

JEALOUS ABOUT MOROCCO.

England Keeps Watch on the West And France on the East.

Neither Power is Likely to Steal a March on the Other—The Possession of the Country Equally Important to Both—Great Britain's Post at Jubi Gives Her Easy Access.

"Morocco is destined, sooner or later, to be a menace to the peace of Europe as great as the more easterly Mohammedan commonwealths were twenty years ago." These words, or words to this effect, were spoken by Lord Salisbury, prime minister of England, in one of his public speeches a few months ago. And these words seem to be nearing their fulfillment even now. Although the British, French, and Spanish fleets that were assembled off the port of Tangier in Morocco, watching more each other than the events on the coast have dispersed again, the danger may recur at any moment.

Tangier is one of the finest of the many fine ports of that most beautiful of the coast-lands of northern Africa, the ancient Mauritania. The port and city is located at the extreme northwestern promontory of Africa, looking northward upon the coast of Spain and westwards on the Atlantic ocean at the point where the broad expanse of the sea begins to narrow near the Straits of Gibraltar, a few miles to the east. The city is the seat of the grand chief, who claims to be the vicar of Mohammed, the prophet, in true apostolic succession. He is the recognized spiritual chief of all the true believers of the Mohammedan faith of the region and has in this capacity more influence upon the people than the ruler of the land himself, the so-called emperor of Morocco, or the emirul mumenin—that is, prince of all believers, as the inhabitants of his country call him. Disturbances at Tangier are for such reasons more dangerous than any at other places. Besides, there are a good many European merchants located there whose lives and property might have been endangered by the tribes in the country adjacent to the city, who were in a state of revolt and threatened to attack the place.

ENGLISH FLEET FIRST ON THE SCENE.

Why should so much ado be made about Morocco? The reason is that any great power occupying that country would thereby possess a domineering influence in the Mediterranean sea. As Egypt guards the eastern gateway of the Mediterranean so does Morocco command the western, which is the straits of Gibraltar. Besides, Morocco is one of the richest regions of the Mediterranean, watered by splendid rivers, forming good highways of commerce if navigation were secure. It has a climate better suited to Europeans than any other coast of Africa; and last, but not least, it has a coast line on the Atlantic ocean nearly three times as long as that on the Mediterranean with a considerable number of first-class harbors.

All these features make Morocco a most desirable dependency for any power engaged in ocean traffic. England held Tangier occupied from 1662 to 1684 and now regrets having relinquished it, more particularly for the reason that Tangier furnished all the supplies needed for the British fortress of Gibraltar. Spain occupied nearly the whole of the Mediterranean coast of Morocco in the sixteenth century and is still in possession of five places, Ceuta, Tetuan, and Melilla being the largest of them.

A demonstration in favor of the European interests appeared necessary, and the British, as usual at colonial or commercial oceanic stations, were the first to have their vessels at the point of danger and to threaten a debarkation of soldiers unless the sultan showed himself capable of efficiently protecting the city. The presence of a British squadron in Moroccan waters had hardly become known when the Spanish and French governments dispatched vessels to join the British with orders not to suffer the latter to take any steps by themselves. The French said that no landing of troops would take place except by the three fleets jointly.

FRANCE'S INTEREST IN MOROCCO.

France never had a substantial hold upon Morocco, but since she made herself master of Algeria as far as the eastern limits of Morocco, she has had ever recurring bickerings with the Moorish tribes. She is even now disputing the claims of the emir of Morocco to a sort of limited suzerainty over the Bedouin tribes of the oasis of Touat, located south of both Morocco and Algeria. The possession of the Touat region would greatly increase the influence of France upon Morocco, as it would extend the French frontier along the great part of her southern boundary. In that part of Morocco Great Britain is not prepared to check French intrigue and aggression. Neither does she care a great deal about it. The British interests in Morocco do not extend beyond the high ridge of the central chain of the Atlas range. This central mountain chain divides Morocco into two regions which differ greatly in climate, industry, commerce, and the stage of civilization of their inhabitants.

