

ABOUT THE BASUTO PEOPLE

The History, Manners and Habits of a Tribe of South Africans of which much is Heard.

We have heard so much lately about the Basutos that probably a brief pen picture of this interesting South African tribe and its peculiarly interesting country and manners will be acceptable. No one was surprised to hear, when the Boers invaded Natal, that the Basutos wished to wipe out old scores by attacking the Boers of the Free State, towards whom they harbor anything but the kindest of feelings. Then, again, those who know the Basutos of old and their weakness were not greatly astonished to learn the possibility of their yielding to the wiles of their little enemies and joining in the crusade against British supremacy. Basutos can be bought over like other people, and only a man like Sir Godfrey Lagden, the commissioner, could hope to succeed in keeping them in check.

The Basutos were first formed into a single tribe by a chief named Moshesh about 1818. In 1822 they fought against the British, and were defeated, but their country was not annexed. From 1856 to 1868 they were continually at loggerheads with the Orange Free States, and were only saved from destruction by taking them under British protection. In 1871 Basutoland was annexed to Cape Colony, but that did not suit the natives, who subsequently rebelled (1879-80), the end of the pother being that the Imperial government took over the country and an annual subsidy of £18,000 from Cape Colony towards the cost of administration. The territory is governed by a resident commissioner for South Africa, but the chiefs adjudicate on cases between natives, with a right of appeal to the magistrates' court.

Not of a population of over 250,000 only about 600 are whites, who either fill government appointments or are traders. White traders or settlers are at present only allowed in the country on sufferance. If a man desires to start a store, or "winkel," he must first make friends with the chief of the district, for, if the chief refuses, the would-be trader will have to remain a would-be. Basuto chiefs have their price, like most other folks, and if they have a particular weakness it is for a well-bred horse or bull. Once the trader has opened his store he is particularly a monopoly of the trade of his district. There are only about 70 of these stores throughout the country, so it goes without saying that they must do fairly well.

The life of the Basutos is fairly interesting in many respects. The country has been termed the granary of South Africa, and it might more amply justify the title if the natives were endowed with a little more perseverance and up-to-dateness. With the exception of the mountainous re-

gions, the country from end to end is dotted over with patches of grain—wheat, oats, barley, mealies and Kaffir-corn. The methods of cultivation, however, are primitive to a degree. Women are largely employed in the fields, and oxen are yoked to the plows. The furrows are very shallow, and when once the seed is sown, the rest is left to nature. As a result, the crops generally are about one eighth of what they ought to be. The roads of Basutoland are unutterably wretched, and there isn't a bridge in the whole of the watered territory.

There is a widespread belief that gold exists in paying quantities in various parts of Basutoland, but thorough prospecting has never taken place, simply because the natives will not allow it. Diamonds too have been found, and at least one chief wins his own coal from a seam within his district. But as for the white man entering the country and revealing its mineral wealth—"No, no, no," cries the Basuto. Whether the underground treasures will always remain hidden one cannot say.

The one common failure of the average Basuto man is laziness. While their women folk are laboring in the fields, they prefer to drink "itjwala" (Kaffir beer) and gossip and smoke, or care about mady on their fleet Basuto ponies. Very little of the cultivation of the soil is done by the men. With their babies strapped across their backs—and every woman seems to possess a baby—the woman will often remain in the fields from daybreak till afternoon. Physically the Basuto is almost the equal of a Zulu. He is honest and straightforward, and hospitable to strangers. That he is a noble warrior, as well as a brave one, is proved by the fact that the Basuto war was not marked by any terrible atrocities and the slaying of helpless settlers such as were common in the campaigns farther north and east.

As to the future of Basutoland there are two courses open—re-annexation to Cape Colony, or the continuance of the present system. Both alternatives have strong re-annexation and the privilege of settling on this fertile and well-watered land; but one great objection to this would be the introduction of alcohol, which is now prohibited. On the other hand, many people would like to watch the experiment of the Basutos working out their own salvation, aided simply by the missionary and education and there is no reason to doubt a successful result. The climate is good, the land is fertile and held in common; the gold-seeker and land grabber are rigidly excluded, and, in short, all the conditions tend towards the building up of an ideal country—a happy commonwealth.



THE BANK OF AFRICA IN JOHANNESBERG.

A Notable piece of Architecture in the Gold City.

THE HUNGRY "TOMMIES."

Of all that I saw of the process of occupation nothing affected me so much as the great parade of the majority of Lord Roberts' troops on the next morning—that of Wednesday. All the men had enjoyed a most unusual wash, and showed shiny faces and unwontedly clean hands, but their suits of khaki were so stained and discolored and their accoutrements were so worn and battered that at first I feared the townsfolk would not fully appreciate the fact that they were washed

ENTERIC FEVER RAVAGES

One of the Many Enemies to Be Battled with by Our Island Boys.

The frightful ravages of enteric fever among the empire's troops in South Africa, as told in the tales sent in from headquarters in the despatches, are extremely appalling and painful to hear. More men have been swept into the jaws of death by this fell disease than have fallen by the deadly Mauser bullet or gone into the hands of the enemy to break stones at Pretoria. Many a poor recruit who has gone out to far off points seeking glory on the battlefield or possibly death in war has "bitten the dust" lying in his bed, after fighting many an imaginary battle in moments of delirium while a victim of typhoid fever. Enteric is merely a substitute in name for the only too well known household word "typhoid."

