

MASHONALAND.

A Part of Africa Destined to Come to the Front.

A Three-Thousand Acre Farm for Twenty-Five Dollars.

G. E. Attwood, for twenty years a resident of Natal, Mashonaland and other parts of East Africa, who has had many curious experiences there as a gold and diamond miner and while engaged in other occupations, is at the American exchange. Mr. Attwood says the gold and diamond mining industries are at a somewhat low ebb. The gold mines are suffering a collapse, and the diamond fields have nearly all been bought up by big syndicates who control things.

He thinks Mashonaland is the country of all others in that part of Africa destined to come to the front.

"It is no country for a married man," he said, "but for a young man it offers great inducements. It is a wilderness now, and that is the reason there is so good a show. The British East Africa Company, organized on something like the lines of the British East India Company, has been granted immense areas of lands and other rights. A great number of very rich men are behind it, and they are going to build a long railroad to open up the country.

"This is what affords opportunities there. The country is very rich. An acre there will produce more than any family can use. Maize or Indian corn is the principal crop, though mangoes, sweet potatoes, oranges and many other things give a prodigious crop. Oranges are very fine, and they are so cheap that they are only worth 6 cents for a hundred. No irrigation whatever is required. The soil is quite sandy.

"No improved implements are used in the cultivation of the maize. It is all done by natives with hoes. Heretofore it has been no use to attempt to grow much, because it could not be got out. Still what has been grown has brought \$1 for every 200 pounds, and from that up to more than \$2. It is ground into flour a good deal and makes very fine bread. The oranges never will have a market except purely local. To attempt to sell them on the Atlantic seaboard of America is useless, because the California product can beat them there eight or ten days.

"Now, if a young man has but \$500 and will go to Mashonaland he can secure 3000 acres of this magnificent land by paying down \$25, staying a part of six months of each year for two years and expending the remainder of his \$500 on the land. Then he gets his title. Some of the land down near the coast is worth as much now as it is here, and a great deal of this cheap land will be valuable in two or three years. At present they don't think any more of 3000 acres there than you do of ten acres here. It is a good opening, though, and the land is bound to come out all right.

"At present the Americans are doing most of the business in East Africa. Not that they are there, for they are not; but they sell the goods. The supply comes from New York principally. Doors, window-frames, glass, household furniture and many other things of that class they sell. It's a big trade and pays well.

"As to these lands in Mashonaland, a man can stay on his ranch and get all the game he wants to live on. Roebucks and any amount of antelope and different kinds of deer roam there in great plenty, and there is also a great deal of fine feathered game. It is a country very attractive in more ways than one; but children don't thrive there somehow, and I have brought mine here to see if they won't do better."—[San Francisco Examiner.

A Man of Unique Usefulness.

Professor Charles Sprague Sargent is the son of a Boston banker, and his first experience in gardening was gained in managing his father's hand some estate in Brookline, where he showed so much skill and taste in landscape-gardening, as well as knowledge of botany, that he was invited to become the head of the Botanical Garden at Cambridge. There, being full of ideas, he at first dismayed Dr. Asa Gray by the decisive changes he undertook to make; but the elder botanist was soon convinced that everything the younger one did was for the advantage of the place, since from the first he showed unusual breadth of view, and ability. His thoroughness and success in this department suggested him as the most desirable, indeed, as the only competent man to manage the Arboretum. He was therefore made Arnold Pro-

fessor of Arboriculture in Harvard University.

Since then his fame as a dendrologist has increased, until he is even better known and quoted as an authority in the Old World than in America. Owing to his high reputation and the knowledge acquired by him in his direction of the Arboretum, in 1880 the United States Government put him at the head of the Forestry Division of the Tenth Census, the result of which was his remarkable report of its proceedings published by the government in one of its quarto volumes. This contains a most comprehensive account of the condition of the timber of the country twelve years ago. It tells of our forests, of their bibliographical history, economic worth and uses; describes the different woods of our native land, and commercial value; gives an account of the lumber industry, the detail of forest fires, and a host of other things that influence the commerce of the country, and is accompanied by colored maps showing forest growth and density in different states.—[Century.

Washington's Awful Dignity.

