

SOLOMON'S MINES TO ENRICH THE WORLD

DR. CARL PETERS TELLS A WONDERFUL STORY OF HIS DISCOVERIES IN THE BIBLICAL LAND OF OPHIR

LONDON, April 22.—(Special Correspondence).—Dr. Carl Peters, the fierce little explorer whom Germany has to thank today for most of her East African possessions, is getting ready to go back again to the scene of the battles, triumphs, defeats and discoveries that have made his life for the last 15 years more exciting than a romance.

He returned from his latest journey in East Africa a few months ago with new proofs of a theory that has been put forward by himself and others—a theory that is of uncommonly popular interest, for it directly concerns the Bible.

Many attempts to interview the tempestuous doctor have been made since he arrived in London, but he has been so busy writing another book and rushing about to dinners that he had no time to talk until this week, when by good fortune I got an afternoon with him.

The doctor is a small, fiery man, with bristling mustaches and the same sort of cold light blue eyes that distinguishes Kitchener. He has the air of knowing what he wants and of being unable to see any reason why he should not have his way straight to the goal. According to his own story, that is exactly what he did in South Africa when he first sailed forth in 1894 on his own account, without any particular authority from the German Government and spotted all over with German flags a vast region of Central Africa. The natives sometimes got the worst of it, but as Dr. Peters said yesterday, "those natives hadn't attended the Geneva Convention, and if they, with 20,000 armed men, didn't always exactly follow the exact etiquette of warfare, I, with 35 armed men, couldn't be too particular, either."

Bismarck did not altogether approve of the enterprise of this Cecil Rhodes of Germany, but, on the other hand, the young emperor made a personal friend of him and appointed him Imperial High Commissioner of the Kilmindjaro district. The doctor went back to Germany for a time and was a great figure in the Reichstag, where he was supposed to be the personal representative of Emperor William. His opponents drummed up against him some old charges of cruelties to natives, and when they finally got censured, the doctor shook the dust of the Fatherland from his feet and came over to live among his old-time enemies, the English, afterward starting off again for Africa to see what he could pick up on his own account.

Little Has Been Said About It. The battles of his previous trips have covered him with scars, but this expedition was peaceful; yet it seems to have been one of the most interesting of the lot, although practically nothing has been said about it.

"This time," said Dr. Peters, "I have brought back what I believe to be final proofs that the district between the Zambesi and Sabi stretching from the Indian Ocean almost as far back as Bechuanaland, and including part of Portuguese East Africa and most of Rhodesia, was King Solomon's Kingdom. It was likewise the Kingdom of the Queen of Sheba, and before her day had contributed to the wealth of Egypt. Yet with whole nations getting gold from this wonderful 750,000 square miles in greater or less quantities for 400 years since, hardly only the surface of it has been touched. They could not go below the water level, yet in some of the mines at least the further down you go the richer they get. It is the richest country the world ever knew, and I fully believe that its future is to be greater than its past."

It is a wonderful story that has been placed out step by step. You have got to go at it just as Sherlock Holmes did, says the explorer. He got the clue in the first place, other explorers shied new light on it, and now the doctor believes he is about to clinch the matter with the facts turned up in this latest expedition. The nature of these proofs as unfolded in the doctor's Park Lane den yesterday were so striking that they were almost uninteresting if presented here, but the conclusion is of a lot of popular interest. Incidentally, it shows that Arabia, which

used to have the reputation of being fairly paved with gold, was a gigantic fraud. "So there is no doubt," continued Dr. Peters, after tenderly displaying some of his new proofs, "that this land is none other than the Land of Ophir of the Bible, and also that it was to this country, and not to Somaliland, as had been supposed before, that the Egyptians sent an expedition a few years before Moses was born. Their inscriptions tell a good deal about it, and speak of their getting copper, among other things, but they couldn't have got copper in Somaliland. They called the country Punt, and there are so many signs that Punt and Ophir are the same that the matter is hardly open to question now. I had supposed at first that this Land of Ophir was discovered by the Egyptians, but I now believe it was in the possession of the Pharaohs, and that the Egyptians went down there to levy tribute and afterward apparently to establish colonies. It looks to me as if the Egyptians had gone up the Zambesi River, and that later on King Solomon approached the district from So-fala, though I can't prove this.

"Long after the Egyptian invasion, the Queen of Sheba, whose country is what we now call Yemen in Arabia, was the mistress of the whole east coast of Africa. Her Sabians had annexed this Land of Ophir and made it a tributary colony, and thence came all the great wealth that she had, and that made the gold of Arabia so much talked about. As a matter of fact, there wasn't any gold in Arabia, except what the Arabian traders brought over from Ophir.

