# THE ROYAL CHRISTMAS

## Baby Curglings, Plain Fare, and Good Cheer at Sandringham —A Treat for Little Princess Elizabeth—How the Queen Buys Her Christmas Presents—A Real Empire Xmas Pudding

Hostile hotel attractions and the decline of home gallifications have tended to change the character of our old English Christmas festivities. But among those who prefer the old way are the King and Queen. Their Christmas is old-fashioned by the standards of the ultra-modern; but in few homes is it celebrated in a truer spirit of jollity, goodwill, and lighthearted cheer.

When the King was a little boy, one of the great events of the year for him was the visit to Sandringham for the Yuletide festivities. That is many years ago. But never since has he missed a Christmas among the loyal folk of Norfolk in the converted manor which was a favorite residence of his father.

Christmas for the Royal family, as for so many other families, in the land means a reunion. It means a family gathering, and the celebration of the day with just such fun as makes the Christmas of old England aglow with the radiance of hearts intent on joyousness and kindness.

The first event of the day is the simple service which the Royal Family attends in the Parish church which stands in the beautiful grounds of Sandringham House.

A stranger dropping in might easily imagine that the little group in the chancel pews consisted of the Squire and his family, so ingenuous is the setting. And it is as a squire that the Sandringham folks regard the King.

Nearly always, after this simple service, the Royal party walk back to the House. The Christmas dinner is held in the dining room, a fine panelled room with a vast open fireplace in which he sees a truly Yuletide fire created. Dinner is served in the evening, but before that there are many things to be done.

The Queen has been preparing for this festival for weeks.

Driving in her car to Wolferton and King's Lynn, it is no uncommon thing for Her Majesty to pull up before some quite humble little shop, and leave it later with many parcels.

It is an unwritten rule that nobody must be forgotten. It is also a characteristic of the Queen that every present must be one that just suits the requirements of the recipient. And one last point—it must be of British manufacture, a rule from which the Queen never departs.

A story showing how well the Queen, herself a mother, understands shopping for the youngsters, is told of a certain maker of children's toys.

### The Royal Children.

The Queen was being shown dolls' houses. She admired their clever and pretty workmanship, and then said: "A doll's house should always be made to open," an opinion that most little girls will share with her.

Naturally, then, the children at Sandringham are not forgotten. After the church service the youngsters in their red cloaks and jerseys troop up to the great baronial mansion with its pointed gables, to receive from the Queen the carefully chosen gifts.

It is the same with the members of the Royal Household—each one receives a gift, and each gift is just right. Outside the Royal Family it is a guess—and few are Sandringham Christmas.

During that period when there were no young children in the Royal Family, the festivities lacked the final touch. But now there are children again.

Last year Princess Mary spent her Christmas at Goldsborough Hall, and she will probably do so again this year. The Duke and Duchess of York will have their little town mansion in Piccadilly and go north by the Royal Train to join their parents.

Little Princess Elizabeth's first tree will come in the afternoon, when the Christmas tree is unloaded of the presents that weigh it down. This feature of the holiday party takes place in the bright, spacious ballroom. Afterwards the Queen usually retires to her drawing room, the balcony of which overlooks the tree.

When Christmas dinner comes the turn of the Household and it is very little different from similar dinners in Sunderland or other counties, and probably a great deal more in Norfolk with its old English atmosphere.

### A Wonderful Pudding.

Turkey and Christmas pudding are the mainstay of the dinner, and each is perfect in its way. For example, the Christmas pudding is made entirely of Empire-produced ingredients. The seventeen sorts of ingredients that go to the making of it are brought from thirteen different dominions of the Empire: from Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, West Indies, Ceylon, Zanzibar, Straits Settlements, Jamaica, Cyprus and — of course, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

This pudding, which is known in the royal circle as the masterpiece of Mr Collard, the King's chef. With it goes a sauce, that is equally famous—since Sabayon. The pudding also has the equally famous brandy poured over it.

These may seem homely items in a King Emperor's Yuletide fare, but they show how homely, and how simple are Their Majesties' tastes and pleasures.

During the Christmas visit to Sandringham the King and Queen pay many visits.

Every Christmas they visit the schools at West Newton, close to Sandringham. There are trips also, to Hunstanton and King's Lynn, where the little hospital patients are dazzled by a vision of a very gracious lady and a very charming and kindly gentleman who come bearing presents.

