

CITY OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

One of the most beautiful spots in the world.

Long before S. Gilbert had sung about "the flowers that bloom in the spring," the Orange Free State Boers had christened their capital Bloemfontein—the flowery spring.

For it is veritably a sort of oasis in the desert. Round about the veldt is flat, dull, parched, and monotonous. An undulating plateau surrounded by low hills, the township itself is a fertile little garden, in which nearly everything flourishes with the least possible amount of trouble. Its roses are famous, so are its vegetables, and its meales overtop those of the surrounding country by half a foot.

There are about 7,000 whites in Bloemfontein, and perhaps half that number of natives. The town is about 4,500 feet above sea level and the climate is soft, balmy, and invigorating in the extreme. It is a well-known and much-used resort for those suffering from pulmonary complaints, and some very wonderful restorations to health are on record.

It is an idle sort of town. No one works very hard, and office hours are easy. The stores open early in the morning, everyone disappears for a couple of hours at mid-day, and the early afternoon sees the shops closed. The banking hours are similar, and the clerks at the Government offices are adept lawn tennis players. In fact, lawn tennis is the chiefest vice of the town, and is played with extraordinary vigor throughout the year. There are some remarkably good players in the town, and on more than one occasion the South African championship, which is competed for annually at Port Elizabeth or elsewhere, between teams representing the different colonies and States, has been vested in a Bloemfontein player.

The capital of the Free State is one of those happy idyllic little towns where it is always afternoon. There is no bustle about its streets, no commotion in its highways (it has only one), and nothing occurs more exciting than the morning market or the quarterly nachmaal.

One hears a deal of English in the streets. Probably it is the native language of nearly one half of the white population. One also notices a preponderance of pure Scots Doric, for Scotsmen are in the ascendant in Bloemfontein. Many members of the Volksraad are of Scottish descent, as such frequently recurring names as Fraser, Macfarlane, Stuart, Macintosh, and Innes abundantly testify. The talk in the Parliament House is officially in Dutch, but there is a braw twang about much of it, which suggests that it has been acquired on the banks of the Tweed, or thereabouts.

The four-square appearance of Bloemfontein is owing to the fact that, in common with nearly all Dutch towns, it is laid out in rectangular spaces, with streets, equidistant from one another, and bordered with the inevitable eucalyptus or "gum tree," which flourishes here as almost everywhere in the uplands of South Africa. There is a little fort on an outlying kopje, which at one time boasted a couple of Maxim's. These are probably at the front today.

The public buildings of Bloemfontein are quite imposing in their way. The Raadzaal, or House of Parliament, is an important edifice with some architectural pretension. It has a domed tower, and looks like something between a gorgeous masonic temple and a palatial music hall. It cost nearly £70,000, and was furnished by one of the most artistic and enterprising houses of Tottenham-court road. Churches are prevalent in every street, almost at every corner; in fact, Bloemfontein is one of the few South African towns in

which there are more churches and chapels than there are canteens.

The presidency of Mr. Steyn is a rather large and important building of white stone, of a somewhat mixed order of architecture, but exceedingly comfortable, cool, and commodious in structure. It cost nearly £20,000 to build, and has a pretty garden of old English flower, such as hollyhocks, clove-pinks, stocks, and paeonies.

Bloemfontein is a great educational centre, and there is a very fine college, presented by Sir George Grey, erstwhile Premier of Cape Colony, and the Grand Old Man of South Africa. It is known as the Grey College, and has turned out some remarkable scholars.

The Town hall, the Post-office, the telegraph office, and the law courts are all substantial and somewhat ornate buildings, rather overpowering the simple little villas in which the aristocracy of the Orange Free State resides; but the latter endeavour to live up to the former, and sometimes succeed.

Nothing strikes the visitor more in Bloemfontein than the quiet and subdued calm of its inhabitants. They are never in a hurry, and if they knew Spanish would probably adopt as their motto that sweetly procrastinative Spanish word, "Manana," which is so comfortable a solace for the lazy individual.

The British community in Bloemfontein is rather large, and aspires to culture in various directions. There are debating clubs, where the most serious questions are settled by ingenious aspirants of both sexes with easy fatuousness. The public library has quite a good collection of books, and it is on record that George Meredith, Rossetti, William Morris, and even Maeterlinck are in constant demand. Bloemfontein is nothing if not cultured and is almost equal to "Upper Tooting" in its aspirations after the higher verities.

From a wariike point of view Bloemfontein simply does not count. It has a few gurs, a small army, some officers, and a cacophonous military band; but the Free State burghers away at the front have nothing in common with the sweetness and light of Bloemfontein; they are raw country yokels, and prefer their nomad life on the veldt to the civilization of a cultured and remarkably civilized little township.

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Does Sap Flow up or Down.

Maple sap is mostly water and sugar. The sugar is all manufactured in the green leaves and a part of it stored in twigs and trunk of trees to be used in early growth of the next season. The water is all absorbed from the soil. Examinations made in January show that the wood is then saturated with sap—about 40 per cent of its weight at that season being water. If the entire tree weighs 10,000 pounds, there is in it some 4000 pounds of sap, and if this contains 3 per cent of sugar there will be in the tree some 120 pounds of sugar in solution in the sap.

During the sugaring season there is probably little movement of this sap within the

Eczema Tortured A Child.

About three years ago I had to leave school with sore hands. My teacher said it was Salt Rheum or Eczema and told me to see the doctor.

Mother got some medicine, but it did me no good.

After I had suffered with the itching and burning about three months, mother thought she would try Burdock Blood Bitters.

