

TENT DWELLERS IN MISSOURI.

Twelve thousand people in the Missouri-Kansas mineral district live in tents the year round.

In Joplin, the metropolis of the district, out of a population estimated at 20,000, 10 per cent dwell in tents. In the outlying camps the percentage of tenters is larger than in town, but the ratio is decreasing. While there are more people in Joplin and the mining district at this time whose only roof tree is a sheet of 12-ounce ducking than at the same time a year ago, the increase has not kept pace with the total growth of population.

Caste finds its way among tenters as certain as it exists anywhere, and the lines of demarcation are usually drawn on moral grounds. No matter how straitened the circumstances of a tenting family is, if they be decent and show a disposition to be fair and honest in their dealings with neighbors, they will find plenty of sympathy and assistance. Not all people live in tents because they cannot afford to rent a house. Instances are known where, since the boom set in, men have rented their houses and moved their families into tents. Others have chosen tenting in order to save exorbitant rents, while still others endure this mode of habitation so that the family may be near the work of the breadwinner. Some few, and they are very few, compel their families to live in tents so they can have more money with which to gamble and drink.

An instance of this kind is called to mind of a man whose services commanded \$15 per week, whether he worked all the time or not. When his habits and condition became known the other tenters in the locality made it so uncomfortable for him that he left. Had the fellow only expended half his income on liquor and crap tables, and the other half in prospecting while the wife took in washing to keep the family going, no violence would have been done the ethical code of the tenting community.

The foregoing relates more to the prosperous side of tent life in the mining district. There are slums even in

these cotton-cloth communities. One of these lies east of Joplin, beyond the mining. Its denizens seem to be related to the nomads of Turkistan, albeit it is plain they have degenerated. They stop in certain places for certain periods of time and then move on to another locality, never getting far away, and in the course of a year return two or three times to the first camping place.

All the remnants, ragtag and bobtail, the lame, hale and blind of the equine creation seem to have descended to these people after being cast off by the poverty-stricken wood haulers of Shoal Creek. If these latter are the veritable brawlers of wood of the mining district, their legatees are drawlers of water; for about the only employment that is ever known to engage their attention is the distribution of water for domestic uses to their more provident and wily fellow tenters. They are ragged, dirty, lazy and almost wholly abandoned. On the banks of the streams, particularly along Turkey creek, just north of Joplin, and separated in the timber, is one of the places where morals are none too strict. Yet in this place certain unwritten laws are respected, one in particular being a sanitary measure relating to keeping the stream as wholesome as possible.

It might be imagined that life in these tents is hard to endure in the winter. It is undoubtedly hard enough, but it is likely the heat of summer, with its decaying vegetation and tainted water, causes more suffering and disease in the tents than in the winter. In the winter season the tents are made tight, and as fuel is cheap, a fire keeps them so warm that flaps have to be thrown back for ventilation. Being built on the ground and banked up around the sides, tents are more comfortable in winter than the most of the little rough pine cabins that are built up off the ground, and where the biting winds come up through loose floors, giving their inmates colds and pneumonia.

There are many kinds of foolishness, but the meanest kind is selfishness.

A NEW AFRICAN MAHDI.

England is getting worked up over the tidings that a new African Mahdi is preparing his 10,000,000 followers for a holy war which may break out this year. The successor of him who fell in the Sudan is Sennusi, and he lives just now in Jaffo, south of Tripoli.

The cloud on the North African horizon has been gathering for some time. It is by no means generally known that at any moment a cyclone of Moslem fanaticism may sweep over Egypt, Algeria and Tunis.

This is in the north. And further south in the tragic continent, owing to the same cause, civilization in Nigeria and the French Sudan may be put back for another generation. The rapid expansion of a Mahometan secret society, with its inevitable Jihad, or holy war, among the Arabic, Berber and negroid races of the Western and Central Sudan, is a factor in current life in the Dark Continent which at any moment may assume a terrible importance.

The year that Gordon's life went out at Khartoum, in 1885, the followers of Sennusi were estimated at about 3,000,000. Since then the movement has grown so enormously that probably over 10,000,000 sons of the Prophet are sworn members of this organization. Far away from the White Man's Africa, buried in the heart of the long sandy wastes that spread in endless silence from Tripoli to Lake Chad, is being accumulated vast stores of the most modern war material, without the possibility of interference by the Christian powers most concerned—England and France.

Jaffo, the headquarters of the new Mahometan Messiah, is 500 miles west of the Nile and about 700 from the

center for the those between them.