In former years, when our winter weather was more in keeping with the Christmas cards, the Royal party at Sandringham went in for skating on the winding lake of the park. But there has been no winter sport in Norfolk for some time, and the Prince of Wales is happier on horseback. Last year he was out with the Norfolk Hounds, and this year he will probably be seen about the Sandringham countryside on one of the fine hunters that are kept in the fine stables built by King Edward.

Quiet and perfect in its way is this Christmas holiday of our King and Queen. Time was when the King knew a different sort of Christmas—that was before his father, King Edward, had the present mansion built about the remains of a magnificent old Jacobean manor.

### In the King's Boyhood.

It was in the hall of the old building that the King had his Christmas fun as a boy. Then there was no motor mail service, and letters were brought by the more picturesque coach. In those days the festivities were presided over by beautiful Queen Alexandra, whose love of Sandringham is well known. There was then more color to the festival, and the ceremonial of the lighted and glittering tree was in the manner of authentic Fairyland.

It will not be many years now before the merry gatherings at Sandringham will be still more enlivened by the piping voices of the youngsters of the Family.

There are already three juvenile members of the Royal Family, and in the course of time there will, likely enough, be more.

And this would be after the heart of the Queen, who is essentially a lover of children.

Three generations of the Royal Line will then foregather for Yuletide about the vast log fire of the magnificent hall.

Outside, carols will send into the frosty air the old, old hymns of joy and thanksgiving, and out of the darkness the lights of the tiny village will shine, each one winking its old, old message of Peace on Earth to the Royal pair, whose first and foremost desire is that Christmas shall bring with it promise of better things for the great Empire over whose destinies the Squire of Sandringham, who is also King-Emperor of the British Empire, rules.

# England and Egypt Nearing Agreement

## Important Decisions Expected in Cairo From the Current Negotiations

Cairo.—The political situation in Egypt since the return from London of the Premier, Sarwat Pasha, has given rise to considerable speculation in regard to the future of the country. Official circles are observing the utmost reticence regarding the precise nature of the negotiations which took place in London and are being followed up here between the Premier and the British High Commission, but certain reports which have found their way into the press make it clear that developments of a far-reaching character are imminent.

That no definite agreement has been reached between the British and Egyptian authorities is certain, but it is evident that the broad lines of an agreement have been laid.

According to the Almokattam, a leading daily which is generally well informed, Sarwat, while in London, succeeded in allaying the fears of the British Government regarding public security in Egypt, should British troops be withdrawn from the capital to the Suez Canal. He further obtained the British assent to modification of the capitulatory regime, provided other powers would agree, and succeeded in getting Great Britain to give up the idea of taking part in the protection of foreigners.

After the conclusion of an Anglo-Egyptian treaty whereby the status quo which preceded the murder of the Sirdar will be restored, Great Britain would support Egypt's candidature for the League of Nations and would not object to an increase in the Egyptian army so as to enable Egypt herself to defend the Suez Canal.

"You say you're going to dispense with mistletoe this year?" "Yes. Tom doesn't require it."

"Is Mr. Smith at home?" inquired the stranger. "Which one, sir?" asked the maid. "There are two brothers living here." For a moment the caller seemed at a loss for an adequate description, then he had an idea. "The one who has a sister living at Folkestone," he explained.—Tit-Bits.

Betsy: "But, darling, before you married him you used to say there wasn't another man in the world like him." Betsy: "I did, dear; and now I should hate to think there was."—Sydney Bulletin.

Now that a repertory company in New York has decided to give morning performances of "Twelfth Night," will the critics, meeting after lunch, greet each other with, "Good afternoon, did you see 'Twelfth Night' this morning"?

# Sunday School Lesson

January 1. John the Baptist and Jesus, Mark 1: 1-13. Golden Text—He must increase, but I must decrease.—John 3: 30.

ANALYSIS.

I. SIGNS OF THE TIMES: JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, 1-8.

II. HOW JESUS WAS REVEALED TO HIMSELF, 9-11.

INTRODUCTION—None of our evangelists have been able to tell the story of Jesus without a preliminary reference to the mission and work of John the Baptist. The reasons of this are obvious. 1. The work of John formed the historical preparation for the work of Jesus; 2. John's preaching was, under God, the means by which Jesus discovered his own vocation. He came to John for baptism, bending his head, so to speak, to the authority of John's message, and at that moment God's higher summons to himself took place.

