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A BOY OF RHODESIA.

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THE annual state that it was on the 23d of March, 1896, that the insurrection of the native Matabele tribes of Rhodesia broke out in the murder of all the scattered white settlers in the district. One of the first blows struck was at the Red Bird mine, near Brinton's Reef, about eighty miles east of Bulawayo. The mine was operated by Mr. W. F. Brinton and two Boers named Potgieter and Lotta, respectively, with about twenty Kaffir "boys" in their service. Mr. Brinton was also his son's boy of fourteen.

There had been so little anticipation of trouble with the natives that early in the morning of the 23d Mr. Brinton had ridden over to Graham's store, about twenty miles to the north, and had gone to inspect work on a farm "over" to the west, and Otto and Potgieter were left alone at their mine.

Otto was within, when he heard a faint, rattling noise at the door. Looking quickly, he saw to his horror that the Boer, who had been smoking his pipe on a bench just outside, had fallen on his face to the ground, and that blood was pouring from his head. A Kaffir knob-karrie, a assegai, lay beside him.

As the boy rushed to his companion's assistance he was suddenly surrounded by a swarm of armed natives, who had stolen around the corner of the hut. Among these were three men armed with drills and hammers, and the rest were Matabele from a neighboring kraal. They had been in full war-gear, some with shields and spears, and all wore white ox-tails around their neck and wrist.

Otto was only a boy, but in common with Rhodesia boys rapidly acquired decision and pluck beyond their years. He saw at a glance that nothing could be done for Potgieter, and he yelled to the natives who were surging forward to cut off his retreat. Half a dozen rifles were leveled at him, when he drew his revolver, which he carried in his belt, fired three shots straight into the mob, and under cover of "his rattle" ran for his life.

The nearest shaft was some hundred yards away, and Otto hoped to hide himself by retreating into the tunnels. It was what is called an "inclined shaft," running down at an angle of five or six degrees for about a hundred feet, with horizontal tunnels at the bottom. The whole swarm of natives rushed him, firing their rifles and throwing spears and clubs, all of which weapons missed their aim—for the Kaffirs are notoriously bad marksmen, though brave enough at close hand. Otto had just reached the bottom of the shaft, and was preparing to descend, when a straggling volley of shot struck him. He felt a stunning blow at the top of the head, became unconscious at once, and dropping his revolver, rolled headlong down the shaft like a shot rabbit.

FARM TOPICS

Why Peas Benefit Other Crops.
It has been demonstrated that the micro-organism of the roots of field peas collect more nitrogen than the plant itself needs. As a consequence any other crop, such as oats planted with peas, would be benefited by this accumulation of nitrogen unless the peas are so thick as to interfere with the proper development of the other crop.

Sheep-Shearing by Machinery.
A sheep-shearing experiment that is being tried in Sycamore, Ill., is proving successful. A gasoline engine of four horse-power runs ten clippers, which shear on an average 1900 sheep a day. One of the advantages of the experiment is that about half a pound more wool is realized from each sheep. The test will be given to 15,000 sheep. The sheep are sheared, the wool tied and packed in large sacks holding several hundred pounds and ready for shipment at once. The success met with in this experiment will no doubt revolutionize the sheep-shearing business.

Value of White Clover.
One of the bad effects of frequently plowing and thoroughly cultivating soil is that this runs out the white clover, which is one of the most valuable pasture plants we have, besides also furnishing the very best pasture for bees. The plant is a low-running vine, rooting as it spreads through the soil, yet, being a true clover, it roots quickly when plowed under. No one of the grasses, except blue grass and orchard grass, will stand drought so well, and as most of its roots run near the surface, a moderate rain revives it, and sets it to blossoming again. In wet seasons bees make white clover honey even up to September, if there are enough dry days for them to be out. White clover is a prolific seeder, but owing to its creeping habit of growth the seed is hard to gather and always sells high. It will pay to sow some on land designed for pasture, and gather the seed when it occupies the whole land. If sown with red clover or as a mixture with white clover will be seen. But it is there under the growth of the larger clover, waiting to make a big growth when they die out.

Cultivation Increases Fertility.
It is often said that long cultivation and cropping make poor land, but it is equally true that the immediate effect of cultivation is to increase soil fertility. The paradox is explained by the fact that though soil fertility is increased by cultivation, there are always crops of weeds ready to use up the plant food so fast as it is made ready for them. This is the disadvantage of having weeds. They not only rob the valuable crops of plant food that they could use to advantage, but they exhaust the soil itself without returning any benefit to its owner. In one sense doubtless the great improvements in implements for cultivating the soil have been of doubtful benefit, for they enable the farmer to crop more, and thus exhaust his land faster than before was possible. Yet he must be a slow farmer, who, having made his land fit to produce larger crops cannot find some crop that poorer land cannot grow, and which will pay him for keeping up soil fertility.

