

drawing from his pocket a sharp pointed two-edged knife.

Dupres struggled again but in vain. 'Louis said he, 'forgive me, forgive me, I have been wrong.'

'No massa, no,' said Louis, 'me, forgive you, massa, but you will never forgive me. Oh, massa! you do not know my heart! Poor Adele, massa—poor, poor, Adele?'

'She shall be yours,' said Dupres.

'Look, massa, me no runaway—me could not bear to be flogged, least of all by your order, massa—me hide away to-day, to-morrow your birthday, and mine, massa—me thought you would forgive me then; then me should have come back and beg pardon; but no! no! him too late—me have struck my massa—massa hates poor Louis! No—no—him past now.'

Saying which, the faithful Louis raising his right hand above his head, struck the glittering blade which it grasped with all its force into his heart, and instantly fell dead upon his masters bosom.

Let not the reader ask what befel Adele; let him be satisfied by knowing that that year's celebration of the PLANTER'S BIRTHDAY is remembered in the island to this hour.

ADMIRATION AND ASPIRATION.

It is a good thing to believe; it is a good thing to admire. By continually looking upwards our minds will themselves grow upwards, and as a man, by indulging in habits of scorn and contempt for others, is sure to descend to the level of what he despises, so the opposite habits of admiration and enthusiastic reverence for excellence, impart to ourselves a portion of the qualities we admire. Here, as in everything else, humility is the surest path to exultation.—Arnold.

A CLASS TO BEWARE OF.

STAND IN DOUBT of those good creatures who have been 'greatly imposed on' by their friends, with whom, nevertheless, they continue to associate on the most intimate terms. Their story may be true, but it has an untold half which honest people would do well to consider. They and their imposing friends are kindred spirits. The mean advantage, or paltry deceit, does not jar on them as it would on minds of sterling honour; they may not choose to be its subjects, that is a fancy yet to be heard of; but the thing is not repulsive to their nature, and they will be found willing imitators at their earliest convenience. True it is, that if one will hold converse only with the honourable and high principled one must keep out of both business and society, which is not always advisable; but men's chosen familiars generally resemble themselves, and he who can tolerate a slippery trick is ready to go and do likewise.

'Father ain't you opposed to monopoly?' shouted a little fellow, as his parent took up the brandy bottle. 'Yes, my boy.' 'Then give me a drink too.' The father broke the bottle on the floor, and has not tasted liquor since.

NEW WORKS.

From Sketches in Western Africa.
PANTHERS IN AFRICA.

During the latter part of the night, while riding in front with Maramy, the sheikh's negro who accompanied me from Kouta, and who appeared to attach himself more closely to me as we approached danger, we had started several animals of the leopard species, who ran from us so swiftly, twisting their long tails in the air, as to prevent our getting near them. We, however, now started one of a larger kind, which Maramy assured me was so satiated with the blood of a negro, whose carcass we found lying in the wood, that he would be easily killed. I rode up to the spot just as a Shouna had planted the first spear in him, which passed through the neck, a little above the shoulder, and came down between the animal's legs; he rolled over broke the spear, and bounded off with the lower half in his body. Another Shouna galloped off within two arms' length and thrust a second through his loins; and the savage animal, with a woful howl, was in the act of springing on his pursuer when an Arab shot him through the head with a ball, which killed him on the spot. It was a male panther of the very large size, and measured from the point of the tail to the nose, eight feet two inches; the skin was yellow, and beautifully marked with orbicular spots on the upper part of the body, while underneath and at the throat, the spots were oblong and irregular, intermixed with white. These animals are found in great numbers in the woods bordering on Mandara; there are also leopards, the skins of which I saw, but not in great numbers. The panthers are as insidious as they are cruel; they will not attack anything that is likely to make resistance, but have been known to watch a child for hours, while near the protection of huts or people. It will often spring on a grown person, male or female, while carrying a burden, but always from behind: the flesh of a child or of a young kid it will sometimes devour, but when any full grown animal falls a prey to its ferocity it sucks the blood alone.

From The Young Yagers, By Capt. M. Reid.
COMBAT WITH A LIONESS.

