

A Plug Hat for a Crown.

Most Extraordinary Monarch in the World—A Royal Umbrella Decorated With Skulls as a Scepter of State—Funnier than a Comic Opera Centerpiece—The King of Ashantee, to Whom Britain Has Sent an Ultimatum.

The King of Ashantee, the most extraordinary ruler potentate of the world, stands suddenly revealed. Of all the astonishing kings of Africa or South Sea Island cannibal chiefs he is the most remarkable.

King Premph, King of Ashantee, has defied the English Government. He has announced his readiness for war, and is now awaiting the arrival of the British troops.

The King of Ashantee is the absolute monarch of about 3,000,000 subjects. They live in the heart of the African forest, a few hundred miles back from the "Gold Coast." The King wears a girdle of dried grass around his hips and a "plug" hat. He owns no crown, but in some way has become possessed of a silk hat which now does duty as an emblem of sovereignty.

Another remarkable fact about this barbarous King is that he has no throne. He has, however, a solid gold stool, which does service as a throne. It takes four able-bodied slaves to tug this heavy stool around.

But the great official emblem of royal authority is an umbrella. This curiosity has a big bamboo handle and spokes of enameled gold. On the end of each spoke is a human skull. Nobody, not even the King himself, knows the significance of this strange scepter of majesty, but it has descended to him from a long line of ancestry.

King Premph, among other things, has exactly 3,333 wives allowed him by law. Why this liberal figure was decided upon his Majesty does not know. Like the umbrella, they came to him by inheritance.

The King wears earrings. They are of solid gold. His royal ancestors all wore gold earrings, too.

His Majesty lives in a big stone and native brick palace—the only structure of the kind in the kingdom. His Royal Highness sleeps on the floor.

The King is several times a millionaire, and it is believed he has several barrels of gold dust and nuggets. Ashantee is rich in gold.

King Premph is a blood-thirsty monarch, and he is in the habit of making human sacrifices on a whole-scale scale. Whenever it pleases him to do so he orders a few hundred subjects to be beheaded. Besides this, during certain religious ceremonies, it is customary to kill subjects. It is this practice which England wants the King to stop. And it is to put an end to these human sacrifices that the British troops will invade the forest and make war on the King.

THE KING'S DEFIANCE.
It is just 21 years since the British Government appropriated \$400,000 to send out an expedition to bring the King of Ashantee to terms, and before the expedition got back, after burning Coomassie, his capital, it had cost as much more.

The English troops under Sir Garnet Wolseley remained only two days in the capital of Ashantee. Before they left the savage potentate agreed to do certain things. That was King Koffee. His successor, the present King of Ashantee, King Premph, has not fulfilled these conditions.

Turning aside from the complications of the Eastern question, the dispute about Venezuela and the row with Russia over China, the British Government sent an ultimatum to the King of Ashantee. They gave him until Oct. 31.

But this savage monarch was not frightened by the ultimatum of Britain. He did not even wait till the ultimatum expired.

A dispatch from Accra, on the Gold Coast, dated on the last day of October, said that Capt. Donald Stewart, the special British commissioner, who had gone to Coomassie, escorted by 100 Houssas, had returned to the coast. He said that the King had rejected the ultimatum and defied Great Britain.

The King of Ashantee said in effect that he did not care a snap of his finger for the British Government, and that he was looking for fight. According to opinion on the Gold Coast he will get it. The King, at the time the British commissioner left Coomassie, appeared to be preparing for war.

ENGLAND'S ULTIMATUM.
The terms of the ultimatum were that he should have a British commissioner in his country, and that he should place Ashantee under the "protection" of Great Britain. This bury negro, who has 3,333 wives and orders people's heads to be cut off if his breakfast disagrees with him, is believed to know what "the protection of Great Britain" means.

England now controls the coast outside of his territory. The French control the neighboring country of Dahomey, whose King is protected by a body guard of armed women. Ashantee is rich in gold, and both England and France have long looked at it with jealous eyes.

