

## "THE WILD TRIBES OF THE SOUDAN."

Probably one of the most interesting regions to the British public just now is that mysterious territory which bears the general name of the Soudan—a territory which stretches far across the African continent from the Red Sea, and of which the Khedive's dominions form but a very small part. There are some portions of the Soudan which have not been trodden by European feet, at least not so far as recorded. And the adventurous career of the Mahdi lends peculiar interest to the portions of the Soudan near the Nile and its tributaries. The precise whereabouts of the False Prophet is not known just now, but there is a general impression that he is bringing under subjection the independent tribes on his flanks, so that he can advance with greater safety towards Upper Egypt. In fact, the latest news suggests that the Mahdi may in a few days be before Khartoum, where the White and Blue Nile form a fork. In a book just published entitled "The Wild Tribes of the Soudan" Mr. F. L. James, M. A., gives a very readable account of sporting experiences in a part of the Soudan which few of the Canadian public have probably heard of before. For a frontispiece it has an engraved portrait of a "professional beauty" of this region, and the lady is ugliness personified, rings from nose and ears assisting in the ugly effect; but she is a fair representative of her race (the Bases), who would be certain to gain the palm for deformity of feature if there were an international competition. But these strange people are not likely to attach themselves to the Mahdi, or join in any fanatical rising, because they seem to have no religion whatever.

In his preface Mr. James apologizes for adding another to the many books on Africa, but the apology is scarcely needed, inasmuch as the last expedition of the three referred to in the title page was made into a territory previously unexplored. The territory in question, the Base country, lies between the Egyptian Soudan proper and Abyssinia, and the Base themselves are reputed to be fierce and treacherous in their dealings with strangers. Mr. Powell (brother of Mr. Powell, the late member for Malmesbury, whose fatal balloon ascent is fresh in the public recollection) perished at their hands, together with his wife and child, some fourteen years ago. Mr. James, however, while finding these Base a very debased and brutal people—and of this he gives ample illustration at page 99—found no difficulties but such as could be met by decision, tact, and watchfulness.

At the beginning of the book Mr. James gives some amusing extracts from the replies to his advertisement for a competent medical man. One applicant stipulated for a cigar after dinner and supper, a glass of mild ale, and meals at regular hours. Another, after giving a long list of his qualifications and requirements, concluded by saying, "I am engaged in devising a series of tests to determine whether people are really dead before they are buried; and Egypt is a good country to make observations of this sort in."

Mr. James' descriptions of the country and the people are not so full as some persons would like, but he wrote the book as a story of sporting adventure and not for scientific purposes, and the "general reader" will like it all the better for its non-elaboration, especially as the numerous excellent engravings give a good idea of the country and the natives. Mr. James shrewdly points out that travelling for sport is a thing and travelling for exploration quite another, and that any attempt to combine two can only end in spoiling both. It must not, therefore, be complained if the book is so largely a record of wild beasts killed and wounded. For the benefit of all interested in such matters, we give a list of the game mentioned in the book, taken from a very copious index—antelope, ariel, buffalo (very frequently mentioned), elephants, gazelles, giraffes, guinea-fowl, hippopotami, leopards, lions, ostriches, panthers, partridges, sandgrouse, and wart hog, to say nothing of venomous snakes, and, on one occasion, a boa-constrictor. Not that Mr. James was by any means unobservant of all the points in an unexplored country which give general interest to a record of travel. There is ample evidence in the pages of his book that he and his friends did not go to the Base country merely "to shoot something." For instance, the book is accompanied by a map of the country made by Mr. W. D. James and Mr. Aylmer from daily astronomical observations. Thus, as the author says, a portion is added, however small, to the map of Africa. The map is also made a very practical one by the marking down on it of every place where water is to be found. Among other things which the travellers took out with them from England was a magic lantern furnished with slides specially chosen, which they frequently exhibited, much to the amusement and amazement of the spectators. Mr. James' hunting party comprised ten Europeans and a number of natives, the force being thus strong enough and sufficiently well equipped to ensure respect under ordinary circumstances. They left the port of Souakim, on the Red Sea, on the 15th December, 1881, and proceeded to Cassala, the capital of the fertile Eastern Soudan, and in regard to the extent of population next in importance to Khartoum, the people of the region being a mixture of Arabs and negroes. Here they were unfortunately enough to lose one of the Swiss servants from an attack of dysentery. Cassala is the centre for a number of Germans who gather wild animals for the various zoological collections of Europe and America. One of these Germans, whom Mr. James met, had spent eight winters in the Soudan, visiting Europe every summer. He had also been twenty-three times to New York selling his animals. Haikota, to the east of Cassala, is the residence of the Beni Amer chief, Sheikh Achmed Ager, described as the best-mannered and most plausible Arab the author ever met with. This important personage called upon the travellers, and volunteered assistance to them in getting through the Base country, sending with them a detachment of four horsemen—for a consideration of twenty-five dollars per month for each man—this being the Sheikh's method of levying taxes on travellers coming within his jurisdiction. In the region of Haikota the country literally swarmed with guinea-fowl, and there were abundance of partridge, while the sportsmen often shot the teal antelope.