NAVY SHORT OF OFFICERS.

Washington, D. C.—(Special)—The navy department was under the necessity today of ordering the United States cruiser Detroit to the Portsmouth navy yard, New Hampshire, to go out of commission. In addition to this, orders have been prepared to put the Marblehead out of commission at Mare Island, and telegraph orders have been sent to Admiral Watson to send the gunboats Bennington and Concord, now at Manila, home to San Francisco, where they will also be put out of commission. The big battleships Indiana and Massachusetts, which have just been overhauled at the New York navy yard, are also to be sent to League Island about the first of the month to be laid up in ordinary instead of being commissioned.

This remarkable reduction of the number of ships in commission is ascribed to the navy department to the lack of a sufficient number of officers to furnish complements for the ships absolutely required for naval purposes. The battleship Kearsarge has just been put in commission and the Illinois on the Atlantic side and the Wisconsin on the Pacific side also must be commissioned immediately in order that the ships can be taken from the hands of the contractors. Then there are some 100 extra cadets.

"I regard Miss Helen Hay," said William Dean Howells recently, "as one of the most promising women now writing

THE BASUTOS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

British and Boers are charging each other with having stirred up the Basuto chiefs to threatened participation in the war in the Transvaal.

"In the event of a Boer violation of Basutoland," says Spencer Wilkinson, an expert who is writing on the South African situation, "compelling the British agent to give the Basuto chiefs a free hand, it is to be hoped that the imperial government will delay before the governments of the great powers take true history of this delicate subject."

At the same moment, as though in refutation of the claims made by the British, an uprising of the Ashanti tribes is reported, the occasion being the endeavor of the British governor, Sir Frederick Mitchell Hodgson, to take possession of the "Golden Stool of Ashanti." One hundred Hussars have been tolled off from the Transvaal to protect the British governor.

Basutoland is highly important to both British and Boer just now. It lies across the river from Bloemfontein south of Natal and southeast of the Orange Free State. It is a mountainous territory at the headwaters of the Gaapie branch of the Orange river, on the inward slope of the Drakensberg range. It was seized by the British in 1889, and has since been vicariously held. The territory includes 25,896 square miles, and has a population of 122,873.

The Basutos are the wealthiest, most powerful and best-armed tribe of the Bechuanas race. In 1879 they possessed from 15,000 to 20,000 stands of arms. Strong in the sense of their power, they withheld their taxes in that year from the Cape government, and the resulting war ended practically in the triumph of the Basutos.

The Basuto is a vigorous, enterprising mountaineer, conspicuous among all the African tribes for his industry. In appearance he has the softer, gentler stamp of the Kaffir type. His bodily forms are less massive and sharp than the Kaffir; his stature is on the average less, and he carries himself with something of a stoop. The strength of the Basutos lies in their occupations of peace. They have provided the missionaries with their most tractable scholars, even though their subsequent performances did not always correspond to the expectations aroused by their capacity for learning. They are much fonder than the Zulus of acting as hired laborers for the colonists and often delight in wearing cast-off European clothes. They are cunning and on the lookout for easy and sometimes dishonest ways of making money. Innocent social games seldom cease among them.

Among the Bechuanas, which include

the Basutos, there is never the startling nudity of the Zulus; they modestly cover themselves with a leather band fastened back and front to a broad belt. The women cover themselves with aprons to the knee, fore and aft, the outer apron having a fringe of glass beads. Poor people wear simply a hide; richer persons wear furs of jackals, or wild cats carefully sewn together; rich women wear those of the silver jackal; the chiefs wear leopard skins. Fortunate hunters alone clothe themselves in the skin of a gnu, with the tail displayed behind as a trophy.

The Basuto native weapons are a modification of those of the Kaffir, the principal being the throwing spear supported by the battle-ax and the two-edged dagger-knife. Their shield is short, of scalloped form and usually made of ox hide.

It is reported in a late work by Prof. Friedrich Ratzel that in originality, elegance and fineness of work the Basuto woodcarvings exceed the best done by Bechuanas or Kaffir people. Their performances in earthenware, too, are remarkable, among which may be mentioned the paunchy store vessel, on three low feet, towering up higher than a man and covered with an inverted dish. Regular huts are built over these store vessels, and the entire harvest of millet of maize is stored in them. The tribe is equally skilled in weaving and making pretty mats and baskets.

Their devotion to peaceful industries is so inborn and bred that great provocation of much money would be required to drive them into war, but when once driven they will give an account of themselves, as when they have been compelled to join the Matabeles in some of the historic conflicts of Bechuanaland.