According to the latest dispatches from the Gold Coast, where the coming war on the King of Ashantee is the one topic of conversation, there will be no time lost in making a

There is not a Man or a Woman

Who has not read of the Wonderful Cures

EFFECTED BY

DIAMOND DYES

Testimony to their Great Value

is given by

All Sorts and Conditions of Men.

The Press writes about them . . . The World reads about them . . . The Sick say them, because . . . They Always Cure.

50c. A BOX AT ALL DEALERS.

TAKE DIAMOND DINNER PILLS for Stomach Troubles. 25c. A Box.

start. A strong force of imperial and native troops, it is said, will not be sent to Coomassie to bring the King to terms. Sir Francis Scott, the inspector-general of the Gold Coast forces, who is now in England, will leave for West Africa as soon as possible to organize a force.

The advance of the British into the King of Ashantee's country is expected to be well under way early in December. In the meantime his troops will be sent to Accra from Lagos and other places. All is now excitement on the Gold Coast.

A POWERFUL MONARCH.
There is probably not another African monarch who can guarantee the British Government so much trouble and expense as the King of Ashantee. He is a very powerful potentate. His people are all born fighters, who would rather fight than be ruled.

He is an absolute despot. The King of Ashantee could give points in despotism to the Sultan of Turkey and the Czar of Russia. If the Czar were to do the things which the King of Ashantee thinks nothing of doing there would be a vacancy in the Winter Palace.

If any man looks at one of his 3,333 wives that man's name is Dennis. Some of these numerous wives of the King of Ashantee are not worth looking at, it is true, but the owner of any profane eyes that even by accident happened to rest upon them would be conducted to a shady grove in the neighborhood of the town and fall to return.

When one king dies 2,000 people are killed as a guard of honor to accompany him to the other world. As many as 10,000 are reported to have been killed on one occasion in a single day.

Upon every national festival it is also the custom for the King of Ashantee to offer human sacrifices. People are believed to be killed simply to look for the King of Ashantee, the capital, and this kind of official murder is a regular thing.

THE GROVE OF SKULLS.
The one thing which has always excited the horror and amazement of travelers who have visited the King of Ashantee is a grove of trees in a large park, lying 140 miles back from the Gold Coast, is the Grove of Skulls, where in countless numbers the bones of victims of the King lie upon the ground, with the festering remains of those who have recently been dispatched.

Here, where vultures gorged with human flesh perch upon the trees waiting for the new victims which the King has taught the vultures to look for, there is a spectacle presented the like of which is to be seen nowhere else upon earth.

This spot, where executions have taken place from time immemorial, is a small grove back of the large market place at Coomassie. The victims are brought to this place with their hands securely tied and they are made dumb by two knives thrust crosswise through their ears.

The poor wretches are for a time tortured by being pinched, pricked with swords and fired upon at short range with blank cartridges. The powder from these cartridges enters the flesh, causing excruciating agony.

Then the executioners, who are fantastically dressed, seize their huge swords and, flourishing them in the air, lop off the heads of the victims one after another. Then they retire from the scene drenched with blood from head to foot, and leaving the bodies lying where they fall.

As soon as the executioners retire, the vultures swoop down from the trees above and the ground is soon black with them. At night the panthers come and slink away satiated before the dawn.

WHAT STANLEY SAW.
The pathway leading to this grove has been trodden and worn through years of use, and it is always slippery with blood. Henry M. Stanley, who, as a war correspondent, accompanied Sir Garnet Wolseley's expedition to Coomassie in 1874, listed this grove as "one of the most disgusting sights we were glad to produce our handkerchiefs to prevent the intolerable and almost palpable odor from mounting to the brain and overpowering us. After some 30 paces we arrived before the dreadful scene, but it was almost impossible to stop longer than to take a general view of the great Golgotha. We saw some 20 or 30 decapitated bodies in the last stages of corruption, and countless skulls which lay piled in heaps and scattered over a wide extent. The stoutest heart and most stoical mind might have been appalled."

Several officers of the expedition, although it remained but two days at Coomassie, made the trip to this awful spot and subsequently described it as beyond anything else in horror to be seen in the world today.

"Under a huge tree," said one of these gentlemen in a letter, "the skulls were piled so high that they reached almost to the lower limbs. Yonder, nowhere else, the ground, as it were, all covered with bones and skulls. Here and there could be seen a decomposing body."