After some days' hunting the sporting

party entered the Base country. They came suddenly upon eight or ten Bases, who fled in terror, leaving up a baobab tree one who was appressed with presents. At Base villages the chiefs were found amenable to the influence of gifts, Manchester cotton setting their minds right. The exhibition of a magic lantern was a great success, and the portraits of the Queen and Prince of Wales were received with rapture. Following on these came pictures of the wild beasts of the country, the crowning success being the picture of a man escaping up a tree from a crocodile, which opened and shut its mouth in its attempts to get at him. Mr. James talks of another expedition to the Soudan, and in view of this we would suggest to him that a Punch and Judy show might prove even a greater hit than a magic lantern. The country abounded in large game, while the rivers swarmed with fish. An attack was made upon two members of the party while out shooting by a body of Abyssinians who had raided across the frontier. The freebooters wounded an Arab servant, spearing him in the abdomen in a frightful manner. His companions could not discover his whereabouts, and returned to camp without him, but next morning he reappeared having crawled eight miles amid awful agony only to die nearly as soon as he reached the camp. Base volunteers accompanied the travellers, and the Sheikh's son, Longay was a devoted follower, cleaning the knives and otherwise making himself useful. "He often, too," says Mr. James, "induced others among his people to work for us, when without his help they would have done nothing at all. On parting from us he fairly shed tears, and altogether he was the best specimen of the completely 'untutored savage' I ever came across." The native servants declared the Bases resembled baboons, and they rest by placing the sole of the right foot against the left knee, a practice believed to be common among tribes on the White Nile.

The Base grow durrah, the staple food of the Soudan, which contains much starch, and is considered more nourishing than wheat. They also manufacture from it a kind of sour beer, of which they drink a great deal, with the results to be expected. They carry liquids in closely-plaited baskets made from palm-leaves. Consequent on the dread inspired among their followers by the Abyssinian raiders, Mr. James and his party went westward and pitched their camp on the banks of the Setitte, a tributary of the Blue Nile, where lions were "tagged in plenty, besides hippopotami, giraffes, antelopes, and such small-deer, while the river yielded fish of over 30lbs. weight. The kelb-el-labr seems to be a fish peculiarly delightful to anglers, as it is "a most sporting fish; always fighting to the last gasp. In this respect, as in its appearance, it resembles the salmon. It possesses a moveable upper jaw and frightful teeth, which fitting into one another are very suggestive of the rat-trap. The best sport was, however, with the beggar, which is exactly like the perch except in regard to the stripes, which it lacks. The author believes that it is with the milky juice of the quol-quol the Abyssinians catch fish. They throw a quantity into the water, when the fish become insensible and float on the surface; and "a drop of this juice inadvertently getting into one's eye is said to be sufficient to cause blindness." Wart-hogs and a boa-constrictor were also "bagged." One lion shot measured nine feet two inches in length, and had a splendid mane, unusual in the Soudan. Subsequently they again passed through the country of the ugly folk and embarked for England at the fort of Massawah. This is the baldest outline of Mr. James' narrative, but it will serve to give some idea of the ground he covered, and as it was strange ground for Europeans his book will be read with special interest. The Bases get a bad name from their neighbors, but Mr. James found them very agreeable, even if not good looking. The book is very readable alike for the matter it contains and the manner in which it is presented, and it is sure to be eagerly perused, while other travellers, especially those of sporting proclivities, will be disposed to try their luck among the wild tribes of this part of the Soudan.

