

In the wilds she slept in her tent with only two of the native soldiers keeping guard. Mrs. Sheldon was armed with a Lee-Enfield rifle and an American revolver, with both of which she is a good shot.

On one of these nights she came within an ace of being eaten by ants. Towards midnight she was awakened by what she thought was the pattering of rain on the walls of her tent. It didn't come long, however, to her relief, but she was really startled. Her sleeping place had been captured by an enormous "caravan" of ants, thousands upon thousands of them. The lone of the tent was black with them, and in a few minutes they began swarming upon the bed and attacking Mrs. Sheldon. Things of this sort have ended tragically in Africa before, but Mrs. Sheldon managed to get off with a few bad bites, though the whole camp had to be aroused to settle the ants.

Only a few days afterward she had the liveliest kind of a fight with a wildcat, or leopard-cat, as it was called in the Congo. The explorer was sitting near a window in a hut, and when the cat jumped down upon her from the branches of a tree outside, lighting on her shoulders and entangling its fore paws in her hair. No one was near to pull the beast off and Mrs. Sheldon was badly scratched and mauled before she succeeded in shooting the animal's tail off with her revolver. Then it released her and bounded through the window again, leaving a splash of blood behind it, and that was the last she ever saw of it.

"WHITE WOMAN MASTER."

In spite of the fact that she penetrated into the most savage parts of the Congo district, especially those on the old caravan routes, where the blacks have been made degenerate and brutal by the drink supplied to them by traders, she never was molested. She seems to have made a really extraordinary impression on the natives, the more so as there are practically no white women in the Congo, and the blacks regard their own women merely as chattels. Mrs. Sheldon, however, they dubbed "Bibi Baana," "Bibi," which means "white woman master," and in some districts she was given the title "Bibi Bula Matari," which the natives apply to all officials of state and which means "cock breaker." It was first given to Henry M. Stanley, who blasted his way through part of the Congo Free State.

It amazed the natives to see Mrs. Sheldon treated on terms of equality by the white men at the various posts. "The women would flock to see her as she passed through their villages and often would bring their children and their babies in their arms, and seizing the little heads between their hands, turn their faces toward her, saying: 'Look, look at the white woman who has come as a fetish for good,' or: 'Put your eyes upon her that you may prosper, and tell others you have seen the first white woman who ever came among us.'"

Mrs. Sheldon learned more about the Congo women than probably any explorer ever did before. "I found out lots about them," said Mrs. Sheldon, "by getting them to help me catch butterflies. After all, I did quite a lot of butterfly hunting and have brought back some beautiful specimens. The women took a delight in helping me and had no idea how closely I was studying them all the time."

What impressed her most about these women was the fact that in spite of the contempt with which they are looked upon by their "men folk" they are physically rather more than their social. They act as carriers side by side with their husbands and work for the state in making roads and on the coffee and cocoa plantations and in potteries. Only when sickness comes along do they prove less robust than the men, and Mrs. Sheldon thinks that this is because none of them is allowed any meat, the men keeping it all for their own use. Vegetarians, please notice!

The chief object in life is to contribute to the comfort of their lords and masters. Mrs. Sheldon says that often while on the march her women carriers, even though burdened by heavy loads, made a point of keeping well ahead of the main body so as to arrive beforehand at the stopping place to find water, get fires burning and have food prepared before the men arrived.

HEAVY JEWELRY.

"The women of many tribes," said Mrs. Sheldon, "are keen votaries of fashion and show an elegance in the manner in which they wear their clothes and in arranging their hair that a civilized woman might envy. They are martyrs to many tribal customs, one of them the wearing of enormous brass collars weighing from 10 to 12 pounds. Around their ankles, too, they have from two to four equally heavy and cumbersome brass or iron rings. And whether working, walking or dancing the women never show the slightest inclination to relieve themselves of these fashionable burdens. "And not only are they so fastidious as to their own personal decorations, but they bestow constant care on the decoration and making of their husbands, and among some of the tribes the men's coiffures are as elaborate as the women's."

Incidentally Mrs. Sheldon mentioned the simplicity of divorce proceedings among the Congo natives. The Belgian administrators insist on their being legally married, and a certificate is given in every case. But when man and wife decide to separate they tear up the certificate and that constitutes the divorce.

There are about 3,000 white men in the Congo Free State, and Mrs. Sheldon declares she is familiar with nearly every one of them. She also made many "surprise" visits to outlying stations in the course of her effort to ascertain the truth regarding the reported atrocities and practical enslavement of the blacks. She has been quoted as saying that she found no evidence of crimes against the natives, but Mrs. Sheldon denies this. "What I have stated distinctly," she says, "is that there are no atrocities in the Congo Free State either directly or indirectly countenanced or authorized by the king of the Belgians or his administrators. Such crimes are always purely and solely the work of an individual. From my observations I can assert that the authorities are doing their best to perfect both the laws and their execution, and, as one who knows Africa, I consider that the protection given already to the blacks is against the whites is something phenomenal."