John the Baptist is one of the most extraordinary figures in the history of Israel. Prophecy, asleep for centuries, seemed to have found a new voice in his thrilling and impassioned message, and our Lord, as we know, ranked him above all the prophets, Matt. 11: 7-14. Like the prophet Elijah, he came from the desert, and frowned on the soft and corrupt life of cities. Like Elijah, he summoned the people to decide for God, and to be done with evil. Even his dress and manner recalled the ancient prophet. But his announcement of the immediate coming of the Messiah was new. It had been supernaturally revealed to John that the Day of Judgment, the Day of the Lord, was at hand, and he came forward summoning men to repent.

I. SIGNS OF THE TIMES: JOHN THE BAPTIST PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, 1-8.

V. 1. The words are equivalent to "Here begins the joyful news concerning Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." Note that Mark, which is our earliest Gospel, does not speak of Jesus' birth, but confines itself to his public work, which began with his baptism by John.

Vs. 2, 3. The Christian church sees in the mission of John the fulfilment of ancient prophecies. Two such prophecies are here quoted. The first is from Malachi 3:1, and refers to the expectation of Elijah's return, Malachi 4:5. As the reader will notice, the language has been slightly changed. Instead of "before me" (Malachi) we have "before thee" (a reference to Christ), because John prepares the way for Christ. John is a herald who announces the king's coming, and urges preparation for it. The second quotation is from Isaiah 40:3. This prophecy was originally uttered at the time of Israel's release from Babylon. The prophet hears a voice commanding that a road be built across the desert by which Israel may return to Zion. This is now regarded as a prediction of John's preaching of repentance. The early Christians were much interested in such Old Testament foreshadowings of Christian history, and called them "testimonies."

V. 4. John instituted the ceremonial rite of baptism as a sacrament of cleansing from past sins. He was dealing with many who by their evil lives had put themselves beyond the pale of the ordinary legal purifications. The second half of the verse means: He preached a baptism indicating repentance, and pointing forward to the remission of sins.

V. 5. The national character of John's mission is now stressed. His report spread throughout the whole land.

V. 6. John's ascetic dress and diet are emphasized because they recalled Elijah (2 Kings 1:8), and because they added to the impressiveness of his appeal.

V. 7. John proclaimed the coming of a mightier One, namely, the Messiah of current expectation. John did not yet know that Jesus would be the Messiah. The words about the Messiah's "shoes" mean that John counted himself less than a slave in comparison with the Messiah. It was a slave's duty to unloose and carry his master's shoes.

V. 8. It was believed that the Spirit would be bestowed in the last or Messianic days, Joel 2: 28-29. So John announces that the Coming One will "baptize," not like himself, with water, but with the spirit.

II. HOW JESUS WAS REVEALED TO HIMSELF, 9-11.

V. 9. Note the simplicity with which Jesus' coming to John is announced. Nothing is said as to his personality, character, or appearance. Nor is anything said about his motive in seeking baptism. But the Christian church, for which the gospel is written, needs no explanations. It knows Jesus as redeemer, and it believes that He gave himself for sinners. Therefore it finds no difficulty in the thought that Jesus numbered himself with the transgressors at Jordan.

V. 10. Now comes the reason why all this is so solemnly recorded. Jesus rising from the water, had a wondrous vision. He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God coming down upon him like a descending dove. How are we to understand the nature of this holy experience? The opening heavens mean that the great mystery of God has at last revealed itself to the soul of Jesus. He sees into the heart of God and he knows God's purpose for humanity. He feels that he is no wsummoned and directed by the Spirit of God, impelling him to labor for man's salvation.

V. 11. The course of this redeeming task is also declared in the voice which comes to him: "Thou art my Son, the Beloved; on thee have I set my choice." Jesus receives an extraordinary, but abiding, sense of the love of God, uttering itself in the call to be God's Son. What is it to be God's Son, the Messiah? The life of Jesus is the answer. Jesus does not accept an explanation from the current ideas of his time or nation. He puts himself entirely in the hands of God, to be guided by him alone.

A SMARTLY SIMPLE FROCK.

This smartly simple frock will be found suitable for all daytime wear. The bodice opens at the centre-front, and is joined to the skirt, having two plaits at each side of the front. There is a belt across the one-piece back, and buttons adorn the front and pointed cuffs on the long tight-fitting sleeves. No. 1605 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3¾ yards, 39-inch, or 2¾ yards 54-inch material. Price 20c the pattern.