President Washington went to the sessions of Congress in a splendid coach, formed like a hemisphere, with gilt panels on which were carved Cupids, flowers and fruits. This gorgeous vehicle was drawn by six cream-colored horses superbly caparisoned and supplemented by a coachman and two footmen in white and scarlet livery. This spectacle drew crowds to the street whenever the President passed. On the occasion of receptions President and Mrs. Washington (she was called "His Eminence's Consort") sat on the raised platform like a throne, and in a stately way received the salaams of the people.

The only man who ever attempted to be familiar with President Washington was Governor Morris, who, on a big wager that he wouldn't dare walk up to Washington, slap him on the shoulder, and familiarly accost him, went boldly up in a crowded room to the dignified George. He didn't slap George upon the shoulder, however, for his courage failed him, and he laid his hand on the President and mildly said: "Well, General, you are looking very well to-night." Instantly Washington turned round and gave Morris a dark frown and dagger look from out his eyes, which made that worthy shrink into a corner thoroughly embarrassed.—[St. Louis Star-Sayings.

How Mountains Get Their Names.

Mountains and mountain ranges in the United States, and, indeed, the world over, have usually been named not by the mountaineers themselves, but by the dwellers in the plains, who saw the mountains as a more or less distant prospect. It sometimes happens that a mountain or a mountain range bears two names because of different aspects present to dwellers on each side. The several Blue and Blue Ridge Mountains were named manifestly by those to whom the ranges presented themselves against a more or less distant horizon. One of the Green Mountains in Vermont is called Bald Face by dwellers in the Adirondack region about Paul Smith's, a name justified by the aspect of the mountain from that part of the wilderness. Our own Adirondack Sugar Loaf could never have been named by a dweller upon its own top. The Orange Mountains took their name, however, not from their sunset aspect as seen from the lowlands, but are only another evidence of the affection with which Dutchmen cling to the name orange, an affection which has led them to fix that name on the map in whatever part of the world they may have tarried.—[New York Sun.

Bound to Get it Right or Die.

In Boston's swell circles there is a family whose butler has given to it a unique position. Michael had not been in Boston very long before he became imbued with the classic learning of the "Hub," and he immediately put his learning to use. Mrs. Marble-Hall was to give a reception, and of course Michael stood at the door. One by one the guests came in, and, like Parker in "Lady Windermere's Fan," Michael announced the names very distinctly. But at last Michael was stumped. Mr. Butler looked at the guests and hesitated. He rubbed his hand against his forehead and mustered courage to speak before the crowded guests, and in a sepulchral voice he cried, "Mr. Foote—and—the Misses Feet."—[Boston Budget.

A fisheries and shooting exhibition is to be held in the London (England) Royal Aquarium.

ARCTIC QUEST.

Efforts to Unearth the Secrets of the North Pole.

Coming Expeditions by Peary and Other Explorers.

Interest in Lieutenant Peary's second Arctic quest will be increased by the announcement of a plan of operations quite as simple and practicable as that for his previous journey. That journey was one of the most successful in the record of Arctic exploration in the value of the results attained by simple means and at a small cost, and was unattended by the fatalities and anxieties which have so often marked such enterprises. The explorer not only pushed farther to the north on the east Greenland coast than any other traveller has done, but determined the trend of that coast and the existence of great glaciers in the northern fiords, located the end of the interior ice cap, and otherwise increased the sum of popular knowledge of the polar regions. The success achieved was not the result of chance, but of the wise adaptation of means to an end, and with the adoption of similar methods, increased experience and a longer absence, may doubtless be repeated with still more important results. On his next expedition Lieutenant Peary will establish his headquarters on the north coast of Inglefield gulf, which he expects to reach in the latter part of July, a base which will afford more direct access to the ice cap, and from which a party will be sent out in the autumn to cache provisions for the next season's journey. Ten men will make up his party, and with six or seven of these, the advance inland will be begun in March instead of May, as in the previous expedition, and donkeys or ponies will be taken in addition to dogs. The party will strike at once for Independence bay, on the northeast coast of Greenland, the most northerly point reached on the former journey, and will then be divided, three men pushing southward along the coast to Cape Bismarck, to return thence across the interior ice cap to the camp on Inglefield gulf. At the same time Lieutenant Peary with two men will follow the coast northward to the farthest point reached by Lockwood and Brainard of the Greely expedition, so that the whole north coast of Greenland from Cape Bismarck, in latitude 76 degrees 47 minutes, where the Germans stopped, to latitude 83 degrees 24 minutes north, will be traced and its contour mapped. The task will, of course, be a difficult one, but Lieutenant Peary's plan of sledging inland instead of along the shore ice will render it easier, since much of the shore can be traced from the interior highlands while short cuts are being made.

