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April 17th, 1895.

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Woodstock, N. B.

JOB PRINTING done at this office. **BOOK BINDING**

The Witch Doctor: A South African Sketch.

The key of the Native Question in Southern Africa is a knowledge of the religion and religious practices of the natives. They are all intimately connected with witchcraft, or rather witchcraft is the pivot on which they rest. All Kafirs and Hottentots are spiritualists who worship, revere, and fear the spirits of their ancestors. The "go-between" is the Witch Doctor, styled Amagira among the Amakosa Kafirs, and Isanusi among the Amazulus. Let us take one as a specimen and briefly unfold the progress of his initiation and education, remembering that he is intended to be a doctor to perform the healing art, a priest to offer sacrifices, and a diviner to give the mind of the spirit. He must hold the keys of the invisible world, and have constant intercourse with the spirits of the departed.

Xosa is a stalwart and brave youth. He possesses not only considerable natural boldness and cunning, but is cleverly to assume a mysterious and peculiar character by which he becomes distinguished from ordinary men. He begins "to dream dreams" and see visions in which serpents are very prominent, as these reptiles are generally supposed to be possessed by the spirits. He falls into fits, gesticulates, shrieks, acts as a madman, and is supposed to be under the influence of supernatural agency. He catches live snakes, hangs them about his person, and then, taking with him a goat as a fee, begs one of the Isanusi to be so good as to initiate him in the secrets of the profession. Here it is to be presumed he receives some instruction; but it is only preparatory. Armed with strong-smelling roots, styled *impepo*, he now approaches a more skilled Witch Doctor, and in this higher school receives more advanced lessons. The mysterious incantations having now been learnt, the *ukutwasa* or inward change occurs, which means that he is henceforth a new man and holds intercourse with spiritual beings. It is thought by some that by this process he enters into communication with infernal spirits, and that by their aid he is able to make disclosures sufficient to establish his power.

Xosa is ambitious, and gratify this infirmity of noble minds pays sedulous court to his chief, whose attention to ardent spirits is so great as to leave him a besotted imbecile, easily led and influenced by stronger minds. Debaucheries have rendered this ruler exceedingly impecunious, and a compact is easily arranged between himself, two Indunas, and Xosa, "to eat up" Mani, who has the misfortune not only to possess a large number of cattle, but to have spoken slightly of the terrible Witch Doctor. It is a lovely summer afternoon when the unfortunate wretch marked down for murder is seized upon, and in spite of his earnest prayers to be put speedily to death is subjected to one of the inhuman tortures inflicted in these cases. A great fire is lit, and huge stones laid on it which, when red hot, are placed on the stomach of the unfortunate Mani, who is stretched, bound hand and foot, upon the ground. Men stand by with sticks to push the stones back on the flesh when they slip off, and this awful torture goes on for hours. It is of the essence of the process that there should be agonising pain. Sometimes these incarnate fiends place the sufferer on a slow fire of green wood, and there he is roasted to death. In one of the Kafir wars a poor artilleryman taken by the enemy was smeared with honey, and then tied to a tree until he was eaten by white ants. Truly, "the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty." Xosa gloated over the torments of Mani, and received his full share of the cattle when his intestate estate was administered. He was a Pondo Witch Doctor, but last year, fortunately, Pondoland was annexed to the Cape Colony, the statute law making the business of a witch doctor penal came into force, and our hero met his deserts by being killed in a "big drink" fight.—*South Africa.*

A FACT WORTH KNOWING.

Consumption, LaGrippe, Pneumonia, and all Throat and Lung diseases are cured by Shiloh's Cure. Sold by Garden Bros.

Drink, Gambling, and Vice.

The late Duke of Albany, on the last occasion he spoke in public, said that "drink" was "the only terrible enemy England has to fear." The pre-eminence which the Duke of Albany gave to drink is justified by the fact that both impurity and gambling are greatly stimulated by drink. We wish we could draw away the attention of all our readers from the domestic, business, ecclesiastical, and party-political details which unduly preoccupy their attention and control their sympathies, in order that they might for once honestly, solemnly, and in the fear of God look at the three great social scourges of our race—Drunkenness, Impurity, and Gambling. It is an awful mistake to suppose that such evils as these are to be attacked only indirectly by promoting individual regeneration. Human nature being what it is, and the constitution of human society being what it is, efforts for the reclamation of the individual must be supplemented by ceaseless legislative and administrative efforts to suppress vicious facilities and temptations. One of the most foolish and most mischievous sayings ever invented by the cruel selfishness of mankind is that you "cannot make a man moral by Act of Parliament." In the most degraded and heathen periods of history something has been done to discourage the grossest forms of evil, and, therefore, the whole question at issue is only what should be done, and how much should be done. All serious and responsible persons who have given attention to this matter, have learnt to draw a broad and definite line of distinction between vice and the trade in vice; and while no attempt has been made, as a rule to constitute vice a crime, the trade in vice has always been regarded as criminal.—*Methodist Times (London).*

A Peculiar Fact.

