

# THE BOER LEADER BOTHA AND HIS ENGLISH OPPONENT.

As the world is vexed with "wars and rumors of wars," so of late it has been mystified by peace news and rumors of peace. The report has been revived that Botha, the Boer commander in chief, has expressed his willingness to surrender and sent word to Lord Kitchener to that effect. But that report was current nearly a year ago, and it was then even declared that Botha had surrendered, but subsequently the report was found to be without foundation in fact. The Boer war still drags its weary length along, and the sturdy spirits in South Africa still keep up the fight.

By the latest accounts the Boers had in the field a little over 10,000 men, divided into about a dozen commands, under guidance of such leaders as Botha, De Wet, Muller, Delarey, Steyn, Schalk-burger, seasoned veterans all, who are animated by the highest convictions if not by the highest hopes. Their determination has been well expressed by the noble wife of De Wet, who said her husband would die sooner than surrender, and she hoped all the other leaders felt the same way.

It cannot be denied, however, that the outlook for the Boers is less promising than it was a year ago and still less so than two years ago. To be sure, the fighting force now in the field is stripped to the waist, so to speak, and is operating without the customary impediments attendant upon an army fighting near its home and fixed base of supplies.

The fighters have cast overboard or got rid of all their superfluous non-combatants, and of their original executive committee of council only two are left in South Africa. Steyn is still alive, and very much alive, having persistently evaded capture, though on several occasions within an ace of being taken by the ever vigilant British. Of the old leaders Generals Koch and Joubert are dead, and Cronje is a prisoner at St. Helena, General Botha being his legitimate successor, probably his equal in strategy and his peer as a brave and intelligent commander in chief.

It is said that thirteen out of the twenty-seven original members of the first volksraad are either dead or missing, and an equal diminution is reported in the second. Three heads of the Boer state department are in Europe, two have been made prisoners, fourteen have surrendered and one is missing.

The captured non-combatants, the women and children, are gathered in concentration camps, where they are supported at British expense; the farms are destroyed, the houses burned; the formerly flourishing republics are wastes and so desolate that, to use a current phrase, "a crow would have to carry his ration with him if he undertook to fly across the territory."

There remains now but one thing to fight for, and that is a negative concession—the privilege of remaining within the confines of the country formerly belonging to the Boers; in other words, non-banishment. Negative privileges are not to the taste of those fighting Boers, and it is not generally credited that they will consent to beg for them now any more than in the past.

Important British captures of late have included General Viljoen and Kritzinger, but there are still left seasoned leaders who have vowed to carry party at home in applying that "contin-

Kitchener, even Milner at Cape Town, connected with barbed wire entanglements in such a manner as to practical-ly inclose the greater part of the bel-ligerent territory, and within this vast

now and then come reports of this or that commando breaking away into the veldt and escaping to the hills. The cost of the war to the British has been

two points are lines of barbed wire and a series of blockhouses that amply ap-ply the natural features for defense and form an almost impenetrable wall, within which most of the Boers are kept at bay.

Nearly or quite the whole of Natal, as well as the Cape Colony region, is cleared, but within the entanglement lines are such important places as Bloemfontein, Harrismith, Bethlehem, Johannesburg and Pretoria, while Mafeking, Vryburg, Kimberley and De Aar are on the line of environment. What the British commander in chief calls the "area of main resistance" lies chiefly in the northeast, roughly speak-ing, from Bloemfontein to Pietersburg. Other sections are so nearly cleared of the Boer belligerents as to be relatively safe, and still others to the southward are considered wholly safe. But the Boers have a habit now and then of ap-pearing in places where they are least expected, seeming to know by instinct the lines capable of least resistance and breaking through them with astounding adroitness.

General Louis Botha, the Boer com-mander in chief, has been so frequently ad-verted to during the past two years that further reference to his admirable qualities would seem superfluous. He first showed great skill as a guerrilla fighter, but developed wholly unex-pected qualities of greatness as the successor of the ill fated Joubert and has won the admiration not only of all the commandants under him, but of the rank and file. Still he has to have their acquiescence in any proposition for peace, and they are of at least as stern stuff as himself. At the "peace inter-view" of last year, by the way, Botha perpetrated a little joke at Kitchener's expense which the latter long remem-bered. A fruitless conference was held, and at its conclusion Botha said: "Well, so long; I must be going." "But why hurry?" asked Kitchener. "You have no train to catch." "That's just it," responded Botha solemnly. "I have got to catch a train."

A few days later, when it was reported to Kitchener that Botha had not only caught, but looted, a train on the Delagoa railway, he remembered the latter's statement and acknowledged that the joke was on him. Since that time Botha has caught several British trains and obtained much needed sup-plies, despite the blockhouses, search-lights and armored cars, supplemented by the barbed wire entanglements and hosts of soldiers guarding the inclosing lines.

at least a billion dollars, with another billion in the Boer perspective, and if there are any Boers left when it is over barbed wire will be a drug on the market down in South Africa.

