

## BOER TRAITS.

### THEIR PRESENT CHARACTER AND PAST ACHIEVEMENTS.

The Farmers of the Transvaal Wilderness Have a Stirring History—The Great Trek—How They Conquered the Zulus.

AMONG all the white men now thronging Johannesburg and other parts of the Transvaal in search of gold, writes a correspondent of the London Times, how many can say with truth that they know anything of the Dutch farmer? Not one man in a hundred. They will sneer at him, laugh at his guttural tongue and his heavy, uncouth ways, rail at his Government; but as for taking the trouble to acquire his language and find out something of the inner heart of the man, they will not

since an invaluable aid against the over-powering numbers of savage tribes. Only so lately as in the Matabele war this old Boer method was adopted; and by its use—aided of course, immensely by Maxim guns—the colonists of Mashonaland won their brilliant victories, and destroyed the long and cruel Matabele tyranny. About this same period—1836-'37—another great portion of the Great Trek made its way into the present territory of the Orange Free State, and thence, crossing the Vaal, succeeded, after some bloody and disastrous reverses, in driving Moselikate (father of Lobengula) beyond the Limpopo into the country now called Matabeleland. Moselikate was then the most redoubtable native captain in South Africa, and his men, almost all pure-bred Zulus, who had migrated from Zululand with him in a body, were as fearless, as fierce, as cruel, and as highly trained as Chaka's and Dingaan's finest warriors. Yet the Trek

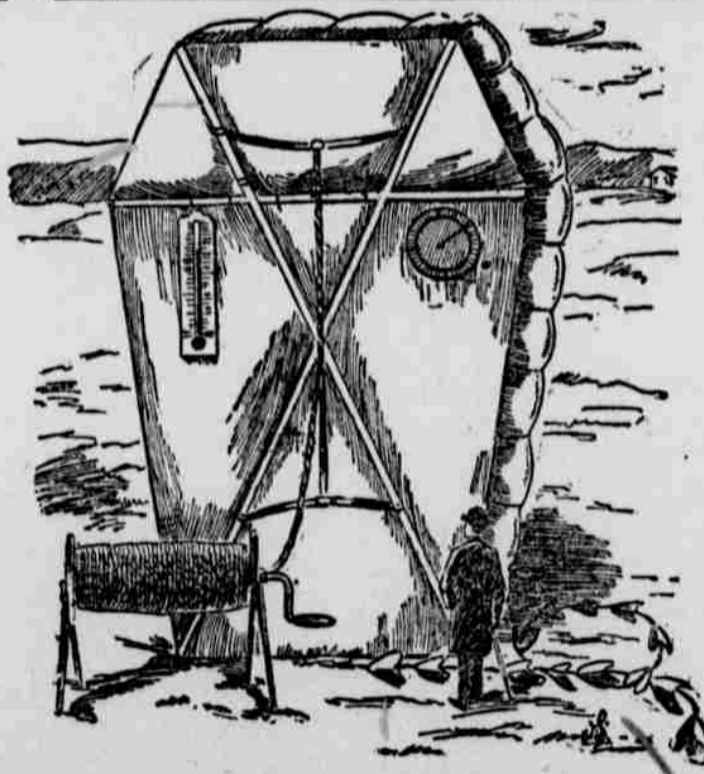
courage. I cannot follow this imputation. The Afrikaner Dutchman is, I will grant, inert and hard to move. Even in the agitation among the Transvaal farmers, before the Boer war, in which, undoubtedly, a large proportion of the population viewed the British annexation with extreme anger and indignation, they were very slow to go "out." As in former struggles, the vovous did an immense deal in screwing up their husbands to the fighting point. The Dutch wife has great influence over her man; she is usually possessed of indomitable spirit and determination; and in moments of danger and difficulty she counts for a good deal in South African movements. When the Boers finally took the field in 1881, they fought well, as even we ourselves must admit. It is no light matter to take up arms successfully against the strength of Britain as these farmers did. By a series of lucky accidents, the Boers found arrayed against them troops weak in numbers, mostly consisting of young and unseasoned soldiers, led by a General who, after a series of extraordinary blunders, paid with his own life the penalty of rashness and lack of judgment.

At Laing's Nek and Ingogo River the Boers undoubtedly had our men at immense disadvantage, and by the help of their very excellent shooting scored their victories. But at Majuba Hill, where less than 150 Dutchmen stormed a mountain held by 400 British troops and defeated them with the loss of their General, six officers, and ninety men killed and a large number wounded, want of courage can scarcely be charged against these ignorant, undrilled farmers. They themselves still look upon that event in their simple way as more an act of God than of their own courage. Nor, in the far more desperate fighting against the Zulus and Matabele during the Great Trek, can want of courage be urged against the frontier Boers.

