GERMAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

WAR WITH THE NATIVES IN THE SOUTHWEST OF DARK CONTINENT—CAUSE OF REVOLT.

While Russia and Japan are battling in the Far East, Germany has been driven to war in the Far South. In German Southwest Africa, the native tribes have risen in rebellion, slaughtered colonists, torn up railroads, and destroyed the fruits of a decade of industry. Although several thousand soldiers have been sent to subdue the insurrectionists, the blacks are still continuing to wreck, burn and kill. The territory of the colony is as large as the States of Texas, New-York and Connecticut, and as arid in some districts as Nevada deserts. It is half as large again as the entire German Empire in Europe. In so extensive a region, therefore, the heavy German troops find themselves far outdistanced as well as outnumbered by the fleet barbarians, inured by long heredity to the hot and barren desert.

The flame of revolt which is sweeping over the German possessions in Africa was kindled by the same spark which, at different times, has set fire to the African colonies of England, France, Portugal and Italy. The stupid native cannot be made to understand that it is his duty to bow down and serve foreign busybodies. He cannot see why he should give up his life of leisure and be compelled to work. His race has been content for centuries to roam the veldt, breeding a few cattle to guard against death from famine; and as he watched the "red haired Northerner" building long roads of steel over his ranges, on which the foreigner drives great, fire breathing oxen, hitchen to monstrous carts and hauling soldiers and cannon, right into the heart of his domain, his suspicion changed to hatred, and his hatred to revenge.

From the reports that have come from German Southwest Africa, the Kaiser has a far more difficult fight on his hands there than King Edward has in Somaliland or King Victor Emmanuel had in Abyssinia. The spirit of rebellion has spread from one tribe to another, until nearly all the natives have joined in a war to annihilate the whites. In their rage, the Africans have resorted to the most savage atrocities. They have swooped down on settlers on outlying farms, tortured whole families, and after butchering them they have further vented their frenzy by mutilating the dead

MAP OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA.
Where the Germans are now punishing the rebellious Hereros.

bodies. Instances have been reported where they have buried persons alive.

A party of German troops who recently left Keetmanshoop were surrounded and captured. The men were tortured and then burned in a great funeral pyre. One officer who was among the prisoners had his eyes gouged out, and then was left to die in agony on the veldt.

To the superficial traveller the southwestern region of Africa which Germany has sought to colonize would seem hardly worth the blood of a single soldier. With Portuguese West Africa on the north and the English colony of Cape Town on the south, it stretches along the western coast for 860 miles, a distance little more than that between New-York and Savannah. It stretches inland some five hundred miles, a journey equal to that from New-York to Cleveland. Along the coast lies a strip of barren, inhospitable sand some ten miles wide, behind which stretches a plain, much like the steppes of Russia. Further inland one climbs to a high tableland, which in the northern half of the colony splits up into steep mountain ranges, of which the highest peak is Omatako Mountain, with an altitude of 8,800 feet.

This elevated region has a width of several hundred miles, and contains the most available land for farming as well as a number of ore deposits, where miners have discovered copper and gold. Beyond the mountains and the plateau, to the eastward, the ground shelves downward into the sandy wastes of the great Kalahari Desert. The chief winds come over heated land areas to the southeast, and even on those parts of the tableland where German agriculturists have settled they do not bring more than ten or fifteen inches of rain in a year.

England never took a fancy to this bit of Africa, and only appropriated about 430 square miles, or twenty-six square miles less than the combined areas of the cities of New-York and Philadelphia. The British wanted a sort of way station between Cape Town and British Guinea, and accordingly took the land around the chief harbor of Walfisch Bay. Here they established a coaling and cable station. Germany first became interested in the country through the private enterprise of a Bremen merchant, who, in 1883, established a trading station at Angra Pequeha, 150 miles north of the northern boundary of Cape Colony. He named it Luderitzland, after himself. In the following year he ceded his concession to the German government, and here the German flag was first planted on African soil. In the years 1886 and 1890 the Germans marked off the boundaries of their new colony, according to treaties made with England and Portugal.

