

## SCENES IN BLOEMFONTEIN, CAPITAL OF ORANGE FREE STATE.

THE Orange Free State had no quarrel with Great Britain. The Transvaal's quarrel was not her quarrel. She was a free and independent State, living her own life and worshipping her own legislative and administrative gods. Her people, however, spoke the same tongue as the Transvaaler. A shadow of the Anglophobia that lurked on the north of the Vaal was also to be found north of the Orange, and Martinus Th. Steyn, the far-seeing and courageous President of the Free State, firmly believed that if the South African Republic were wrested from Dutch control, either by armed force or by awe of Great Britain's prowess, the next victim of the slogan "British pre-eminence in South Africa" would be his own little Republic, the Orange Free State. Furthermore, the two Republics were bound by a treaty made in 1897, after the Jameson raid, which provided that if either State were attacked the other was to come to its assistance with its full fighting force, which at that time meant a combined army of about 44,000 men—27,000 Transvaalers and 17,000 Free Staters.

So the Orange Free State and the Transvaal joined hands. That the Free Staters were not the first to suffer by this racial coalition was due to one of those rare accidents of war or caprices of fate that can never be anticipated. Ladysmith and Colenso, Kimberley and Mafeking chanced to be the points where the storm burst. The Free Staters, while descended from the same Dutch settlers in South Africa as the Transvaal burghers, form what might be termed another branch of the Boer family. They settled in Natal after the exodus from the Cape, but as that became a British colony, they fell back and established themselves in the country lying between the two great branches of the Orange River, known to the colonists as the Vaal and the Orange Rivers, and separated from the coast by the Drachenberg Mountains. The Orange River Free State, to give it its full name, forms a connecting link between Cape Colony, the Transvaal and Natal, and was for years called the Buffer State. It is a vast plateau, 3000 to 5000 feet above sea level. Its undulating plains slope from the Maluti Mountains to the Vaal River. In the south they are



PRESIDENT STEYN, OF THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

dotted with rocky hills, which the Boers call "kopjes." In the northern part, however, one can travel hundreds of miles without seeing a break in the horizon. When the Natal Boers took possession of the country it was inhabited by different tribes. All except the powerful Basutos have dispersed.

The Free State is divided into the following districts: Bloemfontein, Winburg, Southfield, Harrismith and Fauresmith. The capital is Bloemfontein (of which we give several illustrations), situated on a tributary of the Modder River and about 800 miles from Cape Town. The Orange Free State was annexed by Great Britain in the forties, and continued a colony of the empire until 1854, when it was granted independence. The inhabitants then established a government of their own and had progressed satisfactorily until their President, Mr. Steyn, was led by President Kruger into an offensive and defensive alliance against England.

That the Boers have for months and even for years been anticipating some

Free State, for Bloemfontein, the capital of the little republic, was carefully fortified and garrisoned for many months before the actual outbreak of hostilities. The accompanying illustration will give a very good idea of the Boer fort at Bloemfontein, a spot which, in view of recent events, has an especial interest to all followers of the present struggle between the Boer and the British.

The Orange Free State is like and yet unlike the Transvaal. Its people, like those north of the Vaal River, are



VIEW OF BLOEMFONTEIN, THE CAPITAL OF ORANGE FREE STATE.

simple, bucolic and sincere. An infusion of Huguenot blood makes them a slightly more active and progressive people than the Transvaalers. The republic has an area of about 50,000 square miles. Its present population is estimated to be 93,000 whites and some 140,000 blacks of the Basuto and Barolong tribes. The capital, Bloemfontein, is a curious, old world looking little city, with a railway leading



THE RAADZAAL (PARLIAMENT) BUILDING, BLOEMFONTEIN.

from the south into the town and again starting north. Unlike Kimberley and Johannesburg, the visitor gets no impression of mushroom growth from Bloemfontein, for the city is rich in statuary and public monuments and possesses a national museum and a well-stocked public library. The Bloemfontein raadzaal, or council chamber of the legislature, is a handsome edifice, designed in the Greek style and costing almost a quarter of a million dollars. The buildings in the city are substantial and prepossessing, for near by are great beds of freestone, admirable for building purposes. The presidency, where President Steyn resides, is also a very palatial building.