Kitchener declares that the country is cleared from Cape Town to Lourenço Marques on the east coast and north-ward to De Aar. Connecting the latter

inclosure, built at enormous expense and by skilled engineers, it is fondly hoped by the British that they have corralled Botha and his forces. But

uous pressure" to which it is hoped and expected that the Boer cause will suc-cumb. His latest method has been to construct at short intervals blockhouses

on the war to the very bitter end. All suggestions as to surrender are now re-fused by the British government to the commanding general in the field, Lord



## THE HINDOO TWINS THAT HAVE BEEN SEVERED.

In the illustration are shown the Hindu twins, Doodien and Doodien, who, having been all their lives united by a membrane growing out of their sides, underwent a surgical operation recently by which it was severed. They had been exhibited as freaks and were gaining a good livelihood, but one of them



Doodien, fell sick, and the surgeons de-cided to cut them apart. The opera-tion occupied ten minutes and was "suc-cessful," but a tumor developed which caused the death of Doodien, though Radica at last accounts was doing well. The Siamese twins, who were simi-larly united, would not undergo an op-eration, and when one died, at the age of sixty-three, the other expired within a few hours.

## A FISH THAT FISHES.

A curious specimen of the rare goos-fish (Lophius piscatorius) was recently caught and landed in an aquarium. It is also known as the angler, as its Latin name signifies, from its custom of rais-ing the long filaments above its mouth

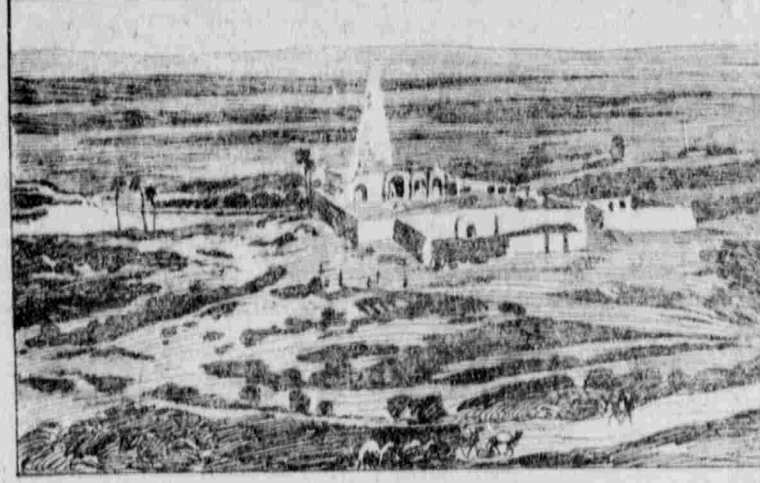


In order to attract the attention of smaller fish. When a sufficient number have gathered about, this awful mon-ster, hidden in the mud at the bottom of the sea, suddenly opens its enormous mouth and takes the fish into its capaci-tious maw. The specimen from which this illustration was made was caught in a net. It weighed ninety pounds and was 4 feet 9 inches in length by 3 feet in breadth.

## BISCUIT POSTCARD.

The most curious letter which has probably been written and received in the course of the South African war has just been safely delivered by the postal authorities of Great Britain. It was written on an ordinary square of army "hard tack," the address and stamp be-ing placed on one side and the communi-cation on the other, the biscuit being thus transferred for the nonce into a postcard. Paper, it appears, was scarce at the camp where the writer was on duty, whence the peculiar requisition-ing of the army "cracker" which has reflected so eloquently the effectiveness of the baker.