### A KITE BALLOON.

Interesting Experiments by Our Weather Bureau's Chief.

The meteorologists have admitted for many years that some knowledge of the condition of the upper air will be very valuable as an aid to weather prediction. The upper air strata are peculiarly inaccessible in the case of an attempt to suspend meteorological instruments for many hours above any local point, owing to sudden gusts and equally sudden



PROFESSOR MOORE'S REMARKABLE NEW KITE.

calms. A captive balloon during strong winds is apt to be disabled by the variable pressure upon its immense globe of confined gas. The wind, if very powerful, may drive the tethered balloon downward sidewise and force the gas out of its neck, causing loss of buoyancy.

According to recent drawings made in London, Professor Willis L. Moore, Chief of the United States Weather Bureau, is experimenting with a combination of the balloon and the kite, by which during dead calms the gas bags at the back of the kite may carry it upward, while during strong winds the kite would take the pressure and protect the gas apparatus behind it.

The Moore kite, as drawn, has a tail, which may ultimately be dispensed with, as in the case of the kites devised by me in 1891, writes William A. Eddy in the New York World. Since flat kites of light construction, in mild winds, require little tail, it seems to follow that a gas-inflated kite will need very small tail weights to balance it if the wind is light. In a strong wind a tail about 800 feet in length will be required. Professor Moore's proposed line of experiment is interesting and valuable, and if all the Weather Bureau stations are equipped with such an apparatus the predictions would be more exact.

Kites of light construction can maintain themselves aloft six days in seven at New York, and probably four days in seven at Cincinnati, where the wind is light, if night winds in both cities are included in the estimate. But Professor Moore's kite, if he uses gas, would doubtless make the record almost continuous. Since there is often plenty of wind aloft and none at the surface of the earth, the facts are only approximately known at the present.

By its late census Mexico claims a population of 14,000,000, and 198 cities.

### A STANLEY AMONG WOMEN.

Miss Mary Kingsley's Feats as an African Traveler.

Miss Mary Kingsley, niece of the clergyman-author, has been accorded rank with Livingstone, Speke, Grant, Burton, Cameron, Johnson, Selous and Stanley. She has just returned from a long journey of exploration in West Africa, and is much surprised to



MISS MARY KINGSELEY.

find herself famous. Miss Kingsley is a modest, diffident little woman in society, however brave and assertive she may be in the jungle, and had no idea that she was a celebrity. Barring Mme. Ida Pfeiffer, who traveled about the greater part of the earth alone, and Mrs. French-Sheldon, of America, Miss Kingsley has made a record as an explorer unapproachable by any woman. She traveled in Africa from Old Calabar through the French Gaboon, penetrating the gorilla country of the interior and proceeding up the Ogowe River to N'Djole. It is a dangerous waste region and borders the country of the Fangwes, who have no cemeteries. They not only eat their own dead but such stray strangers as they may fortunately find. Miss Kingsley was regarded by this hospitable folk as fetich, and was thus insured against forming part of the bill of fare of a Fangwe banquet. She had much difficulty to retain her eight or ten native attendants however, and it was only by strong threats of punishment by the French Government that she saved the lives of her men. She came across a Nation of vicious dwarfs near

## FASHION'S REALM.

### WHAT IS WORN BY WOMEN IN WET WEATHER AND DRY.

A Practical and Comfortable Waterproof—Stylish Costume for a Girl—Bonnets Made of Black Velvet.

THIS practical and comfortable top garment, illustrated in the large drawing, affords perfect protection in stormy weather without unnecessary weight or other inconvenience. The absence of sleeves (it being shaped in so-called "skeleton" designs) renders it easily adjusted or laid aside. Gray waterproof cloth is the material chosen in this instance, the cape being lined throughout with changeable blue and gold taffeta. The edges are plainly finished, and the cloak is closed all the way down the front with bone buttons, three of a smaller size closing the cape near the top. The fronts are loose-fitting, and join the body back by shoulder, under-arm seams, under-arm darts producing the smooth adjustment at the sides. The back skirt portions are widely lapped and joined to the lower edge of body, straps being provided at the side edges in which tapes or ribbon is inserted to tie around the waist, and thus hold the back in proper position. The back can be left open or closed as preferred. Useful pockets with pointed laps are placed on each front, the edges being stitched in tailor fashion. The caps

### GIRLS' COSTUME.

Fancy striped novelty goods, shaded in golden brown hues, are here stylishly associated with tabac velvet, the



STYLISH GIRLS' COSTUME.