### Hydrophobia.

The following notice respecting rabies or dog-madness (hydrophobia) has been issued by the Brown "Animal Sanitary Institution" under the Government of the University of London: This disease occurs in dogs of all ages, and may appear at any season of the year. It is recognized by a change of demeanor of the dog, which becomes dejected, morose, inclined to roam, and anxious to hide itself. The animal gnaws at wood, stones, and any refuse which it sees, snaps at imaginary objects, and becomes unusually excited by strange or sudden noises. It rubs its throat with its paws, as if striving to get rid of some object lodged there; at the same time there is a more or less abundant flow of saliva from the mouth. The animal is, moreover, very easily excited, and barks with a peculiar, harsh, strange cough. The dog will attack its master, or animals of any kind; but it is most easily roused to fury by the presence of other dogs. It is feared and shunned by healthy dogs, not only when it attacks them, but when the disease is in a very early stage. There is throughout the disease no dread of water. Before the tendency to bite shows itself, the animal may be unusually affectionate to its master, licking his face and fawning upon him. In one form of the disease called "dum madness" there is paralysis of the jaw and therefore inability to bite. Precautions in cases of supposed hydrophobia:—If a dog has shown any of the symptoms of madness mentioned above, or an unusual tendency to bite other animals, it should be at once loosely muzzled and securely chained up; but it is advisable that it should not be destroyed until it has been examined by some authority capable of determining whether the animal be rabid or not. Owners of dogs are warned of the danger they may incur by allowing their faces and hands (especially if scratched) to be licked by the animals, even if they show no sign of madness. All dog-bites should be immediately cleansed by suction and washing, and the wounds should be cauterized as soon as possible.—CHARLES S. ROY, M. D., Professor-Superintendent, the Brown Institution.

The weakest spot of every man is where he thinks himself strongest.

### Evolution in Buckwheat Cakes.

"Buckwheat cakes!" said a man in a downtown restaurant. "Wheat cakes!" said another man by his side. In a short time a waiter brought three broad thin disks, that were white within and a crisp brown without, to each man. In looks the cakes were exactly alike. A man with a sensitive taste could have determined after one or two trials that they did not taste alike.

"I ordered buckwheat just because the name brings up pleasant memories," said one. "Here is a case in which evolution has ruined the thing evolved. When I was a boy my father used to carry buckwheat to mill and bring back a grayish flour. My mother mixed it up at night, and the next morning I sat down to breakfast before a heap—but no matter. We won't talk about it."

"Yes, but you said something about the evolution spoiling the thing evolved?"

"The buckwheat flour. The buckwheat of my youth was cleaned and then ground between the stones like any other grain. Not long ago a man who wanted to make a beautiful flour to look at concluded that he could do so if he could entirely remove the shuck from the kernel of buckwheat. To do this he made a machine that consists of four serrated or corrugated rollers. Two are placed at the end of a screen over which the grain passes, and as the grain passes between them it gets a nip that breaks them up and separates about all the meat from the husks. Then the meats drop through a short screen, and the husks pass on through the second set of rollers. They are further broken up and the remaining meats are separated. The meats are ground and this white, tasteless stuff is the result."

"That was only the complaint of a man who thinks there is no times like the old times," said a flour dealer to whom the above was related. "If he wants ground husks instead of clean flour he can get it, and for less money. Few mills now grind the shucks and all together, but the flour is to be had. If the new-process flour were not better than the old, it would not now be taking the lead.—New York Sun.