It was not long after their arrival that the Teutons learned the unstable character of the natives whom they sought to govern. In the southern part they found tribes of Hottentots, in the mountains of the north they met the Bantu race, of which the Hereros and Ovambos were the most powerful. Between the Hottentots and the Hereros roamed the Damaras. Colonists who crossed over to the Kalahari Desert found there a few gaunt bushmen, a coyote breed of human beings, able to live where other beings perish from hunger and thirst.

In the northern mountains the Germans found ore deposits which they wanted to work, and they made a treaty with Chief Kamaherero, ruler of the Hereros, in 1885, to begin mining operations. The Hereros regarded with suspicion the ever increasing number of palefaces, and the natives came to believe they were in league with the Great Evil Spirit when they planted big seeds in the rock, which burst it apart with the power of lightning and sound of thunder. At the end of three years Kamaherero revoked the mining concessions and threatened to kill the colonists unless they left the country. As the settlers had no army, they abandoned their claims and retreated to Walfisch Bay. It was not until 1898 that the Germans succeeded in re-establishing their supremacy over the natives, a supremacy which lasted five years, and which is now more seriously menaced than ever before.

The exact causes of the present uprising have been clouded with conflicting reports from the Colonial Office, at Berlin. When Chancellor von Bülow spoke in the Reichstag on January 13 of the insurrection he said there was "no visible cause." According to travellers, however, the natives are said to have been driven to violence by the rapacious greed of certain colonists. In an article printed in the "Frankfurter Zeitung," a German who had visited the affected districts said that of recent years German traders have gone from tribe to tribe selling the blacks unlimited quantities of goods on credit. Many of the salesmen were discharged soldiers, and they dealt in such an underhand fashion that they prevented the natives from knowing how deeply in debt they were involved. Finally the traders turned on their clients and charged exorbitant prices for the goods, with high rates of interest. The Hereros, in particular, had fallen victims to the chicanery of the pedlers, and, unable to pay their debts, they were compelled to surrender large herds of cattle and great tracts of land. Almost the whole tribe, consisting of some eighty thousand men, women and children, became so impoverished that they decided their only course was to take up arms and drive out their persecutors. The German colonial newspaper, the "South African Gazette," also speaks of the "rapacity of the trader" as the cause of the outbreak, and adds that the climax was reached when some German officers, as the result of a quarrel, shot one of the natives in cold blood.

While the Hereros were planning their revenge, the Hottentots of the southern end of the colony took up arms and began pillaging the farms of the settlers in order to put down this rising. Colonel Leutwein, the governor of the province, withdrew most of the trops from Windhoek, the capital, and marched south. The absence of the soldiery gave the Hereros courage, and they swooped down on the railroad which connects Windhoek and the port of Swakopmund with a two hundred and fifty mile track, tore up the rails and burned the ties, captured the farmers who had settled on farms near the railroad, butchered whole families with unnamable tortures, and caried off their herds of cattle. Governor Leutwein finally put down the rebellion of the Hereros, but it took him twenty days to get his troops back to Windhoek. By that time all Damaraland, as the central zone of the colony is called, was aflame with revolt.

The regular standing army of German Southwest Africa numbers eight hundred soldiers, who have now been reinforced by twelve hundred men, landed from German ships at Swakopmund. The Colonial Office is also preparing to send more troops to Africa from the standing army at home. Before the outbreaks it was estimated that the blacks outnumbered the whites fifty to one. The native population is about two hundred thousand, among whom not more than four thousand whites have made their homes. Of these twenty-five hundred are German emigrants, the remainder being Boer refugees from the Transvaal, who had exiled themselves from their homeland after the triumph of the British.

Not more than fifteen thousand natives are armed sufficiently to combat the modern weapons of the Germans, and, although some of them are captained by German and Boer deserters, they are almost invariably overwhelmed in open conflict. In one report, Colonel Leutwein states that a number of Ovambes, under Captain Nechale, attacked the police post at Amatoni and were repulsed with a loss of sixty men. The principal German forces recently gathered at Okahandja to await reinforcements before undertaking a general movement against the Hereros. Otjosongard and Waterberg apparently are the centres of the Hereros. The German transport officers are buying large numbers of oxen in Cape Town, for the ox is to the South African what the camel is to the Arab or the mule to the desert inhabitants of America. German engineers are also at work repairing the railroad to Windhoek in order to keep up communication between the capital and the Atlantic.