In no part of Morocco is there any considerable amount of civilization. Yet there is some approach to civilized conditions on the northwestern slope of the Atlas range, but the population on the southern slopes is composed of barbarians not much superior to the natives of the interior of Africa. The high ridge of the central chain of the Atlas range divides what, in modern geography, may be called Africa proper from that small part of the continent which belongs to the Mediterranean region. It is this Mediterranean part of Morocco, situated north and west of the highest ridge of the Atlas, which is really worth the attention of commercial Europe, and it is this part only of which Lord Salisbury spoke when he said it would be "a menace to the peace of Europe."

ROMAN OCCUPATION OF AFRICA.

It was only the Mediterranean part of north Africa which was colonized by the Phoenicians and Greeks, and which formed the valuable portion of the Roman provinces of Africa, Numidia, and Mauritania. The period of Roman rule in these countries is of the highest historical interest, because it was almost the only time when the whole region enjoyed not only peace and domestic tranquility, but also a height of civilization and prosperity, surpassed by no other part of the empire, which comprehended many of the richest and most civilized countries then known. And it was this same north

African coast region where primitive Christianity was most successful, a few hundred dioceses have existed there in the first centuries after Christ.

When the power of Rome began to wane a number of states were established in north Africa, the incessant wars of which rapidly reduced the country to a condition in which it was easy for the Vandals to overrun it and complete its economic ruin. A limited prosperity was restored after the Moslems had conquered and converted the inhabitants, the centuries after three Vandalian conquest.

NOT LONG SUBJECT TO THE CALIPHES.

The caliphate did not hold western Mauritania in subjection for a long time. At the end of the eighth century already Maghrib el Akas, which Arabian name means "the uttermost west," recovered its independence. It was overrun again by the Turks, who, however, did not succeed in permanently establishing themselves there.

After the Turkish period the country continued, for a time, three states—Fez, Taflelet, and Maghrib. Toward the middle of the seventeenth century the Cheriffs of Taflelet conquered Maghrib and Fez, including the western part of what is at present French Algeria. They also held the oasis of the desert as far south as Timbuctoo on the River Niger and parts of Guinea still farther south. From these Cheriffs of Taflelet the present emir of Morocco is descended.

In the middle ages the navy of Morocco was formidable enough to be a permanent threat to the maritime powers of Europe. But although the prosperity of the country continued comparatively great it could not be compared at all to that enjoyed under the rule of ancient Rome, and as regards civilization hardly a trace of the wonderful civilization of Spanish Moors extended to Morocco. When the Moors were driven out of Spain they settled in what is called the Rif country, and there established the system of piracy which continued for centuries the scourge of the Mediterranean trade. This piracy was at the beginning a revenge wreaked upon the Christians for having driven the Moors out of Europe, but it soon degenerated into a most cruel and infamous system of robbery.

WHERE THE MOORISH PIRATES LIVED.

The Rif is a line of rugged, craggy mountains running parallel to the coast line of the Mediterranean sea from Tangier to Melilla close upon the frontier of Algeria, a distance of little more than 200 miles. The mountains are less than sixty miles from the edge of the sea. They are intersected by deep ravines and transverse valleys, every one of which is watered by a clear brook or mountain rivulet running across the strip of land and falling into the sea. The mountainside is clothed with beautiful green fields and forests reaching to the top; the valleys and ravines are also resplendent with a luxuriant vegetation, and so is the lowland sloping to the edge of the water. It is altogether a most beautiful strip of land. The rivulets form many a good little port in which the light, shallow vessels of the pirates used to find ready refuge and hiding places.