I only took two bottles, when my hands got completely cured. —Emma Sheridan, Parry Sound, Ont.

untapped tree, but this sap may be under great pressure. The pressure, on a good sap day, may rise in such a tree to the startling amount of over 20 pounds to the square inch, as registered by steam pressure gauges used in our investigations. When this pressure is relieved by tapping at any point there is a tendency to drive the sap from all directions out through the top hole.

Careful experiments indicate that the sap moves very easily and rapidly with the grain of the wood, but very slowly if at all across the grain, and that, as a result, the sap flows into the tap-hole from above and below, but not to any appreciable amounts from the sides. Two or more tap-holes on different sides of the tree will therefore drain more sap from the tree than will one hole. These experiments indicate also that the upward and downward flow of the sap into the tap hole is about equally rapid. Sap, at sugaring time, flows both up and down, but not laterally around the tree trunk.—[Vt Exper Sta.

Sciatica:—That most intensely painful of diseases that defies doctor's treatment, can be promptly relieved and thoroughly cured by Milburn's Rheumatic Pills.

Not His Turn.

"May you take this lesson home with you tonight, dear friend," concluded the preacher at the end of a very long and wearisome sermon. "And may its spiritual truths sink deep into your hearts and lives to the end that your souls may experience salvation. We will now bow our heads in prayer. Deacon White, will you lead?"

There was no response. "Deacon White," this time is a louder voice, "Deacon White, will you lead?"

Still no response. It was evident that the good deacon was slumbering. The preacher made the third appeal and raised his voice to a pitch that succeeded in waking the drowsy man.

"Deacon White, will you please lead?" The deacon rubbed his eyes and opened them wondering.

"Is it my lead? No—I just dealt."—From The Detroit Free Press.

Mixed Emotions.

To illustrate the feeling of Ireland toward the predominant partner, an actor who has lately been touring tells the story of an old waiter in a Dublin hotel. "When are you going to get Home Rule in Ireland, John?" was the question. "See ye here, sorr," said the old man, "the only way we'll get Home Rule for ould Ireland will be if France—an'

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Russia—an' Genmany—an' Austria—an' maybe Italy—if they all would join together to give those blaybirds of English a rare good hiding. That's the only way we'll get Home Rule, anyway." Then, as he looked cautiously round, a twinkle of cunning and a smile of courtesy were added to his expression. "And the whole lot of them shoved together couldn't do it," he said. "Oh—it's the grand navy we've got!"—London Chronicle.

A HALF CENTURY RECORD.

Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry has now been in use for 50 years and there is nothing to equal it as a rapid and effective cure for Bowel Complaints of young or old.

ASSESSORS' NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned have been appointed Assessors of the Rates in and for the Town of Woodstock for the present year. All persons owning property in the Town may within Twenty Days give in a statement of their property and income as provided by law. Dated at Woodstock, March 22, 1900.

CHARLES COMBEN, EMERSON L. HAGERMAN, HARRY NASH,

HOUSE TO LET.

House, Barn and Sheds on Elm St. next my residence. Possession given May 1st next. For particulars apply to undersigned. J. C. HARTLEY. Feb. 1st, 1900.

John P. Pickel, PLUMBER,

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It drives out the causes—cleanses the system—paves the way and helps to perfect health.

Only those who have been its victims—whether for a short or a longer period—in its milder forms or in its more acute forms can really have any correct conception of the excruciating agony that comes to the sufferer

from Rheumatism. Only those who have been its victims and have been cured by the most powerful and never-failing remedy, South American Rheumatic Cure, can really appreciate the blessing it has proved to mankind in relieving pain, dissolving and eradicating from the system all the foreign matter, the irritating acids, the unnatural substance which through cold and exposure collect in the joints and muscles cause swelling, stiffening, inflammation and oft-times cripple and incapacitate those who have been so unfortunate as to be caught in its meshes. South American Rheumatic Cure is a specific for Rheumatism and Neuralgia in all its

forms. It is not an experiment. It is a compound on the most scientific principles known in the modern medical science. It is the concentrated essence of the best and most potent ingredients recognized as being the most searching and healing. The formula is the outcome for years of study on Rheumatism in all its forms; it causes and medicines that are calculated to give the quickest relief and the most promising of a permanent cure. That the highest results have been attained by South American Rheumatic Cure that have been attained by any remedy of modern times is attested by the splendid testimony, the thankful words, the encouragement and faith shown in it by the hundreds and hundreds who have over their own signatures told how it has healed those who have been bed-ridden for years—those who have through its use "thrown away the crutches"—those whose stiffened joints that were affected by every whim of the weather—those who have suffered the deathly pains and pangs that are incident to the inflammatory

and neuralgic forms of Rheumatism. Words cannot too strongly express its great merit, and sufferers need only to put to the test what others say of it to prove the claims of the great South American Rheumatic Cure. Years of pain may be dispelled in an hour, but it's only a matter of days at most till the most stubborn cases will vanish, and in the place of pain and suffering there'll be a joyous and lasting freedom.

J. D. McLeod of Leith, Ont., says: "I have been a victim of Rheumatism for seven years; confined to my bed for months at a time; unable to turn myself; have been treated by many physicians without any benefit. I had no faith in Rheumatic cures I saw advertised, but my wife induced me to get a bottle of South American Rheumatic Cure from Mr. Taylor, druggist, in Owen Sound. At that time I was in agony with pain. Inside of 12 hours after I took the first dose, the pain had all left me. I continued until I had used three bottles, and today I am completely cured."

South American Nerve is a power in restoring wasted nerve force; cures nervous prostration, stomach troubles and general debility. It cleanses the system and builds up the waist places.

South America Kidney Cure is a liquid Kidney specific; cures Bright's Disease, Diabetes Bladder troubles and all Kidney disorders. Helps in four to six hours and heals permanently.