Raising Pheasants.
We usually count on a ninety per cent. hatch of pheasant eggs. They can be set under ordinary hens. The young hatch in from twenty-four to twenty-nine days. We put the old hen in a coop in the field and let the young pheasants run at large in the grass. They scurry away and keep out of sight until feeding time, when they all come back. We let them stay here until they become so large that they won't go into the coop, then let them get a little hungry until they are willing to go inside, then shut them up and clip one wing. After that they can be kept within bounds. The field in which they stay is surrounded with six-foot wire netting and contains three acres of well-drained land.

Students' Duels in Austria.
The authorities of the Hungarian universities hitherto have been at their wits' end to prevent the numerous duels fought for no better reason than the students' blood is young and bubbling in the fashion. Now, however, the heads of the university of Budapest seem to have hit upon a remedy. They have established a court of honor, which will undertake to arbitrate in all disputes arising between students, and will permit duels only in the most important cases.—Chicago Record.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF GIANTS.

Tallest Soldier of Modern Times a Native of Beaufort, S. C.

Beaufort, S. C. has produced more men of exceptional height than any other place of double the inhabitants in the world. Her tallest representative was in the Confederate Army. He is living in Columbia, S. C., now, and according to all authentic records obtainable he was the tallest soldier in modern armies of the world, having an advantage of one inch over Captain Oswald Ames, of the Second Life Guards of England, who, with his six feet eight inches, headed the Queen's Jubilee procession. The tallest man in the United States Army, regular or volunteer, in the war with Spain was six feet six inches. Jacob Eberhardt, of Columbia, six feet six inches, volunteered, but the Surgeons said he was out of proportion and would not accept him. Under army regulations he would have been required to weigh 210 pounds.

Eldred S. Fickling, formerly of Beaufort, and for many years after the war Chief of Police at Columbia, and still on the force, is six feet nine inches in his stockings. A man of medium height can walk under his arched extended horizontally. Mr. Fickling's father, an eminent lawyer, was six feet five inches, while other men of the family are exceptionally tall. When he was fifteen years old Mr. Fickling says he went with his father to Charleston. They were in the lobby of the old Mills house when several other Beaufort men came in. Some one remarked that it was largest gathering of Beaufortians he had seen that day, and suggested that they see how far they could walk up King street. Six of them started out, but before going half a dozen blocks up the street had to go into stores and separate. The following crowd blocked the streets. "I was not nearly grown then," says Mr. Fickling, "and only measured six feet and six inches, but the tallest man was six feet seven inches. Two were six feet five inches and the shortest six feet three inches."

Speaking of Beaufort men, Mr. Fickling says that when he was a boy Mr. Cutbert, of Beaufort, told him that he was the centre file of the old Beaufort artillery when that organization turned out in 1825 to see Lafayette. Mr. Cutbert was six feet one inch and there were seventy-four men of greater height in the artillery, whose membership was 150.

History of the Mace.
The great gilt mace which rests on the table of the House of Commons when the speaker is in the chair is the third of its kind. No. 1 has no birth date, but the time of its disappearance is well known. When Charles I. was beheaded the mace of the House of Commons vanished and was no more seen. Its whereabouts was never traced. When Cromwell came into power and parliamentary proceedings were resumed he ordered another mace, which lives in history as being the identical bauble which the protector himself so peremptorily ordered to be removed. This order was carried out with such literal effect that mace No. 2, like its predecessor, has never more been seen or heard of. The mace which now adorns the House of Commons table and is carried before the speaker when he visits the House of Lords was made in 1660, on the restoration of Charles II., and is watched over with care, being in the personal charge of the sergeant-at-arms all through the session. During the recess it is committed to the tower of London, where it is guarded with the crown jewels. At one time Jamaica possessed a mace presented to the colony by Charles II. No doubt it was ordered at the same time as the one at present in use in the House of Commons. It cost nearly \$400, was silver gilt and was conveyed to Jamaica by Lord Windsor, the first Governor commissioned by Charles II. By an odd coincidence this mace also disappeared and is thought to have been engulfed in an earthquake in 1672, when among other public buildings the parliament house was destroyed.—Chicago Record.