are shaped with single seams, gathered at the top and arranged over comfortably fitted linings, the wrists being completed by bands of velvet. The circular skirt has the fullness arranged in box plaits at the back, two on each side of the placket, that is made at the top of the centre back seam. Velvet, ribbon, gimp, satin, or Persian ribbon, bias bands of yoke being simulated by twine-col-



COMFORTABLE WATERPROOF.

extends well below the hips, and is shaped with a dart on each shoulder, it being of fashionable, but not exaggerated width. The rolling collar fits the neck closely, and can be raised if desired. Waterproof cloth in medium or light weight is usually chosen for garments of this kind. The quantity of 54-inch-wide material required to make this waterproof for a lady having a 32-inch bust measure is 5 1/2 yards; for a 36-inch size, 5 3/4 yards; for a 40-inch size, 5 1/2 yards; for a 42-inch size, 6 yards.

### A HANDSOME VELVET BONNET.

This bonnet is of black velvet adorned with black tips, above a crown of shot-pink and blue passementerie. The lining of the poke brim is a



VELVET BONNET.

particularly pretty soft shade of pink moire silk, and the long wide strings are of the same silk. A couple of pink moire rosettes, too, nestle on the hair behind, where the brim is bent up.

ored lace over yellow satin. The mode is also suitable for dresses of linen batiste and cotton wash fabrics that are already being prepared for the approaching season, trimmed with insertion and edging of embroidery. The full waist is made up over fitted linings on which the material is arranged smoothly at the top, the fullness at the lower edge being gathered at the waist line front and back, drooping in blouse style over the belt in front. Small gilt buttons with buttonholes effect the closing in centre back, and the neck is finished with a close standing collar of velvet. The yoke is laid on over the front in square outline, edged by the bands of velvet, the side bands being finished with points held by single, large, dull gilt filigree buttons. The gigot sleeves plaid, or striped silk or woolen material, can be used for decoration on dresses in this style. The added yoke can be omitted if not desired, the trimming giving the same effect. Stylish fancy plaids and clan tartans make pretty dresses, trimmed with dark velvet, in this style, chevot, camel's hair, cashmere and other woollens developing attractively.

The quantity of 44-inch wide material required to make this dress for a girl 6 years old is 2 1/2 yards; for a 10-year old size, 3 1/2 yards; for a 12-year-old size, 3 1/2 yards.

### MOHAIR STILL POPULAR.

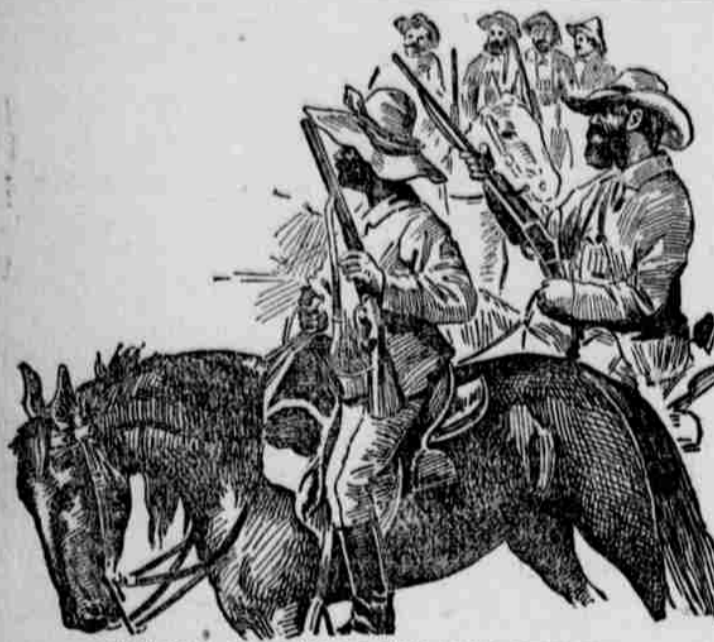
Mohair still retains its popularity as dress goods. It sheds dust so well, and Noah's flood couldn't hurt it, and so it lingers for utility wear. Oddly enough the next favorite, or rather the prime one, is the rough material, such as frieze, boucle and something called tourmaline, which the shop girl said was a Swiss word! Maybe it is. The fabric is rough surfaced and loosely woven, and comes only in black. It is very thick and looks like boucle bunting.

### BLACKHEAD GOWNS.

One sees a remarkable number of costumes showing combinations of white. Any and every color is put with it and with an astonishingly good effect.

Black and white has long been in vogue, and is still so much in favor that there are no end of costumes showing this combination. White has a softening effect upon color in every case and is especially charming when made up with pretty soft grays, browns or some of the pretty mixed goods.

