

The World's Strangest Peoples.

EIGHT DAYS' WEEPING AT CENTRAL AFRICAN WEDDINGS.

Anyone who has set out to find the most peculiar people in the world would have to go among the wilds of Central Africa. There in the virgin, trackless wastes and forests are tribes who are almost completely uncivilized and practice strange and weird rites.

Quaintest of the customs are those associated with marriage ceremonies. The Bahama tribesmen in Ankole, Uganda, usually purchase his wife by means of a dowry of a certain number of cattle, which are paid to the bride's father. There is no native law forbidding him to have more than one wife, but a man must be very wealthy before he can afford such a luxury.

Beauties Always Fat!

The women are unusually fat, as corpulence is looked upon as a sign of beauty. Girls, before marriage, are not allowed to walk about, and are encouraged to drink as much milk as they can in order that they may become as fat as possible, before their affianced husbands come to claim them. The fatter they are the bigger the marriage dowry the parents receive. Many of these women almost lose the power of walking.

A bride shows that she accepts the bridegroom as her husband by taking a mouthful of milk and squirting it over him. Up to this time she has probably never seen the man, so that there is no question of love; expediency and custom alone prompt the parties to enter their new estate.

When the bridegroom brings his bride home she is accompanied by a number of girl friends, who remain with her two or three days. When the bridegroom goes to see his bride the girl friends contest his entrance; they fight him and his companions, biting and scratching them.

The pretended protest is very probably the remnant of an old custom of marriage by capture, and the Rev. John Roscoe, in "The Soul of Central Africa" (Cassell), describes a ceremony still more resembling those of the barbaric ages.

When, in the other case referred to, the bridegroom goes to take away his bride a strong rope is produced by one of the bride's relatives and tied to the bride's leg. Sides are then chosen by members of the bride's and bridegroom's clans and a tug-of-war takes place. The bride's clan struggles to retain their sister and the bridegroom's clan strive to carry her off.

Betrothed in Childhood.

During this contest the bride stands weeping because she is taken from her old home and relatives; it is the correct thing to do. The bridegroom stands by her, holding her hand, and when the final pull is given, in his favour, he slips the rope from her ankle and hurries her away.

At the age of four months a girl is usually betrothed in marriage. Some fathers in another clan presents her parents with one or two cows and she is thereupon betrothed to his son. A girl is the special care of a mother, who gives her a name, taking her to the door and pointing out the four corners of the globe as the quarters from which her wealth comes.

Among another tribe—the Bageau—the girls are not more than ten when they begin to prepare for marriage. This preparation consists of a lengthy and painful process of cutting marks in the chest and forehead. They carry about large needles with which they make the wounds. Ashes are then rubbed in, thick hard lumps being raised.

These markings the girl considers essential. Men, too, consider them as a sign of beauty in a wife. No man would think of marrying a girl who did not show these markings, and the girl is not admitted into the society of her elders until they are completed.

The different clans of this tribe live in deadly enmity except during the festival, after harvest, when all feast and drink together for as long as the native beer lasts.

A young woman always sleeps across the foot of the bed of the King of the Bunyoro tribe, so that his Majesty's foot might rest against her and run no risk of touching the end of the bed, or of being exposed. In the early morning the girl gets up and anoints the king's toes.

The rain-makers of the Bunyoro often find it a hard task to keep their jobs. If they fail to bring rain when called upon, the king makes them sit in the broiling sun, where they have to eat specially salted food, which



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Special EVERY-ROOM-IN-THE-HOUSE Sale

There's bound to be some piece of furniture you've needed ever so long, in the list below. Get it NOW, while the prices are right. Don't put off doing it to-day, to-morrow some-one else may have snapped it up.

Our Make-Room Sale is nearing its end—make up your mind to benefit by it before it closes. You can save many dollars by buying at the right time, and this Sale IS the right time for anyone furnishing a new home, or adding bits to brighten up the well-used rooms that have seen many years of service. Never put off buying till to-morrow what can better be bought to-day.

