

# OSTRICH HUNTING IN AFRICA.

## A Daring Trip into the Wilds of an African Desert.

By C. NOLTE.

Africa possesses a strange fascination for those who have once tasted the excitement of a hunter's life in its vast plains or dense forests, in its pygmy swamps, or amidst grand mountain scenery. Although the traveler has encountered almost unbearable hardships, though he has often been at death's door, and has suffered untold agonies from thirst and hunger, yet Africa, with all its dangers and discomforts, lures him back.

It is the hunter's Eldorado. In that continent he will find such numbers of all kinds of game, from the very largest to the smallest? There are elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, kaffir buffaloes, giraffes, zebras, large antelopes, and swift gazelles, numbers of wild animals, amongst them the majestic lion and the vicious leopard, and there is also to be found the wild ostrich.

We wish the reader to follow us to the

our water-casks at a brackish well and let me get a drink. Some of the men, like me, for this is the last water they will get for months; from now on animals and men have to quench their thirst with the juice of the melon, which the natives call "zama."

The Kalahari, which, during the dry season, is a desert, in the full sense of the word, is, after the rains have fallen, covered with a rich green carpet, formed by the broad leaves of the "zama." Succulent grass, shrubs, and bushes grow in abundance, and there are also trees, mostly growing singly or in small groups.

As now we are passing over a chain of sand dunes, and halting on top of the last one, before the rains have fallen, far away to the west, a large plain of limestone formation, thinly covered by a layer of clay soil, on which there is an abundance of small trees, and smaller shrubs of aloe-like plants spread all over the plain, and amongst them, in troops of three to eight, the birds we came to seek.

But our attention is attracted by a suitable camp before we start hunting. Our bushmen guides, which we had picked up at the last water place, quickly gathered round us, and, as they were in abundance on the ground, and we are soon busy unloading the necessary articles to make our temporary home comfortable. There is no need to get the horses and cattle to take to the wild melon at first, but they soon get used to it and frage for themselves.

The camp is pitched until a late hour that night, for we have not forgotten to provide our new friends with plenty of food. There is no need to get the horses and cattle to take to the wild melon at first, but they soon get used to it and frage for themselves.

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BEHELD A LARGE OSTRICH MAKING AWAY WITH MY LUNCH.

haunts of that most coveted and biggest amongst birds—the bird that cannot fly, but which, in its muscular legs, finds almost a substitute for wings, inasmuch as they carry him over the ground at a most marvelous rate of speed.

Although I have hunted ostriches in several parts of Africa, I know of no better sport than that to be obtained when hunting the ostrich on horseback in the large South-African desert called the "Kalahari," which as yet is so little known, for there are few who care to brave the hardships encountered in those regions.

Having safely landed at Capetown, my companion and I took train for Victoria West, situated in the Midland Counties of the Cape Colony, South Africa. Arriving there we at once began to equip ourselves for an expedition into the interior. We bought a large, covered wagon, a spare of 10 bullocks, and some serviceable horses for hunting. The wagon was quickly loaded with our personal and hunting outfit, provisions for over six months, and goods for bartering with the natives, such as coffee, tobacco, cheap calico, glass beads, copper and brass wire. After engaging a driver and some other servants, we were ready to start.

With much cracking of the long whip and plenty of shouting the bullocks are persuaded to bend their necks to the yoke, and the cumbersome wagon, which contains all our worldly chattels, slowly moves on, and we bid farewell to our hospitable friends of Victoria West, who have made our short stay amongst them a happy one, for the Colonial Briton is about as jolly a fellow as you can come across in this "vale of tears."

At some of the first farms we come to we make the acquaintance of the ostrich—that is, the tame one. Most of the farmers in the Victoria West and adjoining districts engage in ostrich farming, besides their more important business of sheep and cattle breeding. On some of the farms only a few birds are kept. These are sent out to graze with the sheep. On other places larger numbers—in some cases hundreds of birds—are to be found in so-called "camps," consisting of fairly large tracts of land enclosed by wire fences. Some of these large tracts are divided into small inclosures, in each of which a pair of breeding birds are placed.

