

Letter From a Former Resident of This City Now Resident in Cape Town-Novelties in That Far-Off City-Picturesque Scenes and Incidents-Cecil Rhodes Sized Up-Johannesburg Gold Craze-Thousands of Workers Flock In-Many Will Be Disappointed.

Town, South Africa, Dec. 25, 1895.

To the Editor of the "Advertiser": I hope you will pardon me for trespassing on your space with an account of some of the principal features of this portion of what is commonly call-

as being of interest to some of your whom I have not the opportunity of

corresponding individually.

I have now been a resident of Cape Town for eight months, during which Town for eight months, during which period the autumn, winter and to twenty feet in height, and when Year dinner with the mercury below pleasure at 80 degrees above, in the shade. The change from one season to another here is so gentle that it is hardly perceptible, so that no very

great changes take place in the weather such as you experience in Canada, though warm and heavy underwear is worn during the eight months of the year just passed. The peculiarity of the winter season is that heavy rains fall on an average two days during each week, and snow was seen on the top on Table Mountain last July. It has never fallen in Cape Town that I have heard of, and
FROST IS UNKNOWN HERE.
In short, the climate of Cape Colony

is a warm and dry one, except between 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. in winter along the sea coast, when the clouds lower and mist falls; and the average number of rainy days in Cape Town in a year is about 86. South Africa during the balance of the year is a the full extent of his privilege, though land of sunshine, fine, buoyant air, he is, as a rule, very lazy, and is kept blue skies and agreeable temperature. by his wives, so that the more he is heat is about 68 degrees, and in winter the mean temperature is 56 degrees. The difference between summer and winter temperature is necessarily much greater up country than down here on the coast. I have not yet ex-perienced the heat of a South African summer, but from what I have learned, I should say it is very similar to your own, but, of course, much dryer, the country being without rain frequently for more than two months

during that season.

I will not say much with reference to the trip from England to the Cape, which is a delightful one, with the exthe royal mail lines, the Castle and Union, are equal to the best on the ines between New York and England, well appointed in every respect for their route, and the fare is first-class. A mail steamer of one of the above lines leaves London every Friday, calling at Madeira only, and reaching Cape Town in about seventeen days. An intermediate steamer of one of the above lines leaves London every Friday, calling at Las Palmas and St. Helena, and reaching Cape Town in about 22 days. There are also the steamers of the Clan Line, from Liverpool, and the British and Colonial Navigation Company, from every fortnight, the latter carrying the mails from England and

South Africa to Australia and India. Both passenger and freight rates from England are ENORMOUSLY HIGH.

Mountain, 4,000 feet in height, flanked on the left by Devil's Peak, 3,300 feet, of the civil service, an and on the right by Lion's Head, 2,100 careful preservation of those tradifeet, and Signal Hill, so called because from it the presence of steamers and to English society. We have a fine making for the bay, and which can sides smaller halls in Cape Town, and be seen twenty miles off, is notified to each suburb has its churches and the community below by means of the halls. The suburb I am in—Green international code of flags and a sema- Point-is only twenty minutes' walk phore. Little of the city can be seen from the deck of the incoming steamer beyond an indistinct collection of white the good old city hall at home. There buildings and the "tablecloth," that is peculiar feature for which all visitors look, and which comes on at uncertain intervals in the shape of a thin never idle, and anything and everyline of fleecy cloud just fringing the edge of the plateau of Table Mountain, increasing sometimes in volume until class) that I was ever in and tem. Much has been done by the municipality of Cape Town, through Engof footpaths, and the removal of the old Dutch stoeps, which project into now practically clear of obstruction, but on the other thoroughfares pedestrians have to resort to the middle of the road. The roads are not paved, of broken stones, well rolled in by an immense steam roller, which in dry wet season makes anything but an agreeable promenade for ladies with their white skirts. It was

DECIDEDLY AMUSING for me on my arrival here to find my-self compelled to resort to the middle produce and peddle it from house t of the road and spend my time watch- house. There are no politics in the that I was not run down by some he hundreds of reckless drivers of hansoms, four-wheelers and carts, which convey people to and from. Latterly the city magistrate has been Latterly the city magistrate has been imposing fines as high as £50 for reckless driving, with a salutary effect. streets of Cape Town are laid t right angles to each other, and are lighted by gas and electricity. The principal ones, Adderley and St. George's, look like the best modern American business streets, and are adorned with handsome buildings, such as the new postoffice (costing £180,000), the railway station, Standard Bank of