"Then what about all the talk of mutilation, such as cutting off hands and so forth?"

"Well, I have been all through the country and I have absolutely no evidence whatever of anything of the kind having taken place. And when, indeed to this, you have men like the Rev. Mr. Greenfall, the eminent anthropologist who spent so many years of his life there, and who lives there still, saying that he does not know personally of any such cruelty I think I am justified in giving a contradiction to any general statement of the kind."

AUDIENCE WITH LEOPOLD.

Soon after her return from the Congo Mrs. Sheldon set about writing the detailed report on the conditions there which she recently sent to the United States government through Ambassador Choate, as well as to Lord Lansdowne, British secretary for foreign affairs, and not until it was finished did she, to use her own words, "so much as see a single Belgian." The report of her hands, however, Mrs. Sheldon felt at liberty to go over to Brussels, where she was accorded a private audience with the king of the Belgians. Of course, there is no question that this distinguished American woman explorer is absolutely unbiased in what she has to say regarding matters in the

Congo Free State. Some people may have a suspicion, however, that perhaps Mrs. Sheldon saw only as much as the Free State authorities thought well, and this idea will be strengthened by a letter which the Rev. J. H. Weeks, a Congo missionary, has written to a London newspaper regarding her and other tours of inspection in the Free State.

"Not long ago," he says, "we received a visit from Mrs. French Sheldon, who informed us that her aim was to get at the truth regarding the charges made against the administration of this country. Mrs. Sheldon labored under the impression that she was paying a series of surprise visits and that the officers did not know of her coming. At the beginning of the month, however, some natives returning from Bengali told me that the white men there were expecting a big white woman, and that they had pulled down an old prison and leveled the ground and made it all nice against her arrival."

Mr. Weeks says that no commission can accomplish anything worth while in the Congo except one appointed by the powers that are responsible for the existence of the Free State.

HAYDEN CHURCH.

AMERICAN WIFE HELPS STATESMAN.

(Continued from page 13.)

changed as it is seen that the mansion in Eaton Square has been undergoing extensive alterations in preparation of a busy London season.

Lady Ross has shown a similar aversion to participate in the frivolities of the London season. Her home in the Highlands of Scotland where her husband owns nearly 400,000 acres of land has been chiefly the scene of her social activities. It was said that she disliked London on account of the late hours demanded by its society functions and entertainments and for this reason she had no town house. Now she is looking out for one for the season. When her friends went to Scotland for shooting or fishing she was always "at home" to them and they were invariably put up at the Castle unless they had other arrangements made, but she always insisted on barring card parties that would keep men and women from retiring until the

"small hours." Her friends are rather curious to see how far she will conform to London conditions.

ROMANCE OF PEERAGE.

The British peerage abounds in romance, but few are more startling than that which is recalled by the recent visit of the king to a woman who, if she had retained her hereditary rights, would now be firmly seated on the British throne. And it is somewhat singular that in chronicling the king's reception by Lady Kinloss at Stowe House in Buckinghamshire, society journals omitted all mention of this interesting fact. Yet it is undoubtedly true that if the will of that merry and much married monarch, King Henry VIII, had been observed, Lady Kinloss would today "by the grace of God" be queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India and all the rest of it. By his will Henry VIII limited the succession, falling issue of his daughter Mary and Elizabeth, to the issue of his sister, Mary by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, passing over the claims of the family of his eldest sister, Margaret, Queen of Scotland. For reasons probably not unconnected with a desire to avoid all needless risk of getting his head chopped off, Edward Seymour, Lord Beauchamp, then the representative of the Suffolk line, swore allegiance to the Scottish line, nominated by Elizabeth on her death bed, and waived the claims of his own family of which Lady Kinloss is now the "heir general." But she is not an ambitious woman; she has always led a quiet and retired life and probably would not change places with the king if she had the chance. She is the oldest daughter of the late and last duke of Buckingham and Chandos at whose death the dual dukedom expired, but she became Baroness Kinloss in her own right. Stowe is an enormous house—once one of the great show places of the country—with a Corinthian portico over which "Ichabod" might well be inscribed, for its glory departed in 1848 when long years of extravagance culminated in a sensational smash and its art treasures were sold and dispersed. It was occupied for many years by the Count de Paris, and long before that, in 1698, it had sheltered Louis XVIII and the Bourbon exiles. In fact it is said that it was the ruinous cost of entertaining the French refugees which plunged the family into bankruptcy.

LADY MARY.



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EARLY SPRING MILLINERY OPENING MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

On Monday, March the Thirteenth, We Will Have Completed Our Preparations For the Grand Spring Opening, and Will be Ready to Show the Most Exclusive Importations of Hats, Turbans and Toques; Also Correct Copies and Adaptions. You Are Cordially Invited to Inspect this High Class Exhibit. Very Truly Yours, WALKER BROS. DRY GOODS CO.