Horseshoe as a medicine and condiment is mentioned in the Egyptian records, 3000 years B. C. It is easily grown in almost any part of the world.



BURGER SOLDIERS OF THE BOER REPUBLIC.

do it—in their feverish search for fortune they have not the time.

And yet this farmer of the wilderness, rough and uncouth, and often early and suspicious as he is, has a great and stirring history behind him in South Africa, of which he is and has a right to be proud. He and his have struggled, and trokked, and warred, and been massacred, and have suffered in blood and purse and pastoral wealth these 250 years past. I doubt whether an equal number of English peasants, farmers, soldiers and settlers, if they had been planted at the Cape in 1652, as the early Dutch were, would have emerged from the long struggle so little spoiled, and having lost so little of their National characteristics.

The Dutch Afrikaners are still of pure European blood, they still cling with the simplest and sublimest faith to the literal teaching of their Bibles, still cherish with deep affection their homes and families, still go about their herding and hunting and trekking in the old slow, unconquerable, dogged spirit of their ancestors, still turn their faces north, and as their pastures grow small and crowded, trek for new lands with undimmed hope and vigor.

In the "Great Trek," as it is called, hundreds of farmers quitted Cape Colony, selling their farms for anything they would fetch in a forced market, and, with their families bestowed in their wagons and their flocks and herds around them, crossed the Orange River and sought new homes and pastures. The present republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State owe their origin to this movement.

The history of the Great Trek, if it ever comes to be written, will furnish one of the most inspiring of epics. These despised and slow-moving Dutch farmers, armed with only flintlock

Boers vanquished Moselikate as they had vanquished Dingaan, and took possession of that fair and rich country now called Transvaal.

One battle was fought in laager against Moselikate's Matabele hordes. There were but forty grown Dutchmen in the camp, but the women and even the children (President Kruger, then a boy, was, I believe, among the number) served in the defence, loading the long smooth-bore guns as fast as they were emptied, and the Boers finally beat off their savage enemy with great loss. After this fight reinforcements came in and small bands of mounted farmers attacked the Matabele in their own kraals.

In the last of these daring campaigns 135 Boers followed up and fell upon Moselikate in person on the Marico River. Moselikate commanded no fewer than 10,000 of his finest soldiers. Fierce as they were, however, they lacked horses and guns, and found themselves no match for the mounted Dutch farmers, all fine game shots, and all imbued with an invincible determination. For more than a week the Boers, with nothing but biltong (sun dried game meat) to eat, and no bed but the bare veldt, harried and harassed the Matabele hosts. Again and again the Matabele tried to entrap their active opponents, to bring them to close quarters, when their stabbing assegais might be brought into play. But the mounted men always evaded them, and at length, after losing large numbers of warriors, Moselikate gave up the contest, retreating beyond the Limpopo, and left the whole vast territory of the Transvaal, which he had long held by the sheer terror of his name and arms, to the "Voor-Trekert." We English, in a miserably mismanaged war, and after a shameful peace, have had our bad moments with the Transvaal Boers. But, now that time has



BOERS TRAVELING BY OX-CART IN THE TRANSVAAL.

guns, after suffering cruel reverses and the bloodiest treachery, met and conquered the whole Zulu army, then at the height of its strength and military discipline. Fewer than 450 Boers successfully resisted 12,000 of the fiercest Zulu warriors. At the close of that Sunday morning battle, fought upon December 16, 1838, 3000 Zulus lay dead round the Dutch laager; the stream flowing by, ever since called the Blood River, ran crimson; and the power of Dingaan and his nation was for years broken. To this hour the Transvaal Dutch annually meet to celebrate "Dingaan's Day," and receive humble thanks for their crowning mercy, that wonderful victory over the Zulu host.

In their warfare with the Zulus, in the country now called Natal, the Dutch farmers used that plan of battle—insuring their wagons in square formations—which has been found over

somewhat assuaged the bitter memories of Majuba Hill, those of us who know and appreciate the sterling qualities of the Boer character—the stubborn determination, the simple yet sublime faith, the deep love of "ons land," as they call the country of their adoption—cannot deny to these rude farmers their merit of praise.

For years after the battles with the Zulu and Matabele tribes the Boers as a body settled themselves quietly in the Orange Free State and Transvaal, peopling the country, growing their crops, and amassing great flocks and herds.

The more adventurous spirits among them—the elephant hunters—went annually into the hunting veldt, and when they had denuded their own country of great game, trekked far afield in every direction in pursuit of ivory. It has been the custom to change the orange Boer with a lack of



GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET.

seems to Appomattox," and the Chicago Times-Herald says that it is "a truthful, impartial and unfettered account of the Confederate side's tactics and movements during the war."