----Coleraine Lodge, Green Point, Cape ford & Co., and J. Garlick's mammoth drapery stores. St. George's (high church) Cathedral, with its magnificent organ, Bank of Africa, besides innumerable large wholesale and retail stores. At the top of Adderley street, and apparently just at the foot of Table Mountain, which seems to overhang them, making a beautiful picthis portion of what is commonly call-ed the "Dark Continent," such as can be touched upon in a short letter, and the Parliament buildings, erected, I think, about ten years ago, at a cost of a little more than £200,000; Government House, Government avenumerous readers, and especially to my friends in and around London, with my friends in and around London, with comprising fourteen acres of ground. This garden is beautifully kept and contains thousands of varieties of trees and plants, embracing

RARE PRODUCTIONS. spring seasons have come and gone. I look upon them admiringly, I always The seasons come in reverse order here think of the small plants so many of us have tried to rear in pots in Canto those in Canada, consequently, while you may possibly be eating your New grown in Canada. I do not know of a single plant grown in Canada that is not found Year dinner with the mercury below here growing in gardens the whole zero, I will be engaged in the same year round, and the herbarium in connection with the Botanical Gardens is connected by correspondence and ex-changes with the most important gar-dens in Europe, America and Australia. Trees are not found in such variety, the principal ones being the oak, fir and blue gum.

The population of Cape Town in 1891 was as follows: White, 25,393; Malay, 8,255; Hottentot, 311; Fingo, 69; Kaffir, 554; mixed, 16,669; total, 51,251. But, of course the whites have greatly increased since that census was taken. The Malay women (a very pretty peo-ple) are the most noticeable on the street, on account of the bright colors worn by them. They wear the wide skirt of about twenty years ago, and deck themselves out in the brightest colored silks and satins, wearing instead of a hat or bonnet a silk ker-chief over the head. It is lawful for

by his wives, so that the more he is married the easier it is for those who support him. However that may be. the women do not kill themselves with work, either, for they all seem to be the happiest and most contented people on earth on the pay of two or three plenty of money at that, to celebrate weddings in silks and satins, driving about in elegant four-in-hand turn-outs. Some of them are well provided with this world's goods, but they all vie together, and those living from hand to mouth enjoy as good a life as the wealthy. I could write you a letter on the ways of these happy a very imperfect conductor of heat, without taking a morsel of food.

Cape Town proper is merely a place of business and boarding houses, except in the vicinity of the Gardens, where there are many beautiful villa residences. Nearly all the retired and business people live in the many beau-tiful suburbs which surround us—Sen Point, Green Point, and from Woodstock to Simuns Town (the naval sta-tion), a distance of 30 miles, being a line of pretty spots to reside in. The near suburbs are connected with the city by a steam railway, as well as by horse cars, and the rails have nearly all been laid for the purpose of transforming the latter into an electric system. This is being dor BY AMERICAN CAPITAL,

which is found all over the world wherever there is a show of making a good thing out of it, as is the case in this instance. Social life in the suburbs is very enjoyable, and we en-A first class passage costing 40 guineas. When Table Bay is reached, Cape stated that the distinctions of caste exist to the same extent as in Ottawa, from it the presence of steamers and ships either passing for other lands or theater and very large music hall, bephore. Little of the city can be seen from the deck of the incoming steamer pal hall of much finer appearance than pal hall of much finer appearance than

half or the whole of the mountain is a week passes without bringing a obscured, while the sky around is blue and perfectly clear of clouds. The England. Fortescue and her company decks of this city, the Liverpool of are now at the Grand, and other noted South Africa, are well worth referring actors and actresses are constantly to. Up to a few years ago a million coming and going. On the other hand, expended on their construction. They are efficiently lighted by the Anglo- and the leading bodies have large and comfortable churches to worship in. St. Andew's Presbyterian, of which years, to improve and beautify the It has a large and wealthy congreat a salary of £500 each. The church the road, impeding pedestrian traffic, have received special attention. The has a £700 pipe organ and is a very footpaths of the principal streets are MODE OF LIVING, it is much the same as exists in your