The equipment of the Kaffir must needs be described. It was simple enough, though odd to a stranger's eye. It was neither more nor less than the equipment of a Zooloo warrior.—In his right hand he held a bunch of assegais—in all six of them. What is an assegai? It is a straight lance or spear, though not to be used as one. It is smaller than either of these weapons, shorter and more slender in the shaft, but like them armed with an iron head of arrow shape. In battle it is not retained in the hand but flung at the enemy, often from a considerable distance. It is, in short, a 'javelin,' or 'dart,'—such as was used in Europe before fire arms became known, and such as at present forms the war weapon of all the savage tribes of Southern Africa, but especially those of the Kaffir nations, and well know they how to project this dangerous missile. At the distance of a hundred yards they will send it with a force as great, and an aim as unerring, as either bullet or arrow! The assegai is flung by a single arm. Of these javelins Congo carried six spanning their slender shafts with his long muscular fingers. The assegais were not the oddest part of his equipment. That was a remarkable thing which he bore on his left arm. It was of oval form, full six feet in length by about three in width, concave on the side towards his body, and equally convex on the opposite. More than anything else did it resemble a small boat or canoe made of skins stretched over a frame work of wood, and of such materials was it constructed. It was, in fact, a shield,—a Zooloo shield—though of somewhat larger dimensions than those used in war. Notwithstanding its great size it was far from clumsy, but light, tight, and firm, so much so that arrow, assagai, or bullet, striking it upon the convex side, would have glanced off as from a plate of steel; a pair of strong bands fastened inside along the bottom enabled the wearer to move it about at will; and placed upright, with its lower end resting upon the ground, it would have sheltered the body of the tallest man, it sheltered that of Congo, and Congo was no dwarf. Without another word he walked out, the huge shield on his left arm, five of the assegais clutched in his left hand, while one that he had chosen for the first throw he held in his right, this one was grasped near the middle, and carried upon the balance. No change had taken place in the situation of affairs out upon the plain, in fact, there had not been much time for any, scarce five minutes had elapsed from the time the Kaffir stated his purpose, until he went forth to execute it.—The lioness was still roaming about, uttering her frightful screams, the hyenas were still there. The moment the Kaffir was seen approaching the cowardly hyenas fled with a howl, and soon disappeared under the bush. Far different with the lioness, she seemed to pay no regard to the approach of the hunter, she neither turned her head, nor looked in the direction he was coming, her whole attention was absorbed by the mass of bodies on the plain; she yelled her savage notes as she regarded them, she was, no doubt, lamenting the fate of her grim and swartthy partner, that lay dead before her eyes, at all events, she did not seem to notice the hunter, until he had got within twenty paces of the spot! At that distance the Kaffir halted, rested his huge shield upon the ground—still holding it erect—poised the assagai a moment in his right hand, and then sent it whizzing through the air, it pierced the side of the tawny brute, and hung quivering between her ribs; only for a moment! The fierce animal doubled round upon herself, caught the shaft in her teeth, and broke it off as if it had been a straw! the blade of the assagai still remained in the flesh, but the lioness waited no longer, she had now perceived her enemy, and uttering a vengeful scream she sprang towards him. With one tremendous bound she cleared three-fourths of the space that lay between them, and a second would have carried her upon the shoulders of the Kaffir but the latter was prepared to receive her, and as she rose to her second leap, he disappeared suddenly from the scene! As if by magic he had vanished; and had not the boys been watching his every movement, they would have been at a loss to know what had become of him, but they knew that under that oval convex form, whose edges rested upon the earth, lay Congo the Kaffir. There lay he, like a tortoise in its shell, clutching the straps with all his might, and pressing his shield firmly against the ground. The lioness was more astonished than the spectators. At the second leap she pitched right down upon the shield, but the drum-like noise made by her weight, and the hard firm substance encountered by her claws, quite disconcerted her, and springing aside she stood gazing at the odd object with looks of alarm! she stood but for a moment, and then, uttering a savage growl of disappointment, turned tail upon it, and trotted off! That growl guided Congo, the shield was raised from the ground—only on one side and but a very little way at first—just enough to enable the hunter to see the stern of the retreating lioness. Then the Kaffir rose quickly to his feet, and holding the shield erect, prepared for the casting of a second assagai; this was quickly thrown and pierced the animal in the flank, where shaft and all remained sticking in the flesh. The lioness turned with redoubled fury, once more charged upon her assailant, and