Germany's experience in Southwest Africa is only another blow to her colonial policy, which she launched in the time of Bismarck's pre-eminence. In spite of the fact that she has acquired in South Africa and the South Seas more than one million square miles of land, she has found these possessions more of a burden than a help. In all this territory only 5,125 Germans are to be found, of whom 1,567 are officials and soldiers, 637 traders, 779 artisans and laborers and 1,010 agriculturists. But in order to spread out this extremely thin veneer the empire has spent $75,000,000 since 1884. The import and export business of the colonists for 1902 with the German Customs Union was hardly one-third of their total trade.

German East Africa, which is larger and more valuable than the mutinous colony on the Atlantic Coast, cost the government in 1901 nearly $3,000,000, and returned only $770,000. German Southwest Africa needed $2,212,400 from Berlin in the same year to meet its total expenditures of $2,546,600. Its chief exports are guano from the coast, cattle, skins, hides, ivory and ostrich feathers.

Though far distant geographically, American army officers have taken a special interest in Germany's military movements in Southwest Africa. The Germans have adopted a new uniform, patterned after the khaki dress of the American Army. It is said that the Kaiser himself recommended the change on seeing some United States officers who were dressed in khaki jackets and leggings. The yellow, greenish color caught his eye.

"Just the thing," he said, "for soldiers on the veldt. Dressed in such a uniform, they will be almost invisible in the withered stubble and the hummocks of sand."

AN HERERO FAMILY.
Type of rebellious natives whom the Germans are punishing in Southwest Africa.

GERMAN RECRUITS STARTING FOR SOUTHWEST AFRICA.
They wear the new khaki uniform, which presents an odd contrast to the high boots.

DASHING "DR. JIM."

Convicted in Trial "at Bar" in England, Now Premier of Cape Colony.

There are some men who cannot be kept down. Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, of South Africa, familiarly known as "Dr. Jim," apparently is one of them. By a strange turn of the wheel, the man who rose from a physician's practice to the office of administrator of a province in South Africa, then fell technically by the failure of a famous filibustering expedition into the Orange Free State to the level of a convict, has again risen. This time the height attained is greater than any he had reached before. He has been called to the office of Premier of Cape Colony to succeed Sir John Sprigg, probably the first instance on record of the promotion of a convict to a premiership.

"Dr. Jim," perhaps, did not need the assistance of a madcap raid to give his name currency, but nothing in his career has done so much to make it remembered as his invasion of the South African republic prior to the Boer war and the narrow escape from the imposition of the death penalty upon him and his officers by the Boer authorities as a consequence. Winning recognition from Cecil Rhodes by his ability to accomplish political and military missions which seemed almost impossible of accomplishment, in course of time he became a most important officer in the employ of the British South Africa Company, of which Cecil Rhodes was head. It was within his power to organize military expeditions, so in December, 1899, when the Outlanders in Johannesburg, who had armed themselves with the intention of obtaining constitutional recognition, asked him to come to their assistance, with his usual promptness he started the next day with a force of six hundred Bechuanaland mounted police in command of several British officers, for the South African republic. They were armed with Lee-Metford and Martini-Henry rifles and eight Maxim guns, and Dr. Jameson took pains to prevent any official recall from reaching him. He cut the telegraph wires near the point of departure, Mafeking. Only one day's supply of rations was taken. Notwithstanding Dr. Jameson's secret departure and his attempts to prevent news of his expedition from reaching the outside world, Mr. Chamberlain received information regarding it, and ordered Sir Hercules Robinson, the British High Commissioner in South Africa, to repudiate his action by proclamation and send a messenger to Dr. Jameson ordering his immediate return. The messenger reached the adventurers, who felt that they had the sympathy of persons in power, even if accepted usage was against their hostile acts toward a "friendly" nation, and Dr. Jameson replied to the message that it "should be attended to." Other warnings of a similar character reached him from other sources, but Dr. Jameson replied to these that he was anxious to fulfill his "promise made to the principal residents of the Rand, to go to the aid of his fellow men in their extremity."