larger cities, but more expensive. Vegetables are purchased from cart but are covered with a thick coating drivers at the house at about the same price as you pay, with the exweather makes a fine road, but in the as expensive as your first strawberries. The beef and mutton is choice, but is slightly more expensive than but is slightly more expensive than in Canada. We have a good market in Cape Town, but it is principally Cape, though what has been called the South African Political Association has recently formed as a first step in that direction. The principal object of that association is to bring sufficient pressure to bear on the Government as to get them to reduce the import duty on the necessaries of life and to impose an excise duty on spirits, as there is none at present, while there is an import duty of more than 200 per cent on coal oil, of which not one gallon is produced in South Africa. The import duty on all breadstuffs is proportionately high, but I only detail the oil case to show you South Africa, Heynes, Matthew & Co., the necessity for the existence of the new six-story drug establishment, the Dutch Reformed Church (which seats 4,000 people), Board of Executors' of-out" here, or "Government" and "Op-African Banking Corporation, position." At present it seems to be offices, Messrs. Thorne Sintra- with that great Bismarck (misno

A Londoner in Africa as leader of the Dutch of Africa, as leader of the World Handing to the lion standing over the latter, which is the plants belonged, came into the room and immediately exclaimed, "Oh, with a fire partly lighting up the figure, until a couple more donkeys broke by rail, after having hunted around here for gold which they had been told could be picked up in the streets, and the lion standing over the latter, which is the plants belonged, came into the room and immediately exclaimed, "Oh, with a fire partly lighting up the figure, and the lion told could be picked up in the streets, and the lion the look at my tulips; see how they are growing." Polly at once u import duties on the necessaries of life and coal oil (which they dispense with by burning home-made candles) and breadstuffs, though they do not produce more than one-half the supoly which the colony demands, and they, holding the balance of power, get what they ask for. Mr. Rhodes is not looked upon here as a statesman. but more as a shrewd manipulator of men and an amalgamator of interests in his own interest. This accounts for his rapid accumulation of wealth, which is variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty million pounds sterling. Just a word as to the influx of people. It is estimated that Johannesburg, the Golden City of the Transvaal Republic, to the north of us, is growing in population at the rate of 5,000 per month. Six years ago it was tralia have been crowded ever since yours, etc.,

and not finding it. These fortune hunt-ers are arriving too fast for the re-quirements of the country, and I believe hundreds are penniless in the Republic and unable to find employment. Such being the case, it is a shame that they should be encouraged to come out to the gold fields. Shortly that Republic will be face to face with the question of a most deplorable state of the unemployed. I firmly believe, however, that this is a good country for the man of some means and business ability. His chances of making a big income on his capital are excellent. I like the country and its people, and have no hesitation in saying that in legitimate business money can be made faster here than in Canada. I thank you, Mr. Editor, for your kindness in giving me so much space, and I will take this opnothing; today I believe it has a population of 136,000 souls. The steamers many friends in Western Ontario the from England and some from Australia of the season I am, the season. I am THOS. MOFFATT.

## Animal Curiosities.

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**STORIES ABOUT** 

Bears and Their Snow Houses. Man Put to Flight by Crows. The Wonderful Bell Bird. A Parrot That Could Speak Fluently. Very Bold African Lions.

MAN AND BEAST. It was a cold winter's night, and the children sat around Uncle George's nees, near the blazing fireplace, listening to him read and relate stories. We are told by experienced travelers in northern climes, said Uncle George, that nobody need to be frozen to death in the snow. There is no need of a constitution specially organized or sedulously acclimatized to the snow; the benighted traveler who loses himself in the white expanse, with the heavy flakes falling thickly around him, need not possess the hard-lhood of a Highlander, who cares for no covering save his plaid, and looks upon a snow pillow as an effeminate uxury. He who finds himself in such a position, and knows how to avail himself of the means around him, will welcome every flake that falls, and instead of looking upon the snow as an enemy, whose white arms are ready to inclose him in a fatal embrace, he hails the soft masses as a means of affording him warmth and safety.

