

## HABITS OF BOERS AT HOME.

Their Character Like Their Houses is Primitive.

Education Looked Upon by Them as Useless—They Marry Young and Are Prolific.

A residence of several years among a large Boer population of the most enlightened description has given me material, says a writer in the Cornhill, on which I may perhaps construct a fairly correct estimate of the character of the average Boer—not the educated and progressive Dutchman who is beginning to make his influence felt, and will do so more and more, let us hope, with every year; but the ordinary, uneducated farmer, the "man in the veldt," the herder of goats, who can hardly write his own name and cannot read his own or any other language; the man whose courage, tenacity, and skill in certain methods of warfare have excited our admiration and astonishment, while his treachery and brutality have too often revolted all our best feelings.

Familiar to my eyes is the typical Dutch homestead—I see it as I write—four roomed, drabpainted, dreary and unsavory, erected, perhaps, by the present owner's great-grandfather, and surrounded by a wilderness of his own creation, for the Boer always cut down every tree, and every bush of any size, growing within half a mile radius of his homestead. The reasons for this proceeding I have never yet been able to fathom; but there can be little doubt that this wholesale destruction of trees has contributed to the terrible rainlessness of some parts of the country, which seems to increase as years go on.

Familiar are the typical figures that haunt the homestead—the tall, gaunt, loose-limbed, hairy farmer, active on occasion, yet immeasurably lazy; big-boned and strong, yet not with the healthy strength of an athletic Englishman; and his ponderous, muscular mow, almost, if not quite, as strong as her husband, often equally capable of counting the goats and holding the plough; the sons, like half grown colts, all length of limb and unkempt hair; the daughters, more slender as yet than their mother, sometimes very pretty, in a rather rude style; and the whole family, as a rule, have remarkably little to say for themselves.

The character of these Boers, like the place of their habitation, is primitive—primitive in its virtues as also in its defects. Like the Kaffir, whom they despise, they are both courageous and superstitious, both child-like and cunning, both hospitable and treacherous, both active and indolent.

The Boers, as a rule, marry very young, between the ages of 16 and 20; and as the Dutch church in its wisdom has ordained that they shall not marry until they have been confirmed, and that they shall not be confirmed until they can sign their names and repeat certain answers in the Dutch catechism, it therefore follows that, when they want to get married, they forthwith learn, not to write, but to form mechanically, and in correct order, the letters composing their name; and they also learn not to read, but to acquire mechanically, and in correct order, the letters of the catechism—which it behooves them to know, and in later life, for want of practice, even this amount of useful knowledge is frequently forgotten.

This, of course, is the lowest stratum. Above this is a very superior class, who go to school for one year, or even two, and are then pronounced "vollegert," or, in English phrase, "finished." These are the educated Dutchmen who read "Ons Land" and similar publications, and digest the marvelous fictions therein contained; and of these is the Boer, henceforward famous in history, who said that "he did not mind Lord Salisbury, and he could even put up with Mr. Chamberlain, but he could not stand that Mr. Franchise, and was determined to have a shot at him directly he got the chance!"

Two marked characteristics of the Boer, which have strongly appealed to the sympathy of many people not otherwise favorable to their cause, are his attachment to the soil and his love of independence, the latter quality being marred by the circumstance that he does not willingly concede independence to any one else.

**Huntington's Vast Estate.**  
What a futile thing, after all, seems this building up of a great fortune, which the man who builds it has no capacity of finding any good use for! Mr. Huntington's estate is more than \$20,000,000, and may be \$50,000,000.

Perhaps it is worth only \$25,000,000 today, but may become \$50,000,000 by the rise in the value of railroad shares in the course of 15 years' time. What is to be done with the income of all this property?—Mr. Huntington evidently had no purpose, except to leave most of it to his wife. All his provision related to the management and maintenance of the fortune which he had accumulated. The money given directly for public objects does not amount, probably, to so much as one-hundredth part of the whole.—Hartford Times.

The legacies to nephews and nieces and sisters and sister-in-law and brother-in-law are regulated with a nice discrimination. No surprise will be expressed at the conditions surrounding the bequest of \$1,000,000 to his adopted daughter, the Princess Hatzfeldt. The money is put in trust for her and goes to her children when she dies, it she should have any, and it is not to be liable in any way for the debts of her husband. Thus does the shrewd old American protect the property of the wife from a spendthrift husband. It is worthy of note, also that the estate goes to men and women who live orderly and quiet lives and who will not devote themselves to squandering what they have not earned.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### A Soldier of Fortune.

