

and are better and more fearless swimmers than the men.

One of the wonderful things about the Yaghans is their language. With no means of writing, they have a vocabulary of about 40,000 words. Mr. Bridges, who has made a Yaghan-English dictionary, gives this as the number. The Eskimo use, it is said, less than 10,000 words, and Shakespeare's vocabulary contained only 24,000 words. There are only 7,200 different words in the Bible, and in all of Milton's poems you will find less than 18,000 words. I take these figures from John R. Spears' book, recently published, on "Gold Diggings of Cape Horn."

The Tierra del Fuego of the geographers and encyclopaedias is a dreary land of snow and ice, of glaciers and rocky wastes. Let me tell you what the real Tierra del Fuego is. My information comes from what I have seen and from what I have learned from the men who lived upon it and who have visited nearly every part of it. It is important to know, for it is one of the bones of contention between Chile and the Argentine Republic, and in the war which seems now imminent it may be redi-vided. As it is, Chile owns the lion's share of it, having quietly surveyed the coast and gobbled up the Strait of Magellan before the Argentine knew what she was about. The Argentines today think that the island should belong to them, but rather than have a war they have conceded all to Chile west of a line running south of Cape Virgins, at the eastern entrance to the Strait of Magellan. The result is they own only a footing on the archipelago and only a small slice of Tierra del Fuego proper.

The archipelago of Tierra del Fuego contains as much land as Kansas. It is wilder from east to west than from Cleveland to Chicago and from north to south it is longer than from New York to Boston. The archipelago is made up of hundreds of wooded islands, mostly mountainous, but a few of which have valleys and plains covered with rich grass on which sheep and cattle quickly grow fat. The largest islands of the archipelago are Onisin, or King Charles Southland, or Tierra del Fuego proper; Desolation Island, which lies near the western entrance to the straits, and along which I coasted for miles on my way here; the Isle of St. Ives, Clarence Island and Dawson Island, a little farther to the eastward, and the large islands of Hoste and Navarino on the south. Cape Horn itself is on one of the little islands at the bottom of the archipelago. The chief island is Tierra del Fuego proper. It is half as big as Ohio and it now supports hundreds of thousands of sheep. The best lands of the Chilean part of it have been taken up within the past few years under lease from the Chilean government. The Argentine portion is not so well settled owing to the difficulty of access and the uncertainty as to boundary.

Still from what I can learn the Argentines have some of the best lands. Nearly all of the southern and eastern portions of the island are plains, wide stretches of moorland much like Scotland, covered with grass, which in summer is green, but now in winter is turned to a reddish brown. The other parts are made up of mountains, valleys and plains. Around the west and south coast there is a rim of mountains, many of which rise almost precipitously from the water, and which probably gave Darwin the ground for his statement that there was not a level acre of ground upon the whole island. The plains are generally in the interior. Running midway between the north and south across the country there is an elevated tableland and beyond this to the north a second plain. The grasses of the plains are rich, but they are

so largely eaten up by ground rats that it takes from three to five acres to support one sheep. These rats burrow in the earth, filling it with holes like a prairie-dog town. They make it impossible to drive over the plains with a wagon and horseback riding has to be at a slow pace. Cattle are the only things that will drive the rats away, and they are often used to tramp the ground for this purpose.

It seems queer to think of a dense vegetation in Tierra del Fuego. One might almost soon believe that grass can be raised on an iceberg. The truth is that the winter climate of Tierra del Fuego is milder than that of Canada. The lowlands are seldom covered with snow for more than a day or so at a time, though you are in sight of snow and glaciers on the mountains all the year round. The climate varies in different parts, but it is generally cool, cloudy and windy. The worst feature is the wind, which at times blows for days at a stretch and sends the chilly air through your bones in corkscrew curves. Tierra del Fuego is in the Latitude of Labrador, but so is a large part of England and Holland, and I imagine that barring these winds "Tierra del," as they have nicknamed the island, has winters more like those of northern Europe than Labrador. The vegetation is rather like that of the temperate than frigid zone. The mountain slopes up to about 1,000 feet are walled with a growth of trees, ferns and moss so thick that it is almost impossible to get through it. Upon the sides of the steeper mountains the trees, instead of going straight up, crawl upon the earth, so that a tree with a trunk as thick as your waist is not more than three feet high, but spreads over a large tract of ground. This is probably due to the mountain snows, which presses the trees down to the ground and still keeps them warm enough not to impede their growth.