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## For Shorter Speeches

A number of humanitarian Members of Parliament are forming a group, the members of which are pledged, not to speak in the House of Commons longer than fifteen minutes at a time.

Sir Samuel Chapman, organizer, declares it will get 200 adherents, and hopes the Speaker of the House will favor them instead of the long-winded orators.

An irritable old sportsman was aroused from his bed at three o'clock in the morning by the insistant jingling of his door-bell. On answering it he was confronted by a man struggling hard to maintain his equilibrium. "What do you mean by waking me up at this hour?" demanded the sportsman. "Ish you Mr. Smithers?" asked the other. "Yes; what of it?" "Ish you the gent, what advertised for a partner to go hon hontin' in Africa?" "Yes, I'm the man. What do you want to know about it?" "Nothing," replied the inebriated one, "'ceptin' I just wanted to tell you that on no conditions whatsoever will I go with you."

# Carving

## Proper Style Necessary to Handle the New Year Turkey

### Stance

To carve the bird with power, smoothness and accuracy it is necessary to have a correct position with respect to it. This is called "addressing the bird." The thing to do is to take a comfortable position, feet firmly planted on a line with the bird, elbows at the side, squarely facing the platter. There are many variations of the stance, but the important thing is for the carver to be directly over the bird. Do not get too far away nor yet too close.

### Mental Attitude

Nothing is more important in bird carving than mental poise. Probably nine-tenths of the atrocious carving done at Canadian dinners is directly attributable to the so-called "mental hazard." An amazing number of people approach the bird in a state of confusion, agitation and doubt. They are all-of-a-flutter. Their one thought is to let fly and trust to luck.

Now without perfect co-ordination of mind and muscle no bird can be carved with that smoothness and precision that mark the play of the really good carver.

Every carver, veteran or tyro, should in addressing the bird repeat to himself these three thoughts:

1—This is all quite simple. There is nothing to worry about.

2—I am cool and relaxed.

3—I don't care how many eyes are watching me. I am the captain of my fork, the master of my knife!

### Grip

The best carvers employ a rather loose clutch, with the index finger down the shaft of the weapon, but it is a matter of choice. So long as the carver's fingers are not cramped or taut and he has the right "feel," his grip should give him little trouble, although, generally speaking, neither the knife nor the fork should be gripped overhand like a stiletto. Persons using the stiletto grip will get startling even sensational results at times, but their work will be erratic.

### Stroke

First of all, keep your eye on the bird.

Go back slowly, taking care not to sway. Keep the elbow close to the side and the wrists supple.

Pivot on the waist, and when you feel that the knife head is back the necessary distance bring it back through the same arc. The knife head starts first, the arm instinctively follow and the hips unscrew until the bird is struck.

"Follow through!"

If you have not lifted your head or taken your eye off the bird the knife should hit the bird squarely at the desired point. If, however, you hack or top the bird it is clear that you have done one or the other. The same is true of wrist slicing.

### Cautions

Don't press.

Avoid getting out balance at the top of the swing.

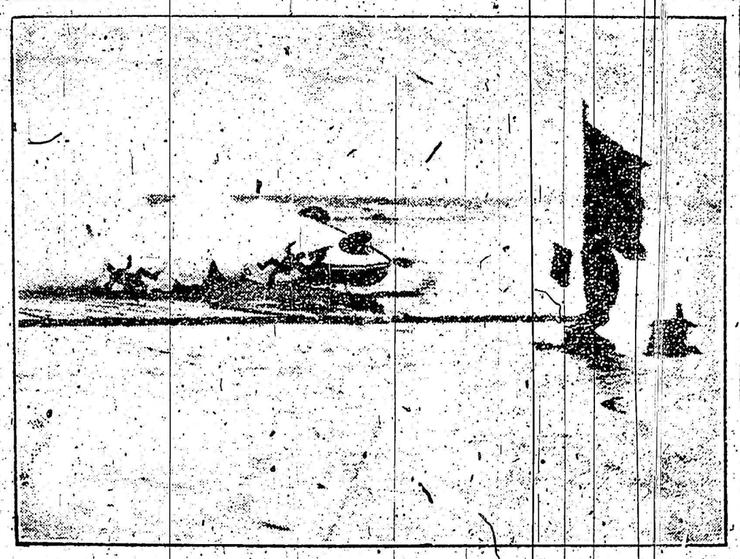
Remember that it is almost entirely a wrist motion.