An American is entitled to the credit—if credit it is—of reorganizing the Chinese army upon a basis approaching its present efficiency. Frederick Townsend Ward was a soldier of fortune and a native of Massachusetts. In 1860, when the Taiping rebels were everywhere successful, Ward, who was 26 years old, and had served in the French army, found himself in Shanghai. He organized a band composed of men of various nationalities and offered to capture a city for a fixed price. The first achievement of his small army was the capture of the walled town Sungking, which was held by 10,000 rebels. As a reward he was made a mandarin of the fourth rank. Ward then cleared the country around Shanghai, being paid so much cash after each victory he won. After awhile he disappeared and was next heard of when the natives attacked the city in large force, when Ward appeared at the head of three well-armed and well drilled native regiments, who rescued Shanghai. Thereafter he became one of the leading men in the defense of Shanghai. He adopted the Chinese nationality under the name of Hwa, married the daughter of a wealthy mandarin and was made a mandarin of the highest grade and admiral general in the service of the emperor. Gen. Ward died as the result of a wound received in directing an assault on Tsekie. The Chinese paid him the highest possible honors after his death by burying him in the Confucian cemetery at Ningpo. Ward's successor in command of the Chinese forces was Major Charles G. Gordon—"Chinese" Gordon.

### Royal Etiquette.

Old world privilege and restriction reign supreme in Spain, where there is a law that no subject shall touch the person of the king or queen, says the New York Mail and Express. The present king of Spain nearly suffered a severe fall from this rule in his childhood. An aunt of his made him a present of a swing. When he used it for the first time the motion frightened him, and he began to cry. Whereupon a lackey lifted him quickly out of it and so, no doubt, preserved him from falling. The breach of etiquette, however, was flagrant and dreadful. The queen was obliged to punish it by dismissing the man from his post. At the same time she showed her real feelings on the subject by appointing him immediately to another and better place in the royal household.

In another case a queen of Spain nearly lost her life in a dreadful way owing to this peculiar rule. She had been thrown when out driving, and her foot catching in the stirrup, she was dragged. Her escort would not risk interference, and she would have been dashed to pieces but for the heroic interposition of a young man who stopped the horse and released her from her dangerous position. As soon as they saw she was safe her escort turned to arrest the traitor who dared to touch the queen's foot, but he was not to be seen. Knowing well the penalty he had incurred, he made off at once, fled for his life and did not stop until he had crossed the frontier.

### Across the Divide.

The few 'froxy nights' of late have been keenly felt by the night workmen on Dominion and Sulphur and several claims could not get in full time because of ice in the boxes. Should the snap continue half day shifts will be the order.

The McAlpine-Johnson claim, 5 below, has certainly proved a wonder. The work in the creek bed during '98 and '99 showed it to be a claim of un-

usual richness, but the hillside on their left limit was overlooked. Early this summer slight prospecting showed pay and lays were let, a sluice head turned on the ground and the richest summer diggings on Dominion was uncovered. Pans of \$100 are common and large nuggets are scattered all over so that both laymen and owners will do well.

Messrs. Debnay Brothers have been doing some nice work on 8 below upper and the pay has been first-class. The claim will be worked till freeze up.

Dominion, between discoveries, will be practically idle during the early winter. Preliminary work will be done and about March 1st work in earnest will start in.

Lower Dominion will be the seat of activity on the creek from now on. From lower discovery to 78 below the pay has been located on almost every claim either creek or hillside and prospect work with good results from there has been done. The left limit hillsides 89, 90 and 92 have located pay and men have been rocking, taking out from \$10 to \$30 a day to the rocker. A ditch is being put in that will bring a sluice head from Nevada pup for next summer. Prospecting in the immediate vicinity is very active.

Wallace Gerow, of 21 below lower, received a surprise party not long ago when his son Edward arrived, bringing a charming bride with him to lighten the days of gloomy winter on 21. Ed is no chechako, for he made a whipsaw record for a grubstake in '98, but those were hard times, for now 21 is one of the most promising of lower Dominion claims.

Hillside 30 below lower was offered for \$1000 a little over a year ago. Today \$30,000 won't buy it. Its owners couldn't sell, so they prospected and opened up a pay streak nine feet on the rim and how far back into the hill is yet unknown—100 feet shows pay dirt. They rocked 40 days and the two rockers cleaned up a little over \$18,000.

Thirty-one, 32, 33 and 34 have been worked as heavy as light machinery would work them, each getting a sluice-head on the ground and some very rich dirt was run through. The heaviest machinery will be put on next summer.

Geo. Burke, of 10 below Hunker has a good bench claim, but water was a scarce article. His Yankee ingenuity came to his rescue and he built a large tank and circulates the water through several boxes and smaller tanks till it has cleaned the gold from the ground and has the ground filtered from it and pumped back into tank No. 1. Some good pay is taken out.

### River News.

There were no steamers reported to arrive since yesterday afternoon from either up or down the river, save one, the Nora. She sailed on her return trip this afternoon.