China Cabinets.

An adornment to any room, and a delight to the housekeeper who loves to display her pretty china.

Fumed Oak, Mission style; a very useful Cabinet.	Regular Price	\$67.50
	Make-room Price	\$41.50
Fumed Oak, Mission style.	Regular Price	\$98.50
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Fumed Oak, Mission style; very massive and handsome.	Regular Price	\$135.00
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Jacobean Oak, very high quality, William and Mary period design.	Regular Price	\$130.50
	Make-room Price	\$91.50

Beauty in Buffets.

Wouldn't you like one of these beautiful Buffets in your Dining Room? They are a joy to look upon.

Dining Buffet, 1/4 cut Golden Oak, Golden finish, very highly polished, Colonial design.	Regular Price	\$150.00
	Make-room Price	\$95.00
Dining Buffet, 1/4 cut Golden Oak, Golden finish, very highly polished, Colonial design.	Regular Price	\$165.00
	Make-room Price	\$110.00
Dining Buffet 1/4 cut Golden Oak, Golden finish, Colonial design. Very massive and handsome.	Regular Price	\$265.00
	Make-room Price	\$180.00
Dining Buffet, 1/4 cut Golden Oak, Golden finish, Colonial design. Very large and massive.	Regular Price	\$275.00
	Make-room Price	\$184.00
Dining Buffet, fine Fumed Oak, Mission style; a very beautiful piece of furniture; 1 only.	Regular Price	\$205.00
	Make-room Price	\$135.00

Parlor Suites.

This beautiful Living-room Furniture is as much a delight to the eye as a favorite picture would be. The one you'll like may be listed below.

3-piece, Mahogany finish, highly polished; "Adam" design, upholstered in Striped Plush.	Regular Price	\$185.00
	Make-room Price	\$116.75
3-piece, Solid Mahogany, handsome design, upholstered in Tapestry.	Regular Price	\$185.00
	Make-room Price	\$120.00
3-piece, Solid Mahogany, Louis XVI. design, upholstered in Silk.	Regular Price	\$210.00
	Make-room Price	\$135.00
5-piece, Mahogany finish, highly polished, very massive, upholstered in Tapestry or Green Cut Plush.	Regular Price	\$235.00
	Make-room Price	\$146.00
3-piece, Solid Mahogany, Louis XVI. design, upholstered in rich Blue Brocade.	Regular Price	\$250.00
	Make-room Price	\$150.00



Hoosier Cabinets.

A Cabinet to gladden the heart of the particular housekeeper, who likes "a place for everything and everything in its place." The place for this Hoosier "Beauty" is in your kitchen.

Hoosier-All-White Beauty, in Porcelain and Enamel, the most complete Cabinet ever built.	Regular Price	\$140.00
	Make-room Price	\$105.00
Hoosier Beauty No. 2053. Similar to the All-White but finished in fine Oak.	Regular Price	\$122.50
	Make-room Price	\$100.00

Dining Tables.

Of fine workmanship, and beautifully grained woods highly finished. There is a particular attractiveness about a handsome Dining Table.

Dining Table, Fumed Oak, Mission style, round top, pedestal legs.	Regular Price	\$175.00
	Make-room Price	\$120.00
Dining Table, Golden Oak, Colonial style, round top, pedestal legs, 1/4 cut oak, highly polished.	Regular Price	\$145.00
	Make-room Price	\$95.00
Dining Table, Fumed Oak, Colonial style, round top, pedestal legs.	Regular Price	\$75.00
	Make-room Price	\$52.00

Sideboards.

There are only a very few of these Sideboards left; they went quickly. A finely made piece of furniture.

