. Several horses, oxen and donkeys from this place were taken into a fly district where the horses and donkeys were left for months, during which time it rained almost daily.

DONKEYS STAND IT BEST.

The oxen remained there only a few days and died about six weeks later; the horses lived two months and the donkeys nearly four months. Donkeys stand the fly bette than other domestic animals. The fatal fly is supposed to stay in districts where large game abounds, and it is thought these dis-tricts can be learned in time. It is certain that the flies move with the games upor which they live without injuring the ani-There is generally little difficulty in en- | mals; thus as the game disappears the fly



HUTS AND GRANARIES FROM THE DISPATCH CORRESPONDENT'S PHOTOGRAPH.

raging men and boys for labor, but as a rule gaging men and boys for labor, but as a rule they will work only long enough to get a shirt or a blanket. At present the wages for native labor are something like this: For one month's work a man will receive a blanket and a boy a shirt. As many of my readers know, the medium of exchange in Africa consists chiefly of cloth and beads, but in different parts of Africa different kinds of cloth are in demand, and the African traveler should, if possible, find out just what kind, or rather colors, are "legal tender" among the natives he is to visit. The Mashonas are not particular as to the color of the cloth, but are much so as regards

will follow, and in this way only will this curse become one of the past.

Not much can be said about the horse sickness in Mashonaland, as there are very few horses in Mashonaland, as there are very few horses in the country. A large per-centage of those here die "salted," which means they have had the disease and lived through it. A horse that is thoroughly salted is not subject to the disease again, and so is a valuable animal in a country where

FEET without corns are pearls of high price. Daisy Corn Cure is positive and per-manent in its effect. 15 cents; all druggists

his corps. Kelley marched up Back Creek seven miles, in the night of July 15-16 and went into camp in a gap of North Mountafn, with headquarters in the pretty little village of Hedgesville.

Lee's troops were struck with terror when they found out that the Yankees were in force at Hedgesville. They thought it was Meade's army in hot pursuit, which had thus caught them saddle-bagged across

THE FIRST UNION MAN WOUNDED. How a Woman and Her Little Son Saved His Army From Destruction. REMINISCENCES OF EARLY AND LEE Old Ben Kelley was one of the silent

heroes of the war. Major Davis, the army officer who has charge of the publication of the Rebellion records, told me that Kelley made less history for the amount of fighting he did than any general officer in the Prudent, secretive, vigilant, General Kel-

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Stories of Old Ben Kelley Who Kept

Jackson Out of Pittsburg.

ley committed little to paper. No telltale order ever betrayed his plans to the enemy. His instructions always went by word of mouth, through trusted adjutants, and no correspondents were allowed in his camps. His reports scarcely showed which side licked when he had been victorious. They were characteristic of the man, terse, laconic, modest. In the forthcoming volume conic, modest. In the forthcoming volume of War Records, covering some of Kelley's operations along the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, Major Davis will have to depend largely upon the reports of the Confederate commanders for his history. The reports of Stonewall Jackson, Loving and McCausland relate interesting experiences with Kelley's ten thousand along the upper Potomac and in the Shenandoah. KEPT JACKSON OUT OF PITTSBURG.

From the beginning to the close of the war Kelley operated in the mountains and kept open the Battimore and Ohio road, the great supply artery for the armies of the East; and he was the man who kept Stonewall Jackson out of Pittsburg. Early in the war Jackson conceived the idea of invading Western Pennsylvania to ravage the rich farming country of the Mononga-bela Valley, burn Pittsburg and destroy the



fuss between Jackson and the Confederate Secretary of War, which came so near los-ing Jackson to the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis, General Lee and Governor Letcher patched up a peace and mollified Jackson

only after the greatest difficulty.

It is generally understood from the war histories that the first set field action of the Rebellion was at Big Bethel Church, Vir-ginia, June 10, 1861, between detachments from the commands of General B. F. Butler and Colonel (afterwards General) A. P. Hill; but this is an error, due mainly to the secretiveness and modesty of General Kel-ley, for just one week before Big Bethel, on a beautiful Sunday morning, Kelley, at the head of a small brigade of Virginia, Ohio and Indiana troops, attacked and routed a Confederate force of 1,500 men under Col-onel Porterfield, at Phillippi, W. Va.