From the Riffs on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coast to the ridge of the central chain of the Atlas range there extends a broad and fertile plain in which the majority of the population is settled and where the most important cities of the country are located, Fez in the Northeast and Morocco in the southwest being the largest. The name of the city of Morocco has been adopted by Europe as the name of the entire country. The city was founded in 1072 and attained its greatest development in the thirteenth century, when its population was estimated at the high figure of 700,000. At present it has almost 60,000. It is badly built and its habitations are one-story earth huts, with flat roofs and slits in the walls by way of windows. There is a bazaar for retail trade. One-third of the twenty mosques of the city are extensive piles and appointed with considerable elegance and richly adorned. A wall of earth of a height of thirty feet surrounds the city. The chief industry of the city is the manufacture of Morocco leather, the softness and brilliant colors of which are unequalled by anything made in other countries. Tanning and dyeing of leather is that industry which Moroccans have raised to the greatest perfection. The country seems to possess several plants not known in any other part of the world, which give to leather that remarkable softness and color so greatly prized in Morocco leather. And each part of the country seems to have a plant of its own different from the other parts. With these plants Morocco makes yellow leather, Fez makes red, and Taflelet green leather.

ADVANTAGES OF A MOORISH CLIMATE.

The city of Morocco has a splendid climate, and so has all the region north and west of the central chain of the Atlas. It is the high chain which protects the country from the scorching winds of the great desert. And the sea tempers both cold and heat. Thus it is that the climate is as mild and fresh as that of any country on the Mediterranean and thoroughly well suited to Europeans. The city of Morocco is located at a distance of only twenty-seven miles from the high, snow-bound peaks of the Atlas and about twice that distance from the sea. It is never too hot or too cold in the city. The temperature rarely sinks below 40 or rises above 90 degrees in the whole of this favored plain of Morocco, and in the city it never reaches even these extremes.

The emir has a sumptuous palace to the south of the city, surrounded by gardens to an extent of about 180 acres. The emirs have tried for longer than a century to introduce reforms upon European models. But they have succeeded hardly better than the sultans at Constantinople in similar attempts. Christians were slaves in Morocco until 1814, when a law promulgated by the emir pronounced them free; but the law has not yet been fully carried out. In 1817 piracy was prohibited, but it continued until the European powers forced the Rif pirates to discontinue their lawless actions. Nor were any of the other reform edicts more successful. For these reasons European enterprise in Morocco has never yet been secure. If life and property could be protected the country, rich in the products of agriculture and in mineral wealth, might become again one of the most prosperous of the world.

ENGLAND ON THE WATCH AT JUBI.

All these advantages have been fully recognized by Europe, chiefly by Great Britain, France, and Spain. More than two-thirds of the international trade of Morocco is in the hands of British merchants, and Great

Britain is already prepared for any emergency. They have fortified Cape Jubi, situated a few miles from south western frontier and can at any moment concentrate a fleet there as securely as in the bay of Gibraltar. It is these preparations of the British which render France apprehensive that the British might be able to lay hands on Morocco as they have done on Egypt, and exclude France from the eastern inlet to the Mediterranean sea.

To prevent such a consummation is the supreme desire of France. For that purpose she wants to wrench Touat from Morocco, because an extension of her possessions along the southern frontier so near to the Atlantic would paralyze the influence of the English station at Cape upon Morocco and secure to France the predominant influence in Morocco.

Love and Marriage in Japan.