Choosing some spot where the snow lies deepest, such as the side of a bank or a tree or a large stone, he in which he can lie, and wherein he is sheltered from the freezing blasts himself in his garments, he burrows his way as deeply as he can, and then lies quietly, allowing the snow to fall upon him unheeded. The extemporized cell in which he reclines soon begins to show its virtues. The substance in which it is hollowed is ception of three or four days while at and near the equator, when the heat is very oppressive. The steamships of the round area of the steamships of the round area of the steamships of the round area of the round area. longer swept off by the wind, but is conserved around him, and restores warmth and sensation to his limbs The hollow enlarges slightly as th body becomes warm, and allows its temporary inhabitant to sink deeper into the snow, while the fast-falling flakes rapidly cover him, and obliter-

ate the traces of his presence. There is no fear that he should be stifled for want of air, for the warmth of his breath always keeps a small passage open, and the snow, instead hole, round which is collected a mass of glittering hoar frost, caused by the congelation of our breath. There is fear now of perishing by frost, for the snow cell is rather too hot than too cold, and the traveler can sleep as warmly, if not as composedly, as in his bed at home.

The use of snow as a warm mantle to protect the young crops from the frost is familiar to all. Some of us have seen, and we have nearly all read of, the wonderful scenes that take by the wayward tempest. After such storms as raise these strange mock-eries of rugged landscape, whole flocks of sheep are missing, and must be sought by the shepherd and his faithful dog.
As the two allies press onward in

their quest, they walk at random, for the snow masses have swept over hill and dale, have obliterated all the well-known landmarks, raised hills where hollows had been, and have changed the face of nature. Left to simself, the shepherd would scarcely very predicament from which he seeks to rescue his woolly charge. Were it not for the instincts of the quadruped many a flock would be lost, the dog sniffs and runs about, raises his nose in the air, as the well known odor salutes his nostrils, and finally dashes forward and comes to a finally dashes forward and comes to a standstill over a little hole in the snow. around which is gathered a slight incrustation of hoarfrost. This is a sure indication that the sheep are below, and still living, and then the shepherd breaks through the roof of the snow cell with his pole, and rescues the starving animals from their perilous

position.

The sheep which are thus pres from the effects of the cold do not voluntarily burrow into the snow, and their presence there is quite acci-dental. Striving to avoid the chilling blasts of the wind, they crowd toward any object that may shelter them from the cruel tempest, and while huddled together, the snow drifts are heaped around them and cover them effectualundiscovered for too long a period, after having nibbled all the wool from

But the white bear intentionally places herself in such a position, we G. Wood, and toward the month of December retreats to the side of a rock, where, by dint of scraping and allowing the snow to fall upon her, she forms a cell in which to reside. Within this strange nursery she produces her young, and remains with them beneath the snow until the end of March, when she emerges into the outer air, bringing with her the baby bears, who are then almost as large as ordinary rabbits. As the time passes on, the breath of the family, together with the warmth exhaled from their bodies, serves to enlarge the cell, so that in proportion with their increasing dimensions, the accommodation is in-creased to suit them. As is the case with the snow-covered sheep, the hidden bear may be discovered by means of the little hole which is made by the warm breath, and is rendered more distinguishable by the hoarfrost which

every polar bear. None of the males trouble themselves to spend so much time in a state of seclusion, and as the only use of the retreat is to shelter the young, the unmarried females roam freely about during the winter months. The habit of partial hibernation is common to most, if not to all true bears, and we find that the white bear of the polar regions, the brown bear of Euroue, and the black bear of Northern America agrees in this curious habit. Before retiring into winter quarters the bear eats enormously, and driven by an unfailing instinct, resorts to the most nutritious diet, so that it be-comes prodigiously fat. In this condition it is in the best state for killing, as the fur partakes of the general fullness of the body, and becomes thick and sleek, as is needful when we consider the task which it has to perform.

During the three months of her seclu-

sion the polar bear takes no food, but exists upon the store of fat which has been accumulated before retiring to her winter home. A singular phenomenon may be observed in many of the hi-bernating animals, but in the bear it is more remarkable from the fact that scoops out with his hands a hollow, she has not only to support her own existence, but to impart nourishment to her offspring. It is true that in orthat scud over the land. Wrapping der to enable them to find sufficient food, they are of wonderfully small dimensions when compared with the parent, but the fact remains that the animal is able to lay up within itself so large a store of nutriment that it can maintain its own life and suckle its young for a space of three months

VENEZUELA'S BELL BIRD. The present Venezuelan boundary dispute has been so widely discussed and written up that considerable attention 's being given by most of the civilized world to a country hitherto almost unnoticed. One happy result of the wrangle has been the knowledge of the bird, animal, fish and plant life in this little republic, which has thus become suddenly worthy of acquisition. The birds particularly are extremely beautiful in plumage, Many are singers of wonderful compass and possess notes as voluble and ver-varying as our own mockinghird.