WOUNDED IN THE FIRST BATTLE. It was here that Kelley was shot through the lungs by a Confederate quartermaster named Simms, the first Union soldier to fall on the field with Confederate lead in him. And thus fell, desperately wounded, the first volunteer officer to receive a commission from President Lincoln, and the organ izer of the first Union regiment mustered in south of the line.
About two months ago General Kelley

was moved from Cumberland to his beautiful country place, Swan Meadows, near A short time before his removal, I had a

long talk with him. He was then on what be knew was his last march, and he spoke calmly of the final halt. He was 84, and he felt that his time had been drawn out longer than he could have expected, shot and slashed to pieces as he had been. In this conversation he told me a thrilling war secret, which he said he had related to only one other person, and that was President Grant. It was to keep faith with a Virginia lady who was the principal agent in the dramatic episode that he had always kept it to himself. But the lady is no more, and now the old General is gone. I therefore feel at liberty to repeat the story. HOW LEE GOT AWAY.

Just after Lee's defeat by Meade at Gettysburg, in the second great Confederate in-vasion of the North, General Kelley received orders from Halleck, the Command-ing General at Washington, to concentrate his army of 12,000 men on the north side of the Potomac, within striking distance of Lee's retreat.
Lee crossed the Potomac and escaped to

galvanize the Confederacy into nearly two

ears more of life. Kelley had orders to advance from the West with his veterans and attack Lee's flank when he heard the first gun of Meade's action with the retreating Confederates. For three days Kelley's force lay along the crest of South Mountain anxiously awaiting the signal. It was known that Meade and Lee were in close quarters, and the thunders of battle were expected at any moment. The veterans were wrought up to the fighting pitch, and were literally spoiling to get at the Johnnies. This was especially so of Mulligan's famous Irish brigade. The morning of July 14, General Kelley, unable longer to stand the suspense, sent out a scouting troop from the Ringgold Cavalry, to find out why General Meade had not deivered battle, and he was both amazed and disgusted when the troop came in three hours later with the information that during

BETWEEN TWO REBEL FORCES. Kelley immediately marched without orders to Williamsport, thinking he might catch a belated brigade or two, and he captured a lot of stragglers and property that had been left under guard to be carried over later. An order reached him here from Caparal Helled to recent to Cherry Run. over later. An order reached him here from General Halleck to proceed to Cherry Run, seven miles above, cross the river and harrass the enemy's right flank. This order came near losing the whole of Kelley's force to the enemy, for Ewell's corps, after crossing, had gone 10 or 12 miles up before atriking back into the country, and Kelley's crossing at Cherry Run placed him, not on the enemy's right wing, but between two of peace.

the night Lee's army had crossed the Po-



North Mountain. But there was joy in the rebel camp when the report came that it was only Kelley's little army instead of Meade's host of 100,000, and a plan was im-Meade's host of 100,000, and a pian was immediately projected to capture it. A council of war was held on the night of the 16th at the residence of Charles James Faulkner, Minister of France under Buchanan, which was temporarily General Lee's head-quarters. Mr. Faulkner's home is known a Bertille. quarters. Mr. Faulkner's home is known as Boydville, and is near Martinsburg. It was arranged that General Jubal Early should take a large force and move swiftly through Baker's Gap, about 18 miles above Hedgesville, and thence down Back creek to within striking distance of Kelley's rear, to be ready to attack at daylight on the 18th, while General Ewell was to engage Kelley in front. The plan was well gage Kelley in front. The plan was well laid, and General Kelley told me it would have been pretty certain to result in his de-struction had he not been saved by an almost miraculous circumstance.

