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AN AFRICAN KING.

Wheatle, king of all the Bassas, died at his head town in the interior of Grand Cess, a trading station of Liberia. The Bassas are a very numerous and intelligent people, inhabiting a large district on the west coast of Africa, and Wheatle was one of the most interesting characters on the coast. His father was Boyer, who repeatedly waged war to prevent the Americo-Liberians from settling at Grand Bassa. Boyer, however, fell a victim to the vengeance of the Liberian laws, and died a bloody death, but not before he had inoculated hatred of the civilized blacks in the mind of his son and heir.

After Boyer's death Wheatle attempted to take control of the government of his tribe, but he was prevented from doing so by his brother Taipu, who will be remembered by many old traders as Tom Will. For months the Bassa savages, in factions supporting respectively Wheatle and Taipu, engaged in a guerilla war. Neither side gained any decided advantage. Taipu, however, had always been more or less friendly to the Americo-Liberians, so when the merchants of Monrovia demanded that the troubles which interrupted trade should end the Liberian government carried its power for his benefit, with the result that Wheatle was driven to an asylum in the bush, while Taipu took his father's town, his wives and all the Bassa country.

Taipu was not long permitted to enjoy the dignity which he had usurped. Treaties never from troubles inflicted on Liberia's citizens by the Vai people, a warlike tribe farther north, had attracted the attention of the Liberian government from the affairs of Bassa. This was Wheatle's opportunity, and he took advantage of it. He endeavored to oust his brother from power, and succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. It was not many weeks before the dead body of Taipu, swathed in many bandages, stood mummy-like in a corner in his chief wife's hut swaddling herself and Wheatle began to rule over the country.

The fact that Wheatle had secured power in Bassaland gave the Liberian merchants sufficient reason for alarm. Almost all export articles, such as ivory, wax, camwood, ivory and the are gathered in the Bassa district, and this field, controlled by a chief hostile to Liberia, meant that all commerce in this direction would be "laughed to disaster." Events soon made it plain that Wheatle intended to hold no peaceful relations with his civilized brethren. He looted the factories of Liberian merchants, drove the traders from their stations, and issued an edict that no produce of any kind was to be sold to Liberians by any of his people under pain of instant death.

The "palaver" ground in Wheatle's town became a theater wherein were performed many bloody acts. Hundreds of the followers of the dead Taipu daily lost their heads, and for weeks the savage chieftain held high carnival with death, until, feeling secure, he gathered his hordes around him and prepared to descend on Grand Bassa for the purpose of driving the Liberian settlers into the sea.

The Vies in the north at this time, encouraged by the intriguing English of Sierra Leone, were offering such stubborn resistance to the Liberian forces that the Liberian government found it impossible to do anything for the relief of its citizens in Bassaland, and it was decided to leave an entire that Grand Bassa be abandoned and all Liberian citizens leave the country. On the day when it had been determined to make this order public there arrived in the port of Monrovia, the Liberian capital, the bark Edwards. This vessel came from England and brought a beautiful negress, who called herself Jacinto Boyer.

From Jacinto's earliest day startling incidents marked her life. While little more than an infant she had been stolen from her parents, who were Mandingoes, and sold to Portuguese slave traders. The vessel which was bearing her to Brazil was captured by an English gunboat, and the poor was turned toward Sierra Leone, where the human cargo was to be turned over to the English authorities. This slaver was wrecked before she reached her destination, and of all on board the only ones saved were the officer in charge of the vessel and Jacinto.

Shortly after the Englishman and Jacinto were cast on the beach they were discovered by the savages, and by them were taken to Bassa, the tribe to which at in the interior. Boyer was then in the midst of his struggle with the Liberians, and the civilized man who fell into his power was fortunate if he was killed without torture.

When the Englishman was brought into Boyer's presence he raised his gun to strike him, but Jacinto sprang forward and threw her little arms around the intended victim.

"Not Not King," she said, "give me the white man." The sudden action of the little captive arrested Boyer's arm. All the Bassa women are extremely shy, and the beauty of the Vie girl so pleased the chief that he hesitated. Wheatle, then a lad of ten years, was an interested spectator, and when the young girl made her plea his precocious eyes observed that she was fair, and stroke by a sudden fancy to save force to her side he joined her in petitioning his father to spare the white man's life.

"The strange chicken shall be thy wife, and the white man be a slave to both of you," was the answer of Boyer.