One bird that is perhaps entitled to the place of the most striking vocal artist is the bellbird. Strange in other ways besides his voice, he is, too. His spotless white coat, his tall black horn or crest that rises just back of the bill, and his fond clinging to the ground except when frightened into flight, makes him distinguished, The horn is only erected when he is excited, or calling at twilight. Piercing and loud, but sweet and full

as the deep motes of a harp, his vib-rant calls ring out over the silent woods. Well may the astonished hunter look about him for signs of a clear-ing and a mission chapel. It is just at sunset that these campaneros (bellbirds) ring out their gentle tones. The different birds seem to possess voices of varying depth, and the distances. long and short, serve to modulate and harmonize them all. For three or four miles you can hear the faint, respondiscover a single sheep, and in all sive rings, like echoes of the louder probability would find himself in the ones hard by. The great moras and ceibas stretch heavenward, and meet-ing overhead form grand arches of green that roof in the moss-tufted aisles of nature's cathedral. The traveler notes these, instinctively doffing his cap as the choir of sweet-singing jupubas and grosbeaks and Spanish warblers break out into a vast, deep-swelling vesper hymn, and over and through it all, like the chimes of some olden monastery, fall the silver ding-dong! ding! ding-dong! of los campaneros.

A SMART PARROT.

There was an old factotum in our family who used to sew for us and who occasionally spent several weeks at a time at the house. She was somesecond dear departed, was in the habit of calling him "my middle husband." Old maids she naturally did not approve of, remarking that they the only things not prayed for in the litany. The old woman was very deaf and much shouting was needed to make her hear. One day many vain efforts were made to induce her to do a par-ticular piece of work in a particular way, but she could not or would not see what was wanted, and at last in despair, the lady of the house rema ed to the nurse, "Oh, never when she's gone it must be altered.' remarked the parrot, in a loud, voice, "there's no fool like an old fool."

The parrot had on one morning been given a bath, or, in other words, the garden watering-can had been turned upon him, and he was placed in front of the fire to dry. There were two small kittens who also liked the warmth of the fire and who were sitting one on each side of the cage. The bird walked first to one side, and, looking down out of the corner of his eye, inquired, "Are you a good boy?"
Then he sidled across to the other
kitten "And are you a good boy?"

One day two children of our family visited the house, and when alone amused themselves by mischievously pulling up some tulips, which grew in

time elapsed before the owner of the tulips was made acquainted with all the particulars of what had happened.—Chambers' Journal.

BOLDNESS OF LIONS. South African lions are, beyond question, the boldest of all predatory animals, and those of Mashonaland are perhaps the boldest of all. During the night, their natural hunting-time, they attack draught animals or even men, within a few yards of the camp fires; and are a constant and serious danger to travelers in districts remote from the main track of traders. From the Zambesi, through Mashonaland, and north to the Limpopo, a chorus of complaints rises in the pages of recent travelers, whose cattle or followers have suffered from their attacks. Mr. Selous has recorded the pursuit of the post from Salisbury by a lion, and the loss of the mail bags, which the animal tore from the back of the pack horse. Mr. Millals, who crossed the Nuantsi River with a team of eight donkeys to draw his wagon, the oxen being left behind on account of the proximity of the "fly" country—lost three in one night by a lion attack carried out with the utmost contempt for human beings, whether white or black. He was awakened by the lion's roar, and almost immediately saw one of the tethered donkeys knocked over. It was not five yards from the fire, but in the darkness and dazzle of the fire he could not see the attacker. We knew instinctively that a lion had killed the donkey, and was standing over him not five yards from where we were, but it was hopeless to fire unless we saw something, or at least could make certain of his whereabouts.