WORK OF A MINT JULEP ARTIST. The council of war was attended by a negro man servant belonging to Dr. E. Boyd Pendleton, who had been loaned to the Faulkner household, on account of his talent in the building of mint juleps, to wait on the distinguished officers. While serving juleps, cigars and other concomitants of Southern hospitality, the darkey kept his ears open, and he picked up enough to see what was going on. When the council was over he went home and told his mistress, Mrs. Dr. Pendleton, what he had heard. This lady was strongly loyal, and at great personal sacrifice she had held out alone and fearlessly against all her people in maintaining her Union sentiments. On hearing of the plot to destroy Kelley she resolved to apprise him of his peril, and she sent her faithful black man with the message; but Ewell's pickets would not let him pass, and he came back to his mistress. Then, with a woman's ready tact, Mrs. Pendleton de-The council of war was attended by woman's ready tact, Mrs. Pendleton de-cided to send her son Nathaniel, 10 years old, to General Kelley's headquarters with

the warning.
She gave the lad a small basket and told him to say to the guards that he was going out to pick blackberries. The pickets patted him on the head and let him through telling him to watch out for snakes and Yankees and not to forget to come home. It was but half a mile to the Federal line, and neighboring tribes, and this accounts for that lack of manly bearing and that weakness of character so manifest among them. As I have not been able to notice any destructive physical tribal characteristics I am led to believe that the Mashonas did not spring from one common ancestral stock, or, if so, it was many generations ago since which time they have been completely broken up and changed by mixture with foreign blood.

They are generally of a deep black color, with soft and smooth skin and features which show them to be far removed from the real negro. Their features are quite regular without the great nasal ridge, very mash and he many least that the mash and he many least the first many least the first many likely that those who possess cattle paysome for their wives. As the young men can now earn blankets, the custom will probably become a very common, if not a universal one, for a father to say to a suitor for the hand of his daughter, "yes, you may have her for five blankets." If the young man values the girl sufficiently, he will go and labor for the requisite number of blankets. Even at this early date I have had a young man work for me who said he wished to sarn there had not to forget to come home. It was but half a mile to the Federal line, and every movement of his up to the beginning of 1862 looked to that end. The repulse and rout of Loring, commanding his advance, at Romney, W. Va., October the frequisite number of blankets. Even at this early date I have had a young man work for me who said he wished to sarn the real negro. Their features are quite regular without the great nasal ridge, very prised at this startling information, and he asked the lad how he knew it. The boy re-plied archly that he knew it because his amma had said so. Then, with returning self-possession, he remembered more of his message, and he told the General senten-tiously that all the Yankees with him were

going to be killed, too.
TOOK IT AS A JOKE AT FIRST. The General's surprise had given away to amusement. He thought he had found a funny case in the youngster. He took the prattling child on his knee and coddled him after the manner of a fond parent. Pre-sently he asked sportively when these awful sently he asked sportively when these awful things were going to happen. The little fellow promptly answered that the Yankees were all to be killed the next morning at daybreak. The lad's story was now taking shape, and the General, being a man of quick perception, had begun to divine its secrible meaning. possible meaning. The thought flashed across his mind, he told me: Can there be a plot to destroy me that this child and his mother know about? Can this be a warning? Thoroughly sroused and a little alarmed he now proceeded to draw more in-formation from the boy about the direful

General Kelley saw the importance of the warning and without a moment's delay he dispatched a squadron of cavalry under Captain Hart, a gallant and trusted officer, to soout the Back Creek country as far up as Baker's Gap. This was at 3 in the afternoon. Between 7 and 8 the cavalry came back at a storming gait with a report that Early's troops in great force had gone into camp at Tomahawk Springs, a short distance above, at 6 o'clock. The warning was thus fully confirmed, and General Kelley concluded the best thing to do was to get out of there as soon as possible. He ordered cluded the best thing to do was to get out of there as soon as possible. He ordered his men to gather as many fence rails and dry limbs as they could and make a line of campfires which should satisfy the enemy that he was lying in bivouac, calmly unconscious of his impending fate. At 9 an order was given to withdraw down Back Creek to the Potomac, and the retreat was executed in perfect military order. The artillery moved first, the infantry next, and the cavalry guarded the rear. At midnight the little army was all at the river, and the first streak of dawn broke upon the last man to wade to the Maryland shore. READY FOR EARLY CALLERS.

