

Diamond Fields of South Africa - A Chance for American Enterprise.

The newly-discovered diamond fields in South Africa, if report be true, must nearly realize the marvelous tales related in the Arabian Nights of Shahrazad's enchanted valley. They are even much more alluring than those of the story, as they are more accessible than the latter - which, the reader will remember, in addition to being infested with numbers of the most venomous serpents, were shut in by precipitous mountains. But here we have a real bona fide enchanted valley, so rich in gems that for scores of years to come, it is estimated, the precious store can scarcely be exhausted, and with no serpents worth mentioning.

At least we find none mentioned in the published accounts, and infer that if they exist they have shown their proverbial wisdom by declining to interfere with the necessities of commerce. What is more wonderful still, among the hundreds of people gathered to this curious harvest, there is less fighting than diversifies a primary election or a trip to Coney Island. For once the *auri sacra fames* seems to have fallen in its wonted inspiration of battle and blood. There they dig peacefully side by side, these patient husbandmen, for such fruits as the earth has surely never yielded up since the plowshare first vexed her patient bosom. If one looks at his neighbor's finds a stone that might serve for a king's ransom, and makes him at one stroke rich beyond his wildest hopes, the rest are animated by the sight, not to malice and murder, but to more vigorous exertions. It is like a picture of the golden age.

It produces a strange sensation to read of these priceless jewels lying as thick as pebbles on the sea shore. Diamonds have been found of thirty carats weight and of thousands of pounds value. It requires more than Horatian philosophy to look without emotion upon such stores as these. And it would not be surprising if, when this discovery is generally known, South Africa should become the objective point of such another tide of invasion as swept over the Pacific Slope when California was first found to realize the fable El Dorado. The River is no further from New York than San Francisco was in the memorable day of '48. It is but a month or so of ocean voyaging, and then all Golconda lies at our feet.

And all the necessities of life are there infinitely more accessible and cheap than they were in California in the early times. Meat, for instance, is plentiful and good at four and five cents a pound, and other things in proportion. If much of our restless floating population does not drift speedily to Palet River, it will be because its magnificent promise is too obscure, or so prodigious as to seem incredible. Americans of some sort however, sooner or later, will be sure to find their way thither, and with them, we fear, will cease the tranquillity of the little settlements. With them will appear those most efficient of mining tools, the bowie-knife and the revolver. But, with these weapons, they will bring their ingenuity and energy, and these advantages may somewhat compensate for any little eccentricities of behavior. -New York Times.

FEMALE SOCIETY.

John Randolph, the eccentric statesman and orator of Virginia, never uttered a truer remark than this: "Without female society we should degenerate into brutes." Every day we are more forcibly impressed with the truth of this observation, and the young men of the present day, especially, have need to ponder these words. The gentleness of her manner, the sweetness of her disposition, the purity of her nature, and her natural grace and dignity, are the irresistible charms which will prove the salvation of those who come within the sphere of her influence; for the love and society of a virtuous, intellectual lady, is the most effectual safeguard young men can have against temptations so prevalent in crowded cities. It is true, that men, immersed in business or absorbed in literary pursuits, or in the search for political honors, may, after a manner, live without the refining, elevating companionship of the other sex, but such an isolated existence is imperfect at best, and there is no real, heartfelt happiness to brighten it. Man was not made to live alone, and despite his pretended cynicism and dislike of woman, he often yearns for a quiet home, irradiated by the smile of some chosen one, as the sunlight illumines the lonely vale, and his soul is sad and lonely, without the consoling mate that Heaven designed should be his from the beginning. Then in the hour of trouble, of sickness - what is man without the tender ministrations, the soothing presence and gentle voice of an household angel; her confiding ways, her tenderness, her helplessness, all render her inexpressibly dear, and the true husband feels in the depths of his heart, that life would have no charm without her society. And thank God for woman! This is the utterance that springs involuntarily to every heart that has felt the holy power of her love and presence. With her to lead one away from the vice and vanities that beset us, our heart will grow tenderer, purer and better day by day. -Farmer's Home Journal.

The other day some ladies were out visiting. There being a little two year old present, one of the ladies asked him if he would kiss her. He answered "no." "What is the reason that you will not kiss me?" "I'm too little to kiss you: papa will kiss you; papa kisses all the big girls." He was permitted to play with his toys.

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