The "Golden Stool of Ashanti" which has caused the uprising of that tribe, is said to be an immense throne of solid gold, absolutely pure. In 1886 an expedition against King Prempeh was sent by Great Britain to Ashanti, in order to punish this king for various outrages committed against British subjects. He had usurped much British territory, and had refused to allow the presence at Coomassie, the capital of Ashanti, of a British commissioner. The expedition was in charge of Sir Francis Scott, and on January 18 Coomassie was entered. The king submitted to all the British demands, but as he was unable to pay the indemnity the treasures in his palace were seized. The chief of these, the Golden Stool, could not be found, and it was alleged that Prempeh had buried it. The other treasures were taken to London and publicly exhibited, being much admired for their artistic workmanship.

In Woburn Park is an ash tree 30 feet high, 15 feet in girth (3 feet from the ground), and containing a grand total of 872 cubic feet of timber.

The ash tree at Carnock, planted in 1586, supposed to be the largest in Scotland, is 30 feet high and 19 feet in girth (5 feet from the ground).

Dr. Walker says he measured an ash tree in Lechaber churchyard, land, 58 feet in girth (5 feet from the ground).

Ash tree. No grass will grow in its vicinity. The legend is that the cross of Jesus was made of this wood, and hence its leaves were doomed to tremble till the day of doom.

Ah! tremble, tremble, aspen tree!

We need not ask thee why thou shakest;

For if, as holy legend saith,

On thee the Savior died to death.

No wonder, asper, that thou quak'est!

And till in judgment all assemble,

Thy leaves accurst shall wail and tremble.

E. C. B.

Beech tree, employed for clogs, tool handles, plants, mallets, turnery, large wooden screws, sounding boards of musical instruments, scabbards, band-boxes, book-covers, coffins, chairs, and bedsteads; but for chairs and bedsteads it is not fit, as it is a favorite resort of the pinus pectinifera, whose eggs are deposited on the surface of the wood, and the young worms eat their way in. Floats for nets are made of the bark. It is excellent for wood fires, and is called France bois d' Andelle. The beech bursts into leaf between April 19 and May 7.

The Twelve Apostles. On an island of the lake Wetter, were twelve majestic beech trees, now reduced to eleven, for a zealous peasant cut down one of them, declaring "that the traitor Judas should have no part nor lot with the faithful." On these beeches are cut the names of Charles XI., Charles XII., Queen Eleonora, and other distinguished visitors. Other famous beeches are the Frankley Beeches, in Worcester-shire.

Virgil's bowl, divini opus acimendit, was made of beech wood, and Pliny tells us that vessels used in the temples were made sometimes of the same wood.

The beech, like the fir and chestnut, is very destructive of vegetation beneath.

Birch, used by the ancients for papyrus. The wood is used for the heels of shoes, cradles, packing-boxes, sabots, drinking cups, brooms or besoms, rods, torches and charcoal.

"It supplies the northern peasant with his house, his bread, his wine, and the vessels to put it in, part of his clothing, and the furniture of his bed."

Birch loves the coldest places.

Blackthorn is formed into teeth for rakes and into walking sticks. Letters written on linen or woolen with siccio juice will not wash out.

It is said that Joseph of Arimathea planted his staff on the south ridge of Weyryall Hill (now Werrall), where it grew and put forth blossoms every Christmas day afterwards. The original tree was destroyed in the reign of Charles I., by a puritan soldier, who lost his life by a splinter which wounded him while so employed. The variety, which blossoms twice a year, is now pretty common.

The Holy Thorn has been introduced into many parts, and is now growing in several gardens about Gloucester and its vicinity. Pilgrimage continues to be made to this tree even in Mr. Eyston's time, who died 1721.—*Evening Post*, January 1753.

Box, used for turnery, combs, mathematical instruments, knife handles, tops, screws, button-moulds, wood engravings. Box wood will sink in water.

A decoction of box wood promotes the growth of hair, and an oil distilled from the shavings is a cure for hemorrhoids, tooth-ache, epilepsy and stomach-worms; so we are told.

Cedar, used for cigar boxes. It is useful to moths and fleas, and hence

is used for lining wardrobes and drawers.

Cherry tree, used by the turner, turned into chairs and hoops. It is stained to imitate mahogany, to which wood, both in grain and color, it approaches nearer than any other of this country. It is stained black for picture frames. The cherry tree was first introduced from Flanders into Kent, in the reign of Henry VIII.