The Boers were able to take care of themselves when "Dr. Jim" got within their territory. At Krügersdorp a force of about one thousand men, under Commandant Cronje, met him, and being in an exhausted condition from want of sleep and food, his troop were unable to withstand the opposing force. They fought with courage, but the following day were obliged to lay down their arms at Doornkop. Immediately after the capitulation Dr. Jameson and his followers were taken to Krügersdorp and thence to Pretoria, where they were put in prison.

The successful capture of Dr. Jameson's force led the German Emperor to send to President Krüger the dispatch which became famous congratulating him on having succeeded "without calling for the help of friendly powers" against armed bands which had invaded his country. This created a great deal of excited feeling, both in England and in Germany, and resulted in the mobilization of a flying squadron by Great Britain. There were rumors that the captured officers were to be shot, but this proved to be unfounded; at least, President Krüger promised to turn them over to Great Britain for punishment, an act which was recognized as unexpectedly generous under the circumstances. Dr. Jameson and the other officers were eventually taken to Great Britain, where they were received with enthusiasm by the people. Dr. Jameson was tried before a court "at bar," a form of criminal inquiry seldom employed in the British courts in these days. Established in the days when the courts of Great Britain were not so free from political and social bias as they are to-day, it was intended to insure justice to the accused. Not only is there a jury, but more than one judge occupies the bench. This form of trial, it was said at the time, had been employed only five times in the previous hundred years. A "trial at bar" is granted only when the importance of the issues at stake, the probable length or difficulty of the inquiry and the likelihood that serious questions of evidence or law will arrive in the course of it warrant it.

Dr. Jameson and several of his officers were found guilty by the jury of leading an expedition against a country with which Great Britain was at peace and sentenced to ten months' imprisonment. Dr. Jameson served from May to December, and was then released on account of his health. He took part in the war against the Boer republic after returning to South Africa. He is of Scottish descent, having been born in Edinburgh in 1853, and he first went to South Africa to practise medicine at Kimberley in 1871.

FRENCH PEARL CULTURE.

Process of Causing Oysters to Produce Gems Discovered.

Paris, February 10.

In the past half century there have been many makers of artificial stones, imitation pearls and diamonds being familiar to everybody in both hemispheres. It was, however, left to France to produce two men who have discovered a way to manufacture the real gems. The astounding results achieved by M. Moissan with his furnace, heated by enormously powerful electric engines, in which, after a process lasting from eight to ten weeks, he produces real diamonds, having exactly the same chemical composition as the natural stone, are now well known. Another Frenchman, a biologist, has now worked a second miracle; he has discovered an artificial means of producing real pearls.

The demand for pearls is always far in excess of the supply. The leading jewellers of the Rue de la Paix say that they could always dispose of more than double the number they are able to procure, and pearls are more en vogue this year than ever before. The invention of the French savant, M. Raphael Dubois, promises greatly to augument the supply of pearls.

For years past M. Dubois has devoted himself to studying the nature and habits of the pearl oyster and the conditions under which the pearl of commerce is formed. Having satisfied himself that the pearl is the product of a disease of the animal, he next sought to determine whether that disease might not be contagious. After numerous experiments, his patience was rewarded. He succeeded in communicating the disease so thoroughly that almost every oyster in the bed under observation, and every mussel even, became affected, and pearls—small ones, it is true, but of good color and shape—were found in every shell.

At the International Fishery and Agricultural Congress of 1900, M. Dubois demonstrated the success of his experiments to a commission of savans. In the first stages of his experiments he had opened as many as 12,000 or 15,000 oysters before finding a single pearl; now, any three taken at haphazard showed pearls. At the termination of the congress the Colonial Office of France gave him a commission which enabled him to prosecute his inquiries under the most favorable conditions, and he at once repaired to Tunis, where he began a series of experiments in acclimatizing the Ceylon pearl oyster in the waters of the Mediterranean. All M. Dubois's experiments have been made upon the oyster known as the "pintadine," from the celebrated Ceylon beds. The animal underwent some slight modifications on being transplanted from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean, but they proved unimportant, and the work of breeding and contamination proceeded without interruption.

