

Ruins in Rhodesia.

Quite recently Mr. W. G. Neal returned here from a four month's sojourn in the Belingwe district, during which time he has, in conjunction with Mr. George Johnson, been engaged in the exploration of some recently discovered ancient ruins.

They have discovered and brought in some interesting as well as valuable examples of gold fashioned into a variety of forms, such as gold beads, wire, nails, beaten out sheet, filagree work, copper, iron, strung or covered with gold, &c., which indicate a very fairly advanced stage of civilization, being superior to anything the Matabele were able to accomplish. Mr. Neal has now examined more than two hundred separate ruins in this country during the past four years and has arrived at certain conclusions respecting them. The letters written by Portuguese Jesuit priests, preserved in the archives of Lisbon do not date back more than 400 years, but recent exploration has demonstrated that, in many cases the statements written then are quite trustworthy, and that tradition orally handed down really does describe the facts. Tradition says that the people of that period, the sixteenth century living in this country, wore cloth interwoven with gold thread. This they have discovered to be a fact, as (some years ago) they found a corpse buried in a ruin situated in the Umtilikwe Hills, near the Shangani River. The fabric was in a more or less decayed condition.

Mr. Neal's investigations lead him to the conclusion that the ruins are to be referred to mainly two distinct periods, each of which was historically of long duration. At the Mambo ruins, better known by the native name of Dhlolo, lying some sixty miles east of Bulawayo on the Inseza belt, the discoveries made indicate that these ruins were occupied by two different periods. The lower stonework exposed by excavation is similar in its elaborate character to that of Zimbabwe, whereas the additions done by the latter inhabitants are crude in design and rough in execution, and more after the style of stonework done by the Basutos today. It was doubtless, therefore, built about four hundred years ago. At this particular mine two cannon of Portuguese manufacture were discovered, one a brass breech-loader, and other an iron muzzle-loader. Additional finds were the private silver seal of a Jesuit priest, an incense censer, silver bells, Egyptian bronze oil lamp, jewelry of modern manufacture, gold filagree work earrings, portions of silver plate wrought with embossed work in the design of a vine and grapes, and a gold coin or medalion somewhat smaller than a five-pound piece. On one side of this the surface was perfectly smooth, the other had a design in relief, exquisitely wrought, of two birds fighting over a heart, and so clear that you could see the feathers falling through the air. Unfortunately it is believed that this beautiful relic, which was hauled over to Dr. Jameson, has been lost.

In addition to the articles discovered which have mentioned, a considerable quantity of manufactured as well as raw gold was discovered, which goes to prove that in those days when communication took so long, the Jesuit Mission station of that period was self supporting, and may even have been the medium of a considerable amount of trade. It is probable that the inhabitants of the station were extinguished one day unexpectedly by a hostile tribe of savages, as very nearly seven hundred ounces of gold were discovered in these ruins, which would have been in those days quite a large amount of wealth. It would appear that the priest and his people filled in the ruin as they found it, for on excavating to a depth of fifteen feet the old floors and walls of the original ancients who built these forts, or whatever they may be called, were found. Here on these old floors gold beads, etc., were found of an altogether different pattern from those discovered on the upper floors.

Throughout the whole course of Mr. Neal's previous investigations in all the ruins it has been his special aim and object to locate the workshop and smelting furnaces, but hitherto all his efforts in this direction have been baffled, as although portions of gold crucibles (that is, pots used to melt gold in), have been found in some cases, yet the exact spot used by the workmen of the past has not been identified. This time success has been attained which is satisfactory although the results were rather disappointing. The crucibles more or less broken with a few small beads of

visible gold still adhering to the surface were found, and Mr. Neal was after very careful working, enabled to make a rough sketch of the site of the furnace and its immediate surrounding. The result was

On another point Mr. Neal hazards a conjecture, which is at any rate plausible, and in support of which some evidence can be adduced. It relates in the first place to the sheet of beaten gold, which was probably overlaid on wood, and secured by the gold nails discovered, covering either some sacred idol, rod or staff of office.

The great question still remains. 'Who were these people? Now, taking Biblical history as the most authentic, gold was very plentiful in the time of King Solomon. He and also the Queen of Sheba possessed a great deal of it; in the great Temple it was largely used for decorative purposes,

owed to him by a tenant named Callahan that he was going to evict him, and then, rather imprudently, called in person at the house to see what effect this threat had produced.

It chanced that Callahan was not at home, but his wife was. She induced the landlord to remain, saying to him, as he alleged, that her husband would be in presently, and would do the landlord no harm.

Before long Callahan arrived, and immediately proceeded to give the professor a very hard beating. The professor had the man and his wife called into court, and

lawyers, calling the landlord again to the stand, "what Mrs. Callahan said to you."

"She assured me positively that her husband had no intention of maltreating me."

"Yes, but what did she say?"

"She gave me to understand—"

"Oh," said the judge, "give us her own words."

"Very well, sir," said the landlord. "She said, 'when Mike comes home he won't do a thing to you!'"

The hilarity which followed this explanation may have softened the judge's heart a little, for he declared that this ought to have been regarded as a warning rather than as an assurance of safety.

Quick Work.

