

WEPT FROM THE EARTH

DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN BISON OR BUFFALO.

Bison Slaughter Unparalleled in History of Civilization.

One of the most extraordinary events that has characterized the last half of the present century is the extermination, the wiping out of the American bison. There is little use in resorting to invective or sneering to stigmatize those who are guilty of this crime, but it would be well if the acts could be held up in a bright light, that those who committed them might be excoriated in the time to come, when a few bones and pictures will alone tell the story of a mighty race swept from the face of the earth by the civilized people of the 19th century.

That so many of these animals could have been killed in mere wantonness seems incredible when their vast numbers are recalled. We first hear of the bison from Cortes and his followers, in 1521. Montezuma had one in a zoological garden, the specimen, in all probability, having been brought in by Cortes. In 1530 Cabeza saw them in Texas, and in 1540 Coronado found them in what is now Kansas. In 1541, one of his officers describing them as a horrible beast that demoralized the natives. In 1611 Sir Samuel Argoll observed herds of bison near the national capital, and, in all probability, 25 years ago herds of bison grazed on the site of the national building at Washington. In 1671 Father Hennepin observed them in what is now Northern Illinois, and in October, 1722, Colonel W. Kent saw herds in North Carolina and Virginia.

Those and other facts have provided data by which the early geographical distribution of the bison has been determined, and it is known that this grand animal, that is today represented by a few individuals, formerly ranged in millions from the Atlantic seaboard to the Gulf of Mexico, from Texas to the Great Slave lake, and as far west as Central Nevada. As to their numbers, they were like the sands of the seashore, and the accounts given by those who hunted them 20 or 30 years ago today seem like vagaries of a disordered imagination.

Their Incredible Abundance. Mr. Hornaday, who has hunted in South and Central Africa, where game is remarkably plentiful, states that the bison of this country previous to 1870 exceeded, in all probability, all the African game of every kind. An army officer in service on the plains in 1871 stated to the writer that he has occasionally seen herds of buffalo, and that from the top of a small hill he could see nothing but a black mass of their bodies. It was impossible to estimate their number, and he says he went in great fear lest they should be caught in a stampede, the rush being irresistible. Colonel Dodge, in his memoirs, states that on one occasion he rode 25 miles in a day, and saw 25 herds of buffalo, of various sizes, and that he saw a small separating strip between them, and that the animals paid little attention to him, merely moving slowly out of the way or, in some cases, stopping to stare at him for a moment, and then he was with the roar of an avalanche. This he met by standing fast and firing when they came within a short range, the shot striking the animals and one Colonel Dodge killed a bison from his wagon; not in sport, but as a protection. Otherwise they would have run him down and crushed him, horses and all.

This herd, observed by Colonel Dodge, was later found to be 50 miles wide, and to occupy five days in passing a given point on his way north. From a high rock on the east side of the river, which could be seen in every direction, the earth seemed to be covered with bison. To make an accurate estimate of the numbers seen would be impossible. However, it is a conservative calculation, estimated that Colonel Dodge must have seen 400,000, and that the herd comprised half a million buffaloes. A train on the Kansas Pacific road in the winter of 1871-72, between the towns of Ellsworth and Sheridan—120 miles—through a continuous herd of buffaloes. They were packed so that the earth was black, and more than once the train stopped, and the whole herd, as if by command, seemed to be becoming a menace to human safety.

Train Charged by Bison. "You cannot believe the facts as they existed in the days of 1871-'72," said an army officer. "I was at that time on duty in the pay department, which made it necessary for me to travel on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad. One day the train entered a large herd, which suddenly seemed to go wild at the shrieking of the whistle and the ringing of the bell. As we went on the thicker they became, until the very earth appeared to be a rolling mass of bumping heads as we could see. Suddenly some of the animals nearest us turned and charged; others fell in behind, and down on us they came like an avalanche. The engineer stopped the train, let off the steam, and tried to stop them, while we fled from the platforms and windows with rifles and revolvers, but it was like trying to stay a tidal wave.

meat, 21 bones, horns and hoofs, 25 cents; and this was sufficient to attract an army of destroyers.