You will get no where trying to murder the bird.

A FAT MAN'S TROUBLES

"Ready for the holidays, Bill?" "Holidays me eye—I'm jes gettin' ready for some real work." "Wazzamatter, ain't the plant closin' down?" "Yeh, but every year I gotta play Santa Claus for the Church."

John J. McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, believes the professional baseball teams will be doing all their traveling by airplane. In this case, however, the players will still be sent but no man should never be allowed to go up in the air.



## A Spill At 150 Miles Per Hour

SENOR FORESTI, OF ITALY, FAILS TO LOWER SPEED RECORD

He was trying for a speed record at Pendine, England, when his car skidded and turned over. It was completely wrecked, but he and his mechic escaped with a few scratches and bruises.

# GOOD HOLIDAY RECIPES

Prepare a duck for baking. Cut it into several pieces and place in a baking pan.

Into a strong chicken broth boiling hot mix two cups of chopped celery, two bay leaves, salt and pepper to season. Pour this over the duck and cook one and one-half hours, turning the pieces of duck when one side is done. Then add two tablespoons of butter. Stir until it boils, then add two tablespoons of tomato catsup, one-half cup of cooked mushrooms, one-half teaspoon of salt and pepper and four tablespoons of sherry. Pour the sauce over the pieces of duck arranged on a hot platter. Garnish the platter with squares of toast, each square garnished with a cube currant or guava jelly.

### Broiled Duck Livers.

Marinate duck livers in a French dressing and allow them to rest in it for fifteen minutes, then broil. Serve with melted butter sauce.

### Cranberry Jelly With Celery.

To one quart of washed cranberries add two cups of sugar and one cup of boiling water. Bring to the boiling point and boil for twenty minutes. Strain through a sieve. When the mixture begins to congeal add one and one-half cups of celery, cut into thin slices crosswise. Turn into a mold and chill. When serving, turn out the mold and garnish with crisp celery curls.

### Pumpkin Pie With Honey.

One and one-half cups of steamed and strained pumpkin, one cup of honey, one teaspoon of cinnamon, one-half teaspoon of ginger, one-half teaspoon of salt, two eggs, one cup of milk and one-half cup of sweet cream.

Mix the ingredients in the order given and bake in one crust. Garnish each piece of pie with a little whirl of whipped cream with a drop of honey in the center.

### Sauce for Plum Pudding.

Beat one tablespoon of butter with one cup of powdered sugar, add two well beaten eggs, and a little by little one wineglassful of sherry and a little

Put the bowl into the top of a little of boiling water and heat at one minute or two; serve at once.

### Pumpkin and Nut Pie.

One cooked squash or pumpkin, one cup of sugar, one teaspoon of ginger, one teaspoon of cinnamon, one teaspoon of salt, two eggs, milk and one cup of sweet cream in the order given. Bake in a pan lined with flaky pastry. When cold cover with a thin whipped cream flavored with vanilla. Sprinkle finely chopped nuts on top.

### Sugar Pie.

Cook two cups water and one cup sugar for five minutes, add one cup of butter and boil for two minutes. Mix two tablespoons of flour with a little water and one cup of smooth paste. Add one teaspoon salt and two well beaten eggs. Stir egg mixture into syrup, let it thicken and boil for one minute before serving. Top with whipped cream on each portion.

### Cucumber Soup.

Remove seeds from green peppers and cook in boiling water until tender. Season with salt and pepper and rub through a sieve. To the pulp add two cups of milk and two cups of the water in which the peppers were cooked. Rub together three tablespoons butter and three tablespoons of flour and add into the soup. Add sweet milk. Stir this into the mixture, cook until smooth.

### Rye Doughnuts.

Mix one cup of three cups rye meal, one cup of wheat flour and one-half teaspoon of meal. Add one-half teaspoon of nutmeg, one-fourth teaspoon cinnamon, two tablespoons sugar, two teaspoons baking powder, one tablespoon of cream of tartar, one cup of molasses, one beaten egg, one cup of sweet milk to make a thick batter. Drop by spoonsful in hot lard and fry until brown. Roll in powdered sugar and sprinkle lightly with green confectioner's sugar.

