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Africa.

Those persons who have not kept pace with the passing events of the last twenty-five or thirty years do not realize the great changes and developments that have taken place in Africa.

Our attention is forcibly drawn to these subjects by the interesting article, written by Henry M. Stanley, and published in the October, Atlantic Monthly.

In his "Twenty-Five Years Progress in Equatorial Africa," Mr. Stanley presents in a limited space, much information, and a mass of valuable statistics.

He states that since 1878, "sixteen travellers have crossed Africa; the Congo basin has been thoroughly explored; the horn of East Africa from the Red Sea to Masai Land has been several times traversed; countless travellers have been up and down the Masai region; the intra-lake region has been fairly mapped out, and military stations have been founded in it; the Germans know their East African colony thoroughly; Mozambique Africa is almost as well known as Massachusetts; and French explorers have repeatedly crossed the Congo-Shari watershed to Lake Chad. To-day there is scarcely a thousand-square-mile plot of inner Africa left unpenetrated."

In 1877 Stanley was the only white man in Central Africa; to-day, there are over 2800. The British possessions in Africa are: In South Africa.—Cape of Good Hope and Dependencies, Natal and Zululand. In Central Africa.—British Central African Protectorate, Zanzibar and Pemba, Uganda and White Nile, British East Africa. In West Africa.—West African Settlements, Gold Coast, Lagos, Niger Protectorate, Sierra Leone and Ascension. The West African Settlements comprises Sierra Leone and Gambia, which are about 450 miles apart.

The British possessions in Central Africa occupy an area of some 954,540 square miles, and contain a population of 9,568,000.

As to the results that have attended the efforts to Christianize the native population, it is stated in regard to Uganda, on the north shore of lake Victoria Nyanza, that: "By January, 1897, Uganda contained twenty-three English Protestant clergymen, 699 native teachers, 6905 Baptist Christians, 2591 communicants, 57,380 readers, 372 churches, and a cathedral which can hold 3000 worshippers."

"British East Africa covers an area of about 750,000 square miles. Its trade is valued at \$1,093,750." In it have been constructed sixty-eight miles of railroad. There are ninety white people in the country.

The Congo Free State occupies the heart of central Africa, and has an area of about 1,050,000 square miles, with an estimated population of 27,000,000. In 1896, the value of its imports and exports amounted to \$6,226,302. The King of Belgium became suzerain of the State in 1885. He is represented on the Congo by a Governor.

Foreign News and Notes.

England has accepted Canadian advice and declines to take part in the Sealing Conference, if representatives of Russia and Japan are to be officially present. Canadians were quick to perceive that under such conditions the British delegates would be outvoted on every important question affecting Canadian interests. As a rule, Canadians, and not Englishmen, have a more thorough knowledge of the character and actions of Americans, and can estimate at a glance, the true value of any proposition advanced by the United States, dealing with North American affairs.

The N. Y. Evening Post in a recent issue, presented the following views of an experienced diplomatist upon the subject: "More than a year ago Russia and Japan, through their Ministers, at this capital, stated that, as their interests were similar to those of the United States in respect to preserving the seal herds, they would be willing to cooperate with us to that end. After that statement Mr. Foster made a journey, as you know, to St. Petersburg. But what very few people know—because, for some reason best known to the authorities here, it has been kept a profound secret—Mr. Foster's associate, ex-Assistant-Secretary Hamlin, made a trip to Tokio. The result of their private conferences at

those two courts is not known, but inferences of all sorts are afloat.

"At any rate, these facts may have some bearing upon the fact, that, although when Secretary Sherman asked the British government for a conference, he suggested that Japan and Russia be invited to take part, he received in due course a guarded answer from Lord Salisbury that Great Britain would consent to a conference between experts of the United States and Canada. Then, you remember, Ambassador Hay at once informed Lord Salisbury that the President hoped to have Russia and Japan represented at the conference. There the matter appears to have been dropped; yet Mr. Foster kept confidently asserting through the public prints that everything was coming his way, and that the great international council would be held according to programme.

"This prepared the ground for the uproar which followed Great Britain's recent declaration to enter into the conference. Having impressed upon the public mind, through constant iteration of prophecy, an idea that Great Britain stood pledged to participate, it was natural for Mr. Foster's following to proclaim that she had broken faith with the United States, because she finally preferred to stay out of a conference to which two members had been invited who have no possible connection with the specific issue in controversy. Yet, can it be wondered that the British government was reluctant to enter an international body a majority of whose members had obviously been won over to the support of her antagonist in advance of the argument? All this may be high art in diplomacy, but there are two opinions as to its quality in some other respects."

