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LIFE AND SCENES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Some Facts Not Generally Known About the People of the Lower End of the "Dark Continent."

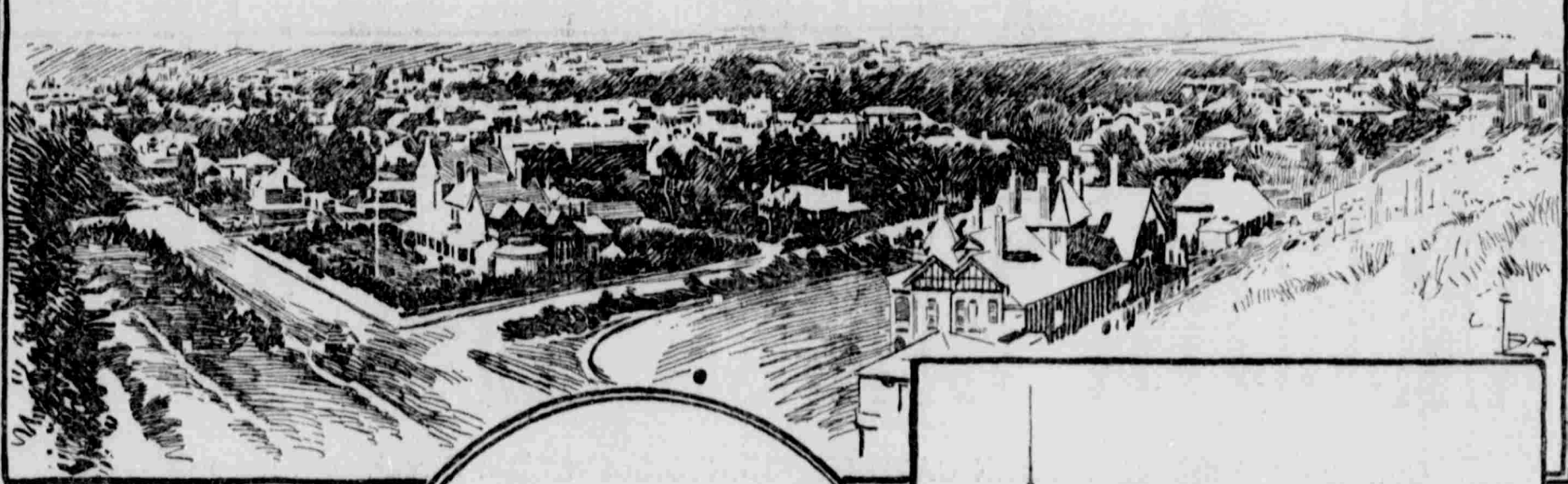
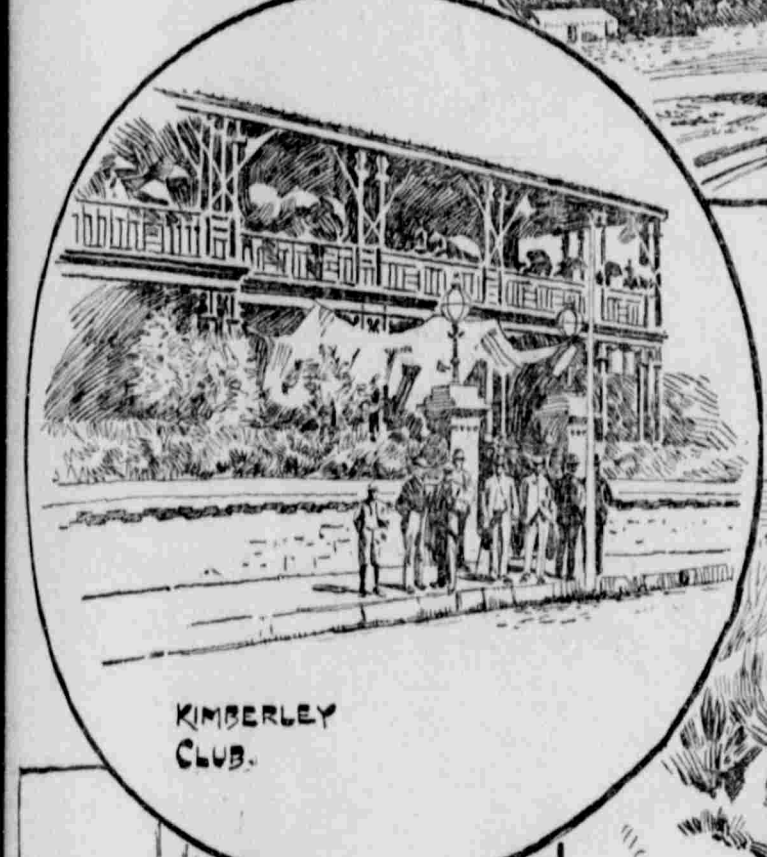
WHILE a great deal has of late been written about South Africa, very little is really known regarding the present condition of that country and the actual conditions of life there. There are many popular ideas of South Africa. One is that the country is a vast, empty desert. Another holds it to be a vast and more or less fertile plain, while still another maintains that it is a great, mountainous wilderness. The fact of the matter is that South Africa is a combination of all three. It has the distinctions of climate, soil and physical features that are to be found almost every part of this globe. Along the coast country for at least 1,000 miles inland, as a rule, the territory

public, the home of the Transvaal Boers. It is a land of sun steeped plains and rocky kopjes, and its only redeeming feature is the yellow wealth which lies 1,000 feet below its sun baked surface. And herein lies one of history's bitterest ironies. When the Boers trekked into this bleak wilderness, they came, not for the gold that lay hidden there, but to escape from those people which the unsuspecting gold later drew into their new homes after them like pursuing shadows.

