

HOW PIET THE BUGLER WAS CURED.  
BY MRS. CAREY-HOBSON.

In the early part of the present century, about ten years after the Cape of Good Hope had become subject to English rule, and the scantily-peopled colony had suffered considerably through wars with the natives of Kaffraria, a chain of strong military posts was erected on the frontier, in order to keep the Kaffirs in check as much as possible, as well as to serve as places of refuge in times of war for the families and cattle of the otherwise unprotected farmers.

The little incident I am about to relate I heard from an old Gona Hottentot woman, who used to come into Fort Beaufort sometimes from the Kat River settlement.

The old woman was very garrulous, and generally prefaced her stories with "You see Master Charles, I was in the Cape Corps myself; I was brought up in it, for my father was a Cape Corps man, and so was my uncle, and afterward my husband and my boys; but I was going to tell you about my uncle's boy."

"He was always so clever about music; he could whistle pretty tunes through a wheat stalk, and then he made flutes out of the reeds that grew in the river; but one day he got into trouble, for he cut off the end of my uncle's long bamboo whipstick; and though he made a very fine flute, and lots of people said it was as good as one of the band instruments, still he spoiled the whip and got a whipping for it. But he kept his flute, and when the officers heard him play they told the band-master (I think it was) to make a bugler of him. How proud he was! He soon learned all the bugle calls and notes, and played beautifully; but he got spoiled, and too fond of drink. First one would give him a glass of Cape brandy, then another, and so on. Oh, Master Charlie, when you're a grown up gentleman, don't you never give people glasses of drink to pay them like for things they do; if you haven't got no money to give them, it's better to give them nothing at all than what ruins them body and soul."

"At last Piet was getting to be quite a drunkard. He kept sober till after parade time, and managed the bugle all right every morning, but after that he was taking 'soopys,' or what the English soldiers call 'a drop o' drink,' all day long."

"One day Piet had been out with a party to get fire-wood for the mess kitchen. When the party were about half way, some one said, 'Where's Piet the Bugler?'"

"'Oh,' replied another, 'the lazy little Hottentot! He would not help with the wood, and I expect he's fast asleep on the wagon trap; he can curl himself up anywhere.'

"Piet was asleep, it was true, but not anywhere with the wagons. He had been having little sips of brandy out of a tin canteen that was slung across his shoulder for the purpose of holding water, and I suppose that and the heat together made him feel so drowsy that he thought he might as well lie down under a bush and sleep till the wood party were ready to go back to the fort."

"By-and-by, attracted by the scent of the meat that the men had been broiling on some stones made red-hot in the fire, a great lion came that way to see what he could pick up in the way of a late dinner."

"He did not find enough to satisfy him, but soon he began to sniff again. Surely he could smell something very good near by! He walked round and round again without making any noise, and at last he came upon Piet; he was lying flat on his stomach with his arms under his head."

"This lion thought he had found a rich treat when he came upon Piet. He walked all round him, and smelled him, and satisfied himself that he was alive, for a lion never takes dead game; and then he thought he

would take this delicious morsel off to his lioness and her two young cubs at home. So, to balance him as well as he could, he took him up about the middle, which happened to be by the waistband of his trousers, and walked off, holding his head up in the same way that a cat does when she is carrying a mouse that is rather larger than usual; but do what he would, Piet's feet at the one end and his arms at the other would keep on knocking and touching the ground, and very soon this woke Piet up."

"At first Piet thought he was dreaming, then that one of the men was carrying him off to the waggon, and he called out to him not to pinch his back so awfully. Of course, he very quickly found out his mistake, for he saw the great paws of the lion, and the thought of the fate that was in store for him should he not escape from this monarch of the forest sobered poor little Piet the

tobacco bag, just where he had evidently laid down to sleep, and all round about were the traces of the lion's footsteps—or the 'spoor,' as it is called in South Africa. But after all, the best and most convincing proof of the truth of the story was that from that day forward nothing could induce Piet the Bugler to taste a drop of brandy."

"'No,' said Piet; 'the good Lord delivered me out of the lion's mouth, and the evil one himself shan't tempt me to taste Cape smoke agan.'—*Boy's Own Paper.*

THINGS TO BE AVOIDED IN TEACHING.

BY REV. GEO. H. PEEKE.