A grave question has been raised by Sir Edwin Arnold in the February number of the *Cosmopolitan*. Writing of love and marriage in Japan, he defends with spirited eloquence the superlative praise he recently on Japanese women in his two best-selling books. Therein he called them "semi-angelic," and now he iterates that "the Japanese female comes, all things considered, nearest of her sex, as regards natural gifts, to what we understand by an angelic disposition." Not content with this, Sir Edwin, waxing warm, explicitly declares that "this daughter of the Land of the Rising Sun might pass, I really believe, into a higher state of existence with very few changes of nature, manners, or heart, and find herself, and be found there, quite at home." If Sir Edwin were alone in this belief, his Occidental brethren might feel inclined to ascribe his ardor to the well-known climatic influences of the land of the lotus, working, in his case, upon an imagination as sensitive as it is fecund and fine. He has, however, but added his commanding voice to the chorus of praise that has been steadily swelling since Pierre Loti started the tune in his exquisite idyll. Now it is to be observed that, by all accounts, the key to the character of the Japanese woman lies in the word obedience. Ages ago, we are told by Mr. Henry Norman, her "three great duties" were religiously declared to be obedience; if a daughter, to her father; if a wife, to her husband; if a widow, to her eldest son. At the will of her parents the Japanese girl accepts her husband, and accept one she must before she is 20 years old, or join the slaves of Aphrodite, and Confucius is presumably happy at the devotion to his behests. The husband has an almost unquestioned right, for the smallest reason or none at all, to divorce his wife, who, however, under all provocations, remains absolutely faithful. Out of any five marriages at least two, it is said, end in some sad and capricious separation, for "the husband can get rid of his wife on the ground of too much gossiping or because of disagreements with the mother-in-law; and the worst of it is that the children afterward belong to him exclusively." That is one reason, Sir Edwin tells us, why Japanese wives are so divinely patient. Yet it is not alone for the tenacious fidelity and blind obedience of the wives that English, American, and French travelers have been ravished to adoration by the charms of the Japanese woman. Even as a child she is silent, demure, restrained, and polite; even as a *geisha*, or dancing girl, she is the very goddess of gentleness and grace; even as an unfortunate she is pure of heart and speech—always she is peerless, enchanting, angelic.

Having stated the question raised by Sir Edwin, it is no doubt needless for us to indicate the gravity of its import. Every woman of the Western world, proud of her comparative enfranchisement, yet restive under its limitations, will hear with disdain if not alarm the raptures of enlightened men over the incomparable charms of her Oriental, pagan, and enslaved sister. What becomes, indeed, of the boasted progress of the world, the splendid evolution of society, the ægis of Christianity—of woman's rights and woman's achievements—if, after all, cultivated men of authoritative judgment and exquisite taste—poets, journalists, and knights—pass all this by and prostrate themselves at the feet of semi-barbaric women, whose social shackles they ignore, whose religious and moral benightment they laud, and whose domestic servitude they esteem a virtue? Verily, in Sir Edwin's consummate praise there lies invidious comparison. Can it be that the civilized male of to-day longs secretly for a return of the loathsome days when women were in thrall? At any rate, the Occidental woman has been contented. Let Sir Edwin explain.

A Railroad Manager.

Ohio and Mississippi Railway, Office of the President and Gen'l Manager, Cincinnati, Ohio, U. S. A., Nov. 15, 1886. Gentlemen: Recently while in the act of alighting from my car I stepped upon a stone, which, turning suddenly under my foot, threw me to the ground with a severely sprained ankle. Suffering exceedingly, I was helped into the car, and my man rubbed me most generously with arnica and kindred remedies, but to no avail. Reaching a station where St. Jacobs Oil could be secured, two bottles of it were bought and the application resulted at once in a relief from pain, which had become well nigh unbearable. I was out and about my work in three days. W. W. PRABODY, Pres't and Gen'l Manager.

Another Good Girl Gone Wrong.

Sunday School teacher (sadly)—I'm afraid Johnny, that I will never meet you in heaven.

Johnny—Why? What have you been doing now?

The European nations that have been scrambling to acquire possession of all the coasts of Africa have had a good deal to say about the "Hinterland," and have set up the theory that the nation which has possession of a certain coast line has a right to the unappropriated regions behind it. Unfortunately this rule does not seem to work in the case of Liberia. It seems that the negro republic should have limited "Hinterland," for she has been in possession of her long stretch of coast for many years and, moreover, her explorer, Anderson, was the first to travel into and describe the elevated country lying east of Liberia proper. Now France claims this entire country, and poor Liberia, too weak to assert any rights she may have, finds herself confined to her narrow strip of coast, though her public men have been talking for years of the influence they hoped their country would some day wield in the interior.

WONDERFUL TRAINED RATS.

They "Play Cars" and Commit Suicide Now and Then.

