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they are rather restless. The water is their element, and yet the old mother duck will sometimes choose for ber nesting place a spot more than 100 yards from any water; sometimes she will even choose the pollard willow, and how she conveys her young brood to the water is one of those problems of natural history which, like the euckoo's way of getting her egg into history of South Africa:

SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF.

Important Dates Connected With Colonial History.

The following are the dates of some of the more important events in the history of South Africa: cuckoo's way of getting her egg into wren's nest, will probably go on vex. Discovery of the Cape of Good ing till the end of time.
Often she will make her nest or lay

Often she will make her nest or lay her eggs in a spot that has, no cover. And yet no one can say that she is not an affectionate, even an over-anxious, mother. When you come near her nest and startle her off it she does not go away, as a wise woman would, stealthily, secretly, so as not to reveal to you ats existence, but with a flutter and a commotion and often with an affection of a broken wing, as if to lead you off in pursuit often with an affection of a broken wing, as if to lead you off in pursuit of her rather than leave you looking for her eggs, that tells you as plainly as if she had quacked it out: "I have a nest there; please do not go looking for it, but come and catch me; I have a broken wing."

She has only too many reasons for her over-anxiety. It is onite night.

She has only too many reasons for her over-anxiety. It is quite pitiful. She is a pitiful object herself, as she goes about in her lame fashion. But the real dangers that menace her young family are many and terrible. On shore, as soon as hatched, or even while still in the shell, they are the most attractive prey of rats, both gray rats and water voles, and no sooner do they take to the water than a hungry pike is looking out to gobble them up, or a heron is not at all above skewering one of them on his bayonet boak if it should come his way. So all these causes for anxiety more than excuse Mother Duck for her fussiness, even if there is no excuse for her habit of pitching her nursery tent in places that really do not seem good at first sight.

I ange river Boers. I Discovery of diamonds on the Lower Vaal river.

Bitish annex the Transvaal conquest of Zululand.

Retrocession of the Transvaal republic. Witwatersrand gold field discovered.

Witwatersrand gold field discovered.

British South African company founded.

The Transvaal war.

The Jameson raid.

The Transvaal war.

BIGGEST EXPLOSION.

A LOVER OF ANIMALS. Charles Kingsley seems to have loved every living creature around him, and he taught his children to respect even the most loathsome insects.

Mrs Kingsley tells how a family of runaway toads made their home in a hole of green bank at Eversley, and the sythe was never allowed to approach their retreat. He had tow

little friends in a pair of sand-wasps which lived in a crack of the window

Voung Folks.

NOTHER DUCKS.

The wild duck is apt to be rather queer as a mother. She often seems to have the most strange ideas about good places for the nursery.

It is necessary for the well-being of her babies that the nursery should be well-being of her babies that the nursery should be well-being of which came out of, or returned to, the same crack.

He petted the white stable cat and the black house cat, and sat up with a sick dog during the last two nights of its suffering life. Wherever he went he was followed about the parish by his faithful little Dandy Dinmont, whose intelligent face was always to It is necessary for the well-being of her babies that the nursery should be close by the water's side, for the little ones like to take to the water as soon as hatched. They have small use for the kand, except to rest on and they are rather restless. The water

SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF.

With says :-

The following are the dates of some history of South Africa: Hope by Bartholomew Diaz.

First appearance of the Dutch in South African waters. .

1838

ence of Transvaal and Orange river Boers.

Discovery of diamonds on the Lower Vaal river.

British annex the Transvaal Conquest of Zululand.

Retrocession of the Transvaal Convention of London with the Transvaal republic

Pure butter, eaten in moderation will furnish the oils required by th

A NATION OF HYPOCRITES.

Boers' Treatment of the Natives a Horrible Nightmare to the Nineteenth Century. Scotland, concerning the Boers:

many sources to be questioned. Even on getting up in the morning, and although only one-tenth were true, it think they have cleaned their teeth.

lic and their descendants have crushed, maltreated, and, as far as they had the power to do so, robbed of all rights belonging to them as fellow human beings, the colored peoples of this land. Under Transvaal rule, a ceaseless commital of crimes, legislative, social and individual, has been tive, social and individual, has been perpetrated upon the helpless natives both within and beyond the borders of the Republic, for whom it has seemed till now there was no possible deliverance. Powerless to right themselves, with no human arm to look to for succor, the mute appeal of their to be the succession of the principal multiple of the succession of the successi 1820 of the Republic, for whom it has 1834 selves, with no human arm to look to for succor, the mute appeal of their

to for succor, the mute appeal of their helpless sufferings has gone up before God, the God of eternal justice.

The crimes which have cried unredressed to heaven from the length and breadth of this land for over two hundred years, but more particularly from that part known as the Transynal cessary when the top of the principal state. that part known as the Transvaal territory, defy description, and it has seemed as though redress would nev-er come, as though no deliverance were possible. To justice-loving souls who have never known of these wrongs

WOMAN'S FEARS.

Mrs. W. K. Clifford, the English nor elist, does a great deal of her writing at night, but once confessed to Pro-At night, but once contessed to From Huxley that she very toolishly gets scared when everyone has gone to bed "I always hear burglars moving about," she said. "So do I," said the gentleman, instantly. "When I am at work nights I can see them watching me through the crack of the dear." HEALTH.

TAKE CARE OF THE TEETH.