This odd scene continued for some

ures, until a couple more donkeys broke loose. They rushed into a mealicated, and there the party heard the lion chasing first one donkey, and then the other, as excited and as little afraid as a dog chasing rabbits in a field of barley. "At every bound the lion emitted a subdued 'boo-uff' as his forelegs struck the ground, but the two did not go far. There was presently a loud souffle, a crack, and the sound of a heavy body falling; then all was still." The lion chased the third don-key round the camp, killed and ate it, and was next day shot by an ingenious trap, made by tying a rifle to posts and fastening a string to the trigger, when the lion struck when revisiting its "kill."

MAN PUT TO FLIGHT BY CROWS. An Ellenville, N. Y., dispatch says: Joseph Deyo, residing near Denning was attacked by an army of savage crows this morning and compelled to

run, after a severe fight with them. Deyo went to the woods at an early hour to do some chopping, and had scarcely begun work when he saw scores of the birds flying towards him. At first he paid little attention to them, but they continued to arrive in large numbers, and finally swooped down upon him, alighting upon his head and shoulders, and pecking him with their sharp beaks. The more Deyo fought and resisted the birds the more desperate and numerous they seemed to become, until an immense cloud over-shadowed him, and the sound of their cawing was deafening. At length, seeing that the birds were too numerous and active for him, Deyo dropped his axe and rushed, coatless and hatless, from the place, while blood issued from wounds the birds had made on his head and hands. He had to run some distance before he succeeded in freeing himself from his assailants en-

In company with a neighbor he returned to the spot and shot a nummoments, the actors being four or ber of the crows, frightening the rest five black men, two white men, a pony, seven live donkeys, and a dead one, became desperate through hunger.

## Missing Links

Gossip From Every Land Summarized for Busy Readers. 9888888

DIAMONDS have been discovered at in the morning, and by the time a man Nuilagine, in Northwest Australia.

ASIA is the most populous quarter of the globe; it is reckoned to contain

THIS year is the tercentenary of the birth of Descartes, the father of mod-ern metaphysical speculation.

THERE were two total eclipses of the sun in the year 1712 and two in 1889. This rare phenomenon, will not happen again until the year 2057.

BY MEANS of a recent invention the blind are enabled to write with facility, using the ordinary Roman alphabet. The invention is described as a hinged metal plate with square perforations arranged in parallel lines of which the stylus is moved in making the letters.

IT IS now said that the insignifitle during the recent war was partly due to their wearing a quantity of floss silk under their outer clothing as a protection against the cold. It is said to have acted in many cases as a bullet-proof shield.

ROGER BACON was the first to suggest the use of spectacles. When they came into use in Italy, about the year 1285, on the recommendation of Alescause it was thought such facial ornamentations would make them vain.

REV. DR. MUNRO GIBSON, o London, has accepted the nomination of the committee of the National Council or Free Churches of Great Britain for the presidency. In that capacity he will preside over the Free Church Congress, which meets at Nottingham next spring.

DURING a recent thunderstorm in Berlin an interesting effect on an electric train was noticed at night. All the electric lamps inside and outside time the lightning flashed, and the passengers remained a few minutes in complete darkness. Then the lamps

A FULL-BLOODED Sioux Indian girl, Miss Gertrude Simmons, of Deadwood, S. D., won the first prize in the freshman class oratorical contest at Earlham College, Richmond, Inc., a few days ago. She will represent the freshman class of the college in the State College contest to be held in Indianapolis shortly.

REV. DR. PATON has given £12,000 to the Presbyterian General Assembly of Australia, to be funded for the carrying on of missionary work in the New Hebrides, for many years the scene of his jabors as a Christian minister. While he lives, Dr. Paton will himself administer the fund, after his death the Assembly is to assume responsibility.

AMONG the ancients mourning was expressed by various signs—tearing their clothes, wearing sackcloth, laying aside ensigns of honor; thus Plutcity with Pompey, neither shaved his head, nor, as usual, were the crown or garland. Among the Romans a year of mourning was ordained by law for women who had lost their hus-

DR. BEDDOE said that there was a distinct relation between man's pursuits and the color of man's hair. An unusual proportion of men with dark, straight hair enter the ministry; red-whiskered men are apt to be given to sporting and horse-flesh, while the tall, vigorous blonde man, lineal descendant of the Vikings, still contrib-utes a large contingent to travelers and emigrants.