The English settlements of Natal and Cape Colony, on the other hand, are the direct opposites of the Boer republics. Their climate is good. The soil is marvelously productive. Negro labor is cheap. The settlements are large and

Durban, the entry port, has been called the Newport of South Africa, and the epithet is not inappropriate. Palms and bamboos and flowers fringe its wide streets. Its air is soft and health giving. Its magnificent suburbs are filled with handsome and commodious residences looking out over the sea. Dusky skinned Zulus trot about its streets with handy little two-wheeled rickshaws. Altogether, it is the most desirable residence city in South Africa, and stands out far ahead of Pietermaritzburg, the actual capital of the colony. This latter city has a certain air of antiquity about it, but outside of being the seat of the local government has little to commend it to the attention of visitors or settlers.

country from its long sleep, and its arid plains were soon a scene of intense activity. Until the De Beers and their big syndicate stepped in and drove the individual miner out of the business every one was busy and prosperous, money was plentiful and the luxuries of life were demanded. Four hundred million dollars' worth of diamonds was the result of a few years' quarrying.



as fertile and the climate as salubrious as in any other part of the world. Further inland beyond this 100 mile fringe of fertility is another area of several hundred miles which consists of lofty tablelike plateaus and high and forest covered mountains. Inland this again is the Great Karoo, a wilderness, and beyond this again is the wide, rolling plains of the Kimberley region and the two South African republics.

As it has been proved that the germs may be transmitted in clothing and by bits of skins, leather, etc., or by dogs, it has become necessary to disinfect all passengers going south into the Cape Colony or Natal, and all skins, furs, rugs, dogs, etc., must be seized and held at the border.

Natal, like Cape Colony, lives off the Transvaal. This fertile colony produces vast quantities of coffee, fruits, tea, sugar and vegetables, all of which is, of course, marketed in the city of Johannesburg and the other mining towns of the Transvaal. This is still further evidence that the Transvaal is the main wheel in the South African machinery. As has already been said, this is due to the presence of the yellow metal in that country, for before the gold and diamond mines were discovered the Boer republic was practically a cipher in the commercial world. The country produced nothing that was not needed for home consumption and hence exported nothing. Nor could it import anything, for it was too poor to pay for goods brought along as best it could on the meagre and mutton raised on its arid plains. Such a thing as irrigation never entered into the Boer's head. But the discovery of the diamond mines, a little over a quarter of a century ago, awakened the

Confederate soldiers who are still able to do light work. The organization has received an intimation that Mrs. Davis desires to sell the property, that she may invest in real estate in New Orleans and make that city her home.

present time the characteristics of that big, bustling center of the mining country are gold, glare, galvanized iron and gambling. There is also another thing that must not be forgotten, and that is dust, for this distinctive feature makes all other features indistinct. There is only one place in South Africa that can beat Johannesburg for dust, and that is Kimberley. But even a Johannesburg dust storm is no joke. It blinds you and chokes you and stops your ears and pockets and blends in one brown, opaque confusion pedestrians and riders and drivers, and white and brown and yellow and black folk.

But Johannesburg's social life, though often seen through a cloud of dust, has its more lucid moments. Like any other 13-year-old gold digging town, it has its distinctly seamy side, though it has never had any of that "shooting on sight" which Bret Harte tells about in "The Outcasts of Poker Flat." The fact is, Johannesburg is a cyanide process and not a nugget digging town. This makes all the difference in the world. It gives a factory town steadiness to the place and has a tendency to discourage the penniless adventurer who drifts to a place dreaming that he can unearth a fortune with three strokes of a pick. Johannesburg gold is scattered thinly through mighty hard rock, so thinly that it can hardly be

Ben Holliday's Little Scheme.

"Did you ever hear how old Ben Holliday tried to get into congress?" said an old timer recently. "Well, you know he was the pioneer stagecoach and pony expressman of the west and made millions out of it."

"After he had got so rich he didn't know what to do he got ambitious—wanted to be a statesman and all that. It was the proper thing in those days for western millionaires to buy their way into the United States senate. There was no chance for the senate just then from Oregon, and Holliday was impatient. So he decided to go to congress as a representative. He had doubts about his own popularity, so he fixed up a grand political scheme."

"There was a young lawyer in Portland who was a good speaker and had made himself very popular in local politics. He was ambitious, but had no money. So Holliday made a deal with him. The young lawyer was to get the regular nomination, backed on the quiet by Holliday's money, was to make the campaign, and at the last moment withdraw in Holliday's favor, Holliday appearing on the field as an independent candidate."