as before, was met by the hard convex surface of the shield. This time she did not immediately retreat, but stood menacing the strange object, striking it with her clawed hoofs, and endeavouring to turn it over. Now was the moment of peril for Congo. Had the lioness succeeded in making a capsize, it would have been all up with him, poor fellow! but he knew the danger, and with one hand clutching the leathern straps, and the other bearing upon the edge of the frame, he was able to hold firm and close—closer even, 'than a barnacle to a ship's copper.'

After venting her rage in several impotent attempts to break or overturn the shield, the lioness, at length, went growling away to her former position. Her growls, as before, guided the actions of Congo. He was soon upon his feet, another assagai whistled through the air, and pierced through the neck of the lioness.—But, as before, the wound was not fatal, and the animal, now enraged to a frenzy, charged once more upon her assailant. So rapid was her advance, that it was with great difficulty Congo got under cover. A moment later, and his ruse would have failed, for the claws of the lion rattled upon the shield as it descended.—He succeeded, however, in planting himself firmly, and was once more safely under the thick buffalo hide. The lioness now howled with disappointed rage; and after spending some minutes in fruitless endeavours to upset the shield, she once more desisted. This time, however, instead of going away, the angry brute kept pacing round and round, and at length lay down within three feet of the spot. Congo was besieged! The boys saw at a glance that Congo was a captive. The look of the lioness told them this. Though she was several hundred yards off, they could see that she wore an air of determination, and was not likely to depart from the spot without having her revenge. There could be no question about it,—the Kaffir was in a scrape. Should the lioness remain, how was he to get out of it? He could not escape by any means. To raise the shield would be to tempt the fierce brute upon him. Nothing could be plainer than that.—The boys shouted aloud to warn him of his danger. They feared that he might not be aware of the close proximity of his enemy.—Notwithstanding the danger, there was something ludicrous in the situation in which the Kaffir was placed; and the young hunters, though anxious about the result, could scarce keep from laughter, as they looked forth upon the plain. There lay the lioness within three feet of the shield, regarding it with fixed and glaring eyes, and at intervals uttering savage growls. There lay the oval form, with Congo beneath, motionless and silent. A strange pair of adversaries, indeed! Long time the lioness kept her close vigil, scarce moving her body from its crouching attitude. Her tail only vibrated from side to side, and the muscles of her jaws quivered with subdued rage. The boys shouted repeatedly to warn Congo, though no reply came from the hollow of the shield.—'They might have spared their breath. The cunning Kaffir knew as well as they the position of his enemy. Her growls, as well as her loud breathing, kept him admonished of her whereabouts, and he well understood how to act under the circumstances. For a full half-hour this singular scene continued; and as the lioness showed no signs of deserting her post, the young yagers at length determined upon an attack, or at all events, a feint that would draw her off. It was close upon sunset, and should night come down what would become of Congo? In the darkness he might be destroyed. He might relax his watchfulness, he might go to sleep, and then his relentless enemy would have the advantage. Something must be done to release him from his narrow prison, and at once. They had saddled and mounted their horses, and were about to ride forth, when the sharp-eyed Hans noticed that the lioness was much further off from the shield than when he last looked that way. And yet she has not moved—at all events, no one had seen her stir, and she was still in the same attitude!—How then? Ha! look yonder, the shield is moving! As Hans uttered these words the eyes of all turned suddenly upon it. Sure enough, it was moving. Slowly and gradually it seemed to glide along the ground like a huge tortoise, though its edges remained close to the surface. Although impelled by no visible power, all understood what this motion meant. Congo was the moving power! The yagers held their bridles firm, and sat watching with breathless interest. In a few minutes more the shield had moved full ten paces from the crouching lioness. The latter seemed not to notice this change in the relative position of herself and her cunning adversary. If she did, she beheld it rather with feelings of curiosity or wonder than otherwise. At all events, she kept her post until the curious object had gone a wide distance from her. She might not have suffered it to go much further; but it was now far enough for her adversary's purpose, for the shield suddenly became erect, and the Kaffir once more sent his assagai whirling from his hand. It was the fatal shaft. The lioness chanced to be crouching broadside towards the hunter. His aim was true, and the barbed iron pierced through her heart. A sharp growl that was soon stifled—a short despairing struggle, and the mighty brute lay motionless.

