

them on their backs. In this fashion they travel from day to day, until they reach one of the depots.

AN AFRICAN SLAVE-MARKET

is not, perhaps, without a certain picturesque-ness of its own, but there is little room for such consideration in connection with the brutalizing traffic. The slaves, now that escape is hopeless, have their fetters knocked off, and are better cared for as the market day draws near.

At the larger depots many thousand slaves are "brought to the hammer," or otherwise sold to the highest bidder, the purchaser in the first instance usually being a slave merchant. Prices of course, vary very widely, but an able-bodied male slave usually sells for about 2,000 kauri shells. The bargain complete, the merchants attach themselves to some caravan, and set off with their "black ivory" to some more or less distant market nearer the boundaries of civilization.

Even the merchants, notwithstanding their investment in slaves, are scarcely kinder to them than their original captors. The slaves are again attached together by chains fastened to the heavy wooden collars they wear, and any who fall out of the ranks through weakness, are either left to die in misery, or—not, perhaps, unmercifully—shot down.

The suffering of the slaves on these long marches, are among the things that are hid. Description is certainly incapable of telling

THE FULL TALE OF HORROR.

It may, however, well be believed that they reach their climax, when to the daily horror of the march are added that terror of the desert, thirst. To march through well-watered country, however great the fatigue, is bearable; but the hapless slaves suffer untold and untellable agonies when they have to walk through the hot sand of the Great Desert.

The distances from well to well are so great, that many die by the way, and some, even though just able to reach the drinking place, sink down and die before they can touch the water with their lips. Even at such a supreme moment their captors or masters show them no mercy, doing little or nothing to help them, while, if unable to start when the caravan is ready, they are either shot or left to die of hunger. For many weary miles the way is

marked by the bleaching bones of the victims of this crying evil of the nineteenth century.

Mr. John McCormack, Magundy, N. B., writes :—I was taken sick last winter, the doctors pronouncing my trouble dyspepsia, aggravated by a general weak turn of my constitution. I doctored and took patent medicines for three months, but got no better, and was unable to work. I then began to taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after taking less than three boxes, I was able to do a full day's work, and never felt better. For a worn-out constitution, there is nothing to equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I cheerfully permit you to use my name for the benefit of suffering humanity.

CURIOUS AFRICAN CURRENCY.

A Partial List of Oddities in Circulating Medium—Brass Rods, Kaori Shells, Metals, Salt, Cloth, Beads, and their Purchasing Powers.

Among the obstacles to be met with in missionary and commercial enterprises in Africa, and more especially by the traveller, is that of being provided with money for the transaction of business with the natives. The principal difficulty is in obtaining the right kind of money. There is not one object on earth that would pass as a medium of exchange throughout the length and breadth of Africa.

The population of Africa is split up into numberless tribes and tribelets, each one of which in almost every instance has a medium of exchange of its own, and recognizes no other in its dealings with strangers.

Of all coined money the Maria Theresa dollar has by far the largest circulation in Africa. Its territory extends from Fetz in Morocco down to that London of the Soudan,

THE GREAT TRADE EMPORIUM, KANO, and thus comprises more than one-third of the whole of Africa, about 4,000,000 square miles, with a population of 70,000,000, but even in this coin there are differences.

In 1887, when the English started on their expedition to Abyssinia, they carried with them a goodly supply of bright, new Maria Theresa dollars, coined for them in Vienna, but this coin met with a well-defined mistrust on the