The hides were the greatest feature, and one firm in New York between 1876 and 1884 paid the hunters nearly \$1,000,000, or, to be exact, \$523,070, for the robes and hides, which represent the annual extinction of the animal. The government never interfered, owing to protests of interested legislators and the neglect of higher officials. That the real extermination of the buffalo was caused by the demands of trade there can be no doubt, aided and abetted by sportsmen, Indians, and others; but the blame really lies with government.

When I left Ladysmith in July last, writes "F. S." in the London Mail, under recent date, there was naught to pre-empt the present state of affairs save a vague unrest in the air, a subtle drawing together of the townsfolk and the soldiers at the camp, and a tense feeling of expectation of something—we knew not what. Ordinarily Ladysmith is a quiet, dull little place, intensely English, in so far that there is absolutely no Dutch element to disturb the solidly loyal serenity of the township—for it is little more.

"ALDRSHOT OF NATAL"

BELEAGURED LADYSMITH THUS DESCRIBED BY A RESIDENT.

Quiet, Intensely English Little Place, Capable of Stubborn Defense, but Not Impregnable.

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Drakensberg mountains are about 30 miles away to the north and west, and help to shelter us in winter from excessive cold. The climate goes to rather unnecessary extremes; the height of summer (December and January) is very hot, and the depth of winter (June and July) correspondingly cold. At the same time the air is extraordinarily dry and bracing. The opposite cure for consumption had been tried and proved successful at Ladysmith years before it began to be talked about as a cure.

We are not only healthy, but we are very good. Probably few towns of 4000 inhabitants have so many places of worship. Practically every creed has its church or chapel, from the Dutch Reformed, which is a very small congregation, to the Wesleyan, which is quite considerable. We even can boast of the Salvation army. Folks are wont to laugh at the importance of little provincial places, but, after all, Ladysmith is the third-sized town in Natal, Durban and Pietermaritzburg being, of course, a good deal larger. Our town hall, we think, is worthy of an English cathedral town, and we plume ourselves considerably on the public buildings, especially the court-house, schools, public library, and the jail.

Not Much to Look at. Of course, the town as a town, is not much to look at—a few dusty, ill-kept but fairly wide streets, a spacious market-square, surrounded by low, galvanized-iron stores, many of them bearing curious Indian names, as Moon-Sammy, Abdoi Mahomet and the like on the signboards, for the important "Arab" merchants of Durban are all represented by branch houses. In front of the courthouse, and the hotels and the police barracks are, and one hitched up one's pony and leaves it alone for hours, quite secure in the average integrity of the passers-by.

Honestly, our weak points are our roads, our drainage, and our lighting. These are elementary and not on the scale that they should be. Our ocellids promise us a better thing in the near future, but a moonless night, a rutty road and a variety of small slits (ditches) have before now made the stranger in our midst use the natural advantages and defenses of the town have been enhanced and strengthened by carefully planned redoubts at any possibly vulnerable points. The danger of the place, being rushed in, is absolutely nil, because the immediate surroundings are open and bare to nakedness, so that there is no possibility of surprise. Any one approaching can be seen for a great distance and near cover is available. In short, Ladysmith is the Aldershot of Natal.

Are You Worth It, Cecil Rhodes? We are marching to relieve you, Cecil Rhodes. Honor will not let us leave you, Cecil Rhodes. Seven thousand men in khaki—Gunsners, horse and foot—but, mark ye, Do you know the price we're paying for you, Cecil Rhodes, Cecil Rhodes!

Do you hear the rifles calling, Cecil Rhodes? Brave and honest men are falling, Cecil Rhodes. Busting shell and shrapnel flying, Dreading the earth with dead and dying, Do you think the price we're paying for you, Cecil Rhodes, Cecil Rhodes?

In their blood upon your conscience, Cecil Rhodes? We have broken their defenses, Cecil Rhodes. We have swept them from the trenches, Cecil Rhodes. But at fearful cost we bought them, Dread to bayonet we fought them, They were fighting for their country, Cecil Rhodes, Cecil Rhodes!

