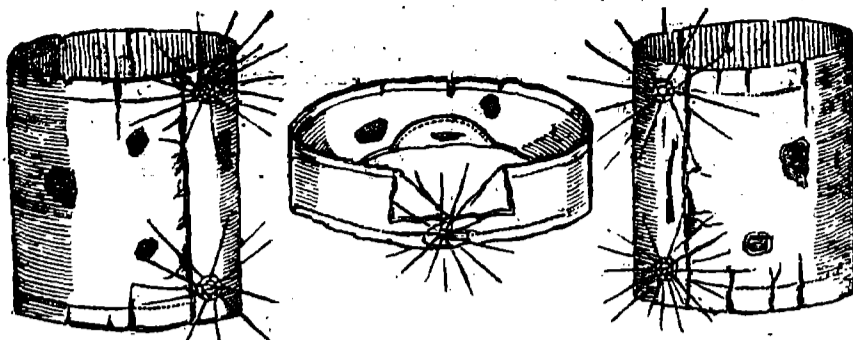


MISSION FIELD. SOUTH AFRICA.

The Rev. F. J. Atkin, Missionary at Kokstad in the Diocese of St. John's, Kaffraria, in a letter to St. Augustine's College, thus describes an adventure on his return from East Oriquatard: "I soon arrived at the Bashee River. It was full up, and rushing quickly and silently by—a broad stream of water. How was I to cross it? no boats, no bridge. A company of Cape mounted Rifles were encamped on the bank; they had been waiting some days for the river to go down. One of their number, who had obtained his discharge, and was in a hurry to get home to his friends, could not wait, but rode in, never to come out again. I did not relish the idea of waiting on a bank of a South African river for it to go down. With the aid of the officer in command of the C.M.R., and some Kapos, whom Canon Waters had sent to help me through, I crossed in this manner: first, all my belongings were made up into convenient bundles; Kapis then seized one each, and entering the river high up, held my bundles high above their heads, and trod water, walking across the river; only their heads and their arms, holding aloft my precious belongings, appeared above water. My horses were driven into the stream high up, and forced to swim across. I now stripped, and my clothes having been taken across in the above mentioned manner, I easily swam across, the natives being amused at my breast stroke, a way of swimming so different from their own. I soon mounted and after riding some six miles came to another river. On the other side Canon Waters and the Bishop were waiting to help me across, and I took off my lower garments and rode my horse over this nasty river; my horse just managed to keep his feet, and no more.

The Rev. W. G. Stead, of St. Peter's, Butterworth, in the same diocese, describes a similar experience. During a fearful storm I took refuge in a heathen kraal; the water dropped through the thatch, and there was not a dry place to be found. The roads were slippery and the country very rough; after descending a dangerous cutting, we found a river at the bottom and the wave was so high and the force so strong, that it was impossible to get through. My interpreter took off his clothes and tried to wade across, but could not withstand the current; he then attempted it riding one of the horses, but both were washed down the stream, and disappeared; I followed through the thick bush and over the big stones, and found he had saved himself by catching the bow of a tree. We succeeded also in rescuing the horse. During the night the river rose still higher, compelling us to remove our baggage with all haste; in the morning the flood subsided, and after another unsuccessful attempt the passage was effected.



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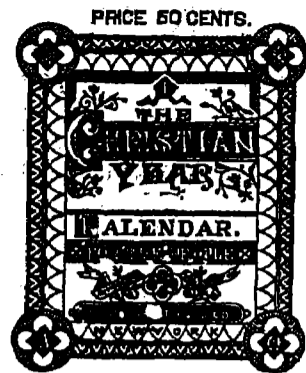
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