### Living Outdoors.

The capacity of statistics to yield interesting results is observed with admiration. One statistician proved beyond doubt that more people died in bed than in any other way, and he argued from this that it was dangerous for people to go to bed. Figures recently prepared for the French government show that of eight hundred tramps who were arrested in Paris for vagrancy, twenty ranged in age from ninety to ninety-nine years. The evidence afforded by these facts in favor of sleeping under a roofless sky is rendered still more conclusive by the admission from the mouths of some of these ancient wanderers that they had not occupied beds, except when they were in jail, for more than thirty years. Years ago it was contended by men of science that the natural position of man was on all fours, and the proposition has been reproduced very lately. No doubt it is man's vanity that makes him walk on two feet instead of four. It was probably vanity also that first suggested to man that he should live indoors with an artificial covering over his head. He would be much more healthful if he spent more of his time out of doors. It is unlikely, notwithstanding the statistics which have been produced in favor of living out doors, that societies will be established for the abolition of houses. In a country like this, where people are compelled to live indoors so much in the winter season, it is not surprising that so many should suffer from colds and coughs and lung diseases.—Toronto Telegram.

### Comfort from Old Newspapers.

Brittle "wood-pulp" newspapers are more impervious to wind currents than the thickest carpet. Three or four layers of them with the air spaces between, are as good non-conductors as a plastered wall with its minute air cracks or as an ordinary bed spread; and one or two placed between the blankets are equal to an extra quilt, to keep in the warmth of the bodies of the sleepers.

Tacked on the beams over a cellar, a few thicknesses of newspapers are equal to an extra floor or ceiling placed there, in keeping the rooms above warm. Nailed up so that they will not be wet by rain, around the horse and cattle stalls, or the chicken abodes, or any buildings occupied by animals, human or otherwise, newspapers are warmer than the outer board siding, rough or planed; and they can be renewed at pleasure at no cost, and be removed in spring for additional ventilation. In short, the judicious use of newspapers may be made to save half the fuel in well-to-do homes, and supply its lack to the poverty-stricken. We call the special attention of benevolent societies to this fact. Farmers may by using newspapers save much feed otherwise used up by the animals in keeping warm. Eggs will be far more abundant if the hens are kept warm, by lining their winter quarters with newspapers, and stock poultry go through well on half the feed otherwise required.

### Don't Speculate.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the present financial crisis existing all over America is due in no small degree to the spirit of speculation that has swept over the land during the past two or three years. Legitimate business, when properly conducted, is generally attended with success, but when the attention of the merchant is attracted into the wondrous snare of speculative gambling the reverse is the case. This passion for speculation has wrought much evil in the country, and no one knows such to be the case better than he who has watched the record of business in the North-West since the advent of 1881. It matters not whether the operator devotes his attention to real estate, bank stocks or grain margins, the result is all the same. The amount of money sunk in this way every year, even in the Dominion of Canada, if it could be ascertained, would astonish every one. This it is which must, to a large extent, be held accountable for the demoralization in commercial and monetary circles that now exists.—Winnipeg Commercial.

## OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

### Grandma.

Daisy Dutton,  
A maiden of four,  
Started one day  
To bring from the theatre  
A basket of eggs,  
For mamma to make  
A beautiful frosted,  
Birthday Cake.  
Swinging the basket  
To and fro,  
Skipping along,  
She tripped her toe.  
Quickly the basket  
Flew from her hand,  
Eggs all broken  
Lay in the sand.  
Daisy's brother,  
Seeing the wreck,  
Cried "Now you'll have  
A whipping, I s'peck!"  
"I'm not a bit  
Afraid," laughed she,  
"For I've a grandma  
At home, you see!"

### Disagreeable Habits.

Nearly all the disagreeable habits which people take up come at first from mere accident or want of thought. They might easily be dropped, but they are persisted in until they become second nature. Stop and think before you allow yourself to form them.

There are disagreeable habits of body—like scowling, winking, twisting the mouth, biting the nails, continually picking at something, twirling a key or fumbling at a chain, drumming with the fingers, sewing and twisting a chair or whatever you lay your hands on. Do not do any of these things. Learn to sit quietly—like a gentleman, I was going to say, but I am afraid girls fall into such tricks sometimes. There are worse habits than these, to be sure, but we are speaking of those little things that are only annoying when persisted in.—Kind Words.

