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A. F. & A. M. NO. 80 MEETS THE  
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### THE BOER COUNTRY.

Remarkable Growth of the South African Republic.

Settlement of the Transvaal and its Marvellous Industrial Progress—Composition of the Government.

The territory comprising the Transvaal of South African republic covers an area larger than that of France. It is peopled by the Boers, who fled from the tyrannical form of government which the English sought to impose upon them further south. The Boers are the descendants of the sturdy Dutchmen, who constituted Holland a republic and a formidable power in the sixteenth century, and of the Huguenots, who were driven from France by the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685 by Louis XIV. Thus in the Boers of South Africa there is a combination of the characteristics of two people who are conspicuous in European history for the struggles they waged for political and religious liberty. Since the days when the first band of hardy immigrant Boers crossed the Vaal river, where England's tyranny stopped at following them, and planted their cabins on the broad and sunny slopes of the Transvaal, the country has gone through the changes and throes which mark the life of individual and nation alike. Within the past five years a marvelous development of population, resources and industries has followed on the success which gold mining has achieved. Railway communication now connects Johannesburg via the diamond mines of Kimberley with the Cape of Good Hope, a distance of nine hundred and forty-five miles. Other connections are rapidly progressing from Natal and Delagoa bay, centralizing at Pretoria, the capital and seat of government in the Transvaal.

The constitution of the South African republic, says Goldthwaite's Magazine, is based on Roman Dutch. The legislative power is vested in the volksraad, the members of which are elected by their constituents for four years. The executive consists of the president, elected for five years by a general election throughout the state, the state secretary elected by the volksraad for four years, and four official members chosen for three years by the volksraad. The chief officer in each district is the landrost, who acts as magistrate and civil commissioner, with the assistance of a clerk, who is at the same time public prosecutor and distributor of stamps. Each district is further provided with a bailiff or sheriff, a gaoler and a staff of constables. With the exception of a corps of mounted artillery and police, commanded by three officers with about sixty men, the republic has no armed force. The president, with the concurrence of the executive, has the right to declare war and call up a commando, in which the burghers are placed under the field cornets and commandants of each district. The whole force is commanded by the commandant general, who is elected by the country for the term of ten years. All inhabitants of the state between sixteen and sixty years of age, not exempt according to law, are liable to service on commando. President Kruger is now occupying his office for the third term. He is a patriot, a man whose heroic life posterity will honor. Among the Boers he is known exclusively as "Oun Paul" ("Uncle Paul"). Though a man of rugged exterior, unobtrusive even as regards the most elementary branches of education, he has shown a practical capacity for government that has been a match for the most finished diplomacy and statescraft. For the conservation of the interests of the mining class, almost entirely English, he influenced the volksraad to establish a second chamber, to which they could send their representatives. This chamber-legislature in the interest of the English class and for the local interests of the country, the volksraad holding the right of veto over its proceedings.

### GAME OF THE DEVIL.

It Hails Originally from China and Used to Be Played in Europe.

What is called the "Game of the Devil" dates back to China, where it is called Koen-gen, to a very remote antiquity, and has been played in France at different epochs of modern times, especially at the beginning of the present century.

The "devil" is thrown into the air by means of a string which the player keeps taut by the skillful use of two sticks, and upon which he is to catch it. "I remember having often seen this game in the hands of one of my friends," says a contributor to a French periodical. "According to him, the game was in great favor in Belgium in his boyhood, about fifteen years ago, when he was in Brussels, where the com-

### COMBUSTIBILITY OF CELLULOSE.

A London (Eng.) paper reports the case of a lady, standing near a bright fire, who suddenly found herself enveloped in smoke. A gentleman who came to her rescue succeeded in crushing the ignited portion of her dress, not, however, without severely burning his hand. On investigation the fire was found to have originated from a spot where a large fancy button had been, but had disappeared. Similar buttons were subsequently examined, and were found to be highly inflammable, being made of celluloid.

### PERFUME MEASURED BY CENTS

The Wanted Visitors to Small the Dollars and—Hair Loss.

"All flesh is not the same flesh," and there are people who cannot understand the aesthetic delight in what to a

### Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

## ABSOLUTELY PURE

### A QUEER COMBINATION.

The Breakfast of a Rounder After a Night Out.

An Institution of Uncertain Origin Yet Familiar to All Waiters—Opinions of Physicians on the Try-ing Mixture.

Take six men of the world—gentlemen, I mean, of an all round social experience, who have been unfortunate enough to stay too long with their liquor once in awhile—and probably five of them will tell you what is meant by the term "drunkard's breakfast," says the New York Herald.

For the enlightenment of the sixth member it may be explained that a "drunkard's breakfast," so called by many swell clubs and restaurants, consists of a salt mackerel, boiled, not broiled; a dish of milk toast, and a pot of strong, hot tea. This is a repast which is supposed to be peculiarly adapted to the stomach of a man who permitted himself to be tempted to look too precipitately upon the wine the night before.

My wife's absence from home compelled me to take my meals at the restaurants recently. For my first breakfast I went to one of the fine hotels in the immediate neighborhood. The restaurant was chilly, and that, added to a severe cold in my head, must have given a watery appearance to my eyes and a nervous tremor to my hand as I took a seat and picked up a bill of fare. An obsequious waiter stood at hand to receive my order. I ran over the list of meats a second time, pausing, mentally, midway 'twixt a steak and a chop. The waiter, noting my indecision, but utterly mistaking the spirit behind it all, stepped to my side and with perfect politeness said: "Def I may be permit, I recommend ze salt mackerel, wis ze meelle toast and ze tea—ver' nice. It eez ze breakfast popular wis gentlemen after ze excitement of ze long night."

