

SECLUDED ABYSSINIA

WHY THE COUNTRY IS CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD



CATTLE AND CAMELS WADING AT THE HAWASH FORD



LOADING UP A CRIBBY CARAVAN



REFRESHING UNDER THE TREES AT OLLADOUX WELLS



ROUGH ROAD ON THE CHER-CHER ROUTE

ANOTHER unconfirmed report of the death of Menelik II., emperor of Abyssinia, has drawn attention to that monarch's isolated and little-known kingdom, which since the monarch's illness has been governed by a council of ministers. The present ruler's reign began in 1889, when, taking advantage of the disordered state of northern Abyssinia, Menelik proclaimed himself king of kings of Ethiopia on March 12, 1889, and was crowned at Entollo on November 3 of the same year. Ras Mangaschia, a natural son of Theodore, made several attempts to regain power, but Menelik defeated all efforts to overthrow him. He conducted his government with firmness and sagacity and steadily consolidated his power.

In the first year of his reign he made a treaty with the Italians, practically placing Abyssinia under their protectorate, they on their part agreeing to lend him 4,000,000 francs. In consequence of disputes with the Italians and their encroachment on his territory and also of differences relative to the Ucciall treaty Menelik raised a large army and inflicted a serious reverse on the Italian advance guard at Umbalago in December, 1895. The Negus then made propositions of peace, but they were unacceptable to the Italians as they included a demand for retirement and also for a modification of the Ucciall treaty.

On February 24, 1896, the Abyssinians concentrated at Adowa and were pursued there by the Italian forces under General Baratieri. The Italian troops advanced against the Abyssinians in three columns, but the configuration of the country permitted Menelik to concentrate his men in an attack on the left column, and the other two columns being prevented—partly by the configuration of the ground and partly it is said by bad dispositions consequent on a want of unanimity amongst the generals—from arriving in time to assist the Italians suffered an overwhelming defeat with a loss of 7,000 men killed and wounded. This caused the fall of Signor Crispi's government, and General Valles was sent with full power to treat, and an agreement fully recognizing the independence of Abyssinia was signed.

Menelik had three concubines, by whom he had one son, who died at the age of thirteen, and two daughters. One of them, Zeodita (Judith), married a Djamach who was governor of the Wonomigra Gallas, and the other, Schoagasch, married Ras Michael, governor of the Wollo Gallas country.

Menelik married in 1883 Taitou, the present empress. She was a daughter of Batul, a former Ras of Gondar, where the women are famous for their white skins. She herself was a great beauty and very fair. She first married Waldo Gabriel, one of King Theodore's generals, but he was killed by Theodore shortly after their marriage. Soon after King Theodore's death she took for her second husband Dedjaz Tekla Georgis, whom she divorced. She was then married for the third time to the governor of one of the provinces, who was subsequently imprisoned by King John of Abyssinia. She then returned to a convent for a time but left there to marry the Kanjasmach Likargacho. Then Menelik fell in love with her, and in 1883, all obstacles having been removed, she made him her fifth husband.

Queen Taitou has borne Menelik no children. She has the reputation of being a woman of unusual strength of character and is said to have had great influence with her husband. She does not, however, share his views with regard to the encouragement of foreigners and foreign ways, but is much more inclined to discourage foreign intercourse and foreign civilization and to keep Abyssinia and its inhabitants to the customs and cruder methods of the old regime. According to report it was she who stiffened the backbone of Menelik during the varying fortunes of the battle of Adowa, and it was her advice that induced him to hold on until the ammunition of the Italian column was exhausted and so enabled him to surround and decimate the force opposing him. A clever retort is ascribed to Queen Taitou when a foreign representative was impressing upon her the advantages of foreign and more

civilized countries, instancing telephones, railways, etc., and the various luxuries of civilized life. "It," she said, "things are so much better and pleasanter over there, why do your people come here?"

The defeat of the Italians greatly increased the prestige of Menelik. He presented President Carnot with the Order of the Holy Ghost and also sent him two tame lions. Afterwards he renewed negotiations with France, which had lapsed in 1891. He also sent a mission to the czar, and in February, 1897, he concluded a commercial treaty with the French, who in March of the same year dispatched an embassy under M. Lagarde to his court.