A few months after this Boyer was killed, and his town was taken by the Liberians. The Englishman was tortured and returned to Europe with Jacinto. There she was educated, and when she grew into womanhood, despite all of the efforts of her friends, she took passage on the Edwards for Africa, where she intended to devote her life to missionary work among the Bassas. Arriving at Monrovia where she did, the Liberian authorities refused her permission to proceed to Bassaland, but securing the services of two Kroo boys, she embarked in a full canoe and made away. After four days and nights on the ocean she reached her destination and the aid of the Kroo boys took to Monrovia. She discarded all clothes, and in the embrace of the country—a cloth around the loins—began her journey for the chief town of the Bassas.

Arriving at Wheatle's town, Jacinto found him busily preparing for his warlike expedition against his enemies, but when she in her beauty presented herself before him and told him who she was, his purpose changed. Instead of proceeding to war he gave orders for feasting and general rejoicing in honor of the coming of his long lost bride. Jacinto accepted this position, and used her influence in such a way that Wheatle forgot his warlike inclinations. By degrees she so influenced him that he turned his cruel arms against the national hatred, and so changed him that eventually, from being that enemy's enemy, he became a bulwark to protect it from its foes. Finally she took him to Christendom.

For many years this woman exerted an influence for good over the savage chief, but some ten years ago she died, from then Wheatle has every left his town, but aged, blind and feeble, patiently waited for the final summons.—New York Sun.

The Mistletoe.

Rising under the mistletoe is a relic of Scandinavian mythology. Lord Baldur, the spirit of the sun, was slain and as "everything that springs from fire, air, earth and water," had been sworn not to hurt the celestial favorite, the wicked spirit made an arrow of mistletoe, which he gave to blind Hoder to cast. The God of Darkness sent the arrow and killed Baldur, being restored to life at the urgent request of the gods and goddesses, the mistletoe was given to the goddess of Love to kiss every one who passed, under it received a kiss, to show that the branch was the emblem of love and not of death. The mistletoe is a parasitical plant which flourishes on the branches of many kinds of trees in northern Europe, it is the vernal abode of humanity, and is frequently found on the apple, and has often on the oak. The druids regarded it with peculiar reverence, from its connection with the oak, the favorite tree of Gods directly. Tutsan, who seems to be best identified with the Phoenician Baal, or the sun. The plant is very rarely found in Scotland and seldom in Ireland. It abounds in some parts of England.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Sings Twenty Though Ninety-Six Years Old.

Mrs. Emma Hutchinson, once known as the American Jenny Lind, has probably retained her voice to a greater age than any other public singer. She is now ninety-seven years old, but her voice is still pure and fresh, and she can hold private times and times. She is the daughter of an English yeoman, named Gillingham, and began her career on the concert stage when only twelve years of age. By the time she was twenty she was widely and favorably known. Her voice had a range of three octaves. Theodore Thomas, then a young young violinist, was among those who took part in her concerts.

She was married in 1835, but did not retire from the concert stage. For a number of years she was the soloist of the New York Philharmonic society, she has never sung in opera, and the wonderful preservation of her voice is to be attributed partly to that, and partly to the care she has observed in her diet and mode of life.—Exchange.

Our Two Orange States.

In the United States oranges and lemons are produced only in California and Florida. The orange crop of the latter is practically not of the size to allow of the farmer is ready for the market. The California orange is of slower growth than the Florida product and does not hang so soon. The orange season in California lasts five months, beginning Jan. 1, and it will be prolonged in future, as the people are planting Valencia orange, which do not ripen till July. The lemon is more sensitive to frost than the orange, and it is produced with more difficulty in Florida than in southern California, for the reason that the Sunset route is more subject to frost.—L. A. Herald in Focus.

The "Monster of the Gulf."

The region in the vicinity of the northern extremity of the Gulf of California is inhabited by a rare and terrible creature—a monster of the Reptile tribe—called the "Monster of the Gulf." He is hardly large enough to warrant his name inspiring name, being only about fifteen inches long, but is owed the most poisonous creature known to mankind. He is a member of the lizard family, some akin to the Lizard Gila Monster, and his body is smooth as satin in gloss.—St. Louis Republic.

There is a curious instance of an echo at Tutbury, Staffordshire. The tower of the church there has an echo that repeats the sounds, the echo is so distinct as the contrary phenomena, which is about seventy yards distance. Whispering galleries are scarcely to mentioned anything but solid fabric in our ancient edifices. Of these there are examples at Gloucester cathedral and St. Paul's.—Gentleman's Magazine.

