

# Northern Messenger

Wm Bronscombe 3040

KILLAMS MILLS NB

VOLUME XXXVIII. No. 14

MONTREAL, APRIL 3, 1903.

30 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid



## Stalking the Ostrich in Damaraland.

(Colonel Parker Gillmore.)

Damaraland is not an attractive country, probably less so than any part of the world I know of. But there is game in this land, a few years back it swarmed with it, and where that is to be found, in spite of danger, in spite of hardships, Englishmen will be discovered in its pursuit.

Damaraland is the true home of the magnificent gemsbok, as well as the ostrich, and lions are far from scarce. The latter have a bad reputation, and are almost as diurnal in their habits as they

are nocturnal further to the eastward. Moreover, his majesty seldom roars here, and by that means gives indication of his presence.

To obtain ostrich feathers I visited this veritable 'great thirst land,' but I succeeded only in killing two birds. However, my followers did better. The natives also came frequently to my waggon, and all their purchases were paid for with these valuable commodities, for valuable the choice ones are, as will be seen when I state that in Soochong, Bamawato, I have offered a guinea a piece for them, yet was unsuccessful in obtaining what I desired. This was in the days previous to ostrich

farming; still, the plumage of domestic birds is ever very much inferior to that of the wild, untrammelled wanderers of the desert.

I do not think any sportsman will differ from me when I state that there is no game so difficult to stalk as this gigantic member of the feathered tribe. It appears to be ever on the watch, while its great height gives it a wonderful command of distance. Its eyesight, hearing and sense of smell are all remarkably acute, and being—when not in a state of captivity—most timorous, these senses are in constant employment.

When in Damaraland I had in my em-