"Keep out of debt, young man," said the philosopher. "Perhaps," was the thoughtful reply; "and yet I've noticed that the more I owe people the gladder they always seem to see me."—*Washington Star.*

Use K. D. C. for all stomach troubles.

The Nature of Electricity.

At a meeting of the Boston Scientific Society, Professor A. E. Dolbear presented a paper entitled "The Nature of Electricity," in which he first gave consideration to fundamental notions in physics, speaking of the phenomena and factors thereof, these being matter, ether, energy and motion; the properties of ether being that it is continuous, non-molecular, frictionless, elastic and energised. The origin of electricity was not discussed, this being either from friction, chemism or heat for its direct production or induction for its indirect production. Consideration was next given the ether, which with its properties becomes the medium in which exist gravity, light, magnetism, and electricity. The definitions which have been given for electricity were then reviewed, it having been considered a form of energy, a form of motion, energy itself, a form of motion of matter, a form of motion of ether, &c. Edlund defined it as ether itself; Lodge thinks it to be a wave motion in ether; Roland considers it a property of matter; while Towbridge assigns it place among the unknowables. As to its origin, electricity must have some antecedent motion. When the face of the thermopile is heated, we know that vibratory motion is the condition for its appearance; while in the battery, chemical action is the source, and the heat equivalent of this is a measure of the electricity produced. In glass, wax, &c., mechanical friction produces it and when a conductor is moved in a magnetic field and electricity results, this will stop on the cessation of the motion. In every case the mechanical motion turned into it is the antecedent, and the energy of the engine is represented by the electricity developed. From motion, then, results energy; and, if it be molecular motion, we call it heat; if ether waves, we call it light; if molecular exchange, we call it chemism. And all electrical action is motion between matter and ether. As a summary of his arguments, Professor Dolbear brought forward the following propositions:—Energy is an embodiment of motion in some medium and does not exist independently, while the so-called forms of energy are due to the different kinds of motion a body may have. Transformation of energy is a kind of change from one kind of motion to some other kind. Electricity never appears except when some known form of motion of matter is antecedent, and continuity of motion is a logical and experimental necessity; hence electricity must be a condition of things in matter or else a condition of things in ether.

Why Not Test it Too.

Rev. Wilson McCann, rector at Omemeo: "I have tested K. D. C., and knowing its value can recommend it to all sufferers from indigestion."

We claim to hold the largest list of letters for K. D. C., held by the proprietors of any medicine in Canada. Its merits prove its greatness. Try it now. K. D. C. Co., Ltd., New Glasgow, N. S., and 127 State street, Boston, Mass.

Support the Independent Press.

Canada never stood in greater need of a strong and independent press than it now does. The pan-fried party organs of both sides are prepared to defend any rascality, to conceal any important facts, or distort anything that may tend to help their own party or to injure the other. With such sources of information it is little wonder that many well meaning electors are often found supporting men and measures such as they would not for one moment support were the true facts of the case well understood. The Sun has been doing its best to give the whole people correct facts and figures, no matter what party or what set of men may be injured or benefitted thereby. This resolve at plain dealing has resulted in great financial loss to ourselves in more than one instance, but it has been in the interest of the people. We sincerely hope to see the day come speedily when the people of the county will cease entirely to support the professional party organ that is always defending every act of its own party, however wrong, and always denouncing in every act of the other party, however right. The Philadelphia Ledger, one of the ablest and most influential journals of the United States, has recently well said: "The independent newspaper which is not chained to the wheels of any party, which is independent to all parties, which condemns either party when it is wrong, and applauds either when it is right, is the only kind of newspaper that is certain to receive, or expects to receive, the approval and support of the general public. The partisan organ does not reflect public opinion; it stands for partisan expediency, always puts party before country, or state, or city, and its lack of independence places it in a class of its own, one quite different from that of the newspaper which fairly presents the truth on all subjects, and fears only to be wrong in statement or argument." The people of the country would well consult their own best interests by strengthening the hands of the independent press.—*Canada Farmers' Sun.*

KARL'S CLOVER ROOT TEA.

Is a sure cure for Headache and nervous diseases. Nothing relieves so quickly. Sold by Garden Bros.

Spraying Apple Trees.

As to spraying apple trees, all depends on what they are to be sprayed for. If for the scab, which of late has proved so damaging to the apple crop, they should be sprayed twice before the leaf buds open; and with Bordeaux mixture. If they are to be sprayed to destroy the codling moth, this should be done soon after the blossoms fall, and with Bordeaux mixture, adding about two pounds of London purple to 300 gallons of the water; mixing the purple first in a small dish into a thin paste, before putting it into the tank of water. London purple is better than Paris green, for the reason that when mixed into the water it does not settle as Paris green does. Once spraying thoroughly for the codling moth, if well done, will do, except when a rain follows the spraying very soon, in which case it should be repeated. A light spray, just enough to wet every part of the tree, is all sufficient.

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