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AN OASIS IN THE SAHARA.

is a very small spot with a crowded population.
Dr. Jaquet describes the first oasis he found in the Sahara as "a little green corner, cool and shady, cheered by the song of birds, and sheltered by the murmur of waters. The dates waved their elegant plumes high in the air; the pomegranates and fig trees crowded between the columns of the palms; the wheat and barley clothed the soil in every direction, and the humid vapors vivified the foliage. One could not help trembling for the little spot, it seemed such a bubble floating in the immensity of the desert, surrounded by the desolate plains and menaced by moving sand hills.
Dr. Jaquet's description is slightly erroneous; it may do well for poets, but as a true description it is wrong. An oasis is not an immense wild garden, where numerous species of fruits and flowers crowd each other in wild confusion, but it is niggardly nature cultivated almost to the extreme by human industry, which refuses space to every fruit or flower which does not aid to sustain life. An oasis is usually about a mile and a quarter in length and about five-tenths of a mile in breadth. In nearly every case it occupies the bottom of some gully, which shelters it in every direction. It is enclosed in a mud or stone wall about eight feet in height and about a foot in thickness. At regular intervals about this wall are round stone towers; these are sentry boxes, on the flat roofs of which are stationed nightly guards to protect the place from pillage. The gardens of the oasis lie against this outer wall, and are divided into small inclosures, each of which is the property of one person. Next to the gardens, toward the center, are fields of corn, barley, and onions, divided into parts as in the gardens, which are watered and tended like our favorite flower beds; in the center is a little rivulet, which runs from springs near one of the extreme ends.
The inhabitants of this oasis do not live each family in a separate dwelling, but in one large house called a ksar, which is usually built of stone, giving it the appearance of a solid mass, perforated here and there with a small window and diversified with jutting angles. The halls are narrow, dark, ill-ventilated, uneven passages, winding about the building.
THE APARTMENTS ARE LOW-CEILED tiny places, lighted by a single aperture in the wall. The whole place reminds one more of a dog kennel than a human habitation. In some of the ksars about 300 or 400 men, women and children, a sickly, scrofulous generation, are huddled together in a building which would seem to a European hardly able to contain more than 100.
The only interesting thing about the whole oasis is the marabout or sepulchral chapel, which stands outside the walls. It is generally square, surmounted by a cupola, the whole being built of stone or brick, executed by artisans brought from Morocco for that express purpose. Occasionally the principal cupola is flanked by four smaller ones, the interior presenting a court, surrounded by a gallery, supported on Moorish arcades. In most cases the ostrich egg crowns the cupola, but occasionally a stone or metal ball may be found occupying the exalted position. The inhabitants of the oasis choose to reserve all the luxury and magnificence of their architecture to adorn the little temple around which they excavate their resting places. They are not, like the habitations of the living, subject to the ravages of foes, but are universally held sacred, and the conqueror, covered with blood, approaches here with reverence and prostrates himself in lowly worship. Life is so uncertain, when the arms of the enemy combine with the elements of nature to threaten its existence, that it is no wonder the inhabitant of the oasis cares to lavish all his wealth, not on the dwelling which will probably shelter him but a day, but on the place which will shelter him forever from the storms of life.
In the gardens near the outer wall of the oasis are grown the date palm, which is the principal food all over the Sahara. The trunk of the palm is usually about fifty or sixty feet in height and is crowned by a tuft of radiating leaves. The calyx has six divisions, and the fruit is a drupe, somewhat larger than the acorn; it is a red color when ripe, and is inclosed in a hard kernel, from which it is easily separated. It is pulpy, firm, succulent and sweet, with a slight stringency.
THE TREE IS RAISED FROM SHOOTS, which arrive at maturity in about thirty years, and continues bearing for about seventy more, producing yearly about fifteen or twenty clusters, which weigh usually about eighteen pounds each.
When one wishes to create a date garden he summons the neighboring date gardeners to his assistance, and thus he accomplishes his work with economy and dispatch, for their services cost him nothing, except the obligation to return the same when demanded. The sand is first removed to the depth of several feet in order that the roots may reach the water; besides, a trench is dug around the tree at a regular distance, and in order that, when necessary, water is poured, it may effectually reach the fibers which require it. This irrigation is chiefly committed to the women and children by those who have no slaves, and the precious fluid is carried in skins of animals or baskets of balpo flouted so closely as to be water-proof. In most cases canals are cut in every direction, communicating with the springs which supply the oasis, and when restriction is necessary each gardener pays so much per hour for the use of the water in his garden. In some cases each proprietor has a right to the springs for an hour or two, according to the title deeds of his estate. The time is measured by a rude chronometer held by the officer who opens or shuts the conduit.
In the above imperfect account we have endeavored to give our readers a description of the oasis as it is, and not as the poets or romancers would have us believe.
Wouldn't Do at All.
"Mrs. Rambo," said the pastor, as he shook her by the hand after the services were over and while the congregation was slowly filing out. "I have long thought of calling on Mr. Rambo and having a serious talk with him. Would it be advisable, think you, for me to come—let us say—to-morrow afternoon?"
"I am afraid you could hardly make any impression on Absalom if you should come at that time," replied Mrs. Rambo, timidly. "He's going to hang the screen doors to-morrow afternoon."

