AFRICAN ATROCITIES.

A correspondent of the London *Times* writes:

"Society, or at least that part of it which, either from feelings of humanity or from having friends in that distant country, takes any interest in the news from the west coast of Africa, is startled from time to time by a short paragraph stating that one savage tribe has made war upon another savage tribe, and the prisoners captured have been killed and eaten. Hutchinson, in his work on Western Africa, has given a vivid description of an execution in Bonny, which he saw by stealth, but I am not aware that any one who has had opportunities of seeing these barbarities in their most disgusting form has ever thought it worth while to write on the subject; and, indeed, it is one so disgusting that people may well shrink from handling it; but as violent diseases require violent remedies, so a knowledge of the facts will alone induce those who have the power to endeavor to suppress inhuman cruelties such as I have witnessed.

"The natives of New Calabar have long been at war with a neighboring tribe called the Ekrekas, whose territory lies further in the interior of the country, and on the direct road to the Eboe markets, with which markets the Calabar men carry on all their trade. Old jealousies and distrusts of years' standing cannot be effaced in a day, and though her Majesty's Consul, assisted by the Court of Equity, has often tried to establish peace among them, all efforts have failed chiefly owing to their love of bloodshed and superstition. For some time past the hostile tribes have abstained from the system of kidnapping which they designate by the name of war, but last week 55 Calabar war canoes started away with all the pomp and glory of nigger warfare. Let it not be supposed that they were going to attack any principal town where they would have to fight. They are too great cowards for that. Like the tiger, they pounce upon their prey, and are equally bloodthirsty and cruel. On this occasion they were only one day away, having in that time, by their own account, surprised a small fishing village and killed seven or eight people, who to their regret were drowned, and captured four more. The latter miserable victims were brought down the river with flags flying and tom-toms beating. A party of Europeans resident on the river decided to go to the town, and not to encourage by their presence exhibitions from which humanity recoils, but rather to ascertain whether the barbarities said to occur on such occasions had any foundation in truth, and if so, to remonstrate with the King. On landing at the court-yard of one of the chiefs the first thing we saw was some of the chief's wives carrying a basket containing a portion of a man's arm and leg already cooked, and a man's hand amputated at the wrist waiting to undergo the same process. These were shown with feelings of great delight, and judging from the gestures of those around, they all were delighted with their cannibal feast. We hastily left, and went to another chief's house, and there a sight met us which was, if possible, even more disgusting. The head of one of the cabtives parboiled was taken out of a large iron pot and placed on a board at our feet for our inspection.

"Our next visit was to the King, and he, too, possessed some of these trophies of war. On our remonstrating with him for allowing such cruelties to be perpetrated, and cannibalism to exist among his people, he replied that he was powerless to stop it; they merely acted in the same way as their enemies did. On being asked if there was no clause in the treaty with her Majesty's Government to prohibit these things, he replied there was not. The only thing the treaty compelled him to abstain from was the slave trade.

"These are only a few of the details. More disgusting barbarities which we saw are unfit to mention. All this happened within thirty miles of where the Bishop of the Niger was at that time residing, engaged in the mission of preaching peace and good will among men."

THE CROWN JEWELS OF RUSSIA.

Whoever loves jewels should seek admission to the winter palace at St. Petersburg. There, in a large room on the second floor, guarded night and day by officers of the household, are preserved the glittering treasures of the empire. Most noticeable among them is the great Orloff diamond, surmounting the scepter, the largest of the crown diamonds of Europe, its weight being one hundred and ninety-five carats. Certainly it is a lustrious stone but the beauty does not necessarily increase with their size, and for personal adornment a perfect crystal of five carats is more attractive than this colorless egg, for which Catherine II. gave the noted Count Orloff half a million rubles and a patent of nobility. The Imperial crown is a dome of diamonds, bound with pearls, its whiteness relieved by the red of an immense ruby, which burns upon its top and supports a cross composed of five diamonds of wondrous brilliancy. The golden globe upbears a large sapphire, shining with a light steady and cerulean as the heaven of the Mediterranean, while above it a limpid diamond rests upon the azure like a white cloud upon the sky. The coronet of the Empress is made altogether of diamonds of equal size and luster, a diadem so dainty and dazzling that any woman might be forgiven for feeling momentarily the fascinations of a crown. Yet it seems the Czarina's heart is little in such trifles. A princess of Hesse Darmstadt, of a refined but somewhat cold and rigid nature, she seeks constantly to check the license of the court, and to have it distinguished for other things than voluptuous pleasures and reckless magnificence. She has been the unvarying support of the Emperor in his measures of reform; and if she fails to charm the nation, she at least has its respect. The common picture of her which one sees in shops represents her sitting, with her arms folded, clad in plain brown, a small collar about her neck, and her hair put away under her dark head-dress—the whole having the air of an intelligent, decided New England woman, arrayed for an afternoon visit ready for "callers," and sewing at home. Besides these conspicuous articles, there is a long line of cases filled with jewels wrought into necklaces and brooches and combs; into buttons and buckles and bows and rosettes; into girdles and plumes and fans and stars and orders, until the very profusion makes them seem common, and you become critical of gems as if they were but shells upon the seashore, renewed with every tide. For centuries Russia has drawn upon the hoarded treasures of Turkey, and Persia and India—regions of jewels and of races that delight to wear them; and now the mines of Siberia have come to swell her stores. Nothing can be lovelier than some of the Siberian crystals here, with their delicate tints—green, rose, violet—for the setting of which the clearest diamonds have not been thought too costly. Standing here, you cease to wonder at the world's admiration for precious stones, and know why St. John fashioned of their splendors, the walls and gates of the New Jerusalem.—Edina Dean Proctor, in *Independent*.

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