With as neat precision as an action in the drama, a large force of Confederate cavalry came dashing down the creek, with a mighty thundering of hoofs and the wild blare of many bugles, just in time to find its game beyond reach and drawn up in line of battle. on the other shore ready to receive early callers. But the cavalry had no mind to pay such a call. With loud yells and a few stray shots, it headed back up the creek in

General Kelley did not forget his little savior. He had carefully noted his name and his father's name, and as the years and his father's hame, and as the years passed by, after peace was restored, he watched the youngster's growth until he became of suitable age for a cadetship. Then General Kelley went to President Grant and told him of his providential escape through the agency of the boy and his mother. It was the first time the story had passed his lips. Then he said: Now, Mr. President, I have never asked a favor from the Government, and I shall never ask another. I want you to help me pay this debt of gratitude and of loyalty. I want this lad appointed as a cadet at the military academy, and I want it done to-day, sir."

The old General told me the President sat and smoked two minutes at least without speaking, though it seemed ten. Finally he said: "It shall be done to-day, General

Keliey. It is very appropriate, and I will take pleasure in doing it."

THE BOY IS AN EDITOR NOW. THE BOY IS AN EDITOR NOW.

The young man went to the academy, but did not get in. Like most Southern youngsters of quality at his age, he was a good Greek and Latin scholar, but was deficient in the English elements. He is now the publisher of a prosperous newspaper at Berkeley Springs, a much better situation in life than to be an army lieutenaut in time of peace.

EDSON BRACK.

## DARK SECRET OF THE ELDER BOOTH.

The Truth About His Marriage and Abandonment of His Faithful Belgian Wife.

CONTRIBUTED TO

It Was His Money That Educated Her Son and She Received Remittances Up to the Time She Left for America to Look Up the Second Wife and Family in Baltimore ---Her Neglected Grave---Struggles of the Young Couple in London--- They Eloped Together--Letters That Tell a Sad Story Furnished by Colonel Frank A. Burr.

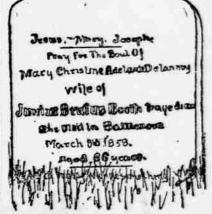
[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

that moment:

rich newspapers, when the big price named would have been a very material aid in my professional ambition. I would not speak now were it not for the many recent misleading publications upon the same subject, which force me to set all things right. Some of them have been unjust and all of them imperfect. It is also due to the memory of the elder Booth that the truth be told now that the matter has been made public by those who did not know and could not ob-

tain the truth. Some nine years ago, while walking along Eden street, far beyond the business centers of the city of Baltimore, I came upon an old Catholic graveyard. It was such a quaint old "God's acre" that my curiosity was excited and I wandered in through the open gate. There was such an air of peace and rest that I spent an hour and more in looking over the crumbling monuments and reading the strange inscriptions thereon. In a far corner of this curious old cemetery I came upon a half sunken grave with a tombstone, brown with age, half fallen over. Its appearance is shown in the accompany-

THE OLD SEXTON KNEW IT NOT. The words, "Wife of Junius Brutus Booth, Tragedian," were the largest on the decaying marble, entirely out of proportion to the rest of the inscription. I knew not what it meant, and went and hunted up the



Mrs. Booth's Resting Place.

old sexton. He could give no explanation of its meaning, and but little information about the lonely grave under the Normandy poplars. I could not shake thoughts about t from my mind. - So after supper I sat down and wrote a soliloquy upon the strange occurrence without for an instant imagining what was to come of it. While I was writing an old Baltimorean came in, and he gave me a sort of vague explanation which I embodied in my letter. It was sent away that night to the paper upon which I was then employed, and ap-peared on Sunday morning, the editor hav-ing put the head "A Graveyard Secret"

From that time the subject was dismissed from my mind. One day months afterward I received rather a mysterious letter saying that if I would call upon a distinguished professor of languages in one of the promi-neut educational institutions in this country I would receive some documents and information that would explain the graveyard mystery about which I had written unwit-tingly and with very little knowledge of the facts. Filled with curiosity I followed the directions given and did receive a most interesting and dramatic story, which was told in a hundred or more letters between the elder Booth and his wife from Brussels, Belgium.

