AFRICA'S GREAT FORESTS.

The Vast Timber Region Through a Portion of Which Stanley Passed.

The great forest through which Stanley recently passed, which he estimated to cover 246,000 square miles, is only a small part of the great African forest which extends almost unbrokenly from the west coast in the Gaboon and Ogowe regions, with a width of several hundred miles, to the great lakes. This belt of timber, trending away to the heart of the continent in a direction a little south of east, is the greatest forest region in the world, according to the New York *Sun*. A part of it strikes south of the Congo at the great northern bend of that river, and the country embraced within the big curve is covered with a compact forest, the towering and wide-spreading trees shutting out a large part of the sunlight.

In these forests, completely shut out from the rest of the world, live hundreds of thousands of people who are almost unknown to the tribes living in the savanna region outside. Scattered through the big woods within the Congo bend are little communities of Batwa dwarfs, of whose existence the traveler has no inkling until he suddenly comes upon them. Here also, along the Sankuru River, are the tree inhabitants described by Dr. Wolf, where the natives live in huts built among the branches to escape the river floods. It was in great clearings made in these forests that Kund and Tappenbeck discovered some of the most notable villages yet found in Africa, where well-built huts, with gable roofs, line both sides of a neatly kept street that stretches away for eight or nine miles. These villages are even more interesting than the street towns in the more sparsely timbered regions south of them, which were regarded as very wonderful when they were first discovered by Wissmann. It was his account of these villages that led Bishop Taylor to choose this part of Africa as the goal he wished to reach.

Last year the Commercial Company, which is investigating the trade resources of the Congo, sent its steamer, the Roi des Belges, up the Ikatta River into this great timber land, and the explorers described the country along the banks as "covered with an almost impenetrable virgin forest. It is a veritable ocean of verdure, from which emerges here and there a wooded mountain." Greenfell penetrated the forest for long distances on several southern tributaries of the Congo, and on the upper courses of these rivers he sometimes found the wide-spreading branches forming a complete roof above the stream.

But One Elementary Substance.

Analogy forbids us to believe that, down to a certain limit of dimension that we call molecules, the constitution of matter is of a wholly different sort from that which appears on subdividing the molecules. It is an equally incredible assumption that all atoms of the same element are so many independent creations exactly alike in every respect. Then, as our knowledge increases, the distinctions between the chemical elements are becoming less marked and their relations to each other more intimate. They are beginning to appear, not as isolated units, but as links in a complex network, which presents an unbroken continuity throughout. The recent study of the rarer earths leaves us in doubt whether we have an indefinite number of elements, or only one under innumbered manifestations; and the later results of spectrum analyses seem to indicate quite clearly that, at the high temperatures of the sun and the fixed stars, many of our terrestrial elements are decomposed. From a mathematical analysis of the spectra, Grunwald maintains—and supports his conclusion by a remarkable array of confirmatory measurements—that the remarkable solar spectrum line called helium, and the equally well-marked line of the sun's corona, come from two constituents of hydrogen gas, the first of which is somewhat heavier and the last far lighter than hydrogen gas.—*Prof. Josiah P. Cooke, in Popular Science Monthly.*

The Holly Tree.

Although the holly is one of the most beautiful of our evergreen plants, it is comparatively rare that it is found domesticated and adorning the lawns either of our suburban villas or the grounds of more extensive and remote country places. Many forest companions of the holly have been removed from their parent soil and made to flourish in all their original vigor and beauty near the abodes of men; but it has, for the most part, maintained its wild state of savage freedom, and in general is only to be seen in its full glory in the spots where it has been planted by nature's own hand. This apparent neglect of a plant, which is second to none of the evergreens in its ornamental character, is due to no want of æsthetic appreciation on the part of arboriculturists, but to the belief which generally prevails, among amateur gardeners at least, that the holly will not bear transplanting, and will languish and die when removed from its native soil. Many country gentlemen and farmers have made the attempt only to fail, and the failures have been so frequent as to discourage many others who would have been happy to adorn their grounds with this healthy, wholesome tree which, with its suggestions of the Christmas season of goodwill, seems, as it stands amid the winter snow, with its red berries and wealth of glistening green, to be a tonic and a refreshment to the physical vision, and to bear on every bough a genial, hearty message, full of good cheer and hope.—*Baltimore Sun.*

The "Griffin."

One of the strangest pieces of artillery in Europe is at Metz and is known by the name of the "Griffin," from the figure of the fabulous animal which is to be found among the ornamental portion of its workmanship. The gun was cast in 1529 at Ehrenbreitstein, near Coblentz. It is 17 feet in length and 3 in diameter. The bore is 10½ inches; weight, 22,500 pounds. Its carriage is 24 feet in length and the weight of the ball which it carries is 157 pounds; 42 pounds of powder is required for the charge. Napoleon intended it for the war department, Paris, but found difficulty in transporting it.