The engineering strike in England is by no means over, although it is in its death struggles. A manifesto has been issued by the Engineers' Union in which it appeals for funds to continue the fight.

At the commencement of the strike the Union had a fund of some \$2,000,000. This amount has now been spent in supporting the 59,000 striking members. The Union has now decided to play one of its last cards—the causing of a general strike throughout the ship building yards, which will involve 250,000 men.

The commercial loss to the country due to the great struggle is almost incalculable. One effect of the strike has been to delay the completion and the beginning of the construction of British warships. This is a very serious matter, as it strikes a blow at the existence of the British Empire.

In connection with the subject of the navy, it was stated by Prof. Roberts-Austen, at the meeting of the British Association, recently held at Toronto, that one-half of the iron output in England is required for the use of the British Navy.

English soldiers have noted during warfare, that the bullets of the modern small bore rifles have no stopping power. The little leaden messengers of death go through a man without, in many cases inflicting wounds that place him hors de combat. But a bullet has now been invented by a Birmingham firm, that is guaranteed to drop a man in his tracks when shot. Instead of having a conical tip, the new bullet has a cup-like cavity in its striking end. When it strikes, it punches a round hole in its victim; and leaves him, with a gaping wound some three or four inches in diameter.

A famous English painter and illustrator is dead, at the ripe old age of eighty-one. Sir John Gilbert, R. A., President of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors, was a man, whose place in English art circles will be found difficult to fill. For many years his illustrations appeared in the London Illustrated News.

Another well known Englishman, an author, is dead. Francis William Newman who lately died at the age of ninety-two, was the brother of the late Cardinal Newman. For seventeen years he occupied the chair of Latin in the University of London. Among numerous books that he produced were translations into Latin of "Robinson Crusoe," and "Hiawatha."

It will be remembered that last June, the world was startled by the news of the death of the South African millionaire, Barney Barnato. He committed suicide by jumping into the sea from the steamship Scot, while the vessel was steaming from Africa to England. The value of his estate has just been determined in England. It amounts to £963,866. He left no bequests to charity.

No one has forgotten the efforts to raise money for the plague stricken natives of India. The report of the Lord Mayor's fund states that the aggregate amount of the British, American, Colonial and other funds, was \$7,500,000.

Gen. Lockhart, now in command of the punitive expedition against the rebellious tribes in India has issued a proclamation, stating that his troops will march to the capital of the Tirah Afridis and Orakzais; and after his arrival there, he will treat with them in regard to terms of final peace. He warns them not to oppose the advance of the British troops; if they do, they will have to suffer the consequences.

From the breaking out of the troubles on the frontiers, to the time of sending out the report, 190 British soldiers have been killed, including 34 officers.

A number of Jews in Jerusalem have sent a petition to Queen Victoria, praying her to take them from the city, and

give them land on which to live, in the island of Cypress.

Germany proposes to spend during the next seven years, 410,000,000 million marks (mark 23-8 cents), in constructing new battleships and ironclad cruisers.

The Emperor William evidently wishes to again be friendly with his sister, the Crown Princess of Greece. He has conferred upon her the insignia of the Order of Louise. He quarrelled with her when she embraced the Greek religion.

Berlin is to erect a statue of Prince Bismark.

If the French government renews its contract with the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, which operates a line of steamships between New York and Havre, the company will build new vessels for the line having a speed of not less than twenty-two knots an hour.

The French Government, not to be behind those of the other great powers, proposes to spend 7,000,000 franc in re-constructing its navy. It is considering the establishing of a naval base at Bizerta, a fortified seaport of Tunis.

Relations between Russia and Japan are reported to be somewhat strained over Corea.

The financial condition of Spain is said to be very bad. The Government requested a loan from the Bank of Spain of 50,000,000 pesetas. The loan was refused.

Lieut. Gen. Weyler is about to be recalled. He stoutly contends that during his stay in Cuba he has done more than any other general to quell the revolution. Spain proposed to grant the Cubans a system of self-government. The Cubans on their part declare that they will accept nothing from Spain except their complete freedom and their Island home.

A report from Australia announces that a Victorian has invented a rifle that is superior to the Lee-Metford.

China, like Japan, is subject to severe floods. The country near Peking have just experienced the worst ones that have occurred in years. Hundreds upon hundreds of people have been drowned. Sixty villages, containing 80,000,000 inhabitants were swept away, and it is estimated that 15,000 or 20,000 persons were lost.