ACCORDING to recent statistical statements there are 3.064 languages spoken throughout the world-587 in Europe, 937 in Asia, 276 in Africa, and 1,264 in America. The library of the British museum is one of the most extensive in Europe, both in printed books, manuscripts and prints. Among the manuscripts is a copy of the Old and New Testaments, in four volumes, Theola, at Alexandria, in the fourth

or fifth century. WHEN S. R. Crockett, the novelist, was a student at Edinburgh University he lived on nine shillings a week, and lodged in the garret of an old an earthenware vessel. Just think, house. His life was vigorous, and there too, what an advance was made when a pot in the room, by the roots, after- is a trace of it still in his habit of man had inventive power sufficient to wards carefully replacing them. A rising before dawn. Mr. Crockett is make legs to his pot, so that it might little later Polly's master, to whom out of bed and at his desk before 5 stand alone. or without propoing up

his office he has done a day's work. Six hours' sleep is all he takes, and the long day from 10 in the morning to 11 at night is his own to do with as he pleases.

AMONG the presents sent by the Sultan to the Czar and Czaritsa was a piece of the Holy Cross, a relic belonging to the nation, which the Sultan had no right to give away. His other presents, a diamond-studded cigarette case for the Czar and a diamond necklace for the Czaritsa, seem rather worldly by its side.

CAPT. KIDD'S quadrant, or one of his quadrants, or at least an ancient quadrant bearing his name, is in the possession of a family at Rockland, Me. It is more than 200 years old and bears the name and address of the London maker. Pant of it of ivory, now dark brown with re. The name "Capt. Kidd" is engraved on the metal part of the in-

strument. . THE new Poet Laureate is a frequent visitor to Scotland, and is equally fond of the Firth of Clyde and the West Highlands. He has been met with on more than one occasion on a Clyde steamer, traveling with a considerable quantity of lug-gage and as brown as a berry, betokening a long sojourn in the land of mountain and flood.

A CRIMINAL suit against the lay rector for neglecting to repair the chancel of the parish church, probably the first suit of the kind brought in the present century, was instituted recently by the church wardens of St. Peter's Church, Derby, in the Consistory Court, The gentleman, who draws the tithes and enjoys the revenues of the church, pleaded guilty and was condemned to make the

TWO young Abyssinian princes, who were being educated at Neufchatel, in Switzerland, recently left their school and went to Italy, It was believed at first that they had been abducted by the Italian Government, but medical certificates of both Swiss and Italian doctors have satisfied the Swiss au-The boys could not stand the winter climate and were ordered home, and obtained permission from Italy to go to Erythrea. They will be kept at Massowah as guests of the Government till the fighting is over.

THE Pharmaceutical Journal states that in England a patient, under medical advice, had for some time been taking tablets of salol, when intestinal obstruction was set up and an operation became necesary, "On opening the body the intestine was found pack-This was probably due to the pressure used in forming the tablets. The more finely comminuted and closely packed an insoluble or difficulty soluble remedy, the easier it is absorbed by the system, and consequently substances like salol should never be given in tablet form.'

M. FLAMMARION, in the course of experiments on the radiation of spectrum colors, has made some interesting observations on sensitive plants. Four plants sown the same day, and of the same size, were placed under glass, excluding respectively all but the red, green, and blue rays, the fourth plant being under ordinary white glass. At the end of six weeks the "red" plant was twice as high as any of the others, the "green" came next, then the "white," while the "blue" had not grown the fraction of a cen-timetre. The red plant was healthy, but abnormally nervous, curling up at a breath. The plant kept under white glass, exposed to the ordinary sun rays, though third in the order of growth, was vigorous and stout.

A POTSHERD! That is such worthless thing-that is to say, in a material sense-but to the archaeological student it may be full of meaning. As Mr. Mercer expresses it: "As clay pots are relatively abundant in the metalless age of stone, and as one pot makes many sherds, coarse or fine, large or small, plain or ornamented, fortunately bedded in the charcoal cash heaps of the prehistoric cook, they have an extreme value for the archaeologist." Absence of potsherds in former sites of man's habitation might, mer sites of man's habitation might, with other indications or the want of them, show when primitive man did not know even how to make or bake an earthenware vessel. Just think,