The following is an extract from Most people have a general idea Glad Tidings, published in Edinburgh, that it is wise to take care of the Most people have a general idea teeth, and accordingly do so, as they "Their treatment of the native suppose. They rub a brush hurriedraces has been shocking in the ex-treme. The evidence comes from too of the teeth before going to bed or

would be sufficient to arouse the in- The importance of sound and serdignation of all lovers of right. The viceable teeth as an aid to health can-Methodist Times recently published a not be overestimated, for upon their Message to the Christian People of good condition depends the thorough Great Britain,' from Mrs. Lewis, a mastication of the food, which is the Dutchwoman, sister of the Prime Min- first, and not the least, requisite of ister of Cape Colony, and of Olive good digestion. Many a person Sohreiner. In the course of it she doses himself with all sorts of remedies to aid digestion, when the real For over two hundred years the cause of his dyspepsia may be found progenitors of the Transvaal Republin the poor state of his teeth.

The proper time to brush the teeth is after each meal and at bedtime. Before this is done all particles of food should be removed from between the should be removed from between the teeth by means of a toothpick, or, better, dental floss. Then they should be brushed thoroughly with a brush of medium stiffness, dipped in tepid water. Very hot and very cold water.

of the control of the position of the control of th

The woman who is "nice to herself" will be just what she seems, and she will seem to be a charming person. It is said that truth and beauty are synonymous. That is true in nature as well as art, and it should be a precept to be applied quite as frequently as the cold cream and the hair tonic.

ALL AGES TO FIGHT.

The Boers at Pretoria are making vast preparations for the threatenosiege. All burghers from 15 to 6 years of age have been called to arms.

THE PIQUE RORE

de Encourages Sale of Liquor to Satisfand and Derives Immense Profits From It. The Scotsman prints the following about certain phases of Boer governbeen in the circumstances a wonderful absence of open lawlessness and brutal rowdiness from the very early days; but there is a considerable section which prefer a dishonest living. In other countries this class of mer not only works against society, but also against the government-the two are synonymous. But in the Transvaal he is too often in league with Government servants, either directly or through syndicates, for illegal purposes. He is a very useful man for the detective to work with, when a bogus plot, involving designs by the British Government, against the independence of the republic, must be devised to secure European sympathy, The despatches on this subject in the ance indicated. At any rate, the or-recent Blue Book throw a strong side dinary residents of the Transvaal light on the administration of law and order in the South African Re- ter of general comment both in Pretepid public. It is not irrelevant to add that the Secret Service Fund of the for the needs of the British Empire.

THE SYNDICATES.

But the class in question finds its principal scope under syndicates, such of 12-in. and 91-2-in. calibre respecas that for the illict sale of liquor to natives and that for illict gold buying, under which a certain proportion of the gold won by the mining tended? companies is stolen. It will be sufficient for the present purpose to give some account of the method of workcessary when the tooth brush is used ing of the first named syndicate, regularly after each meal. Rinsing which is a strong ill. cessary when the tooth brush is used regularly after each meal. Rinsing the mouth after each brushing with some pleasantly-flavored antiseptic solution helps to avert decay of the first named syndicate, which is astrong illegal combination, striking its roots deep through the country. Under the statute law there is a total prohibition of sale of drink to the natives, and this affords one point in the care of teeth is a regular-semi-annual visit to the dentist, that he may examine the teeth and fill at once any bezinning cavity. In this avery large one, for around Johan once any bezinning cavity. In this avery large one, for around Johan der controlled is a very large one, for around Johan weights. be Tenawal with the standard point field disposed to the standard point of the standard

parole. If he does so, he will probably be released on pledging his word not to serve during the existing war. If he refuses he will remain captive until the war is over or until he can make his escape. The usual parole pledge extends only to active service against the enemy. A prisoner released on parole is not breaking his contract if he drills recruits, quells civic commotions, or fights other enemies. A soldier taken prisoner has no authority to pledge himself never to serve against a particular enemy. He cannot throw off thus lightly the duty be owes his sovereign or country, and if he makes any pledge it must be confined to a limited time. Moreover, if a prisoner should make a pledge not approved by his own government, he is bound to return and surrender himself to the enemy.

In the British army a soldier can only give his parole through a commissioned officer. Even a houseweight.

only give his parole through a commissioned officer. Even a noncommisioned officer or an officer of inferiorank cannot give parole, either for imself or for his mea, without permission from his commanding officer A captured prisener who has vicinish his parole may be punished by Jeath.

MYSTERY OF TWO GUNS.

THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE NOW

minoth Ordinance That May Assist in the Defence of Pretoria when it is Besteged by the British.

One of the revelations of the war has been the extent and the excellence of the Boer armament, says a London letter. That the Transvaal Government were preparing for the inevitable was whispered from time to time after the Jameson raid. Guns and ammunition were brought into the country by the obliging Netherlands Railway Company, who, not withstanding the fact that the cases were labelled, 'Pianos, with care," and "Mining machinery," must have known that the goods transmitted along their line for the Transvaal Government were less innocent than the external appearknew it, and the knowledge was a mattoria and Johannesburg.

One thing, however, was not gener-Transvaal is over £120,000, whereas ally known, that the Transvaal Govone-quarter of that sum is sufficient ernment, gave an order to the firm of Schneider-Canet, of Creusot, in France, for two of the largest guns ever constructed for any Government. These huge pieces of ordnance were tively. The fact has only recently come to light, and the question arises for what purpose are these guns in-

> The power of a 12-inch gun, sud as that now in the possession of the Boers will be better appreciated when

A Boer tarm and homestead is, it is said, to be one of the features of the Paris Exhibition. In this form will be exhibited the ch'ef wild animals of the fransval. The means of transporation in the country are also to be llustrated.

NO SUBSTITUTE.

The Missionary-Why do you drink his awful Fquor? Hungry Ned-By gosh, parson, it's he only licker in the corp. We have