At the very first farm I was destined to make closer acquaintance with one of these large birds, of which I saw several about on the homestead. We had just taken the cattle out of the yokes and sent them to graze, while we settled down to a cold collation. I had most carefully and thickly buttered a nice slice of fresh bread, and, sitting on the pole of the wagon, was about to enjoy this tasty morsel, when something snake-like, with

of three tame ones I had with me on an expedition—dealt out summary justice to an old rebel chief who had come to me to tell me that no saint could be better than he, and that he was the worst maligned individual in the country. I was so sure of my own strength that he never bore a hand in stirring up the tribes against the white people. On coming near my camp he met three ostriches quietly grazing. This seemed very strange to him, as he knew these birds to be very shy, running off at the approach of human beings on perceiving them even at a very great distance. This struck him as some witchery of the "Aluzange" (white man), and he thought to himself he would be very much on his guard.

The otherwise quiet, well-behaved bird evidently took a dislike to the old hunter, and went for him. The first gave him a kick in the neck that sent the old man flat on his stomach, then he executed a war-dance on him. The old chief sang out lustily, and his cries soon brought me to the scene. When still some distance off I heard the old man shouting, "Ah Banna-kaba" (Great Captain), "I will never speak ill of you again to my people. I will make peace with you. I will never talk warlike again," and so on till the whole truth came out. I soon chased the bird off with a stick and picked up the old man, who had become very tractable. But let us not digress any further. After two weeks of slow traveling we reach Upington, a frontier village on the Orange River. Here we find the last Colonial magistrate and a small force of military police. Having enjoyed the hospitality of the officers for a few days, we resume our journey, and now our work begins in earnest. For not far from Upington, traveling in a northerly direction, we encounter the first outlying sandhills of the Kalahari Desert, and after two days more we reach some larger ones, which soon show what mettle our cattle are made of. Although not yet in the Kalahari proper, water places are few and far between. There are stretches of two, three, and even four days without water, and the poor cattle have not alone to do without water for several days, but they must even make forced marches. The horses are sent ahead at a trot, and reach the water sooner, for they are not so hardy as the cattle. On we go, mostly traveling at night, through the country of the "Basters," and through the land of the "Vellshoendragers," a Namagwa tribe, stopping at their villages as little as possible, for they are great beggars, and become very troublesome, even menacing, when their demands are not complied with.

Leaving the last native village behind us, we travel in an almost easterly direction, and are soon at the border of the desert. Here, for the last time, we fill

our water-casks at a brackish well and let me get a drink. Some of the men, like me, for this is the last water they will get for months; from now on animals and men have to quench their thirst with the juice of the melon, which the natives call "zama."

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**IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY.**  
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**THE SPEAKERSHIP.**  
An Astonishing Democratic Triumph to Speaker Reed.  
Louisville Courier-Journal.

The next House will have no master. All of the candidates for Speaker with a combination of all the Democratic elements of the country would make one Tom Reed. Since he was elected Speaker the House has been entirely and absolutely under his control. He has not only planned and executed. During his first term as Speaker the Democrats put forward their best and greatest men, but they were all beaten before his cool head, nerve force or blasting sarcasm. Ex-Speaker Crisp was the only man who made the least headway against the rulings of Reed, and he was generally beaten and forced to resume his seat amid jeers from the Democrats. In his second term the Democrats, Buck Kilmer and all, quit leading. They were completely whipped and took Reed's medicine like little men. Reed went on and ran things as he pleased. He did not consult the President of the United States, but he consulted the members of the House, and he should do business. He ran things to suit himself and permitted no dictation from any source, and when he laid down his rule on the 4th of last March he was set in the monarch of that body. And strange to relate those Democrats who had lately been so loudly and early returning to the throne of the House as his friends to-day, and he retires from Congress with as many admiring friends as any member of that body.