Sideboard, Surface Oak, finely finished, 14 x 24 British Bevelled Plate Mirror.	Regular Price	\$70.50
	Make-room Price	\$38.50

This week our store has almost boundless interest for those who like to save largely. Among the beautiful furniture offered are some articles whose prices have been reduced more than 50 per cent. All this month—the end of which closes our Make-Room Sale—we are determined to make things interesting for shrewd buyers.

We have gone through all our stock, and put the knife very deep in to the price of each item, so that every article is a genuine 100 p.c. pure bargain.

Royal Easy Chairs.

A wonderfully constructed chair—built specially for men's requirements and comfort. "Push the button" and adjust the reclining back at any desired angle. Concealed extension leg rest under seat. Altogether, a delightful chair to possess.

Fumed or Golden Oak frames, upholstered in fine Tan Moroccan.	Regular Price	\$75.00
	Make-room Price	\$50.00

Dining Chairs.

Beautiful in appearance, perfect in workmanship, and built to give long service without getting shabby.

Chair Suite, Fumed Oak, Mission style, upholstered genuine Leather Slip Seats.	Regular Price	\$245.00
	Make-room Price	\$157.00
Chair Suite, 1/4 cut Golden Oak, Golden finish, highly polished, Colonial style.	Regular Price	\$250.00
	Make-room Price	\$160.00

Wardrobes.

Just right for the house that's short of cupboard space; a place to hang pretty frocks when not in use, with fascinating mirrors to reflect how nice they look when "on".

Very large and massive, Colonial style, Golden Oak or Mahogany finish, with two doors, each with British Bevelled Plate Mirror, 14 x 50.	Regular Price	\$195.00
	Make-room Price	\$135.00

Settees.

These Settees not only add to your living room's appearance, they are as comfortable as they are handsome.

Mahogany finish frame, upholstered good quality silk, highly polished wood.	Regular Price	\$55.00
	Make-room Price	\$36.00
Mahogany finish frame, highly polished, upholstered silk.	Regular Price	\$50.00
	Make-room Price	\$33.00

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Marriage by Capture.

"She resists and struggles in the most approved maidenly fashion," writes Dr. Leonard John Vanden Bergh in "On the Trail of the Pigmies" (T. Fisher Unwin), "but her efforts are, of course, fruitless. No one comes to her rescue, and presently she is borne away to the groom, who awaits her in high glee. He carries

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Clear the Skin

her off to his mother's hut, while she fights and weeps continually.

"After she has been placed in the hut she weeps for eight days more, while her husband remains away. Actual tears are shed; and old-timers in this country maintain that the thought of being made a slave prompts this lachrymal outburst, but I fancy that the tears are caused by no very serious emotion."

After a week of frenzied crying, the girl returns home to her mother. But perhaps this is also only part of the pretence, because she is back with her husband the same day. The bride's girl-friends then come and make a great display of sorrow on losing their playmate. They stay for

three days, during which period they weep endlessly. Altogether the husband's lot does not seem to be enviable.

There are many other strange customs, as well as unusual superstitions, among these peoples. A man who, while on his way to a neighbouring village, encounters a snake upon the road turns back, for he looks upon

the incident as an expression of the unwillingness of a spirit to permit him to proceed. When a woman throws a lump of earth at her husband, the act is taken to mean that she despises him. He then asks for a divorce, which is invariably granted.

Try this Cure!

The Waksamba tribe, in meeting out Justice, favour forms of ordeal which are similar to the early English system of trying a case. The medicine-man heats a piece of iron, which is handed to the accused. If the man is hurt, he is declared to be guilty. Yet another tribe apply very hot irons to their bodies to cure certain ailments.

Writing of the pigmy tribes—a race of very small people who live in the

Congo—Dr. Vanden Bergh declares that they live little above or beyond the monkeys. They live nearly all their lives in the forests, and their game is always big animals like elephants.

It is puzzling how they can kill such large animals with their small bows and arrows. These articles of defence and attack look more like toys for children than like the formidable weapons which they really are in the hands of these miniature men—Titi Bits.

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