"When the Queen went up overland to see King Solomon apparently most of the gifts she took with her came from this treasure-land of hers. Now, from my own recollections from the Hebrew and the outside facts, I should say that there is a lapse of time between the 10th and 11th verses of the 10th chapter of First Kings for it appears that it was the Queen of Sheba who told Solomon and his naval ally Hiram about the Land of Ophir, and that she provided them with pilots to lead them to this land. One reason for her doing this may have been that she had to keep fighting the natives all the time in order to hold the colony.

Got \$150,000,000 One Trip. "One can guess at the tremendous amount of gold King Solomon and Hiram got from these mines from the estimate based on Bible figures that on one trip alone they took 150,000,000, estimating the value by weight by the present ratio. And apparently they made an expedition every three years, bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and—not 'peacocks,' as it says in the King James version, but such as you find in these things were to be found in the Zambesi country, and not in Arabia or any of the other places where the Land of Ophir was supposed to be."

Any one can see for himself in the book of Kings how Solomon plunged into luxury after he had discovered these gold fields. Apparently the Jews and Phoenicians kept this gold trade as long as the Jewish Empire stood. After them the Sabians kept on working the fields until overrun by the Mohammedans, but since



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DR. PETERS' VISIT TO KING MAKOMBE, AGAINST WHOM THE PORTUGUESE ARE NOW FITTING OUT AN EXPEDITION.

then not much gold has been taken out. Dr. Peters says the amount of life supported by the fields can be judged from the fact that 5,000 ancient gold-workings have been found in this marvelous district, and 500 ruins of cities and temples, some of them of the Zambesi dating back as far as 2000 B. C. Dr. Peters believes that the natives of the district show distinct traces of the ancient invasions. The Hottentots, he says, are probably half-castes of the Egyptians and Bushmen, and that the Makalungs came from the Sabians and the Bantu tribe, whereas the Zulus are pure Bantu.

"With all this working," said Dr. Peters, "I believe that this territory, which takes in Mashonaland, parts of Matabeleland, Manica, Inyanga, and the whole of the Makombe country, will prove to be by far the richest gold land on the planet. I have also found there silver, copper, white mica, diamonds, almost any mineral, in fact. The ancients had the better of us, though, in one way, for they had slaves. We have to pay for labor."

The explorer says he is going back to continue his exploration of the last three years, to take up new gold mines which he has located, and look after some diamond, tin and copper fields on which he has his eye, and then proceed from Rhodesia in a westerly direction in order to make a study of the Bushmen and the Hottentots. This next expedition will probably last about two years.

Carried His Life In His Hand. Although the doctor is still on the good side of 50, and is the son of a Lutheran clergyman, too, he has seen about as much fighting as any man who is not a professional soldier. He has commanded 23 combats with natives in Africa, always at the head of his escort, and was the first to beat the savage Masai tribes on the high plateau east of Lake Victoria. In a night attack on a fortification of the Gallas on the Upper Tana, when he commanded the German Emin Pasha relief expedition, in 1888, he was laid low by an assegai, but succeeded in dispersing the tribe. His death was reported officially, and the German Emperor, Reichstag, a fact which enables the explorer to possess a big volume of obituaries of himself, which he says he reads whenever he feels blue and wants a little cheering up.

He pulled through from that fight in time to get into another with the Masais in the same year. They rushed his expedition in a high forest, and he was shot down seven men, and just missed an eighth, who was aiming an assegai at him at a distance of three feet, when a boy attached to the expedition sent a charge of lead into the native's face. On a number of other occasions he has just managed to escape by the skin of his teeth, as it were, besides having been shipwrecked twice and having had to swim for his life on one occasion.

Battle With a Lion. "I came uncommonly near being killed by a lion on this last trip," said the explorer, when pressed for adventures. "When we were in camp near the Lupata, the natives rushed in greatly excited, and said that three lions had got into their kraal and knocked out a few of the natives—and worse yet, so I was a half-way, and I went over with some of my expedition. I stationed myself beside a tree and some of the natives went to beat the lions out of the bush. Soon a magnificent animal leaped forth in my direction. I fired, and missed, and before I could get a second shot the lion turned like a flash toward me. He knocked down four natives in his paw, and with one blow of his paw, and in an instant he was on the man who stood beside me, gripping his shoulder and shaking him with great roars. I fired a second bullet into the beast's ribs, rather high, for fear of hitting the man beneath. The lion dropped his victim and turned on me, and for an instant we stood there eyeing each other, while beyond I could see the man who had the rest of my cartridges running away as fast as he could go. I turned my rifle over, ready to fight for my life with the butt, when, much to my relief, the wounded lion crawled off into the 12-foot grass beyond, stopping on his way to deprive a native of the upper part of his thigh with one blow of his paw. The lion was afterward found dead in the bush."