Hitherto no pearl oysters have ever been found in French oyster beds. Encouraged by his success on the shores of Tunis, M. Dubois brought some specimens of his pearl oysters to his laboratory in Lyons and once more the operation of transplantation was successful. Living specimens containing small but fine pearls were exhibited a short time since at the Academy of Science, and as it has been found that oysters increase rapidly in size in French waters there is every hope that M. Dubois's pearls will in time attain the dimensions required for the article of commerce.

It is not likely that prices will be affected by this artificial production—at least, not for some time to come. Until the quantity placed upon the market can be almost doubled, the value of the jewel will not be appreciably diminished; its hold upon the hearts of all women is so firm, and its position in the very front rank of coveted ornaments so lasting, that it will probably never be other than costly. The value of M. Dubois's discoveries is now recognized by the French Academy of Sciences, and great interest is taken in his investigations. C. I. B.

SOMERSAULT MONOCYCLE COURSE.

In the present era of "weak nerves," the performance of "looping the loop," in which a cyclist traverses a vertically placed loop, has quickly staled, and has now been relegated to the rear and supplanted by a still more sensational piece of daring, a modification of the former, but requiring even greater courage and fearlessness.

The inventor or originator of this new kind of "looping the loop," Mr. Eclair, also whirls through a looped course beginning fourteen metres above the ground, forming a loop about eight metres high and broad, and ending on the ground. The intrepid performer will shortly exhibit his marvellous feat at one of the Berlin circuses. The somersault monocycle course, as it is called by the originator, is not traversed by Mr. Eclair with a bicycle, but with a large iron ring, in which he stands upright. The iron wheel has a diameter of two metres, a width of forty centimetres, and weighs five hundredweight. Mr. Eclair starts with this wheel from the point of departure, fourteen metres high, and is thus whirled through the course. When the heavy wheel has spun down the incline it strikes with terrific force a door closing the loop below, which flies open, and is thus impelled on through the door by the powerful force of momentum it has attained in its downward course. Upon its second arrival below, the iron wheel pushes open another door at the other extremity of the ring or loop, and then rolls out, the daring ride ending in a net.

As the course, which has a total length of sixty metres, is covered by the wheel in eight seconds, and the performer has to turn in it fourteen times like the spokes of a wagon wheel, we may be sure that the blood of the reckless rider is well shaken up. As a matter of fact, Mr. Eclair began training by having himself shut up in a drum, which he had turned around, first slowly, then faster and faster. Notwithstanding this precaution, many little veins in Mr. Eclair's eyes have burst.—(Translated from Für Alle Welt, in The Scientific American.

THE FIRST MOTOR CARS.

From 1860 onward the problem of the autocar was pursued continuously in one part of the world or another, a new enthusiast ever taking up the task ere a wearied inventor had relinquished it. Herr Daimler's motor, in the form in which it appeared in 1889, may be regarded as the herald of the modern revival. It became known as the V-engine from the fact that it had two cylinders set like the limbs of that letter. The pair of pistons were coupled to a single crank, working in a closed chamber, which in the engine of 1885 was used to supply a part of the charge to the cylinders through valves in the pistons, while the means of governing were also improved. The motor car movement proper, however, dates only from 1884, when automobiles began to be produced such as at least compelled serious consideration, whatever their defects. The astonishingly rapid strides which have been made in the industry from that year to the present time are familiar to all.—(London Post.

FALSE REPORTS AS STRATAGEMS OF WAR.

HOW THEY HAVE WORKED IN THE PAST—SOME FAMOUS INSTANCES OF VICTORIES CLAIMED.