There is but one Tom Reed and the Republicans have no one like him. His loss to them is irreparable. The next House has only a small Republican majority, and Reed will be an often-missed. There is really no first-class Speakership timber in the next House on either side, and the Republicans will experience great difficulty in securing well equipped man for Speaker. The next Congress will be a critical one for the Republican party. Great questions are coming up there next Winter for consideration, and upon their solution depends the election the Fall following. There are breakers ahead for the Republican party notwithstanding the present rosy condition of public affairs, and in less than a year many Republicans will deeply regret the retirement of their greatest leader, the man from Maine.

**Libby Prison Dismantled.**  
The work of demolition of Libby Prison in Chicago is now going on. The old prison, it will be remembered, was removed to Chicago and made a museum for war relics. It prospered during the Exposition, but has not paid expenses since. A number of schemes have been tried, but without success. The building is now being removed to make room for a more profitable establishment.

**National Encampment Confederate Veterans.**  
Louisville is making a strong effort to get the National Encampment of Confederate Veterans to meet there.

**A Chance for Our Readers to Make Money**  
I have berries, grapes, and peaches a year old, fresh as when picked. I used the California Gold Process. Do not heat or seal the fruit. Just put it up cold, keeps perfectly fresh, and costs almost nothing; can put up bushels in ten minutes. Last year I sold dollars to over 120 parties in one week. My name is on the label for directions when you see the beautiful samples of fruit. As there are many people poor who would like to make money, I will give you a chance to do so. I will send you a sample of my fruit and full directions to any of your readers for the nineteen (19) two-cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the sample. Write to me at once.  
FRANCIS CASEY, Los Angeles, Calif.

### DEPARTMENT NEWS.

**Decisions, Rulings, etc., of Interest to Soldiers and Sailors, and Their Heirs.**

**PATHOLOGICAL SEQUENCE.**—Generally, where an attending physician appears to be in good standing his diagnosis of the patient's disease is accepted as correct; but when it comes to a question as to whether or not a disease results from another or not, the issue of such attending physicians is not received unless in accord with the generally accepted teachings of medical science as to which the Department will be advised by the medical referee or unless it derives some peculiar and extraordinary value from such physician's professional standing and experience. (Assistant Secretary Davis, Nov. 28, 1898; case of Sarah J. May.)

**MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.**—In the pension case of Isabel W. Siler (widow) it is held (Assistant Secretary Davis, Nov. 18, 1898) that the date when a decree of divorce was ordered by the Court is the date from which the soldier is to be regarded as divorced from a former wife. The Pension Bureau had rejected the case on the ground that because final decree of divorce was not entered till after the soldier's marriage to claimant their marriage was illegal, even though a decree was ordered before the date of marriage.

**PRESUMPTION OF DEATH.**—In the pension claim of Sophia Pearson (widow) it is held (Assistant Secretary Davis, Oct. 7, 1898) that even though the soldier would be living he 82 years old (which might raise a doubt as to the probability of his being still alive), his death nevertheless cannot be presumed under the act of March 13, 1896, because his absence from his lawful wife is not "prolonged." The soldier deserted his family in 1845, went to another State and established a new home—including a new wife—and after a few years wholly disappeared and settled upon the island of New Providence. Here is located the Capital, Nassau, and the seat of Government. The soil is not rich, but is suitable for the cultivation of small fruits, vegetables, pineapples, oranges and coconuts. Except in the Caicos and Turk groups, where salt is found in considerable quantities, most of the inhabitants earn a livelihood from the products of the soil.