The Paris "Temps" publishes an extraordinary article on rats. It appears that at the Folies Bergeres there is a Russian rat tamer who is giving a funny exhibition. He has fat rats, lean rats, black rats, white rats, big rats, and, strangest of all, little rats. Everybody has seen a big rat, but for a little rat it is necessary to go to the Folies Bergeres.

"I found Douroff, the rat trainer," says the Temps reporter, "overseeing the work of laying a miniature railroad, circular in form. In a sort of Franco-Russian gibberish he was scolding the workmen who were handling a little train formed of a locomotive, three wagons, and a baggage van. When this was done a little wooden station house was brought out and put in position. All along the line there were posts for switchmen and signals. Then when all was ready a cage full of rats was carried behind the scene.

"Douroff clapped his hands. Immediately the rats came out and jumped upon the platform of the station. Half a dozen fat fellows climbed into the first-class carriage and sat there like aldermen. About half a dozen white rats with their heads and necks dyed black so that they looked as if they wore cloaks, got in the second class; and a ragged-looking set of Bohemian and aristocrats took the third class. Upon the platform a great fat fellow, the boss station master, or *chef de gare*, as the French call that official, walked pompously up and down and superintended the whole business, paying special attention to a band of white chaps that were handling the freight. These employees took in their teeth the handles of the little trunks and carefully placed them in the van. A whistle is heard and then the engineer takes his position. Another chap gets into the lookout, and another takes up his position in the pointman's box. There is another whistle. The locomotive puffs and the train starts. On the top of the risk a gray rat, after climbing up the little iron ladder, looks down upon the moving train. Everybody laughs.

"It's comical, isn't it?" said Douroff to the reporter. "And doubtless you think it wonderful; and yet the whole thing is done with the greatest simplicity. Except the education of my little baggage men, the thing was accomplished without the least difficulty. This is the way I managed it: At their breakfast hour I placed the black rats on the platform in front of the first-class carriage, in which their bread and water was prepared for them. I did the same for the passengers of the second and third class, as well as for the engineer, the switchman, the lookout, and the baggage men. They all got their food in their proper places. At first I trained each group separately, little by little the habit grew upon them until I let them all out at once. Each one took his place without the least hesitation. As for the locomotive it is unnecessary to say that it is not run by the engineer. It goes by a sort of clock-work, and that's the way the trick is done."

"Douroff then told the reporter the difficulties he had to keep his rats from getting frightened at the electric lights on the stage; and while he was talking the signal rat fell down from his high post. Douroff swore. "There goes another loss!" said he. "A fall like that is death to a rat that is not in the full bloom of youth. He won't die right away; he will linger a week, perhaps two, but he is bound to die or go mad. If he gets crazy the poor little devil will commit suicide."

"Suicide!"

"Why yes, you may laugh as much as you choose, but I can tell you that suicide is quite common among rats. I don't believe there is a creature in the world more impressionable or of a temperament more inclined to melancholy or with a nervous system more fragile than a rat. Would you believe it that out of my 230 rats I have always about thirty on the sick list? A degree, more or less, of heat or cold in their cage knocks out eight or ten. Pneumonia finishes one of them in forty-eight hours. But that is nothing. The great thing is to see to their amusement. If I did not give them their freedom every second day, and if I did not let them out of their cage for a couple of hours every day and allow them full liberty to scamper about in an enclosed place, I would lose one-half of them in eight days. At first they would become melancholy, and at the end of three days they would all be crazy rats. Even with all my care some of them still go mad. You should see a mad rat run amuck among the rest. Then the others, exasperated at his outrageous conduct, attack him furiously, and soon finish him. Some rats, as I told you, commit suicide. They refuse all kinds of food. No amount of coaxing and petting can cheer them when in the melancholy mood. They refuse to eat until they die."

"Do you think that this fellow that fell down, threw himself down intentionally?"

"That is my belief," said Douroff. "I would swear to it." Then the rat trainer began to caress the wounded rat. "Mouchka, my poor little Mouchka," he murmured. "You want to leave your old master? Ah, bad Mouchka!"

