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Their warlike disposition is nurtured the frequent feuds between neighbortribes, generally arising about water the theft of cattle. The unwritten of the desert forbids any sectlements und the wells, which are common to But two parties arrive at the same at a well which is insufficient for A dispute arises as to precedence; come to blows and a man is killed. murderer flees to his tribe and sends off r the price of blood; for the avengof blood as practised by the ancient brews exists in full force; except that re are no "cities of refuge." If the aily of the dead refuse compensation. r begins, and it may last for years, h murder by one side demanding reiation by the other. Hence it is that n when peace prevails in the desert. two parties meet, both halt and send a man or two to reconnoiter and astain if there is blood between them. hen a caravan arrives unexpectedly in neighborhood of a Bedouin camp, the t impulse of the natives is to vanish tantly, especially if soldiers are seen ong the new comers. The sheep and ts, driven off by the women and chiln, disappear in a twinkling beyond the at ridge. Having no other encumnce than a few skins and gourds, their grations are exceedingly prompt and The tents and other baggage are ded upon camels, andain a few mina whole encampment disappears. ter this precaution is taken, one or two n return, and when they have ascerned the peaceful intentions of the angers, the others approach to trade to learn news, of which they are very

de of life prevents their giving much ention to the minor practices of their igion. Their women are much more e than those who live in settled habiions and in some of the tribes this freeis carried to the most extreme ense, while in others great strictness vails. The customs of marriage and orce differ but little from those preling in all Moslem countries. The douins always go bare-headed, even in fiercest heat of summer, and, strange say, some tribes, like the Beggaras, ve their heads. The Ababdehs twist ir hair into plaits the size of a quill, own straight back from front to while the Bishareens comb all the from the forehead to the crown of head straight up to the height of five six inches, the rest hanging in braids arly down to the shoulders. They ster their heads with suet and camel's low, or any other grease they can proe, letting it trickle down upon their ted breasts and shoul lers. The tribes distinguished also by the form and ition of gashes cut in the cheeks in in-The Beggaras who inhabit thern Kordofan, near the Nile, are warlike, and when beyond the ch of Egyptian garrisons are addicted brigandage. They possess great num-, and all armed with four or five es, come in hundreds to the market

Obeid, The great sheikhs of all

tribes usually wear the turbans and

ing robes of the Egyptians, but the

mon people are satisfied with a few

They are all Mohammedans, but their

dals upon their feet. he Bedouins have a strong feeling of ional dignity, and are quick to resent lts. Duels of a peculiar kind are not on mon, always supervised by the rs of the tribe, who never permit to come to a fatal termination. netimes the two adversaries, separaty two parallel ropes about a yard t, are armed with courbashes (a fearwhip, made of hippopotamus hide, r until their wrath is cooled. In serious cases the combatants are e is given to the one who wins the cut, after which he passes it to his ersary, who strikes the second blow, so on alternately. They are forbidto strike at a vital part, and while are slashing each other's arms, legs, hs, and shoulders,—not without a of chivalrous courtesy, the judges e combat watch each stroke that is p, and when in their opinion enough d has been shed, they rise and separthe adversaries, who proclaim thems satisfied, and return quietly to

al yet almost absolute ruler of over h'y thousand people. His ancestors princes for generations perhaps behe days of the Prophet. He is now sixty years of age, nearly aix feet and of dignified presence. His is dark chocolate. He has excelfeatures, large black eyes, curved the nose, thin lips, and a fine beard. extremely wealthy in silver and jewels and precious arms, camels, and slaves. The Khedive rehim to reside on the banks of the where he possesses a princely esfrich alluvial lands, at El Hoar, Berber. He is held responsible for without hiring them and their lar layers, and quite rain-proof. These as to proficiency, to be addressed, etc."