The republic of Honduras is very rich in the valuable wood called mahogany. A survey of these forests estimates the value of the trees of this variety which are fit for market at $100,000,000.

Beauties of Industry.

It is announced that the members of the honors commission, who are now perusing their memories in Hindu, have made the important discovery that the opera bouffe Indian can be worked and educated artistically. A sal-ok was musicalized and killed after some days, and distinct Japanese melodies were found in the body. It is stated that the bacillus has never before given a concerto to human body.—New York Telegram.

A Belfast (Me.) young man met an acquaintance on the street one day last week, and measuring average look, said: "Ten years ago you looked so. I have always remembered it, and now I am going to return the compliment." He had hardly got the words out of his mouth before he looked in a hole in the pavement, while the other fellow walked off muttering something about waiting twenty years for the next round.

Death to Horses.

Even an ordinary death to a horse means a horrible great disease, which is usually almost contagious like a plague. "Do you know," said a horse owner, "what consequence follow a sudden death in the first place, the stench is telegraphed all over the land, and every traveling man over it. Nobody on earth would ever induce one of the trembling fraternity to lodge in that particular room. So the first thing to be done is to get rid of the old member of that guest chamber. The member is disposed of, never to return, and a new member is placed on the floor.

"The customer-lings must be carefully changed. New paper must be put upon the wall, new carpet upon the floor, new furniture, new bedding, and then the domestics are instructed never to mention the circumstance of the death to any guest. A suicide always somewhere an expense of several hundred dollars, and I presume it has put anything questions one asked of landlord and clerks for months afterward."—Indianapolis Journal.

The Smallest American City.

Many people have been told that Vergennes, Vt., is the oldest city in the Union. But they are mistaken. Vergennes took not her charter in 1788. Hartford and New Haven, took not theirs in 1784. Vergennes, however, can truthfully claim to be the smallest and the most quiet city in the United States, as she has a population, after 101 years of existence, of 1,173 souls, and covers a territory of only 1,207 acres.

Her boundaries are a mile and a half one way and a mile and a quarter the other. She has a mayor, a city council, a full board of selectmen and a complete city government. There are of them enough so that nearly every man in the town may have one. In this way the political squabbles and selfish struggles for power common to most cities are unknown in Vergennes. There are offices enough to go around and everybody is happy.—Boston Herald.

The Largest Clock.

Telling folk stories over about the great clock house has supplanted the great clock house in Ugglebrunnen as Canton many years ago. The time and the amount caught were discussed considerably, but no definite conclusion was reached until a few days ago Mr. Miller wrote to Frank Uggleberne for information. The clock was made in Hoeck, Lund, near Canton. With one large one—and five large—they permit the fish to a circle and sounds from and with another sound. To one son, Carlo, of St. Louis, they sold 120 towers, setting there everest, etc. This was by far the greatest clock ever made before or since on the Mississippi river.—Detroit Free Press Journal.

Sands Fibre for Pipes.

Steam pipes are made of sands fibre, hardened and subjected to hydraulic pressure, and possessing a tensile strength equal to iron and carbolit times than of steel. The tensile fiber of China grass has the property of being unaffected by water, and it will not stretch or unwind, it is a nonconductor of heat, is cement proof, and these features, together with its great strength, are all desirable in steam pipes, its utilization in this use is now regarded, therefore, as one of the possibilities of the future.—New York Sun.

The lions owned by Mulbach's widow, Armande Dejean, the actress, is still standing in Meudon, near Paris, and has just been placed among the historic monuments of France.

Among wood breakers is an automatic electrical gong. It rings off by a slow winding switch when the tank is full, and starts again just before the tank becomes empty.

A new American machine, recently patented, is designed for the cutting of continuous wood sheets with an eye to economizing their production.

"August Flower"

Mrs. Sarah M. Black of Seneca, Mo., during the past two years has been afflicted with Neuralgia of the Head, Stomach and Womb, and writes: "My food did not seem to strengthen me at all and my appetite was very variable. My tongue was yellow, my head dull, and I had such pains in my left side. In the morning when I got up I would have a flow of mucus in the mouth, and a foul, bitter taste. Sometimes my breath became short, and I had such spasms, palpitation and sensations around the heart. I rolled all day under the shoulder blades, in the left side, and down the back of my limbs. It seemed to be worse in the wet, cold weather of Winter and Spring; and whenever the spells came on, my feet and hands would turn cold, and I could get no sleep at all. I tried everywhere, and got no relief before using August Flower. Then the change came. It has done me a wonderful deal of good during the time I have taken it and is working a complete cure."

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