After twenty years in the ministry, and in the light of the present, I feel like speaking with some degree of confidence upon

Irreverence is another great evil to be shunned. The American people are known as an irreverent people. Sometimes we speak against formality, but formalities have a good side; they tend toward reverence. I am always impressed with the liturgies of any church where the people reverence their venerable forms. Some churches seem to regard the very stones and mortar as holy, and I feel sure that such regard is far safer than the careless spirit which has no respect for times or places. Our population is losing reverence for Sabbath, churches, and God's holy word. The teacher who handles God's word with a reverent air and manner, will impress his spirit upon his scholars, and lead them to a like spirit. The book will be regarded as God's own book, tending to light, and life, and salvation. Some preachers of the old school, retaining some of the reverence of our fathers, always close the public reading of the Bible saying, "May God add a blessing to the reading of his word." The effect is always wholesome.

Above all things, shun everything which excites or fosters doubts of the truth of God's message. Some begin to doubt God's word in order to avoid living to holiness. Young minds, full of hope and cheer, seem anxious at times to distrust the Bible and love to have doubts cast upon its claims. These claims curb a sinful life and bid one look forward toward judgment.

It is also wise to keep the proportion of truth, or to present in its force what God presents and as near as possible in its relative quantity. Certain truths have a large place in the Bible, others are mere hints. God, sin, redemption, new birth, heaven, hell, resurrection, and judgment, have a large place in the Scriptures, and he who would preach the truth must give them a like consideration.

Allied to this is that danger, at present too common, of pressing non-essential truth into prominence. What heaven will be, is not so essential as the fact that there is a heaven. While the Bible presses the fact of eternal punishment, it is not wise to speculate about a chance to repent after this life. What will become of the heathen world is with God. Our duty is to preach the gospel to men before us. Let any mind get far away from the Spirit of Christ, and the great stress of his truth, and immediately the gospel loses force. There is a great responsibility on teachers to be faithful to the gospel, reverent, wise to distribute to each scholar the apt and needed truth, and when earnest, he may confidently anticipate a rich harvest of spiritual fruit.—*Intermediate Teacher's Quarterly.*

ARE THERE any stories like the Bible stories? Make your children familiar with the Word of God. Let me remark that family worship in the morning is very helpful to the children. It is best to have it at both ends of the day, but at all events have it in the morning. The children go to school, and the school is just "the world" to them, where they have to face a great many difficulties. By bringing them to the throne of grace in the morning you will give them strength for the day. My own boy has told me that. If you have not been in the habit of having family worship with your children in the morning, have it, at any sacrifice of time or convenience.—*MacKeith.*

FIVE MEN who were formerly Brahmin priests are now engaged in Christian work in connection with the Santhal Mission in India.



AFRICAN LIONS STARTING FOR THEIR PREY.

bugler more effectually that anything had done for many a long day.

"What should he do? He would have liked to kick and shriek but he knew that if he did the lion would only take a firmer grip of his flesh, whereas at present he was being borne along principally by his clothes. He had no knife, but his bugle was still in his belt. He might summon help; he knew that it would be contrary to orders to sound the bugle-call at a wrong time, but the officers would forgive him, and some of his comrades might hear him and come."

"Toot, toot, toot, titu toot, toot! went the bugle's very shrillest tones."

"The effect was instantaneous; the lion stood still!"

"Toot, toot, toot, titu toot, toot, toot! as shrill and louder than the last."

"The lion had evidently never heard such unearthly sounds in his life, and he was terrified. He dropped his prey and bounded off to the woods!"

"Piet jumped up and ran in a contrary direction as fast as his legs could carry him, never stopping till he was safe inside the fort. Piet's adventure was discussed at the officers' mess that evening, and the next day a party set out to investigate for themselves and ascertain the truth of the tale."

certain things to be avoided by every teacher who hopes for success. I have seen some classes with teachers not very well educated, but very earnest, grow, and souls converted, and I have also seen classes dissolve under the teaching of educated men, for reasons which were afterward well ascertained. The times are full of peril, because of the attitude assumed by many toward truth and toward God's word.

First, be careful how you speculate upon God's word. To compare Scripture with Scripture, to unfold the meaning of words, to reach the mind of the Spirit, is all right; but to read into the Scriptures certain thoughts and alleged revelations which are entirely foreign to the great teaching and purpose of Scripture, is to speculate unto death.