"More than hundred men, during a siege, were kept alive for nearly two months, without any other sustenance than a little of this gum taken into the mouth and suffered gradually to dissolve."—Hasselquist, *Iver Palaeostomum* (1757).

Chestnut tree, the tree introduced into the pictures of Salvador Rosa. The wood is used by coopers and for water-pipes, because it neither shrinks nor changes the color of any liquor it contains. It is, however, bad for posts, and grass will not grow beneath its shade.

Coastal chestnut oaks, *Chestnut tree*. The root of Westminster Abbey, and that of the "Parliament house," Edinburgh, are made of chestnut wood.

Cocham Park, Kent, is a chestnut tree 40 feet in girth.

At Tortworth, Gloucestershire, is a chestnut tree 52 feet in girth. Even in 1550 it was called "the great chestnut tree of Tortworth." Mr. Marshall says it was 540 years old when King John came to the throne, which would carry us back to the heptarchy. If so, this tree has tallied the whole history of England from the Romans period to our own.

The horse chestnut bursts into leaf between March 17 and April 1. The Spanish chestnut fully a month later. Cypress bursts the least of all trees by its droppings.

Dog Rose. So called by the Greeks (cantharos), because the root was deemed a cure for the bite of a mad dog.

Elder Tree, used for skewers, tops of angling rods, needles for netting, turnery, lime pith is used for electrometers and in electrical experiments.

An infusion of elder leaves will destroy insects on delicate plants better than tobacco juice; and if turnips, cabbages, fruit trees, etc., are brushed with a branch of elder leaves no insect will infest the plants.

Elm is used for axle-trees, mill-wheels, keels of boats, gunwales, chairs, coffins, rails, gates, underground pipes, pumps, millwork, patterns.

Grass will grow beneath its shade. The elm is pre-eminent for the tenacity of its wood, which never splinters. It is the first of forest trees to burst into leaf.

Toads and frogs are often imbedded in elm trees. They creep into some hollow place or crack, and become imprisoned by the glutinous fluid of the new inner bark (liver and albumen). Some have been found alive when the tree is cut down, but they need not have been embedded long.

At Hampstead there was once a famous hollow elm, which had a staire within and seats at its top. At Blythfield, in Staffordshire, was an elm which, Ray tells us, furnished 8,660 feet of planks, weighing 97 tons. The elm at Chequers, Buckinghamshire, was planted in the reign of Stephen; the shell is now 31 feet in girth. The Chepstow Elm, Kent, contains 268 feet of timber, and is 15 feet in girth; it is said to have had an annual fair beneath its shade in the reign of Henry V. The elm at Crawley, in Sussex, is 70 feet high and 25 feet in girth.

Fir Tree. The leaves of this tree have the property of maturing game and meat hung amongst them.

Fir Tree. In Ireland the bog firs, beaten into string, are manufactured into rope capable of resisting the weather much longer than hempen ropes. The bark can be used for tan. Tar and pitch are obtained from the trunk and branches. The thinning of fir forests will do well for poles, scantlings and rafters, and its timber is used by builders.

Grass will not grow beneath fir trees.

She Obeyed the Queen.
The late King of the Netherlands lost no opportunity of impressing on his daughter Wilhelmina an idea of her great importance. On one occasion the Baroness Van R— was taking the prescribed promenade with the young princess, when a man on horseback appeared. It was the baroness's brother, who had just returned from Java. Leaping from his horse, he clasped his sister in his arms, covering her face with kisses. Wilhelmina, who was seven at the time, was thoroughly scandalized, and the baroness hastened to send off her brother. Not another word was spoken, and the walk being ended, they returned to the palace. The little girl recounted the story, which the queen listened to attentively, thinking of the irate king and his thick cane. "Finish your luncheon," she said to her daughter; "I will speak to the king." "It is for me to speak. Papa made me promise never to hide anything from him." "Your father was in good health then; now he is very ill, and I forbid you to trouble him. Without replying, the little girl rose and went toward the door. "Princess, the Queen of Holland orders you to stay here and keep silent," said Queen Emma. Wilhelmina stopped, drew back, then, making a profound courtesy, said: "Since it is the queen who gives the order, I obey, but"—turning toward the trembling governess—"I hope such a thing will never occur again."

Isaacs—"Dot vos a pretty nice affair at Oppenheimer's. There was a professor of magic to entertain the guests, until he was gone, too, but he couldn't do all his tricks." Cohenstein

—"How vos dot?" Isaacs—"Vell, he wanted some vun should lend him a tierce ring, und nobody would."

Puck.