In 1898 a British mission under Sir Rennell Rodd was received by Menelik in great state, 20,000 troops being present, and in spite of the efforts of Colonel Leontieff at the head of the Russian mission and Prince Henri d'Orleans, who were endeavoring to induce him to thwart British efforts in Sudan, a treaty was concluded between the British government and Menelik. A curious circumstance connected with the British embassy was that the average height of the officials of the mission was over six feet, which fact appears to have greatly impressed the Abyssinians. The chief points of the treaty, which was ratified by Queen Victoria in July, were a settlement of the British Somali Protectorate frontier, the keeping open of the trade route from Zeilah to Harrar, and the prevention of transit through Abyssinia of arms for the Mahdists. In a letter to Queen Victoria Menelik said: "A treaty of peace now exists between our governments, and we hope it will increase in firmness and last forever."

In April, 1898, Lieutenant Harrington of the Bombay staff corps—now Sir John Lane Harrington, K. C. M. G.—who had been acting as British vice-consul on the Somali coast, was sent as British agent to Menelik's court, where he remained up to 1909. His firmness and the able management of such questions as arose from time to time between the British and Abyssinian governments gained him the confidence of Menelik and gave him considerable influence in the country.

In October, 1898, Ras Mangaschia, governor of Tigre, rebelled and a large force was sent against him, but eventually negotiations were opened up and they settled matters amicably. Since that period Menelik continued to consolidate his power, and his great force of character made itself felt to such an extent that he has reigned throughout all his dominions from one end of the country to the other; the mandates of Menelik have been received with profound respect and implicitly obeyed. One nation after another has dispatched a representative to Abyssinia, and Menelik was until his recent illness in touch with the whole civilized world.

In November, 1903, Menelik was struck with cerebral paralysis and was stated to be at the point of death. A proclamation in his name was read to the chiefs preaching peace and unity and obedience to the successor he had selected, Lij Yasu. Ras Tseamma was to continue to be the guardian of his heir, and his majesty called down the curse of the Almighty on anyone who might attempt to oppose his successor. After this he recovered his bodily health but was too feeble mentally to attend to his work. He suffered another relapse in the summer of 1909, but

made a satisfactory recovery. In November, 1909, he had a paralytic stroke which, depriving him of all speech and almost of motion, entirely incapacitated him from all work. Since then, notably in 1910, he has on more than one occasion been reported dead, and although these rumors have been at once denied the fact remains that for the last two or three years he has been a mere figurehead, the government of the country having been carried out by a council of ministers under the presidency of Lij Yasu, the heir-apparent, and during this period it is doubtful whether he has been seen by any one but a few select court officials.

Lij Yasu, the heir-apparent, is the son of Menelik's daughter, Schoagasch, and Ras Michael, and was born in 1897.

Voyagers whose ways take them "somewhere east of Suez" may know something of Djibouti, but to the average person Djibouti is practically unknown. Suffice it to say that, although situated in the French Somaliland protectorate, it is practically the only port that serves the country of Abyssinia.

From Djibouti a single track (metregauge) railway runs to Dire-Dawa, some 185 miles inland. The trains run twice a week and the journey frequently takes 11 hours to accomplish, passing through some of the most desolate desert country imaginable.

Dire-Dawa has grown up around the railway terminus, and as it is some 3,000 feet above the sea level is much cooler than Djibouti. The place is not very large, but the wide streets and white-washed buildings give the place an air of space and cleanliness. There is a large Arab and Somali settlement adjoining. Here one comes under Abyssinian officialdom and one's baggage has to pass the Abyssinian customs, usually not a very trying ordeal.

At Dire-Dawa travelers to Adis Ababa have to arrange their own caravans for the journey. Both mules and camels are available, but usually mules are taken, as they cover the journey in much quicker time than camels, which are usually employed for heavy baggage and merchandise. One has choice of three routes from Dire-Dawa to the capital—the Cher-cher route, by which one travels along the Cher-cher, mountain range through fine forest and amongst beautiful pine-topped hills. This route is rather longer than the others, but is by far the most comfortable, as it is cooler, and one may purchase fresh provisions—milk, eggs, and sheep—from the small Abyssinian villages that one passes en route. Camels are unable to take this track, owing to the many steep ascents and descents, which can only be managed by mule or donkey.