"The vultures slowly rose from the ground upon our approach, but several of them were so gorged with human flesh that they could not rise, and lay blinking at us on the ground, clumsily flapping their wings. The smell of the place was something awful."

OVERCAME A JACK TAR.
"A sailor who was on our party was overpowered by the stench and had to be carried from the grove. We had been warned beforehand, and had provided ourselves with flasks of brandy. I could not say in how many human skeletons were on the ground, but I should say there were several thousand in sight. I was told that what we saw was not one-half of the extent of the Grove of Skulls. From what natives say, the murders have been going on here almost daily."

"At these executions the King of Ashantee was generally present, but not always. One man who was recently executed, had painted the interior of the King's harem. Although he had committed no crime, he was doomed to execution because his profane eyes had fallen upon places and things reserved only for the eyes of the King."

It was learned during this expedition, which was the first of any importance to penetrate to the capital of Ashantee, that the people of the country looked upon human sacrifices as almost a matter of course, and that many regarded such a death as honorable. This was especially so upon the death of a king.

The King of Ashantee is opposed to progress, which he defies. He dislikes roads in his kingdom. When the Brit-

ish under Sir Garnet Wolseley went to Coomassie they had to cut their way through the forest, leaving a fine road behind them.

The King of Ashantee, in the face of numerous pistols pointed at him, agreed to keep this road in good repair. He did not say that he would have it macadamized or that signs of "Keep Off the Grass" would be placed along the sides, but he said he would keep it free from weeds, which grow very quickly in Ashantee.

But the King, with the rainy season at hand, that the British had to hustle to get back to the coast before the full torrent began, and he promised everything. The beautiful road made by the English at such enormous expense has since completely disappeared.

Instead of keeping it open so that tourists could find their way to Coomassie and bicyclists make a century on to the coast, the King has grown up with the British in the coming war will have to go all over the work again, for so quick is vegetation in that part of Africa that not even a trace of the original road remains. But the British are determined to Coomassie had to find its way to the capital through a dense forest.

THE GOLDEN STOOL.
It is in this forest that the British forces will be attacked by the warriors of the King of Ashantee, who are natural bush fighters, armed with the best of modern rifles. The Ashantees are far from being savages, ignorant of modern warfare, and their religion makes them brave to the point of recklessness.

The King of Ashantee rules through fear. He is surrounded by an enormous retinue of servants, who surround the King of Ashantee, his commands. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

The King of Ashantee is the only monarch who has a throne of solid gold. This throne is officially termed a "stool."

The royal stool is so heavy that it takes several men to carry it. When the King of Ashantee walks abroad, he is followed by a retinue of his attendants. His 3,333 wives live in two streets of Coomassie, where no stranger ever penetrates.

His palace is a large structure of stone and mud, with an interior of many rooms and many stories. Here the King rules his nation by word of mouth. He conducts affairs of state with much formality.

BUSY BUT GRATEFUL.

Too Many Messages and Letters to Answer He Telegraphs.

Duncan McKenzie, of Kirkfield, Wires His Respectful Reply to all Correspondents, and Acknowledges His Complete Cure of Diabetes After Using Only Eight Boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Kirkfield, Nov. 9.—A letter appearing in a Toronto paper from Mr. Duncan McKenzie, a well known mill owner and lumberman here, also a brother of the president of the Toronto Street Railway Company, stating that he had been cured of diabetes by using Dodd's Kidney Pills after the best medical skill procurable had failed. The publication of this letter by the proprietors of the medicine, to which, as he states, he owes his life, was authorized, but with no idea that he would be embarrassed by such a flood of inquiries.

In order to relieve himself of the pressure of so much correspondence, your correspondent has been requested to wire the facts to the public press, his statement being as follows:

"That having diabetes and failing of medical help, and that being advised of his probable early death, when he was induced to try Dodd's Kidney Pills as a last resort, and which he did with the success stated in the letter. That he thus publicly endorses the statements made in the letter, and that he gratefully acknowledges the means of his recovery; also that this dispatch is intended as his respectful reply to all concerned."