# Potash Enough For 250 Years Found in Texas

## Deposits Contain Magnesium, Solium and Sulphates of Potassium, Professors Tell Chemical Society

### Oil Town Near New Find

### Power, Labor and Necessary Supplies to be Had from Odessa, Report Points Out

Austin, Tex.—Potash deposits large enough to supply America's needs for 250 years have been discovered in western Texas, Dr. H. E. Sellards and Dr. E. P. Schoch, of the University of Texas, have reported to the American Chemical Society. In the past the United States has depended on Germany for potash.

The search for the compound in this field was begun by J. A. Udden of the University of Texas. He suspected the presence of potash, because here, just as in Germany, there was once a Permanian Sea which has been cut off from the rest of the ocean and has evaporated in dryness.

### "Well Cuttings" Found

Udden found potash minerals in "well cuttings" in the area. His pioneering work was completed by the United States Geological Survey.

"These deposits will naturally be mined like coal," the two professors report. "The products sulphates of potassium, sodium and magnesium, have a different market value from the chlorides.

"With an oil field within a few miles and the fact that solar evaporation is very easily carried out in the dry and rarefied atmosphere of the Texas high plains, it is seen that the cost of production should be moderate.

### Facilities in Nearby City

"The industry will also be helped by the fact that the oil industry has developed the nearby City of Odessa so that power, supplies, labor, etc., may all be readily and cheaply obtained there.

"The amount of potash in sight may be said to be that underlying a strip three miles wide by six miles long. Within the soluble layer this strip contains 23,000,000 tons of potassium oxide and in the polyhalite layers about 34,000,000 tons. At present the United States consumption is 250,000 tons of potassium oxide per annum. For this rate of consumption the foregoing will suffice for 250 year."

"Hubby's plugging in the past enables wife to plug in the present."

The alphabet runs from A to Z, but the Ford car runs from T to A.

# Waters of the Nile Are To Be Explored

## Officer Speaks of Wonders to Geographical Society

"It is a strange thing," a gentleman, speaking to the Royal Geographical Society about the upper waters of the Nile, known as the Abbai, "that reaches of one of the great rivers of the world have been so long neglected." These are marked by a blank indicating uncertainty, and first-hand accounts are obtainable.

### Source of the Blue Nile.

The main source of the Blue Nile is a spring at Gish in mountainous district of Abyssinia. It soon becomes a considerable river which runs into Lake Tana, a magnificent inland sea, some 60 miles by 40 broad, at an altitude of 6000 feet above sea level. The lake is at the southeast corner of what is known in English the Blue Nile River. History records the source of the Blue Nile was discovered by a Portuguese, Pedro Paez.

### A Magnificent Waterfall

The gentleman's party consisted of an Indian clerk, an official of the native chief, a Greek commissioned officer, and a Sudanese cook. These rode on mules. In addition he had 15 muleteers to every 20 mules, a head muleteer, runners and a cook's boy. He found it easier to go down the bank than from a boat to the numerous cataracts.

The river hurls itself over a cliff 200 feet high, making a magnificent waterfall. Below the river enters a ravine for miles mile by mile until it is a narrow valley, some six to eight miles across and with mountains rising to 6000 feet on either side.

### Flows in a Deep Bottom

At a level bottom the river lies for most of its course, a narrow stream. Very often the water cannot be kept from the edge of the ravine, and there are then three distinct channels, a small winding channel in the ravine, and the gigantic ravine. The river falls into this ravine and cannot get out for miles from the last mountain range, at Shribar, 350 miles from the Blue Nile.

### Flows as an English Stream

Through the Sudan the river flows through undulating country with wooded hills. The tributaries do not form a continual obstacle to the traveler who is constantly up and down these chasms, so that he rarely gains a foot of a mile a day, making the River in parts resembles an English downland stream. The banks are thickly lined with wild flowers, meadow sweet, grazing cattle and barley fields, and villages, while there is a temperate climate.

### Rapids Below Khartoum

At a place below Khartoum, at Mogran Cheesman, 350 miles, solid rocks is only 1 mile across, so that it is hard to believe that it is the same river that flows over the falls. The carved channel in the solid have led to some extent to have been formed by the revolving of stones in pot holes from the stream in good time.

Above the continuous cataracts the navigable portion of the river was a practical proposition by boats for long stretches there was no wild animals. It was estimated that to the speed of the stream, the rocky nature of the bed silt and sand on route, was all washed down the lower reaches.