The second trail is via the Asabat, passing along the foot of the Cher-cher range and joining the former route near the Hawash river. This route passes through the flat Danakil country, through great forests of mimosa trees and occasional open plains, where one meets from time to time enormous herds of cattle and camels guarded by fierce-looking Danakil shepherds armed with spears and curved knives. No provisions can be purchased on this route, but it is fairly good going except during the very dry season before the rains begin, when water is apt to be scarce.

The third route, the Bilan, runs farther north in the Danakil country, and though flat is very trying on account of the great heat and long marches that have to be made from watering place to watering place.

From Tchoba it is two days' journey to Gondabourka at the foot of the Balchi pass. Here the track rises nearly 900 feet, a sheer ascent, and the steepest climb on the journey. The path is simply cut along the mountain side, and at times one is about six inches from a drop of 200 feet. From Balchi the road is very uninteresting, passing through long rolling plains of cultivated land, and about two days brings one in sight of the capital.

The view of the city as one approaches is very fine. A large circle of hills surrounds it, and on a small elevation running out into the center of the circle is built the "guebi," or emperor's palace. There are hardly any buildings of importance, and the guebi itself is but a miscellaneous collection of semi-European and native buildings.

TOURING IN JOLO

Many Old Spanish Houses With Open Porches.

Traveler Impressed With Different Modes of Dress—Moros Wear Tight Skin Trousers—Women Attired Similar to Men.

London.—There are old Spanish houses in Jolo with open porches situated up (out of bolo reach) on the second floor. At night these were lighted with big Chinese lanterns. The officers' club also was usually brilliant, and one evening pleasant strains of music indicated that a dance was in progress there. The same night there was a concert in the park for the public. "The public" consisted of a dozen soldiers, fully armed, the ship's engineer and myself. The band played opera and popular airs, even including pieces from "The Sultan of Sulu." How out of place any such light opera conception of the island seemed!

Meanwhile weird Chinese music emanated from the upper regions of other residences. The merchants from the Flowery Kingdom were having their gayety also safely out of reach of the ever dreadful bolo.

One morning two soldiers persuaded me to go out to see the real city, particularly the market. This was a big and busy place and the costumes there would have attracted as much attention on Manila's Escolta as on New York's Broadway. Here the Moros wore their full regalia, including the dreadful knife.

The Moros as a rule wore skin tight trousers and their agile legs gave them a spidery appearance, but there were also Javanese and East Indian costumes. The turban and the fez were the most popular headgear. The women wore trousers of the baggy Chinese type, but there were also scarfs, sarongs and bright handkerchiefs in evidence, and it sometimes seemed as though men and women dressed indiscriminately, for many wore articles of clothing that seemed intended for the other sex.

As for any claim to be the fair sex the Moro women will have to



House in Savage Moro Country.

forego it. One is quite sure that the women are uglier than the men—until one looks at a man. All have sullen, cruel faces. All have blackened teeth and mouths from which oozes a thick red liquid from the betel nut they chew. Many have scaly, diseased looking skins.

It must be remembered that these generalizations do not necessarily cover the Moros on the great island of Mindanao, though they resemble their Sulu brothers. The Mindanao Moros have, some of them, proved more amenable to our civilization. It is these fierce little men of Sulu, who formerly made vassals of the Mindanao datus, that scorn our methods and all humanitarian and Christian teaching.

"These women have their little jokes," said one of my soldier friends. "A couple of fellows were walking here the other day, and as they passed one woman made a motion in imitation of a knife thrust behind their backs. Her cronies appreciated the jest and laughed hideously with their betel smeared mouths."

HUSBAND MAY FIB TO WIFE

White Lies, as Marital Diplomacy, Approved by Ohio Judge—Should Tell Them Gravely.