"There is wonderful hunting in that country. Rhinoceros and crocodile are plenty in the Zambesi, and in the valley are elephants, buffaloes and giraffes, with a wonderful profusion of birds, guinea fow, ducks, geese, snipe, flamingoes, pelicans in thousands. In the forest district of the Southern Makombe country are lions, leopards, hyenas and jackals, who make traveling dangerous."

CURTIS BROWN.

FOR THE SCRAP BOOK

The Eternal Goodness.

Oh, friends! with whom my feet have trod
The quiet aisles of prayer;
Glad witness to your zeal for God
And love of man I bear.

I trace your lines of argument;
Your logic linked and strong;
I weigh as one who dreads dissent,
And fears a doubt as wrong.
But still my human hands are weak,
To hold you from creeds;
Against the words ye bid me speak
My heart within me pleads.

Who fathoms the Eternal Thought?
Who talks of scheme and plan?
Ye only know, O ye who lead not
The poor device of man.

I walk with bare, hushed feet the ground
Ye tread with boldness ahod;
I dare not fix with mate and bound
The love and power of God.

Ye praise His justice; even such
His pitying love I deem;
Ye say His love; I deem it touch
The robe that hath no seam.

Ye see the curse which overbroods
A world of pain and loss;
I hear our Lord's beatitudes
And pray upon the cross.

More than your schoolmen teach, within
Myself, alas! I know;
Too dark ye cannot paint the sin,
Too small the merit show.

I bow my forehead to the dust,
I will not rise or stand;
And urge, in trembling self-distrust,
A prayer without a claim.

I see the wrong that round me lies,
I feel the guilt within;
I bear, with groan and travail-cries,
The world's confusion and its din.

Yet, in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed trust my spirit clings—
I know that God is good!

Not mine to look where cherubim
And seraphs may not see,
But nothing can be good in him
Which evil is in me.

The wrong that pains my soul below
I cannot see above;
I know not of his hate—I know
His goodness and his love.

I dimly guess, from blessings known,
Of greater out of sight,
And, with the chastened Psalmist, own
His judgments, too, are right.

I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long;
But hush! my dear ones, hush!
And be can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel, or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak,
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed he will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,
Nor words, my faith to prove;
I can but give the gifts he gave,
And plead his love for love.

And so beside the Silent Sea,
I wait the muted oar;
No harm from him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift
Their fringed palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.

Oh brothers! if my faith is vain,
If hopes like these betray,
Pray for me that my feet may gain
The sure and safer way.

And thou, O Lord! by whom are seen
Thy creatures as they be,
Forgive me, if too slow I lean
My human heart on thee!

—John G. Whittier.

Plain Language From Truthful James.

(Table Mountain, 1820.)
Which I wish to remark—
And my language is plain—
That for ways that are dark,
And for paths that are drear,
The heathen Chinese is peculiar,
Which the same I would rise to explain.

Ah Sin was his name;
And I shall not deny
In regard to the same
What that man might imply.
But his smile it was persuasive and childlike,
As I frequent remarked to Bill Nye.

It was August the third;
And quite soft was the skies;
Which it might be inferred
That Ah Sin was likewise;
Yet he played it that day upon William
And me in a way I despise.

Which we had a small game,
And Ah Sin took a hand;
It was curious. The same
He did not understand;
But he smiled as he sat by the table,
With a smile that was childlike and bland.

Yet the cards they were stocked
In a way that I grieve,
And my feelings were shocked
At the state of Ah Sin's sleeve,
Which was stuffed full of aces and bowers,
And the same with intent to deceive.

But the hands that were played
By that heathen Chinese,
And the points that he made,
Were quite frightful to me;
Till at last he put down a right bower,
Which the same Nye had dealt to me.

Then I looked up at Nye,
And he gazed upon me;
And he rose with a sigh,
And he said to me,
We are ruined by Chinese cheap labor—
And he went for that heathen Chinese.

In the scene that ensued
I did not take a hand;
But the fact it was handed
Like the leaves on the strand
With the cards that Ah Sin had been hiding.
In the game "he did not understand."

In his sleeves, which were long,
He had twenty-four packs—
Which was coming it strong,
Yet I state but the facts;
And we found on his nails, which were taper,
What is frequent in tapers—that was wax.

Which is why I remark,
And my language is plain,
That a heathen Chinese,
And for tricks that are vain,
The heathen Chinese is peculiar—
Which the same I am free to maintain.