They've a dreadful right to curse you, Cecil Rhodes. There are many graves a-making, Cecil Rhodes. There'll be smitten hearts a-breaking, Cecil Rhodes. There'll be bitter, hopeless sorrow In full many a home tomorrow, When they read the news in England, Cecil Rhodes, Cecil Rhodes!

And the little killer's crew wounded, Cecil Rhodes. "Rastus, der hain't no luck in dis world fur us fur shore. We was walkin' right out dat gold and didn't know it!" Cecil Rhodes, Cecil Rhodes! humbly replied the other. "If we had a found dat money we'd bin so stuck up ober it dat de Lawd would hev had to send a special s'ers' to take de vanity out ob us. It was de Lawd's will."

A Close Call. They were a pair of colored whites-washer, standing on the street corner and talking about hard times, when a white man stepped up, bent over and felt under their heels, and pressed up with three \$10 gold pieces in his hand.

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travelers and provisioning them for the journey. But this has all been altered now; we are only a roadside station on the great through line to Pretoria and beyond, but we have the branch line to Hartbeespoort in the Orange Free State so that we are, after all, a junction on a small scale.

There are a good many trees in Ladysmith in fact, and being an oasis in the veldt. Mimosa, gum trees of a dozen kinds, yuccas, aloes and plants all flourish, and some of the flower gardens are beautifully bright in summer. By the way the name of Ladysmith has the simplest of derivations. It was christened after Lady Harry Smith about the year 1840. She was the Spanish wife of General Sir Henry Smith, who commanded the troops in South Africa at the time. His extraordinary ride from Cape Town to Grahamstown, a distance of nearly 500 miles, to the relief of the "City of Saints" in the month of 1838, in six days is a matter of history.

Its Military Position. But after all, the chief interest in Ladysmith today lies in its military position. In the old days of the first Transvaal war we had troops here, and the place was to all intents and purposes a garrison town. But the soldiers were eventually withdrawn, and it was not until 1897 that we were again familiar with the rifles and drums. In that year the military authorities came out from Maritzburg and laid out a camp of considerable extent near the water works, rather less than two miles to the west of the town. We were right glad to see them, and tried our best to do them well. There were never less than 2000 men in camp under canvas and in so-called huts, and three field batteries of artillery helped to swell the number.

Looking back today to the time when the camp was re-established, just over two years ago, it seems to me that there was something in the air, something even at that time. We talked vaguely of possibilities, but never realized the dread actualities that have now come to pass. At that time various real estate speculators and other bold and daring beyond the tents there are only some dozen little brick buildings dotted about the outskirts of the regimental lines. The soldiers came and went freely, and caused an appreciable improvement in the trade of the place, which previous to that had not been in a too-flourishing condition.

It would be ridiculous in the extreme to pretend that Ladysmith is impregnable. It is nothing of the sort. To the west of the town there is a fine, level plain, on which is the camp. The open veldt rolls away from the town in every direction, hills stretching afar from the Drakensberg mountains. The Sand river, with its affluent, the Blaauwbank river and the Doodop, Epe, or stream, intersect the plain and the Klip and Lady Smith rivers join on the road leading across Van Reenen's pass to Hartsmith. There is very little water in any of these rivers except in the winter months. In that season the summer months are very pretty, frequent, and for at least a few weeks in January may be expected with almost clockwork regularity, between 4 and 5 o'clock every afternoon. The day is bright and the sun soon dries up the moisture, and the soil is parched and thirsty again by the next day.

Good Cover for Boers. On the east of Ladysmith there are several hills which are of some importance. The Isembulwana, for instance, is dignified by the name of a mountain, but this is gross flattery; Lombard's Kop is an eminence within four miles of the town, and is worthy of an English cathedral town, and is the diminutive of kop, a hill. Scattered about the veldt on this side of the town are many kopjes, covered with stones and boulders, which would be a fair comparison to say that it lies toward one side of a gigantic soup plate, with a big piece of the chip chipped off on one side. Through this chip comes the road to the town. Speaking as a resident and one who knows the country, there need be no fear that we shall lose Ladysmith. The earth works surrounding the heavy guns are worthy of an English cathedral town, and are a board of officers specially appointed for the purpose, and the military position of the place has been studied and developed during the past two years by the most expert engineers.