No other medicine or treatment in the world has ever been known to cure diabetes except Dodd's Kidney Pills.

How They Differ.

Man is a creature of cast-iron habits; woman adapts herself to circumstances; this is the foundation of the moral difference between them.

A man does not attempt to drive a nail unless he has a hammer; a woman does not hesitate to utilize any thing, from the heel of a boot to the back of a brush.

A man considers a corkerew absolutely necessary to open a bottle; a woman attempts to extract the cork with the scissors; if she does not succeed readily, she pushes the cork in the bottle, since the essential thing is to get at the fluid.

Shaving is the only use to which a man puts a razor; a woman employs it for a chiroplast's purposes.

When a man writes everything must be in apple-pie order, pen, paper and ink must be just so, a profound silence must reign while he accomplishes this important function. A woman gets any sheet of paper, snatches it perhaps from a book or portfolio, sharpens a pencil with the scissors, puts the paper on an old atlas, crosses her feet, balances herself on her chair, and confides her thoughts to paper, changing from pen to pen and vice versa from time to time, nor does she care if the children romp or the cook comes to speak to her.

A man storms if the blotting paper is not conveniently near; a woman dries the ink by blowing on it, waving the paper in the air, or holding it near a lamp or fire.

A man drops a letter unhesitatingly in the box; a woman rereads the address, assures herself that the envelope is sealed, the stamp secure, and then throws it violently into the box.

A man can cut a book only with a paper-knife; a woman deftly inserts a hairpin, and the book is cut.

For a man "good-bye" signifies the end of a conversation and the moment of his departure; for a woman it is the beginning of a new chapter, for it is just when they are taking leave of each other that women think of the most important topics of conversation.

A woman ransacks her brain trying to mend a broken object; a man puts it aside and forgets that for which there is no remedy. Which is the superior?—Minnie J. Conrad, in October Lippincott's.

MONUMENT TO OUR HUSBAND.

Sir: Though possibly not an example of absent-mindedness, an inscription which I have seen in the cemetery at Doylestown, United States of America, is a singular one, at any rate, in one sense of that word. In four corners of a lot are buried the wives of a man whose name I have forgotten, and a stone over each gives the name of the woman, wife of, let us say, T. Smith, dates of birth and death, and in the middle of the lot is an imposing monument, with the simple inscription of name, dates of birth and death, and "Our Husband." His fourth wife, who survived him a few months, is credited with the arrangements and inscriptions.—London Spectator.

FAR-SEEING PEOPLE

always discern Merit, Quality and Worth in the wonderful

DIAMOND DYES

Made expressly for home use.

Diamond Dyes are precious helps in city and town homes. To the farmer's wife and daughters they are invaluable agents of economy. Diamond Dyes come in forty-eight colors for wool, cotton, mixed goods, silk and fashions. They are easy to use, and give colors that neither sun nor soap will fade. Beware of imitations; ask for the "Diamond," and see that you get them; all dealers sell them.

Direction Book and samples of colored cloth free; address

WELLS & RICHARDSON CO., Montreal, P.Q.

Medical Cards.

C. L. CAMPBELL, M.D., M.C.P.S.—Office and residence, 377 Queen's avenue, London. Office hours, 9 to 5 p.m., 1 to 3 p.m., and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Skin diseases a specialty.

D. R. GEORGE H. WILSON, YORK street, near Talbot. Specialty, nose, throat and lungs.

D. R. ENGLISH—OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, 658 DUNDAS street. Telephone.

D. R. JOHN D. WILSON—OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, 300 Queen's avenue. Special attention paid to diseases of women.

D. R. ECKLES—CORNER QUEEN'S AVENUE and Wellington. Specialty, diseases of women. At home from 10 to 2.

D. R. MACLAREN—OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, northeast corner of Park and Queen's avenues. Hours, 11 to 2 and 6 to 8. Careful attention paid to diseases of digestive system. Telephone, 899.