large tents furnished for his accommodation. Whenever we came across encompments of his people, they hastened to do him homage as their prince, kinding his hand and the hem of his garment, and tent door, administered justice precisely as the kings of Israel are described as doing; and no king or emperor could have a more noble and commanding manner. His father was the Sheikh Kralif. When the Memlooks were exterminated by Mohammed Ali, in 1811, those that escaped the massacre fied to the deserts, and Kralif gave them refuge and hospitality; and when the dreaded Ibrahim Pasha followed in pursuit, Kralif alone was bold enough to avew what he had done, and to vindicate his course. Soon afterward he was murdered by a Turkish governor, and was succeeded by his brother Baraca. The latter waited for an opportunity, and retaliated by assassinating the Turk, and some years later he was murdered by the latter's relatives. Michammed Khalifa succeeded his uncle, and took up the avenging of blood, and the vendetta did not cease until one or two of the Turks had been killed, and the rest fled the country. When, after seven months' wanderings through the eastern deserts, we reached the banks of the Nile, he gave a great feast at his residence to the entire expedition. Many sheep were slaughtered and numberless fowls. The officers had their banquet apart, fifty or more dishes, in the Arab fashion, a sheep roasted whole crowning the feast. The soldiers, camel-drivers, and servants all had theirs seated on the ground and attended by the sheikh's slaves. He, with a courtesy and grace that any prince might envy, commencing with us, went from group to group, breaking bread and eating just one mouthful with each, accompanying the act with some graceful oriental compliment. He reminded me of Abraham, only he is a much more powerful sheikh than Abraham ever was. He has remained faithful in his allegiance to the Khedive, and he is the present Mudeer of Dongola, so often mentioned in the dispatches. He has been made a pasha and decorated with the order of the Osmanieh, and is spoken of as the future Governor-General of the Soudan. His alliance is worth as much as an army to the British.

was in obscurity, secluded in a cave in the island of Aba, above Duem, transforming himself into a prophet by meditation, prayer, and pretended visions and revelations. What is most striking about | sound of the darabukas and native flutes him is his pertinacity and his power of announces the fantasias, which follows holding his followers in spite of defeat. | the day's labors. This picture of El It is nearly four years since he first | Obeid, the capital of Kordofan, would raised the standard of revolt, and during | apply with slight variations to all the large that time he has suffered nine or ten se- | towns of Egypt and the Soudan. riors defeate, with barely an equal number One sight, however, I beheld there, known what happened on the landing of splendid oxen, mounted upon of successes. After every defeat he has ch both men and woffen, ricing | returned to the attack stronger than before. Three times he was repulsed with heavy losses while besieging El Obeid, but he finally captured it. H cks Pasha inflicted a terrible defeat upon him, but he subsequently destroyed Hicks Pasha and his entire army. It would be a danis of cotton around the waist, and gerous mistake to suppose that his power is broken. His inaction during the summer is explained by the fact that his followers, many of whom live in Kordofan, had to go home to plant and secure the scanty crop of dokn (an inferior kind of doura which is the only grain that matures during the brief rainy season from June 15th to September 15th), on which During the sickly season (that of the their families depend for the next year. Like all commanders of barbarians, who have no regular commissariat, he may proportion was nearly as great among the ch brings the blood, with every cut). have only a couple of thousand men with | population. they are encouraged to slash each him to-day and fitty thousand next month. It is certain that he had fully that number or more when he extermined flat on the ground, face to face, ated Hicks Pasha. If all the Bedouin as close as they can get. One single | tribes and the people from Kordofen to Dongola were to unite under his flag, he could muster more than a hundred thousand men. But this is not to be expected, and the British, profiting by the division existing among the tribes, may secure some more or less valuable allies whose fidelity will depend entirely upon success. But in any case the Mahdi is not a toe to be despised.

El Obeid is the present centre of his power. I was forced to remain there for six months, having been disabled in the deserts by insolation produced by excestents to have their wounds | sive heat, and I was transported back to Suakim in the winter, nearly a thousand brief sketch of the foremost Bedouin | miles across two deserts, in a litter swung th of the Soudan will illustrate the between two camels; but during my conacter of those tribes. Mohammed | valescence I had time and opportunity to ein Khalifa the great chief of the observe everything worthy of note in El odehs and Bishareens, is the patri- Obeid. This city is about four hundred miles from the Nile, two hundred of which are through desola e atmoors. It is built on an immense plain, studded with enormous baobaes, which always grow singly one or two hundred yards apart. It is a place of fifteen or twenty. thousand inhabitants, almost hidden in thickets of hegliks and mimosas, which give it a pleasing appearance from a distance. There are a few substantial, wellbuilt houses belonging to Greek and Egyptian merchants. The telegraph, on iron posts brought from England, connecting it with Knartoum and Cairo, was completed while I was there; and before three days, such is the civilizing influence ecurity of trade and travel through of commerce, the local traders were using astern deserts, and receives a large it to ascertain the quotations of gum upon the moneys paid his people arabic and ostrich feathers at Cairo and ides, carriers, and camel-drivers; Alexandria. The native dwellings are 18 one of the privileges claimed by generally circular, with an earthen wall that no one—not even government four or five feet high, surmounted with a tions - shall pass through their conical roof made of dokn stalks in regu-