How Italian Macaroni Is Made.

The first thing put on the table was a wooden tray. On the surface of this a bowl of fine white flour was heaped. Then the Italian woman made a nest with her hand in the center of the flour. This she filled with cold water. Then came the working in of every grain of the flour into a compact mass. This la padrona kneaded until it became as hard and white as wax, handling it exactly as the housewife of the American home make her best puff paste. Then one of the other women brought a long oaken stick as large as a walking-cane. With this the padrona rolled and beat the white dough again and again, until at last it was one large white sheet. Then she took a sharp meat knife from a drawer and cut it into long, thin slips. These she cut again into shorter ones. Next the grandmother brought what looked like two knitting-needles. La padrona laid these in the short lengths of dough and rolled them into long tubes. These were laid aside finished. This was macaroni. The next was made into short pieces—taglioni. Then the fine straws known as spaghetti, and the worm-like threads familiar to commerce as vermicelli. Meanwhile the male heads of the family—the organ-grinder, the scissors-sharpener, and the maker of "images"—chanted the praise of the manufacture in fluent Italian, and brought in a big tin boiler to emphasize their remarks. There was not even a grain of salt added to the compound—it was only flour and water. But, by a trick of making it, had become a national dish and a delicacy of the table. All in the family eat it. It is generally cooked among such families as these as a broth. They add a small piece of meat or some parmietto and season it. It is cheap and wholesome. Sometimes the tables, chairs, and even the beds in an Italian family will be covered with strings of macaroni drying for further use.—*Detroit Free Press.*

About Reading.

One can not master all knowledge; the majority of even the best books must be left unread. In order to know well a little, one must be content to be ignorant of a great deal that seems equally important. Carlyle says that the art of selecting books is the art of rejecting them. The high priests of literature, science and art are to be read, and not the copyists and lesser lights. "The book to be read," said Dr. McCosh, "is not the one that thinks for you, but the one that sets you to thinking." This may be a safe rule for the highly educated, but the untrained mind has a guide in itself. Each reader must follow his own tastes, and consult his own needs. Let him read the books he would lay down with reluctance. The taste and craving for light literature will not last if one is not reading that which is pernicious. The mind will develop, and true mental food will be demanded.—*Professor Townsend.*

He Was Settin' on 'Em.

Not long since Mrs. H—— called on an old friend, whom she found in a most melancholy mood. "Laws! Mrs. Mournful," she exclaimed, "what on airth air you thinkin' about?"

"Nothing else in the world but my poor dead husband. He was such a devoted man—always bringing home his little kindnesses to me. I couldn't help thinking, just now, when I heard Mrs. Brown's sassiges sizzing, about what poor Mr. Mournful used to bring to me. I was fond of sassiges, and he hardly eversomedever came home in his life without fetching me a sassige in his pocket. He was very fond of eggs hisself, and would occasionally fetch a few for hisself. But he was always sure to lay a sassige on the table. Never laid his eggs on the table—never'd think of 'em, and sometimes I'd ask, 'Simon, where's your eggs?' Just as like as not he'd been a settin' on 'em!"—*St. Louis Magazine.*

A Chemical Experiment.

The *Practical Teacher* gives the following simple experiment in chemistry, which any child can try: Cut three leaves of cabbage into small pieces, and, after placing them in a basin, pour a pint of boiling water over them, letting them stand an hour; then pour the liquid into a decanter. It will be of a fine blue color. Then take four wine-glasses—into one put six drops of strong vinegar; into another six drops of solution of soda; into a third the same quantity of a strong solution of alum; and let the fourth glass remain empty. Fill up the glasses from the decanter, and the liquid poured into the glass containing the acid will quickly change to a beautiful red; that poured with the soda will be a fine green; that poured into the alum will turn to a pretty purple; while that poured into the empty glass will remain unchanged.

The Monarch Still a Man.

Who forgets the anecdote of Napoleon and the village of Brienne? He was riding late one day over a battlefield, gazing, stern and unmoved, on the dying and the dead that strewed the ground by thousands about him, when suddenly those "evening bells" struck up a merry peal. The Emperor paused to listen; his heart softened; memory was busy with the past; he was no longer the conqueror of Austerlitz, but the innocent, happy school boy at Brienne; and, dismounting from his horse, he seated himself on the stump of an old tree and burst into tears. The rock was smitten and living waters came gushing from it.