Rome was not built in a day but then Rome was very much behind the times. Things are done more quickly now. On the outskirts of Chicago a feat was accomplished not long ago that would have astonished Rome. It may be a little astonishing even to present day readers.

A contract was signed on Friday for the building of a church. The document stipulated that the church should be ready for dedication on the following Sunday. Just one clear day was left for the erection of the building, which was to accommodate three thousand persons.

At four o'clock on the morning of Saturday the work was begun, and at seven o'clock that evening the men were putting in windows, hanging doors, and getting in the electric lights, which were especially provided for in the contract. No floor was laid, and there was no time to gather up the shavings, but by twelve o'clock that night all else was done, and the dedication services were held on the following day.

Almost as wonderful a feat, and one in which haste was more justifiable, was the building of a field hospital, and having it ready for patients in exactly one hour from the time when it was begun.

Doctor Hoigraeff, an army surgeon, undertook to demonstrate to the Austrian military authorities that eight men could build a hospital fifty by twenty feet in an hour.

All materials were ready, and no tools were required. Sleepers, panels, bolts, rods, waterproof packing, all were prepared before hand, every plug for its hole and every groove for its setting. There was nothing to do but to put the building together.

The value of a hospital that can be erected on the spot at such a short notice needs no demonstration.

When Extremes Meet.

Editor-in-Chief: 'I understand young Bluegore, the millionaire's son, has gone in for journalism?'

City Editor: 'Yes. He's on my staff.'

Editor-in-Chief: 'And what do you think of him?'

City Editor: 'Well, he's a unique figure in journalism.'

Editor-in-Chief: 'You don't say?'

City Editor: 'Yes. He's at once the richest and poorest reporter in the city.'

'Do you think he's a real nobleman?'

'I know he's not.'

'What makes you so sure?'

'He's been devoting himself to a girl with no money.'



TODAY AND THE FUTURE.

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disappointing in two ways first, because no goodly store of gold was found; and, secondly, the smelting furnace was no elaborate device, but simply constructed in the style like that adopted by the Asiatic Indian and gold and silversmith of today and built of clay. The effect is that no light is really thrown on the question of whether these people were in an advanced stage of civilization, or were only very primitive workers. Were they thorough adepts in their profession, in short what and who were they? The clay furnace, a rudely shaped receptacle, contained the amalgam to be smelted in the pellets or cakes, and any doid bubbling or splashing over settled in the clay, which gradually accumulated, fresh layers of clay being added from time to time. In one of these furnaces six separate layers were found, which on being broken up, disclosed small pieces of smelted gold. What fluxes were used to expedite the process it is impossible to say, but probably this could be ascertained by an analysis of the residue adhering to the sides of the crucibles.

The peculiar pellets, which at first sight look like lead or shot, if cut will be found to be alloy, and, further, on subjecting them to fire, there will exude tiny beads of white metal, which is without doubt mercury. At last only the small bright yellow gold button is left. It appears, therefore, quite certain that quicksilver was known to and used by, these people. Copper was also known, smelted copper having been found, and probably they fashioned bangles out of copper and overlaid them with gold beads, as portions of iron bangles treated in this way have been discovered. Mr. Neal is of opinion that silver was not known to these ancient workers in precious metals, as the only ruins where silver has been found so far are those of Dhlolo, and the silver bangles, beads, &c., are probably due to the Jesuit priest. It is not improbable that he or his people exchanged silver for gold, a larger quantity of the former for a smaller quantity of the latter.

the expression 'beaten gold' being very noticeable, gold nails are not mentioned. Now the Queen of Sheba must have obtained gold through the trading of her merchants. Further, it is a very curious fact that Mr. Neal has discovered carved on bowls made of soapstone figures of the ibis, or sacred bird of Egypt, as well as portions of Egyptian pottery, so there seems no doubt there was a close connection between these ancient metal workers and the land of the Nile.

Probably nearly the whole of the world's supply of gold came from Africa during Biblical times. Since this period the Solala and Sabi have been familiar but even up to the present time Sofala on the east coast is a rich port, and although the sea now covers the town or city that used to be there, gold ornaments, &c., can be picked up for the such of them, and the Sabi is in Rhodesia so that these facts points to the conclusion that Rhodesia must have yielded the gold of that period. Not only has gold hidden away been discovered, but the mode of burial practiced by these ancient people has been clearly made out, and also the fact that they were interred with all their jewelry. In the case of the remains of the giant previously mentioned twelve ounces of gold ornaments were found. So far no writing or hieroglyphics have been found, or inscription of any kind, and the only possible chance of discovering the key to the grand secret lies hidden in Zimbabwe.

Ingnorant of Slang.

The talk of the day—current slang, we may call it—sometimes means just the opposite of what the words themselves plainly express. For example, 'quite a little' invariably means a good deal. There is another current phrase which has a paradoxical signification, as a story told by a New Orleans paper illustrates.

In that city there is a college professor, accustomed, of course, to a learned atmosphere only, who owns several houses. He had attempted in vain to collect some rent

it at once became an ugly feature of the case that the woman had tried to allure the landlord into a trap. But she declared flatly that she had warned him that her husband would give him a whipping when he came in.

'Now repeat to us,' said one of the



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