Revolt in France.

One of the most revolting crimes ever perpetrated in provincial France is now before the Judges of the Department of the Herault. The accused persons are a woman named Enjalbert, her paramour Gely, a farmer who is sixty-seven years of age, and the female prisoner's son, a boy of 17. Madame Enjalbert, aided by her son, murdered her husband in a most inhuman manner almost before the eyes of his little daughter. The deed was done at the instigation of Gely, who wanted the woman to go and leave him altogether, promising to support her and her family. The woman purchased a revolver and armed her son with a club, which she observed cynically was big enough to "cave in" a donkey with. Enjalbert was then decoyed out of his house at an early hour in the morning, having been asked to accompany his wife and son to the market at Gabian, near Montpellier. As the trio were crossing a bridge, Madame Enjalbert asked her husband to fasten her shoe, and, as he was bending down for that purpose, she discharged three shots from her revolver into the nape of his neck. The victim fell, and while on the ground his wife fired three additional shots at him, while his son battered in his face and skull with the club. Not satisfied with this, the woman pulled a knife out of her pocket and hacked and mutilated her husband's body in an indescribable manner. The corpse was then thrown into a ditch, where it was found next day. The woman was arrested, and admitted the crime, but wanted to exonerate her son, who, however, also confessed to participation in the deed.

India's Railway Tunnel.

An article in the Allahabad Pioneer gives some interesting particulars concerning the tunnel that has just been completed through the Khojak on the railway from Quetta to Candahar. The Khojak Pass is 7,500 feet above the sea and about 2,000 feet above the level of the surrounding country. The tunnel pierces the range at right angles, and its course is therefore due east and west, and it enters the hill about 1,000 feet below the crest of the pass. The length of the tunnel is 12,000 feet, or two and a half miles approximately, and it will carry a double line of rails. For the first half the floor ascends about 1 in 1,000, and for the second half of the journey it descends at an incline of 1 in 40. There are two main shafts, one 318 feet and the other 290 feet deep, which were sunk in order to facilitate the construction of the tunnel. The chief obstacle to progress arose from the flooding of the tunnel at more than one point. A large spring was cut and the Candahar side to the depth of 180 feet. It took ten weeks to pump out the water, and in the western heading as much as 500 gallons a minute were constantly rushing out of the west mouth. In order to overcome this difficulty a side cutting had to be made. The magnitude of the work is testified to by the banks of shade and rock at the mouths of the tunnel and at the pitheads, which are said to be quite altering the landscape in places. One curious discovery made during the progress of the work, as the result of an investigation into the cause of certain mysterious explosions, was that it was proved that "combustion had arisen inside a case of blasting gelatine."

There was shipped to the Globe Printing Co., of Toronto, last week, by the Waterous Engine Works Co., of Brantford, a steel boiler 66" in diameter, 14 feet long. The bottom of the boiler was made of one steel plate 14 feet long x 7 feet wide, and the top of two plates only. This is probably the first boiler in Canada made with the bottom of but one sheet, and marks a new departure in the manufacture of return tubular boilers. Users of steam are finding out that it is a great advantage to have no seams or joints over the fire, and the demand is steadily growing for boilers made with but one sheet on the bottom. The Waterous Company are to be congratulated on the advance they have made in this direction, and no doubt it will lead to a very large business to them in their boiler department. We might mention that this department is one of the best equipped in Canada, having all the latest improvements for boiler makers, and the capacity for turning out the heaviest work. They are just finishing six boilers 60" in diameter 16 ft. long for the North Pacific Lumber Co., each of which is made of but two sheets. Also two 66x14 boilers for the British American Starch Co. of Brantford. Any person requiring boiler work will do well to consult them.

All Men,

young, old, or middle-aged, who find themselves nervous, weak and exhausted, who are broken down from excess or overwork, resulting in many of the following symptoms: Mental depression, premature old age, loss of vitality, loss of memory, bad dreams, dimness of sight, palpitation of the heart, emissions, lack of energy, pain in the kidneys, headache, pimples on the face or body, itching or peculiar sensation about the scrotum, wasting of the organs, dizziness, specks before the eyes, twitching of the muscles, eye lids and elsewhere, bashfulness, deposits in the urine, loss of will power, tenderness of the scalp and spine, weak and flabby muscles, desire to sleep, failure to be rested by sleep, constipation, dullness of hearing, loss of voice, desire for solitude, excitability of temper, sunken eyes surrounded with LEADEN CIRCLE, oily looking skin, etc., are all symptoms of nervous debility that lead to insanity and death unless cured. The spring or vital force having lost its tension every function wanes in consequence. Those who through abuse committed in ignorance may be permanently cured. Send your address for book on all diseases peculiar to man. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front St. E., Toronto, Ont. Books sent free sealed. Heart disease, the symptoms of which are faint spells, purple lips, numbness, palpitation, skip beats, hot flashes, rush of blood to the head, dull pain in the heart with beats strong, rapid and irregular, the second heart beat quicker than the first, pain about the breast bone, etc., can positively be cured. No cure, no pay. Send for book. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front Street East, Toronto, Ont.
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