At no other time do the columns of the daily press contain so many contradictory statements concerning the true state of affairs as they do in times of war, and the news submitted to the reading public to-day giving detailed accounts of a victorious battle may to-morrow turn out to be a false rumor, or even a most disastrous defeat for those who but yesterday claimed to be the victors. This state of uncertainty and untrustworthy information is often due to measures taken by the military commanders, who sometimes regard false reports as strategems of war. To Catherine of Medici has been ascribed the maxim "A false report, if believed during three days, may be of great service to a government," and I. Disraeli, in speaking of "false political reports," says that between solid lying and disguised truth there is a difference known to writers skilled in "the art of governing mankind by deceiving them." History shows the temporary and sometimes lasting advantages of spreading rumors designed to disguise, or to counteract the real state of things. "Such reports, set agoing," says Disraeli, "serve to break down the sharp and fatal point of a panic, which might instantly occur; in this way the public is saved from the horrors of consternation and the stupefaction of despair. These rumors give a breathing time to prepare for the disaster, which is doled out cautiously; and, as might be shown, in some cases these first reports have left an event in so ambiguous a state that a doubt may still arise whether these reports were really so destitute of truth! Such reports once printed enter into our history and sadly perplex the honest historian. Of a battle fought in a remote situation, both parties for a long time at home may dispute the victory after the event, and the pen may prolong what the sword had long decided. A skirmish has been often raised into an arranged battle, and a defeat concealed in an account of the killed and wounded, while victory has been claimed by both parties."

History shows that Villerol, in all his encounters with Marlborough, always sent home dispatches by which no one could suspect that he was discomfited. Pompey, after his fatal battle with Cæsar, sent letters to all the provinces and cities of the Romans describing it with greater courage than he had fought, so that a report generally prevailed that Cæsar had lost the battle. Plutarch informs us that three hundred writers had described the battle of Marathon. In looking over a collection of letters of the times of James I one is struck by the contradictory reports of the result of the battle of Lutzen, so glorious and so fatal to Gustavus Adolphus. The victory was sometimes reported to have been obtained by the Swedes, but a general uncertainty, a sort of mystery, agitated the majority of the nation. This state of anxious suspense lasted a considerable time. The fatal truth gradually came out in reports changing in their progress. The historian of Gustavus Adolphus observes on this occasion that "few couriers were better received than those who conveyed the accounts of the King's death to declared enemies or concealed ill wishers; nor did the report greatly displease the court of Whitehall, where the ministry—as it usually happens in cases of timidity—had its degree of apprehensions for fear the event should not be true; and, as I have learned from good authority, imposed silence on the news writers and intimated the same to the pulpit in case any funeral encomium might proceed from that quarter."

The same circumstance occurred on another important event in modern history, where the artifice of party writers in disguising or suppressing the real fact may be observed. This was the famous battle of the Boyne. The French party long reported that Count Lauzun had won the battle, and that William III was killed. Bussy Rabutin, in some memoirs, says: "I chronicled this account according as the first reports gave out; when at length the real facts reached them, the party did not like to lose their pretended victory." Pere Londel, who published a register of the times, has recorded the event in this deceptive manner: "The battle of the Boyne, in Ireland; Schomberg is killed there at the head of the English." Commenting on this circumstance, Disraeli says: "The writer resolved to conceal the defeat of James's party, and cautiously suppresses any mention of victory, but very carefully gives a real fact, by which his readers would hardly doubt of the defeat of the English! We are so accustomed to this traffic of false reports that we are scarcely aware that many important events recorded in history were in their day strangely disguised by such mystifying accounts. This we can only discover by reading private letters written at the moment. Bayle has collected several remarkable absurdities of this kind, which were spread abroad to answer a temporary purpose, but which had never been known to us had these contemporary letters not been published. A report was prevalent in Holland in 1580 that the Kings of France and Spain and the Duke of Alva were dead; a felicity which for a time sustained the exhausted spirits of the revolutionists. At the invasion of the Spanish Armada Burleigh spread reports of the thumbscrews, and other instruments of torture which the Spaniards had brought with them, and thus inflamed the hatred of the nation."

Under the caption, "False Reports Are Sometimes Stratagems of War," Disraeli says: "When the chiefs of the league had lost the battle at Ivry, with an army broken and discomfited, they still kept possession of Paris merely by imposing on the inhabitants all sorts of false reports, such as the death of the King of Navarre, at the fortunate moment when victory, undetermined on which side to incline, turned for the leaguers, and they gave out false reports of a number of victories they had elsewhere obtained. Such tales, distributed in pamphlets and ballads among a people agitated by doubts and fears, are gladly believed; flattering their wishes, or soothing their alarms, they contribute to their ease, and are too agreeable to allow of time for reflection."