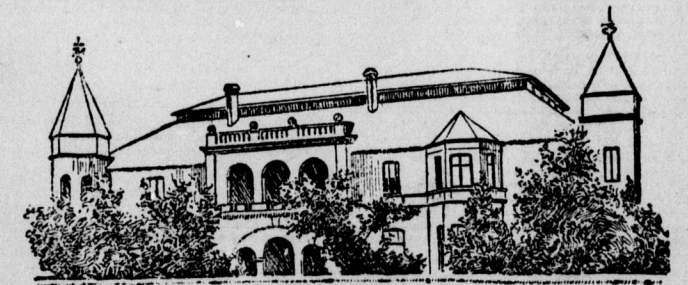
The Orange Free State is not a forest country, for, like the Transvaal, it is very sparsely wooded. The only



BOER FORT AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

mountain ranges in the State are the Stall Mountains, which lie in the eastern portion of the republic. Practically all of the plains are well adapted for pastoral purposes. On the Basutoland border there is a golden strip of land, thirty miles broad and 100 miles long, which is considered to be the best bit of grain producing soil in the world.

Think of land that, without irrigation, and with scarcely any cultivation, will raise seventy to eighty



HOME OF PRESIDENT STEYN AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

buys of grain to the acre! Wheat, oats, maize, barley and Kaffir corn can all be grown, while herds of cattle, horses, Angora goats, ostriches and sheep can live and flourish on the veldt.

There are three kinds of regular

Government schools. One is the town school, another the war school and the third the paripatetic school. At Bloemfontein there is a very fine college, known as Grey College, where higher education is carried on.

The vast majority of the Free Staters are members of the Reformed Dutch Church. In fact, this is the established church of the State. Even the tiniest village has its devout congregation, and the Government contributes each year \$40,000 for the support of its Dutch religious institutions.

The climate of the Orange Free State is perhaps the most healthful in all South Africa. It is both drier and colder than that of the neighboring colonies, due to the fact that the veldt of the Free Staters is so high above the sea level.

The constitution of the Orange Free State is founded upon that of the United States. This constitution

was adopted on April 10, 1854, and gave to everyone living in the country before the date of its adoption the right to vote for a president and members of the new legislature. The commando law is unique. This law, which was put into successful operation at the opening of the campaign for the raising of Orange Free State troops, regulates the calling out of burghers at all times of danger. Every male inhabitant of the State between sixteen and sixty years of age, under this law, subject to the call of the field cornet. The number that were found available for the last call to arms is said to have been 23,000.

A Rhinoceros at Large.

A rhinoceros that can dance is not, like a dancing bear, a familiar sight. Naturally such a rhinoceros created a sensation when, while being unloaded from a railroad car at Philadelphia, it escaped into the street. The beast was sent to the Zoological Garden and arrived in good health and spirits. Twenty employees of the express company stood about to prevent its getting away, but when the animal started they all fled down Seventeenth street.

The rhinoceros went to Market street, the men after it, thence to Sixteenth and back to Filbert. In the short journey it passed probably a hundred people, and put them all to flight. An Italian, grinding out a merry tune on his organ, got a shock that he will not soon forget.

The beast has been with a circus and can dance and do a cake-walk. At Sixteenth and Filbert streets it heard the sound of the music, and began to dance. The Italian did not know what brought the crowd, but he kept on turning his crank until suddenly there was a roar of laughter, and he turned to find the beast standing still, solemnly looking at him. With a terrific yell, he dropped the crank and ran. The animal was caught and put back into the cage with little difficulty.

A Life on the Ocean Wave.

A Liverpool steam packet company many years ago wanted to extend its premises, and resolved to buy a piece of land belonging to a maiden lady of uncertain age. The spinster sold her land at a very low price, and as a set-off requested that a clause should be put in the agreement to the effect that during her whole life she and a companion should at any time travel free in the company's vessels. On the day after the agreement was signed, she sold her furniture, let her house, and went on board the first outward-bound vessel belonging to the company, without troubling herself about the destination. For many years the lady lived on one ship or another, accompanied by some lady traveler, for whom she advertised, and whose passage money she pocketed. She was reckoned at her death to have made over ten thousand dollars by the transaction.