The natural advantages and defenses of the town have been enhanced and strengthened by carefully planned redoubts at any possibly vulnerable points. The danger of the place, being rushed in, is absolutely nil, because the immediate surroundings are open and bare to nakedness, so that there is no possibility of surprise. Any one approaching can be seen for a great distance and near cover is available. In short, Ladysmith is the Aldershot of Natal.

At Grace Methodist Episcopal church, the services will be as usual. In the morning, the pastor, Rev. H. B. Atchison, will preach on the subject, "A Large Place," and in the evening his topic will be "Christianity, According to Christ." Immediately after the morning service, the Sunday school will convene. The young people's meeting will be held at 6:30. The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Max M. Shillock, with Mrs. E. M. Benson at the organ, will render the following programme: Morning—Organ voluntary, "Liebeslied," A. Henselt; anthem, "Jesus, and Shall it Ever Be" (tenor and alto duet, contralto solo and soprano and alto duet); Lewis; offertory, "Canticle Untitled," Armstrong; anthem, "O Father! Through the Coming Year," (contralto solo); Adams; prelude, "Offertorio," Spinnery. Evening—Organ voluntary, "Communion in F," Murore; anthem, "From Every Stormy Wind That Blows" (contralto solo, soprano and alto duet); Noyes; offertory, "By the Sea," Schubert; prelude, "Torch Light March," Waly.

First Congregational. A specially interesting service will be held at the First Congregational church this morning. The pastor will preach on "Hearts or Garments, Which?" In the evening, the first service of the week of prayer will include a sermon on "Seeking to Know God." Music: Morning—Prelude, offertory, in G minor, Battmann; anthem, "Art Thou Weary?" Chadwick; responses, "The Lord's Prayer" (Loyd); duet for soprano and contralto, "Thou Who Like the Wind Dost Come," Ambrose; anthem, "Bread of the World," Brown; postlude, A. Biede.

Sunday Methodist. At the Sunday Methodist church, Rev. G. W. Goo, D. D., will preach at 11 o'clock this morning, and in the evening, at 7:30, there will be a Gospel temperance rally, at which W. E. Gwin will deliver an address. Special temperance music will be provided. The services for the week of prayer will be "Prayer That Obtains," and Mr. A. F. Buehe will conduct the meeting. Special music will be provided for the week of prayer. Morning—Prelude, "Andante Sostenuto," anthem, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (M. L. McPhail); offertory, "Sweet and Low" (Barbary); postlude in C. Evening—Prelude, "Andante" (Gear); quartet, "Bless the Lord" (J. H. Tenney); Professor C. A. Walker, G. F. Pratt, Stanley Starr and Clifford Walker; offertory, "Charis" (Rossini); male quartet, "Down in the Valley" (Saloon); Starr-Walker quartet; postlude (Battiste); Professor C. A. Walker, director; H. D. Crockett, organist.