## TRADITIONAL TOMB OF THE PROPHET DANIEL.



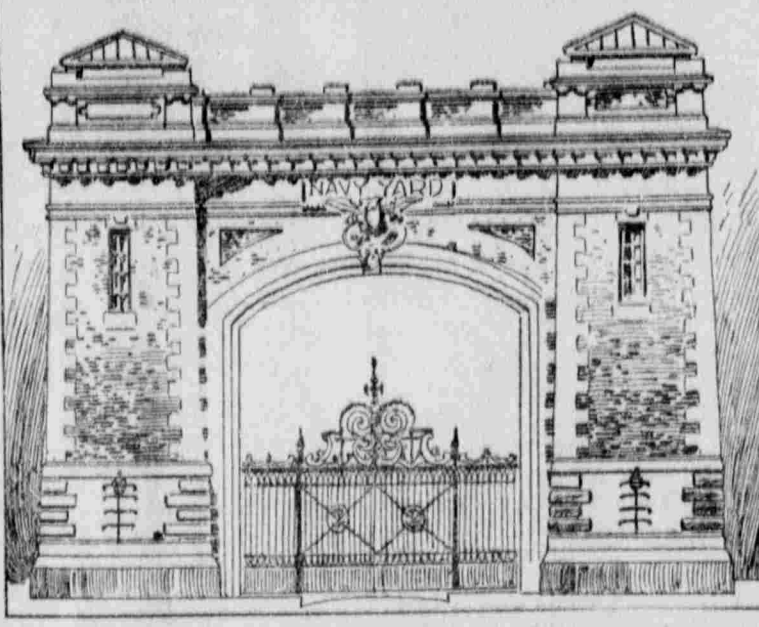
A recently returned archaeologist proclaims that he has seen and photo-graphed the veritable tomb of the Jewish prophet Daniel, a reproduction of this photograph being shown herewith. It is situated near the site of the ancient city of Susa, Persia, which in the time of Daniel was a flourishing center of population, but is now merely a heap of ruins. When visited by Alexander the Great in 325 B. C., Susa possessed immense wealth. Great (tunnels are found there, and the entire region is a mine of richest archaeological material, but the inhabitants are mostly robbers, and worse, making exploration difficult without a large number of soldiers for protection. These the shah furnished one ex-plorer, but even then he lost the greater portion of his baggage and was glad to escape with his life.

## THE OLDEST WAR CORRESPONDENT.

The oldest war correspondent in the world is probably Sir William Howard Russell. He was born in 1820, began his war cor-respondence for the London Times in 1850, at the time of the Danish war; made a great hit with his letters from the front in the Crimean campaign, 1854-55; went through the Indian mutiny, 1857-58; Italian war, 1859; first part of civil war in the United States, when he gained the sobriquet of "Bull Run" Russell, 1861-62; Danish war of 1864; Austro-Prussian war, 1866; Franco-German war, 1870; Zululand and Transvaal, 1879-80; Egyptian campaign, 1882-83. Sir William was knighted in 1895. He became a barrister in the middle temple 1862 and in 1858 founded The Army and Navy Gazette, which he still edits, although he has reached the age of eighty-two.



## NEW ENTRANCE TO THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD.



An appropriation has long been available for erecting a new main entrance to the navy yard at Charlestown, Mass., and various schemes have been sub-mitted, but it was only recently that a plan was adopted. As shown in the illustration, the proposed entrance will consist of two buildings, one each side the roadway, connected by a masonry arch and an ornamental canopy roof, the latter of structural steel and glass. Each building will be about fifty feet in length, Gothic in design, constructed of steel, pink granite and brick and will be occupied by the marine guards and navy yard police force. They will thus be useful as well as ornamental and a decided addition to the attractions of Uncle Sam's vast establishment at Charlestown.

## THE FASCINATING QUEEN OF SIAM.



In the accompanying illustration is presented a portrait of the fascinating queen of Siam, consort of his majesty King Khoulalongkorn, who has surprised many ears in Japan and speaks the language fluently. The party, march-ing two and two, gave rise to much speculation. The annual report of the New Zealand department of agriculture shows that there was last year a satisfactory growth in the dairying industry of the colony. The output of butter for 1900-01 was 154,553 hundredweight, against 151,732 hundredweight in the previous year, an increase of 2,821 hundred-weight, valued at \$26,470.

Citizens of the Jefferson Memorial have organized for the purpose of building a public boulevard between Charlottesville and Monticello, where President Jefferson lies buried. The road will be two miles long and is ex-pected to cost \$20,000.

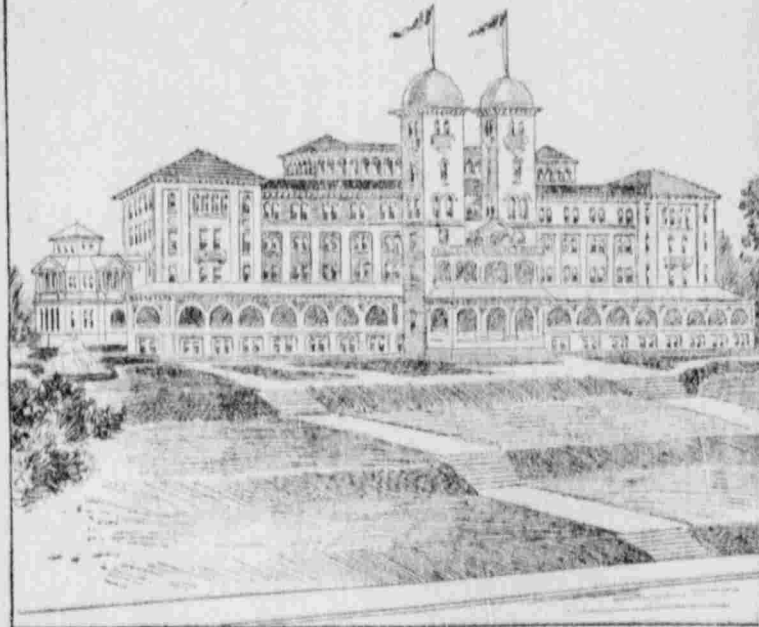
## MRS. ELIZABETH WELLS GALLUP.