A Squash That Lifted 5000 Pounds.

An interesting agricultural experiment is related in Success, from which this picture is taken. A harness or basket of strap iron was placed over the squash in such a manner that, in order to grow, it would be compelled to lift any weight that might be placed on it. Harnessed in this manner, on

August 21 the squash lifted sixty pounds; August 31, 500 pounds; September 11, 1100; September 31, 2015; October 18, 3120, and October 31, 5000 pounds.

Twelve pounds only is the weight of the new automatic machine gun under experiment in the United States Army. It fires 450 shots a minute, and can be carried by one man.

## MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.

Relics of the Famous Boundary Between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The bill introduced in the Maryland Assembly by Senator Moses, of Baltimore, appropriating \$5000 with which to restore Mason and Dixon's Line, is



NORTH SIDE, BEARING ARMS OF THOMAS AND RICHARD PENN., AND SOUTH SIDE, BEARING ARMS OF LORD BALTIMORE.

awakening much interest. The State of Pennsylvania has already voted a like amount for the purpose.

The line between the property of Lord Baltimore and the Penns aroused many disputes and much bad feeling in early times, and the King and his counselors in England could find no way of stopping the quarrels, which frequently ended in bloodshed. Finally, in 1767, two famous English astronomers, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, made the survey and ran the line which established the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland. The work cost \$171,000, but it settled all trouble from that time to this.

The line runs along the southern border of Franklin County, and for 132 miles every five miles is, or was, planted a stone bearing on the Pennsylvania side the arms of Thomas and Richard Penn carved thereon, and on the Maryland side the arms of Lord Baltimore. The intermediate miles were marked by stones, upon which were cut the letters "P" on the north side and "M" upon the southern side.

A very few of these old milestones are now standing. The one shown in the cut is now at its old position at Highfield, along the Western Maryland Railroad. Most of them have been destroyed, and even stolen. A farmer in Washington County, Maryland, has two of them in use as door-steps at his house.

## To Have Good Teeth.

All persons, old and young, should have their teeth examined once every six months by a competent dentist. Decay will be present, and tarter forming, which nothing but a thorough examination will reveal. Professional service rendered in time means high-class work, less pain and great economy. A tooth filled when decay is slight will not be sensitive, the operation not long, and the filling lasting, because the operator has more and better structure to work on. He is enabled to make the walls of the cavity thicker and stronger, and with slight danger of exposing the nerve, the dread and fear of all when having teeth filled. Have your teeth attended to in time. Do not procrastinate. Give the dentist good tooth-structure to work upon, and he will render you excellent service. One person in a hundred has good teeth; ninety-nine persons in a hundred could have good teeth with the proper attention.—Woman's Home Companion.

## A Queer Church.

At Santa Clara, Cal., there is a Baptist church which was built of lumber made from a single giant oak tree. Under its branches the first Baptist service in that region was held, in 1853. When it was decided to build a church edifice it was thought best to use the site of the original meeting place. With appropriate ceremonies the great tree, whose shade covered an acre of ground, was consecrated for its new purpose. Workmen then cut



A QUEER CHURCH.

off the tree twenty feet from the ground. This big stump was partially hollow, and was allowed to stand for the church tower. A tapering steeple was built on top of it.

The upper part of the tree trunk and its huge branches were sawed up into lumber for the main body of the church. When the church stood completed a substantial building, thirty feet wide by seventy feet deep, 1200 feet of lumber remained unused. A more sturdy building could not be imagined.

## A Miss Better Than a Mile.

One of the stories that the late James Payn, the novelist, liked most to tell was about what he called an American duel, wherein two duellists, with one second, met within doors and drew lots to decide which should shoot himself. A was the unlucky man, and without a word he retired into the next apartment to carry out the purpose of self-destruction. B and the second, both very much moved by the tragedy of the situation, remained in listening attitudes. At last the pistol was heard; they shuddered with emotion and remorse, when suddenly in rushed the supposed dead man, triumphantly exclaiming, "Missed, by heaven."

## CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

### Bedtime.

Three little girls are weary—  
Weary of books and play;  
Sad is the world and dreary—  
Slowly the time slips away,  
Six little feet are aching,  
Dowed is each little head;  
Yet they are up and shaking,  
When there is mention of bed.

Bravely they laugh and chatter,  
Just for a minute or two,  
Then when they end their chatter  
Sleep comes quickly to woo,  
Slowly their eyes are closing,  
Down again drops each head—  
Three little maids are dozing,  
Though they're not ready for bed.

That is their method ever—  
Night after night they protest,  
Claiming they're sleepy never,  
Never in need of rest;  
Nodding and almost dreaming,  
Drowsily each little head  
Still is forever scheming  
Merely to keep out of bed.

### A Child With a Good Memory.

The other day a lady who lives on Morgau street took her five-year-old son to a photographer's to have his pictures taken. She was anxious to secure a good likeness at this particular sitting because she wished to distribute the pictures among some friends who were then her guests.

The child's idea of the affair, however, did not, apparently, harmonize with that of his mother. For when the man with the camera began to adjust the lens and direct it toward little Edward that young person set up what was unquestionably a howl. In vain did the mother call into use her utmost forensic abilities. Edward did not want his picture taken. "Why, my child," she said, soothingly, "the gentleman won't hurt you. Just smile and keep still a moment and it will be all over before you know it."

"Yes, I know, ma-ma!" whimpered the youth, with the tears running down his cheeks, "but that's what you told me at the dentist's."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### How Animals Rest Their Muscles.

When a man is tired he stretches out his arms and legs and yawns. Birds and animals, as far as possible, follow the example. Birds spread their feathers and also yawn or gape. Fowls often do this. Fish yawn, they open their mouths slowly till they are round, the bones of the head seem to loosen and the gills open.

Dogs are inveterate yawners and stretchers, but seldom sneeze unless they have a cold. Cats are always stretching their bodies, legs and claws, as every one knows who has had a cat for a pet.

Horses stretch violently when and after indulging in a roll, but not, as a rule, on all fours. A stag when stretching sticks out his head, stretches his forefeet out and hollows his back and neck as though trying to creep under a bar.

Most ruminant animals stretch when they rise up after lying down. Deer do it regularly, so do cows. This fact is so well known that if a cow arising from lying down does not stretch herself it is a sign that she is ill.

### Pussy Rang the Bell.

A big black tomcat in a Sioux City (Iowa) place of business gave the girls in the telephone central office a deal of bother, much as children do, you know; for he likes to turn the telephone crank to hear the bell jingle. Of course that "calls" the patient girl at the other end of the wire. The cat is always ready to sit on his hind legs, like a dog, or do a bit of gymnastic work on the back of a chair, for he is a very unusual cat. One day he was licking the sawdust from his sleek sides when his paw struck the crank of the telephone, which was beside him. He stopped and looked inquiringly at the crank, and then carefully, softly touched it again with his paw and seemed immensely pleased with the jingle. Now he has to be scolded two or three times a day for experimenting with it. As soon as he pushes the crank central calls up and wants to know "Number?" The cat's friends have to answer, "Kittie rang the 'phone." The phrase has thus become a byword with the operators. When there is a false alarm they say, "It was Kittie who rang."

### Extra Money for Messenger Boys.

There are pleasant features in the messenger lad's life that the public doesn't generally know. One of the most pleasant phases is the tip which often goes into the young fellow's pockets. Some of the downtown brokers have their favorite boys, and the lads get from \$5 to \$10 a week in tips. The brokers prefer to have a messenger boy do certain errands instead of their own office boy, as the latter are too well known to the people the brokers try to do business with.

The lads are often called upon to do strange things. One of them caused quite a sensation a year ago by walking alongside a wealthy woman, carrying her prayer book to church. The lad didn't occupy the pew with the lady, but he waited outside the church, at 30 cents an hour, until she was ready to return home.

Ladies who go to theatres without male escorts often get a messenger to accompany them, and sometimes take the lad into the theatre. Some of the lads tell you how the ladies made them eat out of their bouillon boxes and slipped a quarter or a half dollar into their hands beside.—New York Mail and Express.