It is possible that the expedition may reach the pole itself, since if the condition of the ice is favorable, or there are islands scattered beyond Greenland which will facilitate his methods of travel, Lieutenant Peary will push as far poleward as possible. But whether he advances northward from Lockwood island or not, he expects to survey the most northerly islands and to complete the delineation of the North Greenland coast without a break from the former point to Cape Bismarck. It will be seen that this plan of operations differs radically from that of Dr. Nansen, who in a small, strongly built vessel is during the present year to follow the route taken by De Long in an effort to drift with the ocean currents across the pole, a plan far more hazardous and uncertain of important result. Lieutenant Peary will, however, have an imitator in Mr. Frederick G. Jackson, who proposes during the coming summer to lead a British expedition to Frazz Josef land, which, in his belief and that of other eminent Arctic authorities, offers the safest, most accessible and most practicable route to the pole. For all that is known to the contrary, Frazz Josef land may extend to the pole, the Austrian explorers, Weyprecht and Payer, having seen high land north of 83 degrees, and Mr. Jackson confidently expects to push further north than the Austrian limit before moving into winter quarters. Like that of Lieutenant Peary, his party will be small, and the journey made with sledges and dogs, with a chain of depots established in advance, and if the land is found to end short of the pole, attempt will be made under favorable conditions to push on over the ice. The expedition will, of course, have the wish of everybody for its success, for if it fails of its main object, it can hardly be barren of beneficial results.

the reaching of even 84 degrees north involving the making of important geographical discoveries.—[New York Observer.

Coyote Scalps Money.

Among the arrivals from San Luis Obispo County is T. J. Terhune of Painted Rock, in the foothill and mountain region near the Kern County line. Mr. Terhune has for almost two years done nothing but roam over the wild sections of the South, hunting for coyote scalps. Mr. Terhune says he has realized about \$4000 for scalps.

"I found it a very interesting employment," said Mr. Terhune, who is about thirty years old and a hunter from boyhood. "At first I took things easy. The coyotes were so plenty that I didn't have to bother myself to exert much skill. I trapped them easily, shot them down when they came around my camp, and altogether did well. Sometimes I got as many as fifteen scalps in a day, and I have made as much as \$200 in a week. This was in the dry region in the western part of Kern County. Then I had about equal success in the foothills of Santa Barbara County.

"Pretty soon, however, the coyotes began to get scarcer. This was not till well on toward the close of the first year after the bounty law was passed. By that time so many hunters and trappers were out that it was evident it was going to be a question eventually as to skill.

"I went to Santa Barbara and bought some of the fattest pork I could find and a lot of strychnine. Then I started out in the coyote regions again, cut the pork in small pieces, in each of which I placed a little strychnine, and fastened them on brush, and occasionally on sticks placed in the ground.

"Then I dragged the old carcass of a bear I had killed around where the meat was. The coyotes got on the trail of this, scented the pork, ate it, and were dead before they could get into their holes. I have found eight dead coyotes on a circuit of this kind not to exceed a quarter of a mile in length. Little and big continued to fall in this way, and I cleaned out some of the best hunting grounds before the novices knew how to go to work. For the past four or five months the scalp business has dropped off a great deal owing to the fact that the coyotes had been hunted so much.

"I think, however, the law ought still to exist, for the moment the bounty is taken off scalps nobody will hunt them, and they will increase so rapidly as to devastate the sheep."—[San Francisco Examiner.

Sailors Bombaraded by Aerolites.

