

# GIFTS



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## A NEW STORY OF GEN. BOTHA'S LIFE

HE IS OF MINGLED DUTCH AND  
FRENCH BLOOD.

His Wisdom and Strength Have Done  
Wonders for South  
Africa.

In a newly-published book Harold Spender, a London journalist, tells the story of General Louis Botha in an interesting way. We get a good idea of Louis Botha's antecedents at once. His family was of mingled Dutch and French blood, descended from some of those Huguenots who went to South Africa after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

Through the lawless and dangerous times of the Zulu troubles we follow the young Botha's training in warfare and government. But his influence over men, which was strong even in his early twenties, came not only from his serene and tranquil common sense, but, we are told, from the admiration excited by his splendid riding, his accurate shooting, and his fearlessness in danger.

In 1895 we find Botha a member of the Volksraad, working for race tolerance, when on the world broke the news of Jameson's raid and South Africa became the principal topic of European thought. Mr. Spender does not enter very deeply into the causes of the war itself, but goes on to show Botha's place and importance in the war and in the confused and trying times of adjustment afterward. His military talent was soon shown. It is interesting to catch a glimpse of his

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of Botha at his home of Groote Schuur, leading a simple, unpretentious life in this great house left by Cecil Rhodes with uncanny foresight as "the residence of the Premier of South Africa." The crowds of visitors from all countries are greeted with a pleasant kindness by him and his wife.

### THE DEATH OF FRANCIS JOSEPH

By Chas. M. Bice, Denver, Colo.

The once great house of the Hapsburgs has lost its most distinguished representative in the recent death of Francis Joseph, the aged ruler of Austria.

This distinguished race of kings takes their name from a famous ancient house in Switzerland, but is not the name of the occupants. The place of origin in this case, having superseded the residents, the name has clung to the descendants through all subsequent history.

The aged monarch, whose funeral rites at Vienna will soon be observed in a manner befitting a king, ascended his throne in the midst of revolution, and it is only fitting that he descend from it as he has, while the nation is wrapped in gloom of treacherous war, that forbodes national disaster to his confiding subjects.

His kingdom is yet in the balance, and no matter who wins, his dominions are almost certain to be dismembered. The dual monarchy is doomed, however the struggle may end.

Francis Joseph, emperor of Austria, and a sort of apostolic King of Hungary, reigned but did not govern during the latter period of his life.

He supinely placed himself in subjection to the will of another and much greater sovereign—the Kaiser. The spectacle presented of the life of the titular head of the dual monarchy would have been a fit subject for the world's greatest dramatist himself, and were he now living, we would be presented with another Richard or a Henry to take the place of the ephemeric twaddle written by so-called court historians.

His was a life in full consonance with Hapsburg traditions—full of tragedy, bloodshed and revolt.

Upon high authority the Emperor of Austria-Hungary was the recognized libertine of Europe, and if his unvarnished story were written out, it would scarcely be a fit subject for school study.

But then, you know, we are Puritanical on such subjects, and have much to learn of the ways of continental Europe.

One thing is certain, that in Austria, Francis Joseph was accepted with all his grossness and grievous lapses, as a kind of god. Whatever the world may say of his amours, he was a brave soldier and the idolized emperor of his people, and that settles it so far as they are concerned.

It is questionable whether history shall blame him for this great worldwide horror, through which we are passing, as he was more the creature of destiny, the clay in the hands of the potter, than the initiator or instigator of this great misery.

The Sarajevo tragedy, when the Crown Prince lost his life, and one among many in his long reign, was the excuse ostensibly for the war, but it was not the cause of it, for that had been long brewing. The double assassination of his nephew and his consort, was unquestionably political, but without this the outbreak could not have been suppressed much longer.

In fact the emperor was not much in love with the prince. The heir-presumptive was thoroughly "Prussianized," which was the true reason of his tragic end.

But with the emperor, it was merely a choice of Germany or having his empire pass from him. The Slav peril, so-called, was not created by him, yet he did little to arrest the slow-moving iceberg of Russian dominion, and hence his empire was unstable at



General Botha.

strategy in the battle of Colenso, of the trench warfare then first seen and studied by the Germans who visited the front, and to trace in the descriptions of Botha and De Wet in the South African war the traits of character that made their widely-differing after careers comprehensible.

### A Wise Statesman.

We read at the end of this tragic chapter, "Lord Kitchener rose and held out his hand to Gen. Botha, 'We are good friends now,' he said." Then follows a long period of discussion; the visit of the Boer generals to England; their memorable call on King Edward VII., and Chamberlain's visit to South Africa. We understand why Lord Milner's rather mechanical scheme of reconstruction was not entirely welcome to the Boers.

Botha became Premier of the Transvaal in 1907 and Premier of the South African Union in May, 1910, and had good need to prove himself as great a statesman as he had been a soldier. The Indian coolie crisis, the "Hertzog Split," the great Rand strike, the railway strike, all these came during his Premiership, and close on their footsteps followed the beginning of the war. Soon after he had pledged the loyalty of his country to the British cause the rebellion under the leadership of the unconquered and unreconciled De Wet broke out. Botha, with wonderfully fine feeling, used only Dutch forces in his successful campaign against these rebels who had defied established authority.

Botha is again Premier of the South African Union, and the country is at peace. His wisdom has been much greater than was Lord Milner's, because he recognized the importance of decentralization.

Mr. Spender gives us a description

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best. Unfortunately it was made up of elements that were never destined to properly fuse.

It is inconceivable that his death will have any material effect upon the great struggle, for new elements are sure to arise and surround the throne, but his going at this time may be used by Hungary to break her chains against which she has so long chafed.

### ALCOHOL AND OPIUM HABITS.

Problems of the Drug Habit in the Far East.

The traffic in alcohol, opium and cocaine in India, Ceylon and China has more than a sentimental importance, says the London Times. The trade with India amounts to nearly one-third of the trade of the United Kingdom, and the supremacy of the Empire depends upon the preservation of that trade from the competition of other European nations. The traffic in intoxicants and narcotics was sapping the efficiency of the nation, and Government control cannot by itself keep sober a nation that wishes to be drunk. The Indian Government sacrificed a revenue of four million sterling when it put an end to the export of opium; and as it brings the traffic in alcohol under control the consumption of opium and cocaine increases, while in China as the importation of opium is reduced the sale of intoxicants increases.

### BABIES NEED SUGAR.

Lack of it Has Been Killing Berlin Babies.

An investigation into the increasing infant mortality in Berlin has established that the rising death rate is due to an insufficient sugar allowance, according to an Amsterdam despatch to


# MAGIC BAKING POWDER



The Exchange Telegraph Co. The despatch says that it has been decided that each child born after December 1 shall receive an additional half pound monthly of sugar, the rations of the rest of the population being proportionately reduced. The allowance up to this time has been 750 grammes monthly for each baby.

We all make mistakes, but there are a lot of them that we could all avoid, too.

And some men who are short on hair imagine that they are exceptionally long on brains.



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Order Hard to Fill.

The matron of a certain hospital in France, for some reason of her own, thought that the "Tommys" under her care should not visit a neighboring village. Passes were allowed, but they were few and far between. One day a "Tommy" applied for a pass, and the matron asked him why he wanted to go to the village. "I want to get something from a shop there," he said. "Well, as I am going to the village myself I may as well get it for you," was her reply. "Well, bring me a hair cut and a shave!" replied the man.