BOOTH'S BETROTHAL IN BELGIUM. With them came an oil painting executed in 1826 upon Mr. Booth's first return to England, after coming to this country in England, after coming to this country in 1821. Upon the canvas is a splendid likeness of himself as a young man and of his wife and the boy, Richard Junius Booth, the surviving fruit of that marriage. It was painted by a Mr. Williams, one of the early friends of the great actor. The letter and the picture tell a most ratheric ters and the picture tell a most pathetic story of the life of a noble woman wedded to a great man, in whose life she never lost interest up to the day of his death. With them there is no need for the imagination of a writer, for all the eloquence necessary to fascinate the mind is contained in these

In 1815, just before the battle of Waterloo, Junius Brutus Booth went with a com-pany of actors to Brussels. The hotels were crowded and the actors and actresses were billeted around in private houses. It fell to Mr. Booth's lot to find lodgings in the to Mr. Booth's lot to find longings in the house of Mrs. Delannoy, a gentlewoman of good birth and education, having three daughters, Agatha, Therese, and Adelaide, who was the youngest of the group. Be-tween her and the young actor there imme-diately sprung up a strong attachment. They were soon in love, and together they made known to the mother their desire for

THE YOUNG COUPLE ELOPED

She refused, and under the laws of the country they could not be wedded without her written consent. They perfected their plans, and at the end of the actor's engage-ment they eloped. On the way to London nent they eloped. On the way to Le they stopped at Ostend, where Mr. Booth opened a correspondence with the mother in Brussels, asking for a reconciliation and permission to marry. She consented, upon the condition that he would give up the stage, return to Brussels and accept a situation which she would secure for him. While this correspondence was going on the tragedian had placed Miss Delannoy in the family of a friend of his in Ostend by the name of Astron. Learn When he received her of Arthur Jones. When he received her mother's consent and conditions he promptly agreed to the latter in these words: OSTEND, March 17, 1815.

Madame and Dear Friends

I have received your dear letter of the 4th inst., and I am delighted that you have partly succeeded in the matter of the place you were trying to get for me. I should like to know how much the place is worth. My salary as an actor brings me 35 francs a week, with a benefit in each town if I like to take it, and I assure it is none too much. But as I should like to be in Brussels I should not care much about that, I have written to my father for the letters of recommendation. I am, meanwhile, waiting your reply, as also the information concerning when I should leave here. Believe in my entire gratitude. I embrace you with all Madame and Dear Friend:

HER SUPPORT.

For many years I have refused to write a remarkable story which came into my possession by an accident. Inducements without stint have often been offered by various rich newspapers, when the big price named would have been a very material aid in my professional ambition. I would not speak

I believe you are angry, but there is no cause for it.

THE BRIDE TOILED WITH HER NEEDLE The military operations in that section and other complications intervened to prevent the fulfillment of the plans arranged between Mr. Booth and the mother of his sweetheart, and after taking his benefit they started for London. Things could not have been very prosperous with them financially, for when they reached the greatity of the United Kingdom Miss Delannoy, who was very deft with her needle, went into a millinery establishment to help out the family store or provide for herself until things became prosperous. As it was against the rules to employ a married woman the union was kept carefully hidden from her employer. But the following lines, written in her own and Mr. Booth's handwriting tell the interesting story of their marriage and combats with the world at that moment: The military operations in that section

VERY DEAR MOTHER—It is with the greatest pleasure in the world that I inform you that I am married to Booth since the Sth of May, and am the happiest of women. The day of our marriage I did not wish it to be known, and I returned immediately after the ceremony and worked the same as usual. Here is a copy of our certificate, which Booth has written, and if it is not correct tell me and I will get another one from the minister who married us, in the proper form, and to whom we gave 12 francs. Tell me, mother, if you are well, also all the family, and embrace them for me, and say to my uncle that some time we will be married by a Catholic priest, that is to say, when our finances are better. You know, mamma, it would not be to our advantage to tell the mistress of the house, I embrace you heartily; also my dear new brothers and sisters. Your affectionate daughter,

I am as well as can be and am getting as fat as a great beast.

COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE.

COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE.

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Marriages solemnized in the Parish of St.
George, Bioomsbury, in the year 1816.