A meteor sizzling from the heavens came within a few feet of striking the coasting schooner Earl P. Mason, off Cape Hatteras, on the passage from the Satilla River, Georgia, for Philadelphia. The crew say that it was one of the most magnificent spectacles they ever witnessed. The meteor burst in many pieces and scattered its seething fragments all around, some of which, as they dashed into the sea, made reports that sounded like a cannonade. Particles of the meteor as they flew through the air with the appearance of red-hot clunks of iron struck the water with hissing sounds and disappeared only to send up masses of steam where they had gone down.

The condition of the atmosphere during the fall of the meteor was most peculiar. There were gaseous odors all around, and even the surface of the ocean glowed as if it were ablaze. The heavens, too, appeared to be on fire. From the zenith to the surface of the water there were long trails of sparks along the clearly outlined path of the meteor. It became necessary for the vessel to "day to" under storm trysails until the atmosphere had assumed its normal condition. The vessel's compass was affected, and the needle fluctuated without regard to the cardinal points.

The official log of the Mason, as written and reported by Capt. Brown, shows that the meteoric shower had been preceded by a terrific gale. The mainsail was blown to tatters and the foremast was taken in to save it. When the wind, which blew at the rate of 60 miles an hour, had subsided, the meteor burst athwart the heavens, as above described, with a tremendous report, and lighted up the firmament with a supernatural glow. During the sailors' awe-stricken observance of this phenomenon a heavy sea boarded the vessel, stove in her boat and damaged the decks.

At an experiment farm in Asmara, Africa, under the direction of the Italian government, an acre of shallow stony soil was sown with 172 pounds of native barley, and yielded 2,206 pounds.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

It is a strange religious truth that the other fellow is always the "heretic."

Many small-minded persons are like those babbling brooks that drive no mills.

Suspicion comes quickest to the man who is himself capable of wrongdoing.

The bloom and freshness is allowed to disappear too soon from the rising generation.

A favorite theory of yesterday should not stand against a golden truth of today.

It is much more natural to complain because of what we have not, than to return thanks for what we have.

The world comes easy to handsome people, while those who are merely blessed with brains have to fight for recognition.

How different is the expression of the superbus muscle when it performs its function in the eye of a worm and in the eye of a woman!

It is a terrible misfortune or a horrid retribution for a man to have a face of such fixed impressiveness that it merely serves as a figurehead to his body.

Faith, no doubt, is a much cheaper signal of character than is commonly supposed. We believe what we are worthy to believe. What we are unworthy to believe we cannot believe however hard we try.

When the creative pattern is woven in its fullness by the creation, all the experiences of history collected and adjusted in their mutual relations, and the harmonized whole unveiled in the consciousness of every creature, that illuminated and all-justifying crisis will be the true judgement day which will set a solidarity of time in the solidarity of space.

Salt as a Dissipation.

Salt, the least harmful of condiments, if such a necessary article of diet can be termed a condiment, is by the medical profession, recognized as a species of dissipation in its excessive use among women.

Everyone knows how flat and flavorless all food becomes when the system is a trifle deranged; it is just then, when men resort to bitters and burning sauces to tone up their jaded appetites, that women find their sole resource in the apparently innocent salt cruet.

It is the old story of giving an inch to yield an ell, and before the victim knows it, her palate demands a double or triple quantity of the mineral to savour every morsel she eats.

Some go so far as to salt not only the substantial dishes, but tea, coffee, fruits and sweetmeats.

They begin by taking a pinch extra now and then to pique their tastes, and before long take a bit to keep in the pocket, or buy a crystal to nibble on the sly.

Nature's revenge on her weak daughter is as insidious as the result her immutable laws have suffered. She flies her first signal of distress in a deadening of the skin, replacing the pink glow of health by a dim yellowish pallor. Lips and cheeks blanch alike, this change being accompanied by a deepening of every shadow on the face. This is as nothing, however, to the destruction this morbid habit works on a woman's crowning glory, her hair.

And it is astonishing how sensitive the hairs to every fluctuation of one's health. Soon each time the comb passes through, it brings out long shining strands. No lotion or tonic is effective in checking the loss, and unless corrected, the abnormal amount of salt in the system will produce baldness. Even now quite a number of women are under treatment, some avowedly and others secretly, for this form of excess.