"The nomination scheme went through all right, and the young fellow made a great fight. He won support everywhere. On the appointed day Holliday went to him and suggested that the time was about ripe for his withdrawal. But the young lawyer sat there puffing, gasping and trying to speak, the young man coolly told him that he would like to go to congress himself—didn't think it would be right to disappoint the people, was very much obliged for Holliday's kindness and all that, but really he couldn't see his way clear to give up such a sure thing."

"Holliday stormed and swore, but it did no good. The young man was firm, and Holliday dared not say a word. His protégé was elected and made a good representative. Holliday forgave him afterward and became one of his best friends."

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAVEL.

One curious and rather unpleasant feature of travel in South Africa at present is being "disinfected" at the border of Natal and Cape Colony. This is done in order to try and stop the spread of the "rinderpest," a disease which has killed almost all the cattle in every part of South Africa where it has made its appearance and which threatens to complete the extinction of all the oxen in the country. As the wealth of the farmers in South Africa is measured by the number of oxen they own, and as all the hauling, freighting to interior towns, plowing, etc., was done by oxen, it practically amounts to ruin to the agricultural interests to lose them. Therefore the English colonial governments are doing all in their power to stop the progress of the disease, which, in spite of their efforts, is still sweeping southward to the coast.

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The disinfecting process as applied to passengers is effected in the following manner: The passenger is admitted to a small room in which are several chairs, and, after seating himself in a chair, a towel is wrapped around his neck, then a rubber hood is placed over the entire chair and inclosing the entire body excepting the head.

A trapdoor is then opened and sulphur vapor is admitted under the rubber hood for several minutes. A part of it is sure to find its way into one's nostrils and the discomfort is intense, but there is no escape.

The hood and towel are finally removed and one must wash the face and hands in a basin and cleanse the finger nails.

After passing to another room a Kaffir washes the bottoms and sides of your shoes with a disinfecting solution, and you are allowed to proceed to your seat in the train.

It must be admitted that the passengers endure this disagreeable treatment with the best possible good humor, and all are consoled with the thought that the intentions are of the best, even though the process may appear to be unnecessary in the case of many who have had no occasion to come into direct contact with oxen for months past, if indeed at any time.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S SEA RECORD.

Rear Admiral Hichborn, chief constructor of the navy, has compiled a list of the vessels on which Admiral Dewey has served since his entrance into the naval service with a statement showing the length of time he was attached to each. Curiously enough, Admiral Dewey never commanded a modern steel warship and never served on any until he raised his flag on the Olympia. He was not, as the commander in chief of the Asiatic squadron, in command of that vessel. The only vessel of the new navy which he commanded was the dispatch boat Dolphin.

The statement shows that his first service was on the Wabash as a midshipman in 1858. He was on the Pawnee up to the beginning of the civil war, during which he served successively on the Mississippi, the Brooklyn, the Agawam, the Colorado and the Kearsarge. After the war he returned to the Colorado. His first command was the Narragansett in 1870, and afterward he commanded, in order, the Supply, the Narragansett, the Junata, the Dolphin and the Pensacola. His next command was the Asiatic station.

SHOES AND NERVOUSNESS.

It is averred by a famous Chinese doctor that nervousness is kept out of the Chinese empire by the use of soft soled shoes. The hard soles worn by the Anglo-Saxon race are said to be the cause of their extreme nervous temperament.

THINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Any thing, the 11-year-old son of Ah Kien, a Chinese laundryman, has been admitted to the St. Louis public schools and is the first of his race ever attended them. He is quick and bright and always stands well in his class.

office at Mountain View because of there being one at Oakdale, Md., only a mile and a half away, the people of the former place went in a body to the latter and stole the postoffice building and planted it in their own town.

The United Confederate Veterans of New Orleans are planning to purchase Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' Mississippi home, for an industrial farm for ex-

Confederate soldiers who are still able to do light work. The organization has received an intimation that Mrs. Davis desires to sell the property, that she may invest in real estate in New Orleans and make that city her home.

The oldest woman in the world, according to official census reports, lives in Hawaii and is 124 years of age. Her name is Keopotele Awa, and her claim

to advanced age has been thoroughly investigated by Hon. Alatau T. Atkinson, the general superintendent of the Hawaiian census.

A writer in Forest and Stream asserts that the criminal tendency is manifested to a greater or less extent by all the lower animals, and he has compiled a list of 18 crimes which are commonly committed by birds, beasts or reptiles.

The indictment includes murder, paricide, fratricide, suicide, theft, kidnapping, highway robbery, polygamy and drunkenness.

Mr. J. P. Pence of Lagrange, Mo., is the oldest schoolteacher in his state. For more than half a century he has taught in the country public schools of Missouri, beginning his long course of service in the fall of 1845. This autumn

he started in hale and hearty at La Belle, Lewis county.

Free evening drawing schools are maintained by the city of Boston.

Amherst has a course in modern governments and their administration.

The revenue of Sierra Leone for the past year reached the sum of \$353,410, the largest ever collected in the colony. The expenditure was \$208,550.