Tomorrow the rate for passage to Whitehorse will be \$55 first-class and \$40 second. This rate is agreed upon by all the transportation companies, the Klondike Navigation Co. falling in line. The rate down river from Whitehorse will be \$40 and \$30.

Freight is reported to be accumulating rapidly at Whitehorse and large tonnage is said by Manager Potts, who arrived yesterday from that point, will be held at Whitehorse this winter, as it will be impossible to clear that terminal of freight this season.

The W. P. & T. R. in some instances are offering to use scows for the shipment of freight with a convoy of one of their steamers.

R. W. Calderhead, who is shipping in a large quantity of hay was unable to obtain space on the big company's steamer, as available space has been contracted for.

The Nora brought the following passengers: C. A. Landers, C. Putnam, R. Wolcott, G. B. Erwin, Mrs. Erwin, T. G. Rabonchek, P. Geisler, O. Baker, G. Christensen, C. Coyle, D. Donovan, J. Roddy, Mrs. M. T. Roddy, Geo. Clack, E. Pike, Mrs. Van Buskard.

The following was received by wire: The Sybil passed Big Salmon going up at midnight last night. The Victorian followed one hour later. The Bailey passed down from the same point at 6 o'clock last night.

The Flora arrived at Whitehorse this morning. The Eldorado left at 9:30 this morning.

The steamer Cissett, going up, passed Selkirk at 6:45 last night. She was followed by the Anglian at 8:30. The Emma Nott got there at 9:30 this morning.

The Victorian arrived at Jootaliqua at 9:45 this morning.

The Bailey going down reported at 10 this morning at Five Fingers.

### Quartz Creek Benches.

Mr. John J. McGillivray, the well known mining expert, has recently returned from a trip to Quartz creek. Mr. McGillivray speaks quite enthusiastically of the future of that creek, particularly with respect to the benches,

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He'll get through all right.  
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extensive preparations for working which are now in progress.

"I am of the opinion," said Mr. McGillivray to a Nugget representative, "that the benches for a distance of several miles along Quartz creek will yield ultimately as well as those along Bonanza creek have done."

"In working the Quartz creek benches, the operators have the advantage of being able to work more cheaply than has been possible on Bonanza, owing to the extreme high freight rates which have prevailed during the past two years. By next year when work on Quartz is well under way the cost of operation will have been reduced to such an extent that the benches in question even though not actually as rich, will yield as great a profit as has been derived from the Bonanza benches."

### Brewery for Circle.

Geo. Rice, probably the best known man in Alaska, is due to arrive in Dawson today en route to Circle City with a brewery plant and an outfit for an elegant bar. A brewery will be something of an innovation in the Yukon country. John Quinn, for several years past partner of and manager for Rice in Skagway, left on the Weare today for Circle to arrange for a location for the new industry. Geo. Rice was one of the pioneers of Juneau, where he still owns valuable property. He put up one of the first buildings in Skagway, the Pack Train saloon, and was the first man to pack a train of horses over the summit of White Pass. He opened the first hotel and saloon in Bennett and two years ago erected a hotel in Avlin at a cost of \$40,000. Besides being a hotel and saloon man, Mr. Rice also runs largely to newspapers, being interested in the Juneau, Alaska, Miner and the Douglass Island News. Mr. Rice will probably stop a day or two in Dawson on his way through.

### Fishing for an Object.

"After I had watched a colored man fishing in a South Carolina brickyard pond for forty minutes without pulling up his hook," said the traveler, "I asked him if he thought there were any fish there to be caught."  
"No, sah, I reckon not," he replied.  
"But you seem to be fishing."  
"Yes, sah."  
"But perhaps you are not fishing for fish."  
"No, sah."

"I waited ten minutes for him to explain, but as he did not, I finally asked him what particular object he had in view."  
"De objick, sah," he repeated, without taking his eyes off the pond or moving the pole, "de objick of my fishin' fur fish whar dere bain't any is to let de ole woman see dat I hain't got no time to pick up de hoe and wuk in de truck patch!"—Washington Post.

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Stetsop hats, latest styles. Oak Hall.  
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The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.  
Private dining rooms at The Holborn.  
Pabst beer and imported cigars at wholesale. Rosenthal & Field, the Annex.

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500 TONS.

We will receive about September 1st 500 tons of Hay and Feed. Contracts taken for future delivery. The same stored and insured free of charge.

LANCASTER & CALDERHEAD,

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N. A. T. & T. CO.

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Daily Each Way

## To Grand Forks

On and after MONDAY, September 10th, will leave at 2 p. m. instead of 3 p. m. On completion of Bonanza Road a double line of stages will be run, making two round trips daily.

### FREIGHTING TO THE CREEKS.

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Leaves Yukon Dock, Making Regular Trips to Whitehorse.  
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