Cleveland, O.—A husband should use diplomacy with his wife, that is, when a trifling lie will preserve the domestic calm, he should tell it gravely and well.

This is the substance of a judicial opinion by Judge George L. Phillips, in the divorce action of John F. Grigolett. Mr. Grigolett went to lodge meetings and then told his wife, although she did not approve. Said Judge Phillips:

"A wife objects to lodge meetings, why tell her about them? What she doesn't know won't hurt her."

The judge refused a divorce.

Four-Year-Old Child on Long Jaunt.

New York.—Four-year-old Margaretha Rischem arrived here from Vienna, Austria, on her way to Kenwood, Cal., where her mother is living. The little child's only protection was a card attached to her dress, which read: "Please take care of me. I am going to my mamma. Please do not kiss me."

Sauerkraut May Be Luxury.

Fremont, O.—Sauerkraut may be a luxury soon. Kraut cabbages reach the unprecedented price of \$17 a ton at the market here and kraut dealers had hard work getting material at that price.

Sprains, Bruises, Stiff Muscles

are quickly relieved by Sloan's Liniment. Lay it on—no rubbing. Try it.

Acute Sprain and Dislocated Hip.
"I sprained my ankle and dislocated my hip by falling out of a third story window. Went on crutches for four months. Then I started to use your Liniment, according to directions. I must say it is helping me wonderfully. We will never be without Sloan's Liniment anymore."—*Chas. Johnson, Lawrence, Mass.*

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Splendid for Sprains.
"I fell and sprained my arm a week ago and was in terrible pain. I could not use my hand or arm until I applied your Liniment. I shall never be without a bottle of Sloan's Liniment."—*Mrs. E. A. Springer, Elizabeth, N. J.*

Fine for Stiffness.
"Sloan's Liniment has done more good than anything I have ever tried for stiff joints. I got my hand hurt so badly that I had to stop work right in the busiest time of the year. I thought at first that I would have to have my hand taken off, but I got a bottle of Sloan's Liniment and cured my hand."—*Wm. H. Foster, Morris, Ala.*

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Mr. Scadda's Grievance.
"I tell you," said the scowling Socialist, "that wealth is not distributed equitably." "I quite agree with you," replied Mr. Scadda. "I have only about two hundred and fifty thousand myself, while I know a dozen men who have more than a million apiece."—Puck.

Good Scheme.
"I think I'll promote a banana plantation." "Why that in particular?" "It won't cost much to get a banana every day to show for a sample, and on days when stock sells slow I can eat the sample."

In a year Turkey produces approximately 100,000 bales of wool of 280 pounds each.

Bronchial troubles weaken the system. Pneumonia sometimes follows. Dean's Mentholated Cough Drops prevent trouble.

Ohio broke a record last year by mining more than 34,500,000 short tons of coal.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

Blasbee, Ariz., refuses to employ any but citizens on municipal work.

TORTURING TWINGES

Much so-called rheumatism is caused by weakened kidneys. When the kidneys fail to clear the blood of uric acid, the acid forms into crystals like bits of broken glass in the muscles, joints and on the nervous system. Torturing pains dart through the affected part whenever it is moved. By curing the kidneys, Doan's Kidney Pills have eased thousands of rheumatic cases, lumbago, sciatica, gravel, neuralgia and urinary disorders.

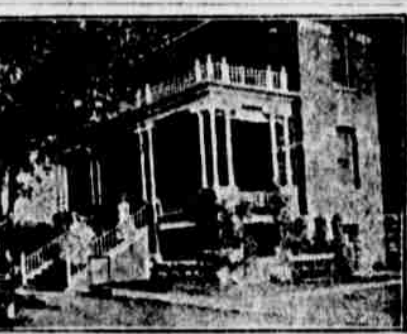
AN ILLINOIS CASE
Charles Easter, E. Walnut St., Watseka, Ill., says: "I had acute rheumatism and kidney trouble for years. I was laid up for months and spent hundreds of dollars unsuccessfully for doctors' treatment. After hope had fled, Doan's Kidney Pills came to my aid. They cured the awful misery and I have never suffered since."



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