number of these tokies for its use, an the group is surrounded with a thornhedge. This enclosure, shaded by hegsubmitting their suits for his decision; like, is often planted as a vegetable garwhile he, seated under a tree or at his den. The sight of the natives seated around their dwellings at sundown, the men chatting and amoking, the women attending to household duties, and the children playing and rolling about in primitive nakedness, is both ourious and pisturesque. The market of El Obeid is held daily on a spacious square in front of the Governor's quarters—the main building of which, now the Mahdi's residence, is three hundred feet front with a large square tower in the centre. Some three or four thousand people come to this market from the surrounding villages. Cattle, horses, camels, sheep, grain, and the identical peanut of Virginia and Carolina are the staples of trade. Near by are covered bazzars containing European goods, and also large warehouses full of gum arabic, hides, and ostrich feathers.

It is very interesting to watch about sunset the groups returning from market. or white cotton robes and turbans, riding on donkeys; men and women on camels'back; Beggaras mounted on bullocks, with their hands full of lances; Kababeesh and Hadendawa Bedouins; soldiers in white uniforms, recruited among the slaves from Central Africa, taken from the traders in order to break up their traffic and drafted into the black these are Greeks and Egyptians in their national costumes, Bashi-bazouks from Albania and Asia Minor, some on foot, others mounted on their Syrian horses, and Catholic priests and Sisters of Charity in their peculiar dress. Last, not least, hundreds of women venders of merissa (native beer), fruits, and vegetables, with jars, hampers, and baskets piled up on their heads, in impossible structures, apparently defying all the laws of gravitation, yet held up by that astonishing gift of equilibrium common to all African women. They go laughing, chatting, running, leaping, without ever touching the burden with their hands, and yet nothing falls to the ground. The crowd gradually disappear; the tropical moon rises above the horizon; the voice of the muezzin calls the faith-When I was in the Soudan the Mahdi | ful to prayer; and the drums and bugles of the garrison (all Central African nequist for an hour, after which the merry vate."

shocked my senses. It was the buryingground, situated almost within the town, | ject. and some six or eight acres in extent. The gravelly soil was literally covered with shreds of the white and blue cotton robes in which the dead are wrapped for burial. The graves, never more than two feet deep, are lightly covered with stones and thorns. Eyery night the hyenas ceme in and dig up the bodies that have been buried during the day, leaving exposed to view the remnants of their feast. No imagination can realize the horror of this Golgotha It follows of course that the mortality is fearful. rain) the deaths average ten a day in a garrison of two thousand men, and the

It is apparantly the purpose of the British Government to abandon the Soudan. But if the expedition to bring out Gordon and the garrisons meets with | retary. brilliant success, England may determine to occupy Khartoum permanently, as has been so ably and forcibly urged by Sir Samuel Baker. Otherwise, all that country will relapse into barbarism; its vasu trade will be lost to the world; and to the comparitively strong and civilized government which enforced good order under Ismail Pasha, will succeed anarchy and the redoubled horrors of unrestrained slave-hunting and slave trading. - [R. E. Colston, in the "Century" for march.]

Pretty Much the Same Thing After All.

"Father," he said, as he came running in from school, "did you ever drill an oil well and make \$50,000 ?"

" No, my son, I never did." "I was in hopes that you had, for]

wanted to brag to the boys." "Well, you can tell 'em that' although I never drilled an oil well and made \$50, 000, an oil broker once drilled me and made \$75,000. which is about the same

All His Troubles Ahead of Him

thing, I guess."

Three year old to crying baby: "Y'u fink y'u 'ave yots of twubble, don't you, baby ?" "Hu-wah-hu-wah-hu-wah?" replied

the baby. to dit a good 'pankin' once, an' 'en y'u u'll know what taubble is."