Junius Brutus Booth of this parish—
and Marie Christine Adeiaide Delannoy of
this parish were married in this church by
banns——this eighth day of May in the
year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.
By one Nathaniel Forth, B. A., Curate.
This marriage was solem-) J. B. Booth,
nized between us. (M. C. A. Delannoy,
In the presence of Thomas Blyth,
No. 603.

No. 693.
This is a true copy of the Register.
Witness my hand this 8th day of May, 1815.
NATHANIEL FORTH, IS. A., Curate.
I hope you are well satisfied with our marriage. Minnie has the certificate and that is why we send you a written copy. It would cost 12 francs for another duplicate one, Tell Mr. Williams to write to me. I have no Teil Mr. Williams to write to me. I have no more room. I embrace you and all the family. I am, your affectionate son,

It was fortunate for the young couple that Mr. Booth's enforced idleness did not last long, and his young wife was soon taken from the store, and he tells his mother-inlaw so over his own signature and also of his contract with the Covent Garden Theater. This letter was addressed to Mme. Delannoy No. 1159, Sect. 5, Rue des Fripiers, a

Bruxelles, on 30th May, 1815.

During the next two years Mr. Booth was kept very busy, and a little girl child was born of the union. It was baptized Emilie, but lived only a short time. Mr. and Mrs.

Booth must have gone somewhat into society during this time, if the letters indicate anything.

PUTTING MONEY IN BANK. Every day things became more prosper

ous with the actor, and instead of a salary of \$8 or \$9 a week he indicates his advancement, and his wife tells the story of a pleas-ant life in the following letters: Arril 18th 1817.

My Dran Mornen I have not time to write

My Drar Morner—I have not time to write you. I am occupied night and day with the passion of the work. The London theaters are closed. I have played in the company as one little theater and have put in my pocket, for one or two representations, 50 guineas. My arrangements in London will not permit me to see you for two years, or I shall lose not less than £200. During these two years I intend to make my fortune. Already we have placed £100 in the bank. Minnie will write you more, because, on my soul, I have write you more, because, on my soul, I have no more time than just to sign myself, truly yours, J. B. Boorn. yours, APRIL 13, 1817.

VERY DEAR MOTHER-Do you not find that VERY DEAR MOTHER—Do you not find that Booth's letters have changed? He writes very large—sometimes but two words in a line, and of a size the devit would not relish. My compliments to all my acquaintances. I embrace my aunt Julia. I wish, mamma, you would give one of the pictures of Booth to my aunt Julia, as it with, I know, please her.

I regret I cannot have the pleasure of visiting Brussels next summer, but must remain in London. Goodby.

These letters we exceedingly charful

These letters are exceedingly taking into consideration the fact that they



Mary Christine Booth, [At 63 years of age.]

were, written but a short time after Mr. Booth's controversy with the Covent Garden Theater and the Drury Lane. It was quite natural that he should have been lissatisfied with the Covent Garden contract, which gave him a mere pittance each week while he was filling the theater every night with people and the box office with

noney.

But his hopes of making a fortune during the two years after 1817 were never realized, and his troubles seemed to have multiplied —so much so that he determined to quit the stage and enter the army. He wri fact to his wife, who was on a visit to Brus-sels, and she replied in a letter familiar to newspaper renders. She counseled him against army life, showed great intelligence and expressed her confidence in Booth as an

FLOATING THE CLAIMS.

While he relinquished his ambitions for a military career and went on with his work, ne was constantly dissatisfied, but on Janu-

where many gold bearing reefs were discovered. The report of numerous finds here, for Hartley Hills is the center around which most discoveries have been made, drew still larger numbers, and up to this date as

district which is well to the southwest.

MANY CLAIMS ARR WORTHLESS.

It was but natural that when men began

searching for gold last September they

should be attracted to these two places.

Many went to Mazoe where few found gold.

A large number flocked to the Umvuli.

many as 1,400 claims have been

pegged out and registered in the

Umvuil district. A claim, according to the

gold laws of the British S. A. Company, is 150 feet in the direction of the reef and 400

feet wide. The fact, however, that such a

arge number of claims have been taken up, is not very significant. Many of the clair olders are inexperienced men, and very few claims have been proved owing to the scarcity of tools in the country. Almost no tools are to be had at present.