### Facts About Birds.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, in a recent lecture in Boston, explained the peculiar structure of the skeleton of birds, combining the greatest strength with least weight, and described the peculiar breathing apparatus, which also serves to increase the buoyancy of the bird. The air even enters the hollow bones of the limbs and wings. He related, in illustration, an anecdote of a sportsman who, desiring to put a wounded bird out of pain as speedily as possible, held its head under water for some minutes, but the creature remained as lively as ever. Upon making an examination it was found that one of the large wing feathers had been shot off, and that the bird had been breathing through the quill. The vertebrae of the neck in all mammals are alike in number. Those of birds vary from thirty in the swan to nine in the common sparrow. He gave a curious description of the methods by which birds of prey change the focus of their eyes, which, as in the case of the hawk and eagle for instance, are telescopic when looking at objects at a distance. A hawk half a mile in the air will discover a field mouse on the ground. As he rushes down to seize his prey the form of the eye is changed so as to always keep the object within the focus of vision. As compared with their bulk birds are enormous eaters, the food consumed largely going to the production of heat. Many interesting remarks in regard to the structure and use of feathers, the modifications in the physical conformation of the different species to adapt them to their widely varying modes of life, were brought out.

### Robin's Slide.

Once on a time, when Robin was a little boy, it began to rain; and it kept on raining for a day and a night and another day. "It's a genuine January thaw," said papa. "It's a mean thaw," said Robin; "when I wanted to slide."

"There'll be enough snow left for that," said Aunt Helen.

But Robin couldn't be quite sure of it, until he tumbled out of bed the second morning and found the fields were covered with a glistening coat of ice.

"Looks like a frosted cake," cried Robin; "and there's a regular pond at the foot of the hill in the pasture. I can slide right across it."

"I wouldn't," said mamma; "maybe it won't bear you. I don't want you to, Robin."

"No'm," said Robin, slowly; and he meant to remember, though he didn't believe mamma knew much about ice, anyway.

"But I can slide down the hill just the same," said he. "I'll stop before I get to the bottom."

That was just what Robin couldn't do. I don't believe he much wanted to. Whizz-z-z went the slay on to the ice, almost taking his breath away.

"Whoop!" cried he; "it is—"

Oh dear! At that very minute the ice cracked dreadfully, and into the water, which wasn't deep, but so cold, went Robin, sled and all.

He screamed as loud as he could, and the noise brought out mamma and Aunt Helen, and Jotham, with his rubber boots on.

Jotham was the hired man, and he waded in through the ice and water and pulled Robin out.

Robin's teeth chattered as if every one was trying to make more noise than all the others. And when he got to the house he was put straight to bed under a mountain of blankets, and dosed with ginger.

So the fun was over for that day.

"I d-don't like thaws," said Robin. "They're awful horrid."

"It wasn't the thaw that made all this trouble," said Aunt Helen, severely; "it was a little boy who didn't mind his mother."

"I—I think 'twas the sled," said Robin, faintly.

What do you think?

### Where Young Snakes Go to when Swallowed by Their Mother.

About twenty-three years ago, in Beebe, Ark., I had a guinea hen sitting near my house, in the garden. One day, while hoeing in the garden, I noticed the hen flying, fluttering, and apparently fighting something. I walked, hoe in hand, carefully up to the nest. Curled up in the nest lay a blow snake, or what some call a bull snake. I carefully approached her, and when she

straightened out to run, with one blow from the hoe I cut her head clean from her body. I straightened her out and was examining her, and preparing to take her length, when a young snake about six inches long, and about the size of a common lead pencil, made its appearance. I cut its head off, and others followed, until I had cut the heads off of twenty-seven. Some of them remained dead in the cavity of their mother so that I know they did not occupy a place in the stomach. The snake had swallowed twelve guinea eggs, which I proceeded to eject by squeezing from her stomach and throat. The eggs I found came from one apartment, and the young snakes from another. This induced me to examine the head and neck which I had cut off. I discovered that there was an opening under the tongue, through which the young snakes entered the cavity in which they were found, and that that cavity was separate and distinct from the stomach where the guinea eggs were found. I took two smooth sticks. I ran one down the throat from above the tongue and the other through the opening under the tongue. Both came out, but through separate and distinct passages. Hence I say snakes do not swallow their young, but something like the opossum or kangaroo have a sack or pocket for them, which is entered through the mouth and under the tongue. Some one may want to know what was done with the guinea eggs. I answer, I put them back in the nest, and in about a week twelve young guinea snakes were hatched from them.—Correspondence American Field.

