

# DESCRIBES A TRIP ACROSS THE SAHARA

Land Covered With Sand-Polished Stones and the Horizon Endless

The London Leader gives an interesting account of a daring march across the Sahara desert by one of the Protectorate Residents in the Sudan. The distance traversed was 1,000 miles. In the mountains of the Sudan Mr. Vischer found people living in subterranean dwellings. Through entrances ten yards long and one yard broad he came upon a large courtyard, which was in reality a great hole open to the sky. In this all the rooms and stables were arranged. The rooms were very dark and there were no windows, the most absolute cleanliness prevailed. Round the courtyard was a wall protecting the dwelling from the desert.

Beyond Gharian the expedition proceeded over rising grounds to the Sudan, where fig and olive groves lay among Roman ruins and underground villages. Nearing Murzurk, Mr. Vischer came upon stretches of cultivated forest.

Describing part of his journey across the waterless desert, Mr. Vischer said: "We have had a five-day march across the desert without water. At the commencement of the desert all caravans waited for another until our combined party numbered over 500 camels. No caravan dares to go through the desert alone. Everywhere the ground is covered with wind-polished stones which are gradually themselves becoming sand.

"Everywhere is an endless horizon. Often apparently we see lakes of palm groves, but on all sides are nothing but stones, stones, until they disappear and the sky becomes red with colors which would have been joy to a Titan or a Turner. Our marching is done at night. When we came to the end of the

Hammada Djamy Bey and I rode on together until we reached the edge of a black gorge. 'This,' said the Arabs, 'is the door of the Hammada, the waterless stone desert.'

Mr. Vischer reports that while he was at Bilma a French force from Zinder formally took possession of the oasis. Shortly afterward two French detachments were attacked by a band of Tuareg, all of whom carried modern rifles, and a desperate fight ensued.

Mr. Vischer also reports that just beyond the waterless road and the wild Tummo mountains, he came in contact with a Tuareg and Arab band who had come out to attack him or endeavor to get him into the desert ahead to wait for him.

Mr. Vischer says: "I at once made the necessary preparations by putting all my men on guard and patrolling myself on horseback round the camp and town to prevent the Tuareg from joining the Tubbus against me, for though they were usually fighting each other, I had been told that they intended to join forces against the Christian this time. Twice, at 2 a. m. and 3 a. m., I met Tuareg messengers who, however, ran away when I fired.

"In the morning I left the camp in the charge of my boys and went to attack the Tuareg before they could get at me. I found them after much difficulty entrenched in a position which enabled them to see me while they were absolutely hidden by some shrubs. I sent a Tubba to ask them to come out and fight me. They answered back that they would come out when it suited them to wipe me out and take my loads.

"I then fired, and they answered with a well-kept-up fire from about twenty modern rifles. Their shots went all over my head, or into the ground ahead, so that I was able to approach to within about 200 yards. I killed one man and four of their camels, and then went back to my camp six miles away.

In the afternoon I attacked again, this time with all my ten rifles, while I left the camp in charge of the women and some friendly native Tubbus. I killed four of their men and sixteen camels which had the desired effect of driving them back north and keeping away the Tubbus, who are all cowards. The great following of Arabs which had come with the Tu-

reg had kept away to see the result of the fight, and then disappeared. I was not attacked again on the road."

**A 200-Pound Mouse.**

Following close upon the killing of a ninety-pound rat, at Glen Jean, by an enterprising citizen of that town, comes the news of a 200-pound mouse, seen by Hallowell Dabney, at Smithers, during the night.

The mouse, as described by Mr. Dabney, was a pale gray color with mauve trimmings, its eyes of sky blue with borders of vermilion, and its ears a sunburnt yellow, striped with fiddler's green.

Yesterday a wagon left the local wholesale house with a quantity of whiskey and beer for a saloon at Smithers, but broke down on the way, and Mr. Dabney was left to watch the load until a new wagon came this morning. Mr. Dabney says he first saw the enormous mouse shortly after nine o'clock coming down a mulberry tree backward. The enormous size of the rodent frightened him, and he remained quiet while it consumed a quantity of the whiskey and beer. In the midst of its feast it became frightened at a passing K. and M. train and ran back toward the creek, stepping on Mr. Dabney and rendering him unconscious.

Mr. Dabney's remarkable story is borne out by the fact that a quantity of intoxicants had disappeared and Mr. Dabney was unconscious when found this morning.—Charleston Gazette.

**On the Mend.**

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"Keeping good time?"

"Na, gaining." — Philadelphia Press.

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Portland market  
Wheat—Club 86c; valley 86c; blue stem, 89c.  
Flour—Valley, \$1.15@1.20 per sack; hard wheat, \$1.35@1.40.  
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