

# ST. HELENA'S LONELY ISLE.

## The Prison of Napoleon Bonaparte, General Cronje and His Boer Comrades.

St. Helena is a scowl upon the face of nature. Volcanic eruptions cast it up from the bowels of the sea. Thirty years ago a man who looked upon its frowning, natural walls of rock, rising sheer from the ocean, said: "To desire St. Helena for a possession would be like coveting a penitentiary or the Tower of London."

Cannon bristle from various shelves out into the rock, sweeping the sea wherever approach is possible. Napoleon, removed 4,000 miles from France, guarded at the little cluster of farmhouses called Longwood, learned in the six years he was upon the island what it means to be left alone—learned the significance in full of the old lines:

Oh, Solitude, where are the charms,  
That sages have seen in thy face,  
Better dwell in the midst of alarms,  
Than reign in this horrible place.

### ENGLAND'S SINCE CROMWELL'S TIME.

England has owned St. Helena since 1651—the days when Cromwell was. Joan da Nova, the Portuguese navigator, discovered the island May 21, 1501, and its first known resident was Fernando Lopez, who came there in 1513. He was a Portuguese of good family, who preferred being marooned to returning to Europe after the barbarous mutilation to which he had been subjected for some misdemeanor. Thus from the time of its first appearance on the charts of mariners St. Helena has been a place of tears. Early English travellers to the spot were Cavendish in 1588, Kendall in 1591 and Lancaster in 1593. The Dutch claimed the island from the Portuguese and were in control for a time, but abandoned it in 1651. The

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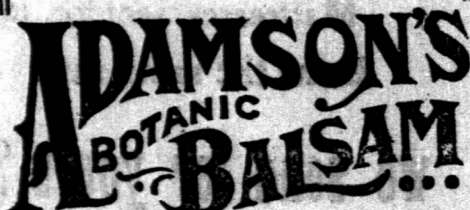
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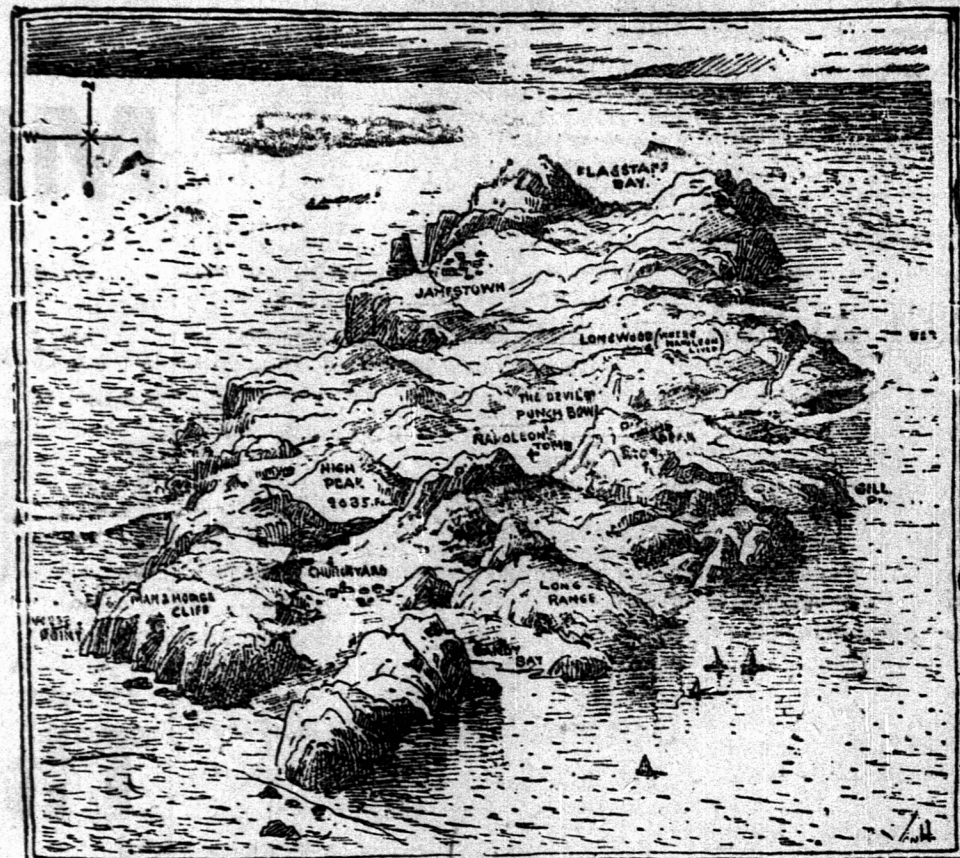
It heals the sore parts, tones up the irritated air passages and strengthens the bronchial tubes—thus stopping the sources of the cough.

AT ALL DRUGGISTS, 25c.

English East India Company immediately seized the island, but were twice driven out by the Dutch. Finally the East India Company was given undisputed title in 1673 and retained the same until 1834, when the English crown took possession. Slaves upon the island were made freemen in 1832 by the payment of \$104,000.

### ONCE PROSPEROUS COMMERCIALY.

Commercial prosperity was with the island until after the opening of the Suez Canal and its short cut to India. The island was popular until this event as a port of call. The revenues ran as high as \$0,000 a year, but have been greatly reduced since the opening of the canal. The population is yearly decreasing, being less than 5,000 now. This population consists of government officials, of old established residents called "yamstalks," of somewhat composite origin, European



Bird's Eye View of the Island of St. Helena.

and Asiatic, and of the descendants of negroes landed from the West African slave ships subsequent to 1840. The only town is Jamestown, 3,000 population, lying in a deep valley on the northwest coast. The English garrison is at Ladder Hill, close by Jamestown. The name Ladder Hill comes from the almost precipitous ladder-like wooden stair by which its height of 600 feet is scaled. Longwood, where Napoleon died in 1821, is a cluster of fern houses in an elevated plain (2,000 feet high) about three miles from Jamestown.