### Fox Cubs.

They were delightful and amusing creatures, their ears ever alert, their bright eyes always on the lookout, and their sharp little noses sniffing the air

eagerly. So precisely alike were they, from tip of nose to tip of tail, that not even their owners could tell the one from the other. They took kindly to petting and fondling, but firmly though gently refused to learn any tricks whatsoever. Very soon they had the run of the whole household, patter, patter went the little feet scratch, scratch, rap, rap, if a door were shut, and the two-bright eyed little rascals did not have to wait long for admittance. The next step was to the lounge or bed, where they cuddled close among the soft pillows with great satisfaction. If ever dislodged they protested vigorously with tooth and claw, and a sharp little bark that said as plain as words, no, no, no.

Alas, even baby foxes cannot always stay babies. Bot and Cox were without doubt growing, and their powers of mischief grew also. A breakfast of young chicken without as much as "By your leave, Madam," was the climax of a long succession of misdeeds. They were restored to their native peaks, where they could find a warm and sheltered burrow, and as foxes eat field mice, grasshoppers, and crickets, they were in no danger of starving.—Our Animal Friends.

### A Strange Foster Mother.

A cat and five kittens were found one morning comfortably ensconced in the hayloft of a stable at Blacken-hurst. They were not wanted there, and so the stable man removed the family to a crib in a stall where a broody but persistent hen had been for many days sitting upon some china eggs. Before long sounds of a struggle were heard, and the cat left her young ones with a good deal of haste. On investigation the stable man found to his astonishment that the hen had driven out the cat and taken her place as foster mother of the kittens, nor would she permit the cat to return. She cooed to the kittens and did her best to nurse them; when they became restless she exercised maternal authority in keeping them well within bounds. Sometimes, while attending to one side of her nest, a kitten would stray from the others. But the foster-mother was not to be evaded. She would at once leave her place and search till she found the truant, and persuade it by pushing and other means to return to the nest. Of course, it was necessary that the cat should be allowed to approach her offspring from time to time, in order to feed them. The hen had then to be forcibly removed and the door barred against her. No sooner was it opened than the hen would drive out the cat and resume her place as the head of the household. At night she spread her wings over the little animals just as though they were chickens, and certainly they seemed to like the cozy warmth of their feathered quilt.—Everybody's Magazine.

### Finding Out How to Begin.

Two boys had sat down together to work out some problems in algebra. One of them had been busy with his pencil a full minute when he noticed his companion sitting with folded arms and knitted brows.

"What is the matter?" he exclaimed. "Why don't you begin."

"I'm finding out how to begin," returned the other, quietly, and he went on thinking. The first speaker covered a page of foolscap with figures, found himself in a labyrinth from which there seemed no escape, and looking back over the statement of the problem, discovered a mistake in his first equation. Long before this, however, his companion had worked the problem through and reached the correct result. He had not wasted time, because he had looked at all sides of the question before he began.

A great many of our young folks overestimate the importance of haste. They carry too heavy work in school in order that they may graduate a year earlier. They skim through their library books that they may return them and take out others. They settle important questions on the impulse of the moment, because they have not learned that there is real economy in taking time to see all sides before making a decision.

Now and then we meet people who toss up a penny to save themselves the trouble of making up their minds. But even this is hardly more foolish than it is to follow blindly the first impulse that comes into our heads. To act without stopping to think is the poorest economy in the world.

Nobody wastes time so hopelessly as the person who decides without deliberation, who, because of this wrong beginning, follows the wrong path, and finally is forced to retrace his steps and start again. A little hard thinking before we begin to act would save us not only much precious time but many a headache as well.—Christian Commonwealth.

### Their Arms Too Short.

The biggest telephone company in Kansas City is short of operators, and the reason of this is that most of the girls who have applied for positions the present month have not been tall enough. Hereafter a girl who does not measure 5 feet 6 inches in height will not be employed.

The company has learned that short girls have short arms and girls with short arms cannot do the work as well as those with long arms. The present intention of the company is to get a sufficient number of long-armed girls and then endeavor to keep them.

### Greater Napoleons.

"I don't see why so many people envy a character like Napoleon." "It's due to the naive egotism of the human race. Every man imagines that if he had been in Napoleon's place he would have been considerably smarter and managed to keep away from St. Helena."—Washington Star.