**INSANE OR HELPLESS MINOR.**—Evidence shows that said child has been afflicted from birth by depression of the brain, and is a feeble-minded, imbecile, and rendering him extremely nervous and weak to such an extent that he has been mentally and physically unable to care for or support himself. He cannot perform effective or remunerative labor, and is considered permanently helpless, and in the contemplation of the law to be a "feeble-minded" child. (Assistant Secretary Davis, Nov. 18, 1898.)

**COMPOUNDING RATES.**—The decision in the case of George A. South reaffirms a settled practice of the Pension Bureau in the matter of determining rates of interest under the general law. The decision says: "Unless specifically provided for, there is no provision of law by which disabilities can be considered in the computation of the rate of interest for all the pension which each, considered separately, would aggregate. It is the combined effect of all that must be considered, and the rate of interest is computed on the total amount of the pension which each, considered separately, would aggregate. It is the combined effect of all that must be considered, and the rate of interest is computed on the total amount of the pension which each, considered separately, would aggregate. It is the combined effect of all that must be considered, and the rate of interest is computed on the total amount of the pension which each, considered separately, would aggregate."

**To Make the G.A.R. Perpetual.**  
Editor National Tribune: The Grand Army of the Republic is the only organization of loyal civil war soldiers that has been instituted that is open to all, or that is not strictly exclusive as to its membership, and which has proven practical; but it was exclusive in that it admitted only those soldiers who had served in the war of the rebellion. While it admitted those who served in the navy, it excluded those who served in the army of the United States during the war of the rebellion, and this can be easily accomplished by simply changing the name to the "Grand Army and Navy of the Republic," by denouncing the necessary changes in the constitution, etc., of the Order, so as to open the doors to the soldiers and sailors of the Nation who have served in the war of the rebellion, and making all present members of the G.A.R. members of the Order, perhaps continuing the G.A.R. intact as it is, so long as there shall be sufficient numbers of survivors of the war of the rebellion to make such organization possible, but merging into the G.A.R. as fast as its members at any place become too few to keep alive the G.A.R. part.

The perpetual Order should of course have a badge showing emblems of both the Army and Navy. It would seem that the time is ripe for the G.A.R. to take this step. Those who served in the war of the rebellion with Spain are organizing, and eventually all the various little Orders they are starting will be merged into one completely whelmed and makes it easier for the G.A.R. to make the change, so that all who have served the Nation in the army or navy before or since the war of the rebellion or the Union at any time hereafter, so long as the Republic shall endure, can have a badge wherein they can join with all the comrades who have served in the war of the rebellion, and be perpetual.—Geo. E. Dolton, St. Louis, Mo.

Always ready for any emergency.

### BRITISH WEST INDIES

#### American Energy and Capital Necessary for Development.

In the issue of last week was a description of the island of Jamaica, the most important of the British possessions in the West Indies, which holdings, as stated, legislators and business men of the islands would like to have England exchange for the Philippine archipelago. While Jamaica is the largest and most important commercially, the other islands of the British West Indies are very desirable, and with the influx of American energy and capital would develop wonderfully.

**BAHAMAS GROUP.**  
The Bahama group of islands, which stretches through a total distance of 750 miles north of Cuba, includes nearly 70 islands and over 3,000 rocks. The entire group, with its innumerable channels and passages, embraces an area of 5,600 square miles.

In aspect the Bahamas are more like the land of our Florida coast and keys than the other West Indian islands. Geologists consider them windblown pieces of shell and coral sand, much of whose former surface is now under shallow water. There are several groups of these islands. The Great Bahama Bank is the largest.

From the sea the Bahamas appear as long stretches of land, with here and there a village. With the exception of Andros, they are destitute of running water. The flora are tropical, but quite different from those of the Antilles, being similar to those of the Florida coast. Stunted timber covers some of the islands.

The Bahamas have been under the British flag since 1718. They were originally the resort of pirates, who first settled upon the island of New Providence. Here is located the Capital, Nassau, and the seat of Government. The soil is not rich, but is suitable for the cultivation of small fruits, vegetables, pineapples, oranges and coconuts. Except in the Caicos and Turk groups, where salt is found in considerable quantities, most of the inhabitants earn a livelihood from the products of the soil.