### Engraving on Eggs.

Some time ago there was a man who stood upon the street corners and in the public squares selling egg shells upon which were engraved names, devices or flowers. The art of engraving upon eggs is connected with a curious and little known historical fact. In the month of August, 1808, at the time of the Spanish war, there was found in the patriarchal church of Lisbon an egg upon the shell of which was announced the approaching extermination of the French. This fact caused a lively fermentation in the minds of the superstitious Portuguese population, and came near causing an uprising. The French commander remedied the matter very ingeniously by distributing throughout the city thousands of eggs that bore engraved upon them a contradiction of the prediction. The Portuguese, greatly astonished, did not know what to think of it, but thousands of eggs giving the lie to a prediction engraved on one only, had the power of the majority. In addition, a few days afterward, posters up on all the street corners pointed out the manner in which the miracle was performed.

The mode of doing it is very simple. It consists in writing upon the egg shell with wax or varnish or simply with tallow, and then immersing the egg in some weak acid, such as vinegar, dilute hydrochloric acid, or etching liquor. Wherever the varnish or wax has not protected the shell, the lime of the latter is decomposed and dissolved in the acid, and the writing or drawing remains in relief. Although the *modus operandi* presents no difficulty, a few precautions must be taken in order to be successful on a first experiment. In the first place, as the eggs that are to be engraved are usually previously blown, so that they may be preserved without alteration, it is necessary before immersing them in the acid to plug up the apertures in the extremities with a bit of beeswax; and, moreover, as the eggs are very light, they must be held at the bottom of the vessel full of acid by means of a thread fixed to a weight or wound round the extremity of a glass rod. If the acid is very dilute, the operation, though it takes a little longer, gives better results. Two or three minutes usually suffice to give characters that have sufficient relief.—Nature.

### The Soudan.

A good many people are at present puzzled over the "Soudan," of which they hear so much. They are not quite sure if it would betray an unparagonable amount of ignorance for them to confess to a general kind of unacquaintedness with what this Soudan is and how far it extends. Would it give these people—who, by the way, need not be ashamed to confess their ignorance—any kind of satisfactory information to tell them that Soudan is the name given by the Egyptians to all their dependent empire stretching from the Third Cataract for an indefinite distance towards the lakes, and from the Red Sea to the western border of the Darfur? This empire comprises much of Nubia, all Sennar, all Kyrdofan and all Darfur. It is said to be about 1,000 miles square, or as large as India. This vast extent of a million of square miles is said to be inhabited by about 12,000,000 people, most of them Mussulmans, and many of those of exceptional ferocity, fanaticism and daring. Eventually, it seems likely, the English will have to tackle with this wild, ferocious crowd, if, at any rate, it invades Egypt, which is far from unlikely.—London News.

### Wild Tobacco in Nevada.

In the vacant lots, ravines and favorable spots in and about Austin, Nevada, as also in all parts of the State, native wild tobacco grows profusely. It seems to acquire little or no water, but the fresh, green-looking plant grows vigorously in all its sticky, juicy nastiness everywhere. It is simply a filthy weed, which few respectable animals care to browse upon. Over in Como, where I was twenty years ago, an old Missourian, who knew all about tobacco, headed down and trimmed some of the most vigorous plants, and thus succeeded in making quite a perceptibly recognized substitute for real smoking tobacco. The Putes and Shoshones smoke it to a small extent, but they much prefer the white man's tobacco. Yet this shows very conclusively that tobacco can be raised in Nevada with the most perfect facility, if not with profit. Tobacco is said to grow in any locality where cabbages can, but in this State it certainly grows in localities where cabbages would perish from thirst or any other nutriment. Perhaps Nevada may become noted as a tobacco-producing State by-and-by.

A bad man shows his bringing up when he is brought up by a policeman.