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

From Mitchell's London Maritime Register.
THE HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORIES.

On Thursday the Secretary for the Colonies moved for and obtained a select committee to consider the state of those British possessions in North America which are under the dominion of the Hudson's Bay Company, or over which that Company has license to trade. We are glad to find this subject at last commanding attention in official quarters. It is of great interest in Canada at the present time, when the progress of colonisation is extending northwards by free grants of land to settlers. The twenty-one year's term under which the Hudson's Bay Company holds its license of trade over the Indian territories expires in 1859, and the Government has the power to take back Vancouver's Island if it has not received proper attention. The importance of that island in the present improving condition of the trade of the Pacific is beginning to be better appreciated by the Government. It has many strong claims to public notice, viewed in the several desirable points of a naval station for our fleets, an agricultural colony, or a convict settlement. That it has been woefully neglected in the hands of its present owners during the last eight years no one can deny. Although the 1,200 or more Scotchmen who are scattered over the country as traders in the employ of the Company may, as asserted, have performed their duties with that skill and prudence characteristic of the shrewd men born north of the Tweed, yet they are, after all, not settlers and colonisers. Even upon the authority of the Secretary of the Colonies we learn that the territory contains within its limits large districts of country admirably fitted for the use and enjoyments of civilised man, some of them rich in their soils and minerals, and others, from the situation of their harbours, of immense advantage in the prosecution of trade.

It is said that the profits of the Hudson's Bay Company since 1821 have been about £200,000 per annum upon a nominal capital of £400,000, of which scarcely one-tenth has ever been paid up. The vast territories over which the Company's operations now extend is divided into four departments—viz, 1st, the Montreal or Lachine department, which includes all the establishments situated on the river St. Lawrence, the great Lakes of Canada, and along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coast of Labrador; 2d, the Southern department, which includes the country along the north shores of Lake Superior, and the southern shores of Hudson's Bay; 3d, the Northern department, which comprehends all the establishments north of this as far as the shores of the Polar Sea. There is, however, no Statute, Imperial or Colonial, whereby the so-called territories of the Hudson's Bay Company are defined, nor by which the limits of Canada are circumscribed, as they are commonly supposed to be, other than that set up since 1811 in virtue of the extinct Charter of CHARLES II., under colour of which the Hudson's Bay Company have usurped an authority over that extensive region of country known to France as Canada, and as such surrendered to the British Crown. In these different Statutes the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company are incidentally alluded to, but not one of them defines boundaries, specifies the locality, or in any manner implies a recognition of the assumed rights of the Company. The territory claimed by the Company extends from the boundaries of Upper and Lower Canada away to the North Pole, as far as the land goes, and from the Labrador Coast to the Pacific, a territory which may be estimated at something like 4,000,000 of square miles, or an area one-third greater in extent than the whole of Europe.

Mixed up with the consideration of the validity of title are questions of great magnitude and importance, social, political, and commercial. Instead of keeping it a solitude, it ought to be made what Mr Roebuck alluded to—the home of a happy civilisation, of thousands of people, and a great nation. If we do not do this, the American's will, and Mr Adderley tells us it would be ultimately annexed to the United States. The enterprising settlers will pass over from Minnesota into our territories, unless we open the districts now rendered useless by monopoly for the use of the hardy, industrious, and unemployed of our lands, and for the pioneers and backwoodsmen of Canada. Well may Mr Gladstone observe, that it is an abnegation and renunciation by England of a great part of her duty to her inheritance, when she is contented to lock up against the energy of her children a vast country like the Hudson's Bay territory.

Strongly as we have expressed our opinions on more occasions than one, we have no desire to prejudice the question, which we shall be glad to see fully and fairly investigated, and definitely settled, having due regard to any legal rights of the Hudson's Bay Company.—The interests of the Canadians, the interests of the thousands of our population leaving monthly for British North America, the interests and dignity of the Empire, demand that this ques-