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Meetings will be held every evening during the week of prayer, except Sunday. A week of prayer will be observed at the First Baptist church. Monday, praise service; 8: annual meeting of Y. M. C. A., with illustrated address by D. A. St. Clair, of Dayton, O.; 8:30. The pastor will preach Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Thursday evening, Professor and Mrs. Dobbins will conduct an illustrated gospel service. Congregational music. Rev. H. H. Hoyt, the pastor, will preach at the First Universalist church at 11 A. M. on "Christian Heroism," and at 7:30. Sunday school will be held at 12:15. The Y. P. C. U. will meet at 6:30, and discuss "The Christian's Resolve." D. A. Sinclair, general secretary, Y. M. C. A., of Dayton, O., will speak in the gymnasium of the Young Men's Christian Association this afternoon on "The Glory of That Light." First Church of Christ (Scientist), 317 Dekum building—Services at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. Subject of sermon, "Life." Children's Sunday school, 12; Wednesday meeting, 8 P. M. First Church of Christ (Scientist), 205 1/2 Third street—Morning and evening services, 11 and 8; subject for both, "Life." Sunday school, 12; Wednesday evening meeting, 8 P. M. Universal Brotherhood—Public meeting Sunday evening at 8; Lotus group at 10:30 A. M.; Tuesday evening, study class. At St. David's church, East Twelfth and Morrison, pastor, today, being the festival of the Epiphany, service will be held with holy communion and sermon, at 10:30 A. M.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Information for the Religiously Inclined of All Denominations. Baptist. Calvary—Rev. Even M. Bliss, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 11:30; Y. P. C. U., 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Grace (Montavilla)—Rev. N. S. Holtcroft, pastor. Services, 7:30 P. M.; Sunday school, 10; prayer, Thursday, 8; Second—Rev. Ray Palmer, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 12; young people's meeting, 6:30; junior school, 3:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Park Place (University Park)—Rev. N. S. Holtcroft, pastor. Services, 11; Sunday school, 10; junior meeting, 8. Christian. First—Rev. J. F. Ghormley, pastor. Services, 10:45 and 7:40; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30. Rodney-avenue—Rev. A. D. Skaggs, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 9:30; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Woodlawn (Madrona)—Rev. A. D. Skaggs, pastor. Services, 3 P. M. First—Rev. Arthur W. Ackerman, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 12:15; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30. German—Rev. John Koch, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 9:30; Y. P. S. C. E., Tuesday, 7:30; prayer, Wednesday, 7:30. Hassalo-street—Rev. R. W. Farquhar, pastor. Services, 10:30 and 7:30; Sunday school, 12; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Mississippi-avenue—Rev. G. A. Taggart, pastor. Services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; juniors, 2; Y. P. S. C. E., 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Sunnyside—Rev. J. J. Staub, pastor. Services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; young people's meeting and boys' brigade prayer meeting, 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Church of the Good Shepherd—Services at 11, by Mr. Nickelson. St. Stephen's chapel—Rev. Thomas Neil Wilson, clergyman in charge. Morning prayer and sermon, 11; evening services, 7:30; Sunday school, 8:45; holy communion, after morning services on first Sunday in the month. Trinity—Rev. Dr. A. A. Morrison, rector. Holy communion, 8; Sunday school 9:30; morning prayer and sermon, 11; evening prayer and sermon, 7:30. St. Mark's—Rev. John E. Simpson, rector. Holy communion, 11; Sunday school, 10; morning prayer and sermon, 11; evening prayer and sermon, 7:30. St. David's—Rev. George B. Van Waters, rector. Holy communion, 7; Sunday school, 9:45; morning prayer and sermon, 7:30; Friday evening service, 7:30. St. Matthew's—Services, 11 and 7:30; holy communion, 8; Sunday school, 9:45. St. Andrew's—Sermon, 12:15, by Dr. Judd; subject, "The Penitential." Evangelical. Emanuel (German)—Rev. E. D. Hornschuch, pastor. Services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; prayer, Wednesday, 7:30; Y. P. A., Friday, 7:30. First—Rev. F. T. Harder, pastor. Services, 10:45 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; Y. P. A., 7; Junior Y. P. A., 3; prayer, Wednesday, 7:30. Memorial—Rev. R. D. Streyffer, pastor. Sunday services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; Y. P. A., 6:30; Junior Y. P. A., 3; prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:30; young people's prayer, Thursday, 7:30. Evangelical (United). East Yamhill mission—Rev. Peter Bittner, pastor. Services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; K. L. C. E., 6:30; prayer, Thursday, 7:30; Junior League, Saturday, 2:30. Friends (Quakers). Friends—Rev. A. M. Bray, pastor. Services, 11 and 7:30; Sunday school, 10; Kaysstone League, 6:30; prayer, Wednesday, 7:30. (Concluded on Twenty-first Page.)