—Bret Harte.

Lines Written in Early Spring.

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sat reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair forms thus to Nature link
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Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played;
Their thoughts I cannot measure—
Unfeeling, mechanically, I made,
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

From heaven if this belief be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

—William Wordsworth.

To the Dandelion.

Dear common flower, that grow'st beside the
way,
Fringing the dusty roads with harmless gold,
First pledge of billowsome May,
Which children pluck, and, full of pride, up-
hold.

High-headed buccaners, o'erjoyed that they
An Eldorado in the grass have found,
Which not the rich earth's ample store
May match in wealth,—thou art more dear to
me

Than all the prouder Summer-bliss may be.
Gold such as thine ne'er drew the Spanish
gold,
Through the primeval hush of Indian seas,
Nor wrinkled the lean brow
Of age, to rob the lover's heart of ease;

'Tis the Spring's largesse, which she scatters
now
To rich and poor alike with lavish hand,
Thou art the sign of her bounty;
To take it at God's value, but pass by
The offered wealth with unrequited eye.

Thou art my tropics and mine early Italy;
To look at thee unlocks a warmer climate;
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DECIDED BY THE COURTS

RECENT FINDINGS OF
INTEREST ALIKE TO LAWYERS AND
THE LAITY

A alleged trade-mark for the name of a patent medicine called "The Family Physician" was the subject of litigation between husband and wife in the case of Houchens vs. Houchens (31 Atl. Rep. 822). The husband sought to restrain his wife from using the trade-mark and from selling any imitations of the compound. The court (Court of Appeals of Maryland) settled the controversy by deciding that neither was entitled to the trade-mark because the medicine was sold under fraudulent representation. The labels on the bottles contained the statement that "The Family Physician is the great smallpox and diphtheria cure and preventive. Cures the worst cases without marking, unless already scabbed." The court held that this announcement asserted a falsehood, and was designed to deceive the public. From this decision it would seem that if the husband and wife had kept the family peace, they might also have kept "The Family Physician."

Novel Case of Robbery. A novel case of robbery is presented in the case of Jackson vs. State (40 S. E. Rep. 1003). The defendant Jackson entered the house of one Cadie, ostensibly for the purpose of purchasing a watch, and examined several which were shown to him. It was then discovered by Cadie and his wife that one of the watches was missing. After ascertaining this fact Cadie covered Jackson with a pistol, and Mrs. Cadie began a search of his person for the missing watch. Cadie laid the pistol on the bed, and himself undertook to search Jackson. Thereupon Jackson picked up the pistol, pointed it at Cadie and his wife, and in this manner effected his escape. The pistol which Jackson took with him was not recovered, and he was indicted for robbery on the ground that he had taken the pistol by force with intent to steal the same. The jury found him guilty, but on appeal the Supreme Court reversed the case, on the ground that a conviction for robbery could not stand on the facts. The court held that "though a valuable article in proximity to and under the protection of its owner is constructively upon his person, suddenly snatching it up and carrying it away with intent to steal it is not robbery, when there is no intimidation of the owner for the purpose of getting possession, and no resistance by him to the act of taking. This is none the less true when the article taken is a weapon, or capable of being used as such, and the wrong-doer, after taking it, threatens to use it against the owner in order to effect his escape."

License for "Blinds." The law governing "blinds" for duck-shooting was recently discussed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland in the case of Bannan vs. Shekell (31 Atl. Rep. 830). The local law of Anne Arundel

County, Maryland, provides that before any person shall place any blind in the waters of South River and shoot therefrom, he shall obtain a license therefor, and that after said blind has been licensed no blind shall be established nearer than 300 yards therefrom. The plaintiff applied for and obtained a license to put a blind in a specified place in the river, but before he had established his blind a similar license was issued to the defendant to place a blind at the same locality as described in the license of the plaintiff. Thereupon the plaintiff asked for an injunction restraining the second licensee from acting under his license. The court refused the injunction on the ground that until the plaintiff had established his blind he had no superior right to any particular spot.

Impairing Obligation of Contracts. An ordinance passed by a city, under assumed authority from the state, providing for the erection of electric light works for the purpose of supplying light to its inhabitants, in competition with an electric light company, in violation of the implied terms of a contract made by a prior ordinance granting a franchise to such company for a term of years, is held by Judge V. P. H. in the case of Southwest Missouri Light Company vs. City of Joplin (113 Pac. Rep. 817) to be a law impairing the obligations of contracts, within the meaning of the contract clause of the Federal Constitution.

A Blow to Quackery. An indictment which alleges that the defendant had devised a scheme to