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BOERS AND DIAMONDS.

Some Very Interesting Information from the Transvaal.

"The Boer is a diamond in the rough. He is a sort of ancient patriarch; a fanatic who sees good in everything, no matter how trivial. He prays and sings and assumes even more religion than he feels. He is a farmer by nature and is satisfied with his calling. His two great ambitions are to have the finest horse in the colony and to know how to ride him, and to have the finest rifle in the colony and to know how to use it. The Boer loves the English civilian and welcomes him, but hates the English soldier. He is a tall, fine looking specimen of mankind, albeit a little greasy and dirty, with a long beard that the razor has never touched. The character of Waldo's father, which Miss Schreiner has drawn in 'The Story of an African Farm,' is a perfect type that you see quite frequently.

"The English are quite content to have the Transvaal remain under the Boer government. In fact, they would hate to see it otherwise, as those who live there feel very heartily toward England for not having come to their assistance when they were defeated."

Speaking of the diamond fields, Mr. Scarelle said that the Kimberley mines have been consolidated by that wonderful young genius, Cecil Rhodes, the great friend of Lord Salisbury and the Boers alike. Rhodes has amalgamated all of the companies into one vast corporation that controls the output of the world. The Brazilian mines were bought out by it and closed down because they did not pay. Outside of the 11 per cent. of the diamond supply from India, the remainder comes from the Kimberley fields. The white stones, called the Brazilian stones, that are so rare and costly, come from the mines in the Kimberley fields called the Jagersfontein and the Bultfontein. Cecil Rhodes and his associates made the calculation that the world's monthly supply of diamonds was $400,000. Thereupon they limited the output to $350,000 and put the price up one-third. They contemplate a further restriction and an added cost.

Mr. Scarelle exhibited several specimens of diamonds in the rough, which it is necessary to have a permit to carry in the Transvaal. He also showed the permit. Among his curious collections is a large specimen of what is called "the blue" — that is, the matrix of the diamond. It is a blue stone in which the diamond is formed. When first taken out it is as hard as the diamond itself, but exposed to the outer atmosphere and the rain it grows soft, crumbles into dust and yields up its treasure, the rough diamond, that comes forth in its wonderful octohedron form.

The climate of the Transvaal, Mr. Scarelle said, is simply perfect, and nature, in addition to the vast store of treasures which she has accumulated, has made the soil such that the rarest vegetables and plants will grow in the richest profusion.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Word for Maximilian.

Maximilian was not the royal thief some would have us believe. He was visited at Trieste by a large delegation of representative Mexicans, who tendered him the Mexican scepter, and it was only after mature consideration and counsel with the leading minds of Europe that he accepted the proffered crown. When betrayed at Queretaro by Mexican perfidy and condemned to be shot, through the intercession of American officers he was offered his freedom.

"And what of Miramon and Mejia?" said the emperor, "They are Mexicans, traitors to their country, and must die." "Then I die with them," said the noble Austrian, and the next day witnessed the most tragic scene ever enacted on this continent—the execution of Maximilian, emperor of Mexico, and his two faithful generals. In the light of history Maximilian will be regarded as an unfortunate prince, whose sole ambition would have been the happiness of his people had he succeeded in establishing the Mexican empire.—Monticello (Tex.) Record.

Medicine Taken on the Road.

An anecdote is told of a physician who was called to a foreign family to prescribe for a case of incipient consumption. He gave them a prescription for pills and wrote the direction, "One pill to be taken three times a day, in any convenient vehicle." The family looked in the dictionary to get the meaning of the prescription. They got on well till they got to the word "vehicle." They found it was defined as "cart, wagon, carriage, wheelbarrow." After grave consideration they came to the conclusion that the doctor meant that the patient should ride out, and while in the vehicle take the pill. He followed the advice to the letter, and in a few weeks the fresh air and exercise secured the advantage which other wise might not have come.—Exchange.

A Nose Very Made by the Camera.

An enthusiastic amateur photographer employs a pretty process in producing a photographic moon mark, so that when he gives a dinner he presents to each guest a photograph of the house in which they are sitting, or, if a picnic, a photograph of the scene they are going to visit. On the card also appears the menu and the name of the host and hostess. All that is done to obtain this result is to leave on the card a sufficient space to write the menu, and then print the negative on a paper thin enough to allow the moon to shine through, and then printing the negative on a paper thin enough to allow the moon to shine through, and then printing the negative on a paper thin enough to allow the moon to shine through, and then printing