And what kind of trees do they have down here at the tail-end of creation? The most common is the beech. There are vast forests of antarctic beeches in Chilean "Tierra del," the trees of which are eighty feet tall and six feet thick. They make excellent lumber, and I am told some are now being cut down and shipped to Buenos Ayres. One of the beech tree species is of our evergreen variety, and another is the common beech, much like those of our central states. There are also trees of the magnolia species. There are twenty-five different varieties of shrubs and bushes in Tierra del Fuego, and wild gooseberries and wild raspberries. Wild strawberries of great size and delicious flavor are found in their season, and there are also wild grapes and wild celery. Ferns are to be seen almost everywhere, and one may say that the tree fern is indigenous to certain parts of the country. The sheep farmers raise cabbages, potatoes, turnips and peas in the gardens connected with their stations, and they tell me that in the spring and summer the ground is spotted with wild flowers.

Tierra del Fuego has been called the Klondike of South America. So far, however, there is no justification of the term. There is plenty of gold, but up to now no large quantities have been discovered and that found is difficult to mine. The gold is all placer gold. Some of it is in the shape of nuggets as large as marrowfat peas, but the greater part of it is in leaflets or scales. The most of the mines are in the southern part of Tierra del Fuego proper and the islands adjacent. The gold is found on the shore, the clay containing it running down under the water and being exposed only at low tide. The gold is covered with shingle and sand, which must be removed before bed

rock is reached. At the Slogget bay diggings, for instance, there is six feet of sand and gravel above the bed rock. This has to be shoveled off, and when the tide comes in the gold-bearing clay is again covered. Almost similar conditions exist at the washings on the Island of Navarino and elsewhere. From what I can learn ever there are only a few places where gold has been found in any quantity, and these are nothing in comparison with the great gold deposits of our western states. There are two or three companies who work sluice boxes with machinery pumping the water from the sea and gathering the gold dust with machinery on copper plates. The most of the mining, however, is spasmodic and uncertain. The territory is extremely difficult to reach and the prospecting is coupled with such hardships and expense in the way of getting supplies that I would advise the American miner to stay at home.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

FROM THE HOLY LAND.

Haifa, Palestine, Oct. 28, 1898.

One of the considerations in regard to settling the Holy Land, as it is now commonly called, is the climate. It has been thought that we, foreigners, could not endure the excessive heat of Palestine. This we find is largely a mistake. We can endure it very well, only we must conform to the conditions of such a country and its climate. We cannot treat our bodies as indifferently as we do in more temperate climates. We cannot build our homes or cities according to taste, irrespective of health, as we can in many other places. We have to be more careful with our bodies as to what we eat, and to see to our water supply that it is wholesome and sufficient. By exercising care as to what we eat, I do not mean that we should necessarily provide strange or expensive eatables, but, on the contrary, accommodate ourselves to the vegetable and fruit foods natural to the country and to its climate. God has provided the land with an abundance of wholesome vegetable varieties, easy of digestion, and simple in their preparation.

Almost everywhere the olive is at home. It produces the finest of food fat. The olive oil is used here in cooking and baking pastry as well as in the preparation of the plainest food with as much ease and satisfaction, and the food is as palatable and agreeable as any made from the fat of animals, and indeed, much more wholesome and healthy. It is only the learning of the new method of treating these different ingredients. There is no question in my mind as to the ability of any good American house wife in turning oil to as good an account as she can lard, and then note the difference to the body. One is among the hardest of articles to digest, while the other, when used moderately, is absolutely healing in its nature. We use this latter as medicine inwardly and outwardly. God knew its healing powers when He commanded its use for healing among His Saints. Scientists are discovering the same gradually. Hence this is all in our favor in preparing our system to withstand these climatic changes. But the oil may be used for many other purposes, in fact I suppose it is a substitute for animal fat in nearly all cases.

Here in Haifa the Germans have built a soap factory. They produce the finest kinds of toilet soaps from the olives. And in thus taking all into account, each grade of the fruit finds its proper place. The finest olives are selected and pressed for table use and for medicinal purposes, while the inferior grades are also arranged for soaps and