**OTHER POSSESSIONS.**  
England's possessions in the chain of islands which constitute the Lesser Antilles form a picturesque group. The principal islands are St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Christopher, the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad. All have the same rugged aspect of the Caribbean and the same lofty hills glowing with verdure.

St. Lucia is the most beautiful of the group, but agriculturally and commercially shows the same depression everywhere visible in the English islands. The sugar industry has been almost eliminated. Only a small part of the land is in cultivation. The 40,000 inhabitants, principally negroes, speak French, and many seek employment in the neighboring islands under French rule, which are more prosperous. Castries is the principal town, built in the midst of surrounding hills. England is now constructing a formidable naval station at this place, which is the principal coaling station of the Caribbean and the West Indies.

St. Vincent is 17 miles long and 10 miles wide, and has a population of 50,000. It has more extensive valleys than any of the other islands, but culminates in a vast volcanic crater, which was last in eruption in 1812, when thousands of people lost their lives. King's Town, the Capital, has a population of 8,000. In this island, also, the sugar industry has decayed. The Grenadines are a series of islets, extending for about 60 miles. They are very picturesque, and

are inhabited by planters. Grenada is the most southern of the Caribbean chain. This island is just the size of St. Vincent, and is similar in its essential respects. It is distinctly British, and in St. George, the Capital, one may find excellent English society. Cocoa is the chief product. Just north of South America lies Trinidad and the group of which it is the center. The island is really a cut-off from Venezuela, and partakes of South American atmosphere. Part of Spain, the Capital and principal city, is situated on a beautiful harbor. The city is elevated about 400 feet above sea level and has 20,000 inhabitants. Asphalt is the most notable product of the island. Sugar is extensively, but not very profitably, cultivated. This industry is in danger of extinction. Cooled supply the chief labor of the island. Of late years there has been a steady flow of negro population from other West Indian islands to Trinidad.

Barbados stands somewhat isolated out to the eastward of the Caribbean chain. It is a large and beautiful island. Bridgetown is the port and principal city. The entire island is under cultivation, and the sugar is the finest produced anywhere. Owing to its superlative quality this industry has so far escaped disintegration. The imports and exports of the island are considerable, and trade is principally with the United States.



TYPICAL NATIVE HUT OF BRITISH WEST INDIES.

### ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

#### Have You Bladder or Uric Acid Trouble?



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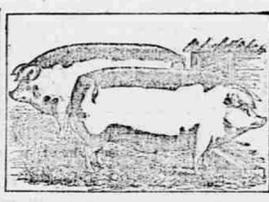
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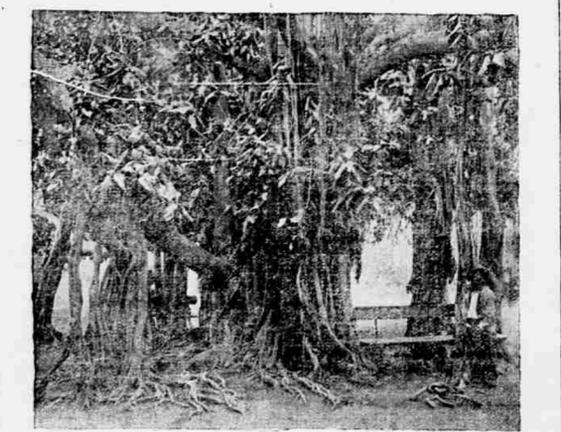
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BANYAN TREE.

The illustration shows the Banyan or Banyan tree, and was made from a photo-graph recently taken near Kingston, Jamaica. This tree is a species of fig and is remarkable for its immense number of rotting branches. It bears a small, insipid fruit not larger than a cherry and of deep scarlet color. The wood is light, porous and of little value.