There might be much written of the natural character of St. Helena, but the end has been reached. Created out of the passions of Mother Earth, it has become famous as a confinement for the passions of defeated, ambitious men. For nature and man it has become the antithesis of activity—the keeper of more ruins than those classified under the head of volcanic.

"Could you have sacked London?"

He answered:  
"Able was I ere I saw Elba."  
This is considered to be the best palindrome in the language. Another of note is the first observation of Adam to Eve:  
"Madam, I'm Adam."  
A third of note is:  
"Snug and raw was I ere I saw war and guns."

### NAPOLEON'S HABITS.

Napoleon walked day after day in front of the house at Longwood. His head was bowed, the familiar cocked hat was over his forehead, his hands were folded behind his back. He rarely looked up. He never spoke if he could avoid it. His mind appeared to be wholly retrospective in its workings. There was no future to him save death. But one day he said to Bertrand: "What frightful punishment; they have put me where I cannot forget myself, where I must think of the past. This is English mercy." Perhaps he judged too hard; perhaps he deserved what was given him. But the melancholy of the years he spent on the island is inseparably a part of the island itself. His shadow is met at every turn. The lesson that all is vanity is written upon the path he walked, upon the walls of the room in which he slept, upon the ceiling his eyes looked up to as life left him, on the crater rim over whose edge ages ago ran the fires from within, only to cool to sullen masses, cold, useless nature pictures of despair.

a coaling station. The garrison consists of a battery of Royal Artillery and one company of infantry. When Gen. Cronje's captured men are taken there with him its effect upon the diminishing population of the island may be salutary. The climate is all that could be desired and the longevity of those who remain there is great. It is not probable, though,



NAPOLEON'S RESIDENCE AT LONGWOOD, ISLAND OF ST. HELENA.

that the Boers, accustomed to the sweep of the veldt, the freedom of the Drakensbergs, will find the spot congenial. They will feel themselves confined, and homesickness, that most dreadful of mental diseases, settle upon them. For St. Helena under any and all circumstances is lonesome. There is liquor to drink and abject negroes to abuse and a questionable population of women to gaze upon, but when all this is exhausted there is nothing left but the rim of the crater and the boundless, unchanging ocean beyond.

Facing this, the Boer, not accustomed to restraint, will find his punishment worse than death upon the battlefield or refusal, until the guns had done their final work at Paardeberg to surrender.

## Offer Protectorate to the United States.

LONDON, April 4.—It is interesting just now to hear Boer opinion on the present turn of affairs in the South African campaign. There are two distinct sides to the question at present. The first is that the Boers are undismayed. They can go on fighting and will never surrender—that is, to the British. Their hatred of the British, it is asserted, is unending, and they will rather trek away than submit.

But there is another side that puts a very different complexion on the matter. That is nothing less than that the Boers consider the time has come when it is not possible for them, unaided, to resist further, or, at all events, that is the inference placed on the statement that the Boer commissioners, who will arrive in Europe probably on Monday next, are empowered to offer a protectorate over the Transvaal to the United States.

The idea which underlies the proposition is that one of the greater republics, or—as the Boer says, "the greatest of the republics"—should protect the two small republics in South Africa. That is why preference would be given to the United States over Germany.

The Boers are now speculating very seriously as to how America will take the proposition, which is President Kruger's own special idea, and which is not lacking in indication of his usual subtlety and acumen.

## A Princess Robbed

LONDON, April 3.—The Princess of Leiningen, while visiting Liverpool last week, with her husband, Colonel Atkinson, for the races, lost jewellery valued at about £5,000, which was stolen from her bedroom in the Adelphi Hotel. The safe in which the jewelry had been deposited was forced during her absence.

## HEART HUMBAG.

It is fashionable to day to have a new heart scare every 24 hours. The commonest symptoms of dyspepsia or nerve trouble, such as palpitation, weak spells, loss of appetite and poor circulation, are magnified and distorted into serious signs of heart trouble, with the object of frightening the public into taking this or that heart remedy. If a hundredth part of the heart trouble we hear about were real, the cemeteries would be filled in a month. A wrong construction is put upon common ailments in order to humbug the people into the belief that heart disease is prevalent, where as real heart trouble, which is so sadly and suddenly fatal when it does occur, is a rare disease. Lopsided arguments cannot convince an intelligent people. Iron is a vital element of the blood. Too little iron means weakness, lack of spirits, pallid cheeks, shortness of breath, sleeplessness, nervousness, loss of vital force, ending in general break down. The iron in Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills is in the soluble form you need, in combination with other curative agents in such a manner that disease can't resist their action. You feel yourself getting well when you take Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills.

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NAPOLEON AND CRONJE—The Fortunes of War.

NAPOLEON'S PALINDROME. Napoleon was guilty of a palindrome when at St. Helena. This has been one of the aids to keeping the island upon the maps. A palindrome is a line that reads alike backward and forward. Napoleon was pacing under a lone tree of Longwood when he was approached by an Englishman, who asked him.

was then removed to France. A slab still marks the place where the body first was, and travellers who come infrequently throw flowers upon this in memory of the man who changed the map of Europe in the twinkling of an eye.

ST. HELENA'S PRESENT USE. The Cape and West African squadrons of the English navy now use St. Helena as

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