Timid Birds Rendered Fearless.

In defense of their young even birds become fearless and sacrifice their lives with a promptness which, as a sort of suicidal instinct, might seem rather paradoxical, if it were not for that by-law of nature which always sacrifices the interest of individuals to the interest of the species. A partridge hen with a covey of half-grown chicks never hesitates to fling herself into the path of a pursuing dog in order to give her youngsters a chance to escape in the thicket, and the Mexican weaver-thrush flies even at the head of a snake seen to approach her nest with predatory purposes. Too often that devotion is rewarded with death, but the serpent accepts the vicarious sacrifice, and the orphaned nestlings are almost sure to be reared by other birds.—[San Francisco Chronicle.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The candle power of searchlight is reckoned by the hundred millions.

Professor Dewar of London has succeeded in reducing air to a solid.

The number of ferns now known on the island of Madagascar is 326 true ferns and forty fern allies.

If every particle of moisture were wrung from the atmosphere it would cover the entire globe to a depth of less than four inches.

Marble covered with sea water is often found after a while full of small holes. Doctor Trimble has discovered an insect which bores these holes.

Horses suspected of being affected with glanders have been vaccinated in Berlin with mallein, and the results were so good that the inspectors of the military veterinary service are being instructed in its use.

Vegetables that produce fibers are numerous in Nicaragua, but the ones most cultivated in all hot climates are those belonging to the agave family. In Nicaragua it grows more vigorously and exuberantly than in any other country.

Dimples probably result from defective development of a muscle. When the muscle is called into use the defective portion fails to respond and a hollow is left, into which the flesh and skin of the cheek, for example, fall, and thus the dimple is formed.

Granite is the lowest rock in the earth's crust; it is the bed rock of the world. It shows no evidence of animal or vegetable life. It is from two to ten times as thick as the united thickness of all the other rocks. It is the parent rock from which all other rocks have been either directly or indirectly derived.

For surveying wrecks, seining fish, reconnoitring for concealed torpedoes or most any submarine work the incandescent electric lamp, with specially insulated socket and cable, is bound to be extensively used in the future. Experiments recently carried on off Toulon, France, showed excellent results. Lamps were burned at a depth of six fathoms which brightly illuminated 100 feet of ocean-bed.

A Few Buffalo Still Left.

Professor Hornaday, the naturalist, estimated the number of the animals running wild at the beginning of the year 1891 at 1000, and this is certainly a liberal estimate. About fifty are known to be in Colorado, where, in October, 1891, a ranchman, for whom justice still calls in vain, is known to have killed five. In 1889 the state legislature of Colorado enacted a law providing severe penalties for any one who should kill a buffalo before the year 1900. The state game warden recently made an effort to bring the individual who admitted that he had killed five of the animals to justice, but he "could find no one who would testify against him." These Colorado buffaloes are said to be in four "bunches"—one in Middle Park, one in the Kenosha range (the herd numbering perhaps twenty) ten or fifteen are at Hahn's Peak in Routt county and the remainder at Dolores.

On the James river in North Dakota and south and west of Jamestown there are four or five animals, all that are left of the little herd which made its last stand near Fort Totten. Manitoba is said to contain a small herd, but as quite a number of animals were recently shipped from Winnipeg to Garden City, Kansas, where "Buffalo" Jones has gathered a considerable number, and is endeavoring with some measure of success to increase them by breeding, it may be that this Manitoba herd has been counted twice.

The Yellowstone National Park contains a large herd—the largest, perhaps, in existence anywhere—and they are said to be slowly increasing in numbers.

Forty-seven buffalo are owned by C. Allard, a rancher in the Flathead country, on Crow creek, Montana. These animals are herded with the domestic cattle. Here and there throughout the country, in parks or zoological gardens, a few are to be found. These are all that remain of that mighty host which covered the plains of the West within the memory of men not yet 35 years of age.—[Harper's Magazine.

Lifelike.

Photographer—I have just been finishing some photographs of your wife, Mr. Shriner.

Mr. Shriner—Have, eh? Photographer—Yes, and I must say they are speaking likenesses.

Mr. Shriner—They wouldn't be her if they weren't.—[Boston Courier.