The London Sportsman, of Feb. 11, contained the following advertisement: "Wanted-A cultured gentleman, capable of milking goats. A university man preferred. Application, with testimonials

Tas Smythe a local member with a harely and toes turning in.

For some weeks past the Professor has hankered for an official position, and fail ing to receive secognition of his merits he organized a conspiracy to dethrone Brother Gardner. By circulating many false statements, and by forging the names of several individuals to false decuments, he enlisted the sympathies of Elder Antimony Swift, Descon Cohort Davis and Judge Out-Off Kemperberry. He approached Huckleberry Tompkins with the plan, and even went so far as to offer him a new flay-cent door-mat to join the conspiracy, but Brother Tompkins was true blue and gave the whole affair away.

THE MEDIENG OPEN. When the meeting was called to order the three conspirators were in their seats, entirely unsuspicious of the sand-club which was hanging over their heads, while the President, Sir Isaac Walpole, Waydown Bebee, and others in the ring, One sees hundreds of people clad in blue | carried very serious countenances. The | ger to mos' of you, an' I reckon dat it plot of the conspirators was not yet fully am just as well to keep on cultivatin' ripe. Prof. Smythe was just settling | your tastes fur soup-bones an' neck-pieces. himself down to sound Elder Toots in the | We will now blow out de lamps, lock up matter, when Brother Gardner rose up | de stove an' ambulate to our respectable and said:

"Envy am de parent of half de wickedness in dis world. One of de fust principles of human natur' am to begrudge some odder pusson's good luck, but de Soudanese regiments. Mingled with all | minit common sense am called in fur consultation dis envy disappe rs—except in isolated cases.

"We en'vy de rich, while it am p'raps our own fault entirely dat we am not classed among 'em.

to acknowledge to ourselves dat we frew away our opportunities.

"Find me a man who am down on his fellowman on gineral priciples an' I'll show ye a chap who orter be in State Prison by

de same rule. "De Lawd put us heah fur each to make his own way. De field am worldwide, wid plenty of room fur all. If one, by his applicashun, perseverance integrity an' determination, towers above de one who waits fur luck an' feeds his soul | for his paper : on envy, any conspiracy to pull him down should be sot down on by all good men. Brudders Smythe, Swift an' Davis, should like to see de three of you at de groes) perform very creditably the airs of | foot of de grand staircase. Dar am a the French retreat. Then everything is leetle matter dat I wish to discuss in pri-

THEY RETIRE.

The trio of conspirators were evidently greatly surprised at the request, but suspeeted nothing and followed the President down stairs. As no one else was permitted to follow, it may never be the most peculiar and ghastly that ever | What the meeting heard may, however, throw some general light upon the sub-

1. Yells of terror. 2. Sounds of heels striking the walls. 3. Sounds of cloth being ripped and torn, and boot-heels striking the fence on

the other side of the alley. 4. Bamp-kerchunk-thud-deep si-

5. The echoes of the toe of a No. 13 boot striking against coat-tails. HE REAPPEARS.

Soon after these last mentioned sounds had died away Brother Gardner entered the room with a sweet smile on his face, and walked straight to his seat without a word. There was blood on his left ear. the polish was worn off his right toot, and one end of his collar was unbutte ned, but this might have happened to any man who had fallen downstairs. "Misser President, shall I cross de

three names off de book ?" asked the Sec-

"De Cha'r reckons you may," was the answer, "an' we will now take up de reg-'lar bill o' fare."

Giveadam Jones presented the following card and asked for the endorsement of

USE HIM WELL,

the club:

U. D. Peters Was born and raised in the State of Tennessee, from which State he moved to Ohio, where he resided twelve years. For

the last twenty years he has been a resident of Canada in the lumbering district, but has resigned all business engagements, and will devote his time and en ergy in the service of Preparing the People to Meet Their God.

He explained that Mr. Peters had just started out on a lecturing tour which will include the whole world before he knocks off, unless the walking becomes too bad. He knew him to be a man of great moral worth, and had been authorized to present his name for membership.

The application was referred to the usual committee, and Brother Gardner indulged in the hope that Mr. Peters would meet with friends in every town he honored with his presence.

PARALYZED.

Prof. Sarsaparilla Hunter then offered the following resolution:

"Resolved-Dat in dis struggle between England an' de Arabs, de sym-"Well, y'u dis wait till y'u dit bid 'nuff pathies of dis club go out for de latter." "You offer dis, do you?" queried the President as he looked from the paper to Sarsaparilla and back. "Yes, mah.

