A FEAST IN ZULULAND.

The Killing of the Cattle for the Occasion an Exciting Event.

A dozen magnificent long horned oxen were run into the kraal, and several stalwart warriors followed them in, assegais in hand. Crowding the cattle in a bunch up against the wall, each warrior singled out a victim, and with a mighty thrust plunged the keen, bright blade into the animal's heart. Generally speaking, the one swift, sure stroke was sufficient, but in two or three cases the stricken animals avoided the death thrust, and, goaded to madness by the deep wound, made motion exceedingly lively for the Zulus for the next few minutes, chasing them frantically about the kraal until were well buried assegai brought them to earth. One big steer, horned like a Texas, kept his feet, and fought until a dozen assegai blades were buried in his body, and in its lifeful rushing he knocked over a couple of men and signed one very badly up the thigh.

The whole affair was as exciting as a Spanish bull fight. When they were all killed the crowd, who had been enjoying the fun from the kraal wall, hopped into the arena and assisted in the work of skinning and cutting up. As many as could get around an ani- mal assisted, and one could scarcely imagine a more barbarous spectacle than a horde of Zulus skinning and dissecting a dozen oxen. The blood was allowed to remain in the flesh, and men, women and children were seen carrying off the huge pieces of red, quivering flesh slung over their shoulders, with the blood trickling down their dark, dark skins to their heels. Children hoisted their foes and hollos for fun, and about each carcass a group of tall, black warriors hacked and slashed, like the savages they were. While the women boiled the beef in big iron kettles, obtained from Natal, the warriors engaged in a big dance.

You can never quite catch the spirit of a Zulu dance by merely hearing it described, any more than you can realize the exhilaration of wine without trying it. The warriors turned out about 300 strong on this occasion, and the dance took place on a level bit of ground outside the kraal. The whole community was gathered in a black mass, squatting in irregular ranks on the grass to see the dance. After the beeves had all been cut up the warriors retired to their huts. Then very shortly they came straggling out again, one by one, the blood washed off, and their bodies decorated with all the gew gaws of war. Many wore kilts of Zoulou red tails or the tails of wolves and foxes, and round their calves and biceps were ornaments of bead and of leopard skin. On each warrior's head was a dome of black ostrich gum, polished until it looked like a dome of jet. With six kibs ghostly and knight assegais they trooped into the kraal until all were assembled.

Then forming into ranks as natural as a company of grenadiers, they marched out onto the dancing ground, singing a strange, weird chant in accompaniment to the rattle of assegai on shield and measured tramp of feet. One could see at a glance now that every Zulu is a warrior born. Here they were, the veriest savages to all intent, naked as animals, yet playing soldier with a bearing and precision of movement that European troops, with all their scientific training, could hardly hope to beat. Forward they stepped, then filing off into semicircle, two deep they stood, proud and erect, the most splendid specimens of martial manhood I ever saw, their black eyes glittering with suppressed fire, their chests heaving and muscles twitching. —St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Tarantulas.

The tarantula is found in the Old World as well as in the New. It belongs to the hot, dry, sandy plains of Africa, and to all similar parts in every part of the world. A writer in Knowledge, who has evidently made a specialty of spiders, gossips pleasantly of this great repulsive species.

The tarantula is one of the largest, but by no means the most venomous, spider found in Europe. It belongs to the sticking section of the family termed wall spiders. Its body is covered all over with down, chiefly of an olive dusky brown color. The upper border of the thorax and the outline of the eyes are yellow, and the back of the abdomen is marked with a row of triangular dark spots with whitish edges. Its eight eyes are arranged in three transverse rows, the front row containing four small eyes, while behind there are two pairs of larger eyes.

The tarantula is common in Spain, southern France and Italy, occurring in great numbers round the town of Tarante. It has been found in Asia and also in northern Africa. This spider is to be found in dry places, partly overgrown with grass and fully exposed to the heat of the sun, living in an underground passage which it digs for itself, lining it with its web. These passages are round in section and sometimes quite an inch in diameter, often attending to the depth of a foot or even more below the surface.

The creature is very quick in its movements and eager in the pursuit of its prey. It waits only to kill one victim before it darts upon another, and it has been known to allow itself to be carried into the air by a large fly that it has attacked rather than relinquish its hold.

The Unconsumed Fire Grate.

The unconsumed open grate, so habitual in England, is the product of an abundance of fuel. We have not yet arrived, either in the cottage or the mansion, to use, as the Germans, Russians and Americans do, a stove of porcelain or metal which, on a wonderfully small consumption of coal, radiates sufficient heat from its large surface to make a room tropical. With or without fire clay backings, it is next to impossible to heat rooms for large audiences from open fireplaces.—London Iron.

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