The history of a report creating a panic may be traced in the Irish insurrection, in the curious memoirs of James II. A forged proclamation of the Prince of Orange was set forth by one Speke, and a rumor spread that the Irish troops were killing and burning in all parts of the kingdom. A panic like magic instantly ran through the people, so that in one quarter of the town of Drogheda they imagined that the other was filled with blood and ruins. History records that during this panic "pregnant women miscarried, aged persons died with terror, while the truth was that the Irish themselves were disarmed and dispersed, in utter want of a meal or a lodging."

In the times of the civil wars in England under Charles I the newspapers and the private letters afford specimens of this political contrivance of false reports of every species. No extravagance of invention to spread a terror against a party was too gross, and the city of London was one day alarmed that the royalists were occupied with a plan of blowing up the River Thames by an immense quantity of powder warehoused at the riversida, and that there existed an drganized though invisible brotherhood of many thousands, with consecrated knives, and those who hesitated to give credit to such rumors were branded as malignants, who took not the danger of the Parliament to heart. Forged conspiracies and reports of great but distant victories were inventions to keep up the spirits of a party, but oftener prognosticated some intended change in the government. When they were desirous of augmenting the army or introducing new garrisons or using an extreme measure with the city or the royalists there was always a new conspiracy set afloat, or when any great affair was to be carried in Parliament letters of great victories were published, to dishearten the opposition and infuse additional boldness in their own party. If the report lasted only a few days it obtained its purpose, and verified the observation of Catherine of Medici.

This art of deceiving the public is not new, however, but was unquestionably practised among the ancients. Syphax sent Scipio word that he could not unite with the Romans, but, on the contrary, had declared for the Carthaginians. The Roman army was then anxiously waiting for his expected succors; Scipio was careful to show the utmost civility to these ambassadors, and ostentatiously treated them with presents, that his soldiers might believe they were only returning to hasten the army of Syphax to join the Romans. Livy censures the Roman consul who, after the defeat at Cannæ, told the deputies of the allies the whole loss they had sustained. "This consul," says Livy, "by giving too faithful and open an account of his defeat, made both himself and his army still more contemptible." The result of the simplicity of the consul was that the allies, despairing that the Romans would ever recover their losses, deemed it prudent to make terms with Hannibal. Plutarch tells an amusing story, in his way, of the natural progress of a report which was contrary to the wishes of the government. The unhappy reporter suffered punishment as long as the rumor prevailed, though at last it proved true. A stranger, landing from Sicily, at a barber's shop delivered all the particulars of the defeat of the Athenians, of which, however, the people were yet uninformed. The barber leaves untrimmed the reporter's beard, and flies away to vent the news in the city, where he told the Archons what he had heard. The whole city was thrown in a ferment. The Archons called an assembly of the people and produced the luckless barber, who, in his confusion, could not give any satisfactory account of the first reporter. He was condemned as a spreader of false news and a disturber of the public quiet, for the Athenians could not imagine but that they were invincible. The barber was dragged to the wheel and tortured till the disaster was more than confirmed. Bayle, referring to this story, observes that had the barber reported a victory, though it had proved to be false, he would not have been punished—a shrewd observation, which occurred to him from his recollection of the fate of Stratocles. This person persuaded the Athenians to perform a public sacrifice and thanksgiving for a victory obtained at sea, though he well knew at the time that the Athenian fleet had been totally defeated. When the calamity could no longer be concealed the people charged him with being an impostor, but Stratocles saved his life and mollified their anger by the pleasant turn he gave to the whole affair. "Have I done you any injury?" said he. "Is it not owing to me that you have spent three days in the pleasures of victory?" Commenting on this incident, Disraeli remarks: "I think that this spreader of good but fictitious news should have occupied the wheel of the luckless barber, who had spread bad but true news, for the barber had no intention of deception, but Stratocles had, and the question here to be tried was not the truth or the falsity of the reports, but whether the reporters intended to deceive their fellow citizens."