"You sympathize wid de Arab, do

"Yes, sah."

"Any pertickler reason?" "A werry great reason, sah. De Arab | alone can destroy that prestige.

"Givendam Jones en Pickles Smith will take de Professor to de a an rub do back or his neck with a cold brick. If dat doan't effect a cure we'll send him to de idiot asylum !"

The Professor acted like one who had been knocked down by a brick house, and after the rubbing process above referred to had been completed he explained that the resolution had been drawn up by a tin peddler, who had promised him a new tin pan to present it.

NOT 80 FAR AS HEARD FROM. A communication from Halifax con tained the inquiry : "Has any member of your club been fatally injured by that fiendish invention known as the Torpedo-Ohicken ?"

"I hasn't heard of any sich case," observed Brother Gardner. "De torpedechicken was inwented about two years ago. When it fust came out seberal cull d men who had failed to keep posted picked it off de roof for a pullet, an' war found dean near by, but dey were not members of dis club. I has incidently learned dat chicken pot-pie has become a total stranhomes."

The Open Fire-Place.

The popular movement that favors a return to the comforts of the roomy houses of the olden time has not only produced ample windows and airy halls, huge mantel-pieces, stately clocks and round tables, but great chimneys and open fire-places, such as our grandfathers enjoyed on win-"We envy talent, an' yet we am fo'ced | ter evenings when the forests were the only supply of fuel.

When coal began to be cheaper than wood, the open fire-place and great mantelpieces almost disappeared. It is now found that coal may so be used in open grates as to give to the room the old time cheerfulness and glow. It has also been discovered of late that the same grate may be made to answer for two rooms, without an extra supply of fuel. A practical reporter thus writes on the subject

"I think the time is coming," said a builder, "when houses will be furnished with more grates and open fire-places than they are to-day. Of late years everything has been running to hot-air furnaces and steam-heating apparatus, and the system of warming flats has been reduced to a science.

"But only those who have been brough up in the country can realize the charm of the big, wide fireplace, with its crackling back-logs and its bed of red-hot embers, that form themselves into so many fantastic shapes to fascinate the family gathered round.

"Did you ever notice how earnestly people gaze into a good fire? What do they see there, what thoughts does the fire suggest, that all who gather around it sooner or later find themselves staring vacantly at it, oblivious to all surroundings ?

"What good cheer does it cast over the household to see the unsteady flicker of the flame, and watch the dancing shadows on the floor! What is more consoling than to blow out the lamp, or turn out the gas, and sit by the firelight alone, with one's heels perched upon the fender? There's little of that in the city, but I believe there's going to be more of it-not open fire places, but grates.

Away down South, where they don't need much fire at any season, a man has invented a grate that heats two rooms at once with one fire. It ought to have been done before, everybody will say, and many of us builders wonder why we didn't think of it ourselves.

"The whole thing consists of setting a peculiarly constructed grate clear through the chimney, so that the front is in one room and the back in another. Of course, one fire will heat both rooms. Simple? And yet it has just been patented. I'm afraid we are getting slow.

The Mission of the Mahdi.

The term "Mahdi" is approximately translated "Messiah." The Mahdi's Heaven-imposed mission is neither national nor political, but religious. The territory which he claims and the people whose allegiance he demands are limited solely by his geographical ignorance. Either he is the looked-for spiritual head of the wbole world, who is to unite all nations under an Islam purified of its existing abuses, or he is nothing. He is is either the Messiah which was to come or an imposter. Avoiding a most exact parallel which might seem irreverent, an attempt to negotiate with such a leader might be compared to an offer made by the Mohammedan leader to Peter the Hermit of the crowd of the Franks if he would refrain from prosecuting the Crusades.

The Mahdi's aims, repeated in innumerable proclamations, are to drive those who refuse to recognize his divine mission into the sea, to be proclaimed in the holy city of Mecca, and to destroy the false Caliphate at Stamboul. He is equally hostile to the Senoussi, the Sultan, Arabi, and Mr. Blunt. His only adherents are those who will take the sword and kill all who refuse his faith throughout the world. He is the successor of numerous imposters who, not having the fortune to be opposed by British statesmen, have failed to achieve equal prestige. Defeat