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The Commerce of Africa. The continent of Africa has been fittingly termed the Dark Continent (1) Because it has been an unexplored continent until very recent years; (2) Because its inhabitants are dark skinned. Livingstone and Stanley, with other travellers who have preceded them, have made Africa to be the most talked of continent in the world. There are few people, however, who have a very clear and definite idea as to the resources of this great continent. The map of no country on the face of the globe has changed so often during the past few years. The imports amounted in round numbers to \$400,000,000 and the exports to \$350,000,000. A very large proportion of the commercial business of Africa is transacted through the British colonies, their share being \$131,000,000 of the imports and \$132,000,000 of the exports. Next in importance in the import and export trade is the South African Republic or Transvaal, its imports amounting to \$104,000,000 and its exports to \$54,000,000, chief among the latter being gold and other minerals. French Africa, principally Egypt, imports \$54,000,000 and exports \$62,000,000, while Portuguese Africa, whose ports on the eastern coast are adjacent to the gold and diamond fields, is also the scene of commercial activity, the importations being \$12,000,000 and the exportations nearly \$7,000,000. It will thus be seen that Africa has great future possibilities of development. The nation which secures the strongest foothold is likely to be most benefited commercially. This accounts for the opposition of other rival nations, especially in Europe, to the increasing strength of Great Britain on this continent, and accounts in some measure for the virulent attacks which are made against her by the press of other countries in the controversy which is now on between her and the Transvaal, and her hold on Egypt and the Soudan.

Dewey's Welcome. The welcome extended to Admiral Dewey upon his return to his native land is certainly on an extended scale. It is one that must be highly flattering to its recipient. For weeks the city of New York has been busy making preparations for the event. Certainly few men in the United States have ever received so much attention. The people appear to have grown wild at the prospect of meeting and greeting this greatest admiral of the day. To outsiders it looks like "much ado about"—well what? Yes, that is the query! What was the victory that he won at Manila Bay? What was the strength of his antagonist? Were the combatants in such equal terms that the victor could lay claim to having won a great victory against overwhelming odds? Such questions will suggest themselves in view of so much bunting and glad huzzahs. And yet it is fitting that the United States should honor the man who had helped to defend the flag of his country and secure for her possessions in the far east, which will tax the best energies of brain and heart of her best and wisest statesmen to develop. Men differ as to what is wisest and best to do with them. The interests involved are wide-reaching in their effects. The United States are entering upon a new era in their national life. They will be a power to be reckoned with in matters pertaining to the problems which centre in the eastern world today. Canada has no other feeling than to wish their neighbor south the greatest good it is possible for her to achieve.

The Orange Free State. It looks now as if The Orange Free State would throw in its lot with the Transvaal in the controversy and possible conflict with Great Britain. This is to be regretted, for while it will not affect the ultimate end of the conflict it will tend to its prolongation. The end will be the same whatever course is pursued, for the two States put together are no match for Great Britain. But when the end comes there will be no Orange Free State and no Transvaal Republic. There will be one colony. South Africa will bear the same relation to Great Britain as Canada now does. It will take some time, however, to weld these diverse interests into such harmony and loyalty to British institutions as obtain in this fair Canada of ours. It may not be generally known that this step on the part of the Orange Free State is taken with great reluctance. That it would not be taken is pretty certain were it not for the fact that there is a kind of compact between the two States by which each has promised to help the other in case the independence of either is menaced or attacked. The Orange Free State was therefore confronted by these alternatives either to take the British side or that of the Transvaal. It must choose. As appears from recent despatches it seems to have cast in its lot with the Transvaal because it was felt that no other honorable course was open. The only salvation for both republics is to come to terms with their powerful antagonist. There will be no "Majuba Hills" in this war. May the God of peace save these peoples and the world from the terrible arbitrament of a bloody strife.

Johannesburg. This city is the capital of the Orange Free State and is head centre of the present crisis in South Africa. As such it must command a large share of public attention throughout the world. By its wealth, its influence and its indefatigable energy, a state of affairs has been brought about which threatens to shake the South African Republic to its foundation. And this condition will continue until there shall be a settlement of its grievances. The state of public feeling is keyed to such a pitch of excitement that there has been practically a suspension of all but absolutely necessary business. Hundreds are leaving the city daily, and it is said that there are fully 2,000 empty houses in the city. The site occupied by Johannesburg is very fine. The residential sections are elevated and healthy. While there is but little vegetation that is indigenous, the blue gum and wattle trees of Australia have been transplanted with great success, and afford luxuriant shade along the suburban streets. Many of the residences are all that wealth and situation can make them. Johannesburg is 6,000 feet above sea level and the climate is delightful. There is no excessive heat and the nights are refreshingly cool. If the Boers of the Republic could have given these active and energetic Uitlanders a share in the government of the country commensurate with the work they are doing for its development, the conditions now existing would not have obtained. It may be that President Kruger and his advisers felt that to give the Uitlanders representation would have shortened their term of office. But taxation without representation is not possible among a free and enlightened people.

Broom Corn. Every good house-wife is supposed to know how to handle a broom, but it is safe to say that not one in ten has

a clear idea of what her sweeping utensil is made of or where the material came from. Brooms are made from the heads or brushes of the broom corn, which is very closely related to our common field corn. Broom corn first grew in India. From there it was carried to Europe. Tradition has it that Dr. Franklin was instrumental in introducing it to this continent. This may rest on fact or fiction. But however this may be, broom corn grows much like maize, which originated on this continent. The head is larger and the seeds grow on the head instead of in ears. The heads are cut off, leaving about six inches of stalk, and the seeds are scraped off by a machine which does a clean job and does not injure the broom. The seeds are valuable in a way. They are fed to horses and poultry and ground into meal for cattle. In the making of the brooms the corn is put around a handle of basswood or soft maple turned in a lathe. Each layer is wound tight with twine or wire until the desired size is attained. The broom is then pressed out flat and sewed to keep it in that shape. Whisk brooms are made in the same way.

The N. S. Exhibition. The exhibition of 1899, which closed last Saturday, has been a great success. The attendance was very large. They came from various sections of the province and beyond its borders. The show was a most excellent one in every respect. Farmers and fruit growers must and will profit by the exhibit, as also manufacturers. The commissioners deserve great praise for the efforts which they put forth to make the exhibition successful. They could not control the weather. If Providence had favored them with continuous fine weather the attendance would have beaten all previous records. The agricultural and horticultural exhibits were most excellent. This was expected when it is known who had charge of these departments. It is said that better fruit could not be seen in any part of the world. The cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, etc., which were shown excited the warmest expressions of admiration from discriminating visitors, and so did the manufacturing exhibits. On the whole the Commissioners, with Attorney-General Longley at the head, are to be congratulated.

The Trans-Siberian Railway Terminus. It has been officially announced that the terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway will be Talienwan, the Manchurian port leased by Russia. The Czar reaffirms his declaration made at the time the port was occupied, that it should be open to the commercial fleets of all nations, and announces that "we have now decided to begin the erection near to it of a city which we shall call 'Dainy.'" He then proceeds to declare that the port is not merely to be open, but free of custom duties and to define the limits of control in this concession of free trade. This is quite in the spirit of Peter the Great and assures the greatest advantages at once to Russia and to the commerce of the world. It also assures to Russia an outlet to the Pacific all the year round, and for all practical purposes the control of the great Province of Manchuria. China will lose a large slice of her empire without any *quid pro quo*. This may not be an unmixed evil. The commercial world may be greatly benefited thereby. The traffic on this great railway will be something enormous in a few years. Other trans-continental lines will be constructed in the near future further to the south. Great Britain will have to look to her laurels.