

being immediately carried to the camp. The blood is especially preserved for the chief. The pygmies roam about not very far from the village settlements in the forests, with which they keep in constant communication; they exchange fresh meat and honey for potatoes and other food. These dwarfs are to be found in Congo Free State about five days journey from Kilonga-Longa, now called Mawambi. The pygmies are never willing to take strangers to their camps, which are always in a dense part of the jungle, but Bishop Tucker has seen them and described them. They consist of tiny, little huts or shelters, varying between three and four feet high, thatched with giant leaves from the trees of the forest. The usual signs of life in these curious habitations consist of a few clay jars, evidently used for cooking purposes, and the "stones" of the various forest fruits. The pigmy women are "very comely little creatures and most attractive, with very light skins, (tan color). They have, as might be expected, "the usual flat nose and thick lips of the negro, and black curly hair, but their eyes are of singular beauty, so bright and quick and restless, that they do not seem to fix their gaze on anything for a second." The women are smaller than the men, and average about three feet, ten inches in height. According to Mr. Lloyd ("In Dwarf Land" Scribner 1899), the African pygmies pass a great amount of their time in climbing trees.

Dwarfs play a large part in the mythology of the ancient Germanic nations. They were supposed to have their own kings, and to dwell in the interior of the earth, wherein were priceless treasures. It was the dwarfs who provided the armor for the gods, and they also gave Odin his spear and Thor his hammer. Some of the virtues of the dwarfs are believed to have been derived from an actual race of small stature—the Lapps, who are said to have occupied part of the Scandinavian peninsula before the immigration of the Gothic people