CUSTOMER—"Say waiter, this shad tastes very fishy?" Waiter—"Yes, sah, shad is fish, sah."

"IF we cawn't be entirely happy, let us be happy as we can," is the dude's motto.

A MAN has to mind his p's and q's to keep from being classed with the j's.

Some Old Fashions Revived.

There is at present a revival of old fashions steadily going on. Popular favor has returned to many of the customs of early times, and our homes are rapidly assuming an air of the past.

The old spinning-wheel has returned from exile and forms a conspicuous and interesting ornament in our homes.

Quaint old tapestries, rugs and articles of furniture have been restored to deserved popularity.

There is a reason for this revival.

Our ancestors were of the substantial kind, and their tastes were accordingly marked.

They looked to their personal comfort, and when it was attained they stopped.

Fashions foibles had no charm for them, and in mind and person they were the equal of any people the world has yet seen.

Quick in perception and accurate in judgment, they soon detected the cause of any physical discomfort and as quickly applied the proper means for the removal of it.

Conspicuous among some of the old fashions recently revived has been the reproduction of some of our grandmothers' early time home cures, which are now holding a deserved position in popular favor, under the name of Warner's Log Cabin remedies, and include a Sarsaparilla for the blood, Hops and Buchu for the stomach and system, Cough Remedy for colds, Extract for internal or external pain, Hair Tonic, Rose Cream for catarrh, Plasters and Pills.

For purity, simplicity, and for their genuine beneficial properties, they are unequaled, and are worthy of our good old grandmothers, who first produced them.

May there be a revival, by their use, of the good health and long lives of early times!

And Then His Crest Fell.

Maud—Do you really want to know what Miss Smith thinks of you?

Brother Tom—Yes; I really do.

"Well, she said she thought you were a very sensible young man."

"Sensible, eh; that is quite too complimentary."

"Sensible, did I say? I meant to have said sensitive. How could I have made such a mistake?"—*Yankee Blade.*

Agony Is Courted

By persons who, attacked by a mild form of rheumatism, neglect to seek prompt relief. Subsequent torture is prevented by an immediate resort to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Slight exposure, an occasional draught, will beget this painful malady, where there is a predisposition to it in the blood. It is not difficult to arrest the trouble at the outset, but well nigh impossible to eradicate it when matured. No evidence in relation to this superb blood depurent is more positive than that which establishes its efficacy as a preventive and remedy for rheumatism. Not only is it thorough, but safe, which the vegetable and mineral poisons, often taken as curatives of the disease, are not. Besides expelling the rheumatic virus from the system, it overcomes fever and ague, biliousness, constipation, and dyspepsia.

SOME men who would never set a river afire make pretty good husbands, after all. The average wife doesn't care so much for a husband who would set a river afire as she does for the one who would start the fire regularly in the kitchen stove.

NOTHING LIKE IT.

Great Rejoicing in the Conover Family—Crutches Laid Aside After Twenty Years' Use.

I have been afflicted with rheumatism twenty years. For the last ten years have been obliged to use crutches. Often my left hip and knee would entirely give out. Have expended a large amount of money for remedies recommended as a cure for that terrible disease; have used the most powerful liniments on my hip and knee to soothe the pain, that I might get a little sleep. My hip and knee had lost nearly all strength by the use of liniments, and I could get no help. I saw an advertisement of Hibbard's Rheumatic Syrup, ordered half a dozen bottles, took them and received some relief, then ordered a dozen. Have taken seven of the last dozen, and I am happy in saying that I know I am being cured. Have not used any liniment since I commenced taking your syrup. When I began taking your syrup I could not take a step without the use of a cane, neither could I turn myself in bed without aid; can now turn in bed without any trouble, can walk about my house and office without the use of my cane, often losing track of it, for the reason when I take a long walk I take it along. My office is four blocks from my house; I have not walked to or from it for over a year until last Thursday, a week. Since that time I have walked to and from it every day, except Sunday. I am truly rejoicing that I am fast being relieved from such a terrible affliction. Very truly, S. S. CONOVER.

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AND now they say that the gallantry of the American tar is responsible for the Samoan disaster. It was an attempt to hug the shore which caused the ocean to rage.

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Easterner—"I understand the great land boom at Dugout City has collapsed."

Westerner—"Yes; no use keepin' it goin' any longer. All the land now is owned by outsiders."—*New York Weekly.*

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A Sad Fate.

Anxious father—I saw our darling daughter in the street to-day, and she looked very unhappy—miserable, in fact; only married a month, too.

Sympathetic mother—Yes, I noticed the poor dear. I'm afraid her husband snores.—*New York Weekly.*

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