Great as are and have been the fatalities in this way, their number must indeed be insignificant as compared with the companies of fighters who have been laid low with fever, but have escaped its ravages, or are now fighting a battle for their life with this treacherous foe. This can be substantiated by information from reliable sources in respect to the disease, which shows the mortality under ordinary conditions to be a very small percentage of those who are smitten. From a complication of figures it is added that about 12 per cent is the maximum of those who die by it. A report for 1899 from Brandon, Manitoba, lately published, shows that only three deaths occurred in that city out of 112 cases treated during the past year. The majority of the patients in ordinary life are shown to contract the fever between the ages of 5 and 25 years and as most of the Canadians at the front are near to the latter age or younger this may account for the large collection of victims from their ranks. The percentage of deaths from fever on a campaign carried on in an

enemy's country must necessarily be very large. Many of these will be owing to it being impossible for the patients to be furnished with the constant care their trouble so much requires and the difficulty in getting for them proper food and medicine. Others again are due to the fact that typhoid fever does not in all cases develop immediately it has been contracted, its workings are often insidious. This would mean that many men feeling unwell from its approach; but not knowing the real cause; while on the march would not ask to be invalided until in no condition for further movement. A condition wherein they would be subjected to great danger in travelling to the base, or have a slighter chance of recovery in putting up with the inconveniences in a temporary hospital near to the front.

The causes of the prevalence of the disease are not hard to find. Too many descriptions of camps pitched near and vigils carried through in the presence of exposed dead and putrid carcasses of men and animals have been penned from the scenes of war by able writers to require rehearsing. The scarcity of good clean water has also led to the use of liquid laden with deadly disease to slack the thirst. Even the lack of water for the purposes of removing the exhalations of the skin has no doubt tended to aggravate the trouble.

The Health Habit.

Just as Easy to Form as Any Other.

We do not deliberately form our pet habits, but they are unconsciously acquired and grow as we grow, and by the time we learn they are hurting us, we find them too strong to be easily broken.

Then, why not form a good habit, a habit which will counteract the many bad ones, in other words contract the unfashionable habit of being always well.

The best health habit to get into is to have and keep a vigorous stomach; if you have a healthy digestion you can drink your beloved coffee, smoke your favorite brand of tobacco, with little or no harm; the mischief begins when these things are forced upon the faithful stomach, without assistance.

Form the habit of taking after meals some harmless but efficient digestive which will relieve the stomach of so much extra work. Nature furnishes us with such digestives and when they are combined in such a pleasant preparation as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, they give the overworked stomach just the necessary assistance to secure perfect digestion without any of the harmful effects of cathartics and similar drugs.

The habit of taking Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after meals is as necessary to the weak stomach as food itself, and indeed to get the benefit from the food eaten, nothing safer can be used.

Many families consider Stuart's Tablets as essential in the house as knives and forks.

They consist entirely of natural digestive principles without the effect or characteristics of drugs; they have no cathartic action, but simply go to work on the food eaten and digested.

Take into account your bad habits and the expense they entail and then invest fifty cents in a box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and see if your digestion for the next month is not vastly improved.

Ask the clerk in any drug store the name of the most successful and popular stomach remedy and he will say "Stuart's."

TO FUMIGATE THE FRUIT TREES.

OTTAWA, April 24.—The Hon. Sydney Fisher has now completed all necessary arrangements for fumigation of fruit trees and other nursery stock, importation of which under certain conditions is now permitted by a recent amendment of the San Jose Scale Act. These conditions are that the trees shall arrive before the first

AT INSTANTANEOUS CROUP CURE.

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Right to the spot and gives instant relief. Thousands of mothers have thoroughly tested it for this dangerous and prevalent children's complaint. We can conscientiously say it has never failed to cure croup. Hundreds of mothers tell us that it has given their children great relief from Whooping Cough. Your little ones will cough much easier and less painful if Griffiths' Menthol Liniment is used. Full directions with every bottle. All druggists sell it, 25 cents.

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Here and there you may find a painter or who has not yet used that permanent, beautiful, fadeless, water-color wall coating for church frescos, but such cases are rare.

The sixteen beautiful tints (and white), that it is made in are all displayed on the little cards that we show them to you. Alabastine is ready to use with cold water and a brush. Coat over coat can be applied without removing the first one. It is never sold in bulk. For church frescoing it serves an ideal service, because it is a time, labor and money saver.



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of May and be properly disinfected by a Government official with hydrocyanic acid gas in specially prepared fumigating houses. This gas is intensely poisonous to all animal life, and to a less degree to vegetation. The dormant condition can be subjected to fumes for forty-five minutes without injury but all insect life will in that time be quite destroyed. When buds have burst and young growth has begun plants cannot be safely treated. It is for this reason, so as to prevent disappointment to Canadian growers, that the Minister of Agriculture has limited the time of importation this spring to the 1st of May, and it is his intention not to allow any extension of this time.

Owing to the late date at which the amendment was passed, it was impossible to make arrangements sooner, but there will be another season of two or three months next autumn when importations will be allowed. Those wishing to import trees or shrubs from the United States should do so immediately with the proviso when buying that the stock must be at one of the five open ports of entry for this material before the 1st May next. All stock which reaches Canada in an unfit condition to fumigate, namely, upon which new growth has begun, will be refused entry, and will be held at risk of shipper, who will be notified.

The only ports in Canada where these shipments will be allowed this spring, are Windsor and Niagara Falls, Ontario, Winnipeg, Manitoba, St. John's P. Q., and St. John, N. B. Fumigating chambers have been erected and equipped at all of these five ports of entry, and competent officials to unpack, treat and repack the goods have been appointed. Every care will be taken that the stock is in no way injured by treatment, but the Government takes no risk whatever in the matter. The Minister of Agriculture has made this concession at the urgent solicitation of a very large number of fruit growers, and will take every precaution in his power that no injury occurs.

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Sydney, C. B. C. I. LAGUE
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CHARLES PLUMMER.

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White Shirts

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Clara Rivers—Her Rival. Contralto Miss Amy Earle.

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