However, most of the reefs which have been developed give satisfactory results, so it is not too much to suppose there are many other reefs yet to be opened up just as dready discovered is in the vicinity of

phant hunter, who was probably the first white man to find gold here. Many other finds have been made 20 or 30 miles west and northwest of Hartley Hills.

THEER HUNDRED GOLD SEEKERS. It is too early in the occupation of Mashbe worth as compared with those of other have told me that the Umvuli lands are far the best of any in South Africa, but just as many say that they do not approach the Transvaul fields for richness. It is true there have been no wonderful discoveries. No reefs which will yield four, six or eight ounces to the ton have yet been found, but a far less quantity will pay well here where water and fuel will cost nothing. It should also be mentioned that nearly all the reefs ings" upon them, and so well known to the people who worked these fields centuries I shall speak more fully of the "old

From all this it seems very likely that when real prospecting is done many more reefs will be found where none are now There are fully 300 men in Mashonaland looking for gold at present, and if rumor has it correctly hundreds more are on route to seek their fortunes in this country. How many will be disappointed?

A few words on the gold laws of Mashonaland may be of interest to some readers. All the mineral metal wealth of Mashonaland belongs to the British South African Company, but a one-half interest in all gold found is given to the finder. Any prospec-tor is allowed to hold ten claims at a time, and when he has sunk a 30-foot shaft he may

If the claims are ascertained to be pay-

east Mashonaland and the Umvuli river | the tower, and it appears to be solid

GROUP OF NATIVES PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE DISPATCH CORRESPONDENT.

Huge trees and dense bush have grown up would require considerable time to clear it r to get an accurate plot of the building. It is very likely that if excavations were made in and about these rains various articles would be found which might throw light upon the mystery surrounding them. I regret that it was not possible for me to spend more than a single day in making a return journey of 30 miles to visit these but was much pleased to be able to

secure half a dozen good photographs.

The old gold workings and the ruins found in Mashonaland have led many to believe that Ophir, the kingdom of the Queen of Sheba, whence Solomon is said to have obtained his gold, was situated in Mashona-land and in the ruins described above. A number of great writers inclined to this be-lief and among them Josephus, the historian, the author of the Koran and even Milton, I believe, somewhere speaks of this region as that of the seat of ancient Ophir. Sofala, a very old town on the east coast of Africa, is mentioned by all these writers as being in the land of Ophir. The Arabs have a very ancient tradition to this effect and those a Sofala to-day are said to hold to this tradition. The Zimbali ruins are west of the District of Sofals and they are thought to

have been the palace of the Queen of Sheba.

Hartley Hills, as named after a famous NOT BUILT SO LONG AGO. I am at a loss to understand how any one who has ever seen these ruins can incline to such belief. Though they seem to be very old indeed, they do not by any means have the appearance of having been built hun-dreds of centuries ago. Very few white men have ever visited the ruins, but as Mashonaland is thrown open to the civil ized world, archeologists will perhaps ex-amine the famous Zimbali ruins and may be able to tell us to what age they belong. The history of the present natives of Mashonaland is just as dense as that of the country itself. The population is by no means large. The natives live in "kraals," or villages, scattered about the country. Nearly every kraal is independent in government, having its own chief. There are, however, several chiefs who rule a number of villages. But by far the greatest number of villages have a small population which lives by cultivating the ground in close proximity to the village. Most of the villages are built upon rugged granite hills, inaccessible except by one or two narrow passages. This is especially true of those villages just across the Matabeleland border. I remember that three or four of the first villages we passed after leaving Mata-beleland, in July last year, were built upon hills 500 or 600 feet high, so steep and pre-cipitous that it was really impossible, for us, at any rate, to get to the villages with-out a guide, and even then it was most difficult to reach them. At one of the villages the chief told us that less than a

> Gubuluwazo, the Matabele capital. Here the father was skinned alive THEY WELCOMED THE WHITE MAN.

year before the Matabeles had made a raid,

captured his father, who was, of course, the

chief, together with all natives, and carried

sickness is prevalent. CLAIRE A. ORR.