The fellow had actually recommended a drunkard's breakfast for my condition, although as a matter of fact I hadn't taken a drink in a year and a half!

Next morning I went into another restaurant near by—not exactly a first-class place, but an extraordinarily good second-class one—where the business is enormous, the cooking excellent and the service generally satisfactory. My eyes were bloodshot and watery still, the result of a neuralgic attack. The waiter, a decorous, handsome German-American, handed me the bill of fare, eyed me suspiciously, but not rudely, for an instant and then remarked in an undertone: "How would a nice salt mackerel, boiled, a plate of milk toast and a pot of tea suit you this morning? That is what many of our patrons order for breakfast after they have been out late. Much better than cocktails, I assure you."

There was no impertinence in the man's voice or manner. He didn't dream of being intrusive. He merely thought he was doing me a friendly service in suggesting a regular breakfast "drunkard's breakfast."

### RAINFALL AND POPULATION.

The Growth of the Latter Depends on the Former.

The results of the last census have shown that the distribution of the population in the United States is regulated by the abundance or scarcity of rain. The largest part of the population is distributed in those regions where the annual rainfall varies from thirty to forty inches. These comprise three-fourths of the people.

"The density of population diminishes rapidly where the amount of rainfall differs considerably in either direction from these figures, which may be taken as of mean value.

Greatest density is found where forty to fifty inches of rain fall yearly, the number of inhabitants in such districts being fifty-nine persons per square mile. Where the rainfall is thirty to forty inches per annum the mean density of population is 45.1 per square mile.

The dry regions of the east, where less than twenty inches fall in a year, which includes two-fifths of the territory, contain actually less than three-hundredths of the people of the states.

The population has multiplied most rapidly, with a rainfall of twenty to thirty inches, in the great plains extending from Texas to Dakota, where the density has increased 16 to 18.1 per mile.

These figures show that, as might naturally be expected, in the variety of climatic conditions found in the great expanse of territory constituting the United States those most favorable to increase the number of inhabitants are a moderate temperature and a moderate annual rainfall.

### Slayers of the Plains.

People who have read about the rough manners of cowboys will be surprised to know that they are habitual singers of hymns, and the strangest feature is that they sing the cattle to sleep. A herd of steers is as skittish as a flock of sheep, particularly at night. Anything or nothing will start a stampede, and when the cattle get running they are almost as difficult to check as a prairie fire. So a part of a cowboy's duty is to ride around and around the "hunch" of cattle, singing a hymn as melodiously as he can. Gradually the animals come to a halt, drop down one by one, until at length they are all asleep, and the tired singer can rest his throat.

### SUBJUGATION OF WILD CATTLE.

How It Was Accomplished by Primitive Europeans.

The first and simplest use made of the animals from which man derives strength appears to have been brought about by the subjugation of wild cattle—the bulls and buffaloes.

Several wild varieties of the bovine tribe were originally widely disseminated in Europe and Asia, and these forms must have been frequent objects of chase by the ancient hunters. Although in their adult state these animals were doubtless originally intractable, the young were mild-mannered, and, as we can readily conceive, must often have been led captive to the abodes of the primitive people.

As is common with all gregarious animals which have long acknowledged the authority of their natural herds-men, the dominant males of their tribe, these creatures lent themselves to domestication.

Even the first generation of the captives reared by hand probably showed a disposition to remain with their masters, and in a few generations this native impulse, might well have been so far developed that the domestic herd was established, affording perhaps at first only flesh and hides, and leading the people who made them captives to a nomadic life, that constant search for fresh fields and pastures new which characterizes people who are supported by their flocks and herds.

### Chinese Marksmen.

The accuracy of the Chinese marksman is marvelous, when it is remembered the gunsticker rests on the hip. In this way he brings down with great facility birds on the wing, and even the snipe, whose zigzag course renders them difficult to spot with the western fowling piece. In addition, too, he uses no explosive cap, but fires it with lighted fuse.

A Colonial "Barber."

An Egyptian shopkeeper had a delly to whom he offered sacrifice every morning, and whose duty it was to turn for this purpose the day, a sort of colonial "barber," and "direct the attention of the people passing by to the shop and its contents.

Some human wretches have just been arrested in Blomnitz, Austria, who pursued a shocking calling. They stole children, then deformed them, for beggar purposes.

### Another physician of long practice and wide observation said: "It would be interesting to know how and with whom the 'drunkard's breakfast' originated. It is a ridiculous idea. None but a normal stomach in healthy condition can digest a salt mackerel without discomfort, or at least unpleasant reminders of its presence. It is a fish that I am very fond of, but if I eat of it even after drinking moderately it causes an attack of indigestion. My only theory of its supposed popularity as a breakfast dish for one who has taken a drop too much is this: Its saltiness excites thirst for green tea, which is a real benefit." "In my opinion, with alcohol on a stomach fevered him to the irritation. It enables the drinker to drink water copiously until the stomach is cleaned and cooled, and the alcohol in his tissues becomes so diluted that it is the more easily eliminated from his system. As for its alimentary value in such cases, I can't see that it has any. The milk toast would be all right, but salt mackerel