A new advocate of the much exploit-ed Baconian theory respecting Shake-speare's writings has arisen in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth Wells Gallup. Mrs. Gallup claims to have discovered



the so-called "bilateral cipher" by which the identity of Bacon with Shakespeare is indubitably proved. Take, for in-stance, the Forty-sixth Psalm and turn to the forty-sixth word from the be-ginning. It will be found to be "shake." Count forty-six from the end, and the word "aper" is found. Ergo Bacon was Shakespeare and wrote all the works credited to the Bard of Avon. And she could prove it, too—perhaps.

## THE HOME FOR JOURNALISTS AT NEW ORANGE, N. J.



The New Orange (N. J.) home for journalists projected by the International League of Press Clubs is not intended as a refuge or asylum for newspaper men after they have outlived their usefulness, but as a place to which they may retreat, even while in health, for rest and recreation. In order to carry out the plans of the committee in charge of the scheme at least \$250,000 will be re-quired, of which sum \$125,000 will be expended upon a building. The grounds are to include pedestrian tracks, golf links and all facilities for exercise and athletic training. Physicians and athletic instructors will be in constant at-tendance. Means for pursuing literary employments will be afforded, and every inducement will be held out to those who wish to spend their vacations at the home. In order to raise the funds necessary, or a portion of them, it is pro-posed to issue a magazine devoted to literature and art under the title of Jo-hemia.

## THE GREAT SIBERIAN MAMMOTH.

The huge monster shown in the illus-tration was recently discovered imbed-ded in a glacier in northeast Siberia by an expedition fitted out for the St. Pe-tersburg Imperial Academy of Science. It has long been known that anciently there it roamed the forests some 200,000 years ago, but a perfectly preserved body has never before been discovered and removed to a museum. Like the elephant, it was an herbivorous animal, the stomach of this one having been



found full of small fir trees. It was about eighteen feet in height, with a thick skin covered with reddish hair. It had a six foot trunk and tusks more than eight feet long. It is supposed that this animal became mired, perhap-in its tracks and then was frozen.

## WASHING OUT GOLD IN AFRICA.

In the accompanying illustration is shown the primitive process of washing for gold which is pursued in the wilds of Africa. The utensil employed is uti-rays and solely a shallow wooden dish



or bowl with projecting brim. Some-times the native uses a little mercury to fix the fugitive particles of gold that might otherwise escape over the edge of the dish, but generally this is dispensed with. Not only in Africa, but America as well, this process was in use in an-cient times, the first Spaniards here having discovered the aborigines em-ploying it. Even now in Porto Rico and Santo Domingo the natives obtain a great deal of gold by this means.

## TO READ AT A GLANCE.

Venezuela coffee planters get only one-third the price they used to before Brazilian overproduction ruined the market.

Hamburg imported 301,810 tons of coal last year than in 1900, and British consignments showed a falling off of \$2,610 tons.

The microbe of tuberculosis may live

in a hook 101 days, as has been shown by experiment.

Of the thirty-eight suitcases who have ruled the Ottoman empire since the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks thirty-four have died violent deaths.

When the new reading room of the Imperial Public Library, St. Petersburg,

was opened recently, all the pieces of soap disappeared from the lavatory. Henceforth the soap will be secured by a chain. This is done by passing a rod of wire through an egg shaped piece of soap, which is then hung near the basin.

The late Empress Frederick of Ger-many in her will bequeathed to the German associations in England and elsewhere a gold instand studded with

precious stones. Each of the German associations has recently received this bequest.

The British museum recently came into possession of a fine example of the egg of the great auk, believed to be one of the last specimens, if not the last, of the extinct colony of auks in Iceland.

A new development in the organ grinder's art has appeared in London. A boy dressed as a pretty girl, with big

poke bonnet and much befuddled skirts, accompanies the street musician and dances to all the new music hall melodies. The performance gives no end of delight to the youngsters and multiplies the pennies that fall into the coffers of the musician.

About a hundred soldiers from a Japanese warship lying at Southam-pton, England, visited the city for the purpose of sightseeing. They were in

charge of an elderly lady who lived for many years in Japan and speaks the language fluently. The party, march-ing two and two, gave rise to much speculation.

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