STARVATION DIETS.

These Make Breakfast Foods Look Like Luxury.

"The hardest fare that six strong men and a boy of fifteen ever kept alive on was the daily menu of the Windover's survivors, who were cast up on the Irish coast near Kilsegg. They lived for sixteen days on stewed ropeyarn, without a crumb of anything else to help digest it, except water; and though it made them ill, they kept alive on it, and did not waste away very much," says a writer in "Answers."

"The Windover was a bark carrying salt between Spain and the States, with an English crew, and she was dismasted and abandoned about a thousand miles out on the Atlantic. Three of the crew were killed by falling masts, and two others were washed overboard; but the seven others took to the whaleboat and set out for Britain. Being in too much of a hurry, they took too little food, but three large butts of water, besides the tank the boat already held. The result was they ate up their provisions in four days, but had water enough for a month, and, after starving two days more, they tried boiling lengths of tarred hemp rope into a pulp and swallowing it. They had a keg of paraffine wax, and, though it made them very ill at first, they eventually contrived to live on the boiled hemp, the tar, boiled to a jelly, adding to the nourishment of the rope.

"Two men who went to a small island off the Irish coast a little while ago kept themselves going for ten days on a diet almost as bad. They landed in a boat, which was smashed by a wave on their trying to relaunch her, and they were left on the bare, rocky island, which has only a slight scalp of coarse turf, without food. Fortunately there was a spring on the island, but nothing in the way of food but gulls, which they could not catch, and nothing to make a fire with as a distress signal. There are not even any shellfish, as there is no beach, and the pair had to subsist for the ten days on cold, raw seaweed washed up by the tide. For two days they starved, but after that they tackled the seaweed, making three meals a day of it, until rescued.

"A diet of boots is one of the commonest of last resource foods; and, though it is hard for a well fed person to imagine that any one could masticate and digest shoe leather, a pair of long sea boots will keep a man alive for a fortnight, if he has a little water.

"Of course no teeth can tear cowhide boots; they have to be cut up and shredded with a knife, and the shreds chewed and swallowed. Boiling, even when possible, does no good at all, but takes from the boots what nourishment they contain. A few ounces of leather, being so hard to digest, stays the stomach for fifteen or twenty hours.

"The best known and most useful of starvation diets for wrecked or castaway people, however, is that of barnacles, and if anything of the kind happens to you, they will probably be your staple food. Barnacles are long, tough, half shellfish, half vegetable, creatures that grow on the under sides of vessels. Three Englishmen and a crew of Lascars, who had been forced to abandon the sailing vessel North Star a few months ago, kept themselves going for over a week on barnacles, and only two of the crew died. The worst of them is that they give one internal cramps and cause an insufferable thirst; but they do nourish the frame."

DIRTY MONEY AND DISEASE.

It is told of an English lady who went to live in Scotland that she said, when she received the very grimy one pound notes which are so popular in that country, and which pass through so many hands before being called in, that "never before had she understood what was meant in the Bible by 'filthy lucre'." The sentiment will be echoed by all who have to deal with a paper currency for small sums. But it is sometimes forgotten that the paper notes have the advantage of showing the dirt, which is as present, though not so obvious, on our coins.

A medical writer in a contemporary mentions that he saw a man who was clearly suffering from an infectious skin disease of the hands paying a tramway fare without a thought of the ill he might convey with the coins he passed to the conductor. The conductor, when warned, was effusively grateful for the warning, and promised, for his own protection, to wear gloves in the future. But there was no protection thought of for the people who might next handle these dirty coins. To trace infection of any kind to a particular coin may be impossible, but one may still realize that infection may so be brought among us.

Thackeray speaks of it having been once the custom at a club to bring a member the change that he needed in "washed silver." The novelist works this out into an apologue to indicate that in a gentleman a certain cleanliness of life and thought, as well as of habit, is expected, and, indeed, one could moralize ad libitum on the theme. It certainly does not follow that infection lurks in every penny the previous travels and antecedents of which we have not investigated, but the incident may serve as a reminder that money may advisedly be handled with some little caution, seeing that we do not know through whose hands it has passed.—(The Hospital.