D. R. WOODRUFF—EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT. Hours, 12 to 4. No. 135 Queen's avenue.

D. R. TRISDALE, L.S.A., LONDON, ENG.—L.D.S.—Office and residence, 135 Park street, near Talbot. Telephone, 888.

D. R. C. F. NEU—OFFICE, 442 PARK avenue, corner Queen's avenue. Telephone, 388.

D. R. GRAHAM—OFFICE, 616 RICHMOND street—Specialties, pulmonary affections, cancer tumors and piles, diseases of women and children.

D. R. JARVIS—HOMOEOPATHIST—759 DUNDAS street. Telephone 929.

D. R. MEEK—QUEEN'S AVENUE, LONDON—Specialty, diseases of women. Hours, 10 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

JAMES D. WILSON, M.D.—OFFICE, 299 Queen's avenue. Residence, 50 Stanley street, South London. Phone 973. Special attention to diseases of children.

Business Cards.

LONDON UMBRELLA HOSPITAL—UMBRELLAS and looks repaired, saws sharpened. PHILIP DAVID, 509 Richmond street.

W. A. REID—CABINET-MAKER—Furniture packed for shipping and storing. Repairing in all its branches. 357 Talbot street.

SPECIAL—LADIES' BLOUSES AND shirt waists washed by hand and finished in latest style at CANADIAN ELECTRIC LAUNDRY. Tel. 490.

STOCKWELL'S STEAM DYE WORKS—229 Dundas street. Specialties: Ostrich feathers and garment cleaning and cleaning of all kinds of fabrics. Telephone 901.

C. RO. ROUGHLEY—FELT AND GRAVEL roofers; repairing a specialty; estimates on roofs. 120 South street, London. Telephone 388.

ARE YOU BUILDING OR REPAIRING?—Look at this. Pine lumber \$8.50 per thousand; shingles \$1.50 per thousand; lime \$12 cents per bush; cedar posts 12 cents each; match flooring \$18 per thousand; doors from \$1.50 each; sash from 50 cents each. Call at yard, Pall Mall street, opposite C. F. H. Telephone 512. J. A. STUTHELL, Proprietor.

PRINTING TYPE, INKS, PRESSES—Supplies of all kinds; new outfits our specialty. TORONTO TYPE FOUNDRY, 44 Bay street, Toronto, and 288 Portage avenue, Winnipeg.

BI-CYCLE AND GENERAL REPAIRING—Pattern and model making. J. BLYTHE, 310 Dundas street, Abbott Block.

A. T. CORP.—PAINTING, GLAZING, paper hanging and house decorating. 183 Oxford street. Telephone 738.

LONDON MARBLE AND GRANITE COMPANY—Large and best stock of granite monuments. Talbot and Fullerton streets.

LAWN MOWERS SHARPENED—China and glassware riveted. F. HAYES, 238 Dundas street.

SMITH & GRANT, MANUFACTURERS of packing, egg and fruit cases. Orders promptly attended to. 567 Bathurst street.

LOUIS PEDDERSEN, MAKER AND REPAIRER of baby carriages and reed chairs, corner King and Ridout streets.

FURNITURE REUPHOLSTERED—carpets cleaned and laid. GEO. ABEL, 338 Talbot street. Orders promptly attended to.

Laundries.

TAKE YOUR WORK TO HOP SING—222 Dundas street. All work done by hand. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Hotel Cards.

THE RUB RESTAURANT—EUROPEAN plan—Lunch 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 2 to 5 p.m., 7 to 10 p.m. J. W. MARTIN & CO., 263 Dundas street.

ONEL HOUSE—CORNER TALBOT and York streets. Newly built and furnished. New and commodious stables. WM. COLLINS (late of Lambeth), proprietor.

CITY HOTEL, LONDON, BEST \$1 DAY house in Canada; situated in connection. J. McARTHUR, proprietor.

DUKE OF YORK HOTEL—DUNDAS street, London East. Good table; well stocked; sample room; kind treatment and perfect cleanliness. Also of four excellent parlours most respectfully solicited. Wm. T. COLLIER.

"VICTORIA"—THE POPULAR \$1 DAY house, Clarence street, corner of Dundas. Tomlinson, proprietor.

HODGINS HOUSE—BEST \$1 DAY house in city, corner King and Talbot streets. Barber shop and billiard room in connection.