A man who recently gave himself up to the police of Rotterdam, has confessed to having committed eighteen murders. Among those whom he killed were his wife and child, in proof of which, he produced from his pocket the ears of his victims.

The report in regard to the illness of the Pope was not true. He is said to be in his usual health, taking daily walks in the Vatican gardens.

In Switzerland there are some 2,300 miles of railroad, and the National Council by a vote of 20 to 27, has adopted a bill by which the Republic will buy up five of the principal lines. To do this will require about \$200,000,000. There are about 5,000 miles of telegraph lines in the country, of which the greater portion is controlled by the State.

Affairs in South America are in the usual chaotic state. The financial condition in Brazil is going from bad to worse. The Government is waging a war against a band of fanatics, who according to recent despatches from Rio de Janeiro, have been defeated; their headquarters captured; and their leader, Antonio el Conselheiro, killed.

The uprising in Guatemala is reported to be practically at an end. About two weeks ago the rebels captured the city of Quetzaltenango. It has lately been retaken by the Government forces.

Reports from Costa Rica state that the recent disturbances that occurred at San Domingo, were more of the nature of a local riot rather than that of a revolution. The report that President Iglesias had proclaimed himself dictator is said to be without foundation.

The Argentine Republic proposed to increase its revenue by imposing a tax on vessels entering the port of Buenos Ayres.

On account of the Government of the United States of Columbia having granted a monopoly to a private firm to manufacture and sell matches, this country prohibits the importation of matches, phosphorus sticks of wood and wax, and pasteboard used for making match boxes. BARCLAY ALLAIRE SCOVILLE.

Klondike No. 2.

In Waterborough a gold digging party was organized to find where the hidden treasure rested, which had been placed in the earth at Sheffield, so many years ago.

One of the party procured a mineral rod of black cherry, which worked exceedingly well, and pointed to a clump of bushes on the intervalle belonging to Mrs. Planner. About 9 o'clock p. m., the party set to work digging. A circle was made by the guide and the enchanting words were said by one of the party. Before they had dug long, they found a stone which had carved on it, M. U. T. \$90,000 (Money Under Tree \$90,000).

At this the party were greatly encouraged and set to work digging in earnest. At last the pot of gold was struck, but the guide speaks and the pot sank deep in the earth. Flashes of lightning were seen, noises as loud as a cannon were heard, the heat was so intense, that one of the party (G. T. F.) had his eye lashes singed, others were knocked senseless and had to be carried to the camp.

This was enough for the party for the time being. But encouraged by the tale, one strong,

stout man of Waterborough, offered to accompany them. They drove to Sheffield again and to their disgust, the pot had been taken by two residents of White's Cove.

Who now are very rich, money is flush with them. I remain, A. SPIRIT.

Special Advice to Ladies Who Contemplate Coloring Cotton Goods.

If a merchant or any one else tells you that package dyes prepared for all wool goods will color cotton goods equally well, do not believe him. A person making such an assertion knows little about dyes and dyeing work.

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The Return of the Pendulum.

In 1892 the prosperity of the commercial schools was at its flood. . . . Desiring to find some expedient that would render them still more prosperous, the proprietors of many of these schools abandoned methods that had produced excellent results, and adopted others which were wholly experimental. It may safely be said that in most cases the change was not made with the expectation that the schools would be strengthened educationally, but that the new ideas would have greater advertising value. But a reaction has set in. The conclusion has been forced upon thoughtful teachers that the school that educates its pupils best advertises itself best; that a device which may attract inexperienced boys and unthinking parents may not commend itself to the class of people whose friendship and patronage must be secured and retained as a basis of permanent prosperity. Those schools which adhered to tried and approved methods, which gave their pupils solid and symmetrical knowledge, which steadily refused to be carried off their feet by a patented system of education, are now reaping the benefit of their wise conservatism. Such schools have not the task before them now of repairing the damage done by experimenting with fads. Those schools which have trifled with their reputation by experimenting with one or another of the new schemes are realizing that their reputation for real efficiency has been injured, and are seeing their more conservative co-workers forging ahead. Only a small proportion of the larger schools swung off in '92 and some of them retreated as soon as the character of the road they were travelling was discovered. When pretence will pass for performance, and when clap-net will be accepted in lieu of genuine educational advantages, then, perhaps, the public will take kindly to patented systems of education.—Progress, Rochester, N. Y.

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