A Dog's-Headed Self-Respect.
A black-and-tan terrier once furnished a touching example of wounded self-respect and deep-seated unappeasable resentment. His family went away for the summer and left him, with minute instructions, to the care of the neighbors. For several days the dog was inconsolable; he would neither eat or drink, and he seemed broken-hearted. At last he responded to the petting of his temporary guardian and his spirit and appetite slowly returned. Finally he followed her home and he could never be induced to return to his former master. He would trot past the gate without so much as turning his head, receiving their overtures of reconciliation with disdain.

Prussia began absorbing railroads in 1878. In eight years she owned 8000 miles. Now nearly 16,000 miles are under control of the State.

HORTICULTURE

Fertilizers For Grapes.

Grapes require more phosphoric acid and potash than most other fruit crops. Therefore, bone meal and wood ashes are among the best fertilizers to be used. No fixed rules as to the exact quantities to be applied can be laid down, but for land of average fertility from 400 to 600 pounds of bone meal and from 1000 to 2000 pounds of wood ashes may be used to advantage. Nitrate of soda should be used in small quantities only, about 100 pounds per acre, and this only in early spring, to encourage rapid and large early growth of leaf and vine.

The Pansy.
The pansy is a lover of cool weather. It gives its largest, finest flowers, and its most profuse crop of them in the spring and early summer, and, if the plants have been properly treated, again in the fall. It would, do doubt, continue to bloom as freely during the summer as in the spring and fall if the weather conditions were the same. But as soon as the intense heat of midsummer comes on the vitality of the plants begins to be affected, and this accounts for the indications of "dwindling" mentioned by my correspondent. Its flowers become smaller and smaller until they are wholly unlike, in all respects, the magnificent specimens of May and June. And as the heat of the season, generally accompanied with more or less drought, increases, the plants seem to die off by inches. The red spider, encouraged by dry weather, which he delights in, aids his efforts to the work of the heat, and the luxuriant plants of spring are hardly recognizable in July and August.—Harper's Bazar.

The Fairy Roses.
The class of roses known commonly as "Fairy" roses, properly polyantha, are not so much grown as they deserve to be. They belong to the "ever-blooming" class, but differ from other varieties in that they are dwarf in habit, most profuse bloomers, and generally more hardy, though some protection the first winter will be desirable. The blossoms are borne in large clusters or masses throughout the summer. This class is desirable for bedding or for use in borders, their low growth making them especially attractive when loaded with blossoms and surrounded with a wide expanse of green lawn. The clusters frequently contain fifty or more individual blossoms, each blossom measuring from an inch to an inch and one-half in diameter, thickly set on stems and of perfect form. In color they are, according to variety, bright pink, golden, dark and light pink, pure white and sulphury yellow. They need no other plants in close range to set off their beauty. A charming effect may be had with a circular bed containing in the centre plants of magenta, dark pink, then rows of magenta, pure white, and the outer rows of golden fairy, golden yellow blossoms and plants rather more dwarf in habit than the other varieties. Another recommendation of this class of roses is that they are less liable to the attacks of insects than are others.—Chicago Record.

Arrangement of Shrubbery.
The effect of shrubbery at maturity depends largely on its arrangement at time of planting. The mistake frequently is made of dotting shrubs here and there over the lawn, instead of grouping them, as should be done to secure the most attractive results. On grounds of ordinary dimensions a clump of shrubs in one corner, varied in size according to the size of the grounds, climbing vines along the veranda, two or three ornamental trees and a border of low-grading flowering plants along the walk or drive would be most effective, yet effective, ornamentation, if a wide expanse of green, velvet lawn was also made. As a rule it is a mistake to plant evergreens on grounds of small dimensions, unless such planting is confined to dwarf varieties. For the corner of shrubs, the taller sorts should be next to the street or farthest from the lawn, graduating to the lawn. For the taller kinds, use the cross-growing varieties of purple berry, myronia, forsythia, beutzia exochorda grandiflora, viburnum plicatum, and graduate down with cornus mascula, spruce and hydrangea, the latter making a striking shrub for the edge nearest the lawn. If desired the effect may be heightened by a border of soft flowering plants, like geraniums, tuberous begonias or dwarf nasturtiums of the darker shades, along the edge, though if the entire corner is to be of hardy, permanent plants a border of hardy perennials should be used, such as delphiniums or dwarf phlox. Such an arrangement would make a beautiful display, the foliage and blossoms of the hardy perennials being in harmonious contrast to that of the shrubs.—Chicago Record.