Cooking by Observation.

Mr. Newwedded—"This coffee is weak as water again."

Mrs. N.—"I can't account for it, my dear. No matter how careful I am, it's always the same way."

"Perhaps you don't use enough coffee."

"Nonsense! I put in a whole half cupful, and everybody says that's plenty."

"Did you measure the water?"

"Huh! Who ever heard of measuring water? All cooks pour it right out of the tea-kettle. I've seen 'em, cetera—so there!"

It Makes Pure Blood

And by so doing Hood's Sarsaparilla cures scrofula, salt rheum, and all other blood diseases, aids proper digestion, cures dyspepsia, gives strength to every organ of the body, and prevents attacks of that tired feeling or more serious affection. The fact that it has cured thousands of others is sufficient reason for belief that it will cure you.

N. B. Be sure to get

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

The Russian censor in St. Petersburg is now permitting the transmission of despatches concerning the measures taken by the Czar's Government for the relief of the starving peasants on the Volga. On Friday we learned of the promulgation of the order for the purchase of 15,000,000 rubles' worth of wheat and yesterday we learned that 40,000,000 pounds of grain were awaiting transportation. It appears also that railroad business has been reorganized in such a way as to quadruple the carrying power of at least one of the great lines, and that an imperial commission has been appointed to supervise the work of relief. The fact that the Czar is possessed of absolute authority enables him to do things in a peremptory fashion, both in peace and in war.

A strange commentary on the anxiety of women to possess the franchise is furnished by the city of Boston, the most cultured centre in the United States. The advocates of women's rights in that city are finding it difficult to explain the apathy which exists among the Boston women to make use of their right to vote for School Commissioners. In the year 1888 20,292 women registered as voters, and 19,490 voted at the election. In 1889 only 10,051 voted, in 1890 the number had fallen to 7,434 while in 1891 less than 6000 exercised the franchise. It seems that the women of Massachusetts labored hard for years to secure the right to go to the polls, and yet in the course of three years the number who availed themselves of the new liberty fell from nearly 20,000 to 6,000.

August Flower

Mr. Lorenzo F. Sleeper is very well known to the citizens of Appleton, Me., and neighborhood. He says: "Eight years ago I was taken sick, and suffered as no one but a 'dyspeptic can. I then began taking August Flower. At that time I was a great sufferer. Every thing I ate distressed me so that I had to throw it up. Then in a few moments that horrid distress would come on and I would have to eat and suffer again. I took a little of your medicine, and felt much better, and after taking a little more August Flower my dyspepsia disappeared, and since that time I have never had the first sign of it. I can eat anything without the least fear of distress. I wish all that are afflicted with that terrible disease or the troubles caused by it would try August Flower, as I am satisfied there is no medicine equal to it."

The metal in a 5-cent nickel piece is worth about half-a-cent, and 15 cents will purchase copper enough to make \$2 worth of cents.

The latest statistics show that Great Britain imports an overwhelming quantity of her agricultural produce from countries that are outside the British Empire. The British possessions lead the world in mutton, potatoes, flax-seed and wool only. In all other articles, the greater share of the farm products come from people who are not under the British flag, and who accordingly would not be included in any preferential trade arrangement with the colonies. Take wheat, for instance. The colonies send the Mother Country about 21,000,000 bushels out of 109,689,956 bushels, which would mean that the bread-eaters of Britain would have to pay the preferential tax on a good share of their wheat. We would increase our contribution, but we would not be likely to multiply it by five. This is a fact that the Imperial Federationists who wish to make a preferential trade treaty the first step towards any wooing of the British market, should carefully consider.

THIRTY YEARS.

Johnston, N. B., March 11, 1889.

"I was troubled for thirty years with pains in my side, which increased and became very bad. I used

ST. JACOBS OIL

and it completely cured. I give it all praise."

MRS. WM. RYDER.

"ALL RIGHT! ST. JACOBS OIL DID IT."