A Spring Talk From The Suit Section.

We are now prepared for the Spring rush and everything is in perfect readiness to display the new arrivals, a few of which we mention— Silk jacket-suits made of plain and changeable silks in black, blue, red and brown, prices ranging from \$55.00 up to \$85.00. Silk shirt-waist suits in all the newest shades, trimmed with pleats and shirring and priced from \$12.75 up to \$55.00. A beautiful line of demi-costumes and tailor-made suits in all the new spring fabrics— We have a fine assortment of covert jackets in both the fitted and box styles with prices from \$15.00 up to \$27.50 each. We can not begin to mention the variety and comprehensiveness of our shirt-waist display suffice it to say that what ever style or price of shirt waist you may be looking for, you certainly can find it in our selection.

Women's Fancy Hosiery —For Spring.

Never before has Dame Fashion designed such beauties as we are showing this season in the Women's hosiery section. Not loud or flashy, but exceedingly genteel and delicate, blending from the lightest champagne shades to the darkest greys and browns. The prettiest are in the lace and embroidered effects—Prices—50c to \$1.50.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S SECTION "BETTER THAN EVER."

We are telling you of our line of boys' suits in all the latest fashions and weaves, Norfolk, Buster Brown, Eton and double-breasted styles and three piece suits. They are highest in quality and lowest in price. Sizes from 2 1-2 up to 16 years. An unapproachable line of hats and caps for boys and girls, two of the novelties of the season are the soft and the cowboy hats! Waists in profusion, we have them in percales, madras and chevriots also the Eton and Buster-Brown shirt-waists and shirt-waist blouses. A line exceptionally worthy of mention is the assortment of Misses' skirts, mixtures, brilliantine chevriots and serges are the leading fabrics in blues, browns tans and white—Also a beautiful collection of children's dresses.

New Line of McGee Skirts.

To those who have been waiting for the McGee skirts we wish to say that our complete line is now in and we will be glad to show them. Alpacas silk-moreens, satens and shadow-silks in all colors and black, prices from \$2.50 up to \$5.00.

FINE BOTTLED PERFUMES—WORTH 50c, THIS WEEK 32c BOTTLE

This is a fine grade of perfume and the assortment contains nearly all the leading odors including violet. Pinauds fine perfumes in the new popular odors on sale for one week at 50c per oz. Regular price \$1.00 oz. Bottles furnished— Letter seals 15c each, worth 25c each. These seals are engraved in the Old English style and have ebony handles— Sealing wax 5c and 10c tube worth 10c and 20c. This is a new and improved wax put up in glass tubes and in all colors.

FIRST SPRING NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S NECKWEAR SECTION

Last week brought us a beautiful assortment of collar and cuff sets that will interest every woman in Salt Lake. It is one of the prettiest lines we have ever shown. A few of the prettiest are in the embroidered Swiss, linen, lace, Irish crochet and fine Orientals. The prices run from 35c up to \$3.00 a set—

WOMEN'S HAND BAGS, REGULAR \$3.50 UP TO \$5.50 FOR \$2.98

These comprise all kinds of leathers with fancy linings and coin purses and are made with strap, braided or Vienna handles. This is a very rare opportunity to obtain a fine, up-to-date hand bag at an exceedingly low figure, \$2.98. Women's shirt-waist sets in royal copper with sterling mountings, gold plate, sterling silver and enamel in a great variety of designs. Regular prices 65c to \$1.00 per set, Monday and week, your choice—28c per set— Women's hat-pins in plain sterling silver and gold plated with fancy settings in a large variety of patterns—Monday and week—18c, each, regular prices—25c and 35c each—

REMNANTS OF EMBROIDERY—LESS THAN HALF PRICE.

A few fine white linen turndowns, embroidered in white, red, light blue, black, navy and brown. One lot to sell at 2 for 25c. Another lot at 25c each— This lot comprises embroideries, edges, insertions and flounces up to 14 inches wide and all to go at less than half regular prices—

A BEAUTIFUL LINE OF ALL-OVER EMBROIDERIES 50c YARD.

This lot comprises Hamburgs and Swisses suitable for waists, yokes, etc., and worth from 75c up to \$1.25; this week, 50c.

The cordial manner with which our new department "The House Furnishing Section," has been received by the people of Salt Lake demonstrates the facts that we have put in a stock of thoroughly up-to-date and reliable goods at the most reasonable prices. Our daily "Specials" are proving a great success and it will be a case of many a penny saved is many a dollar earned if you watch them—Walker's House Furnishing Section—Well lighted, perfectly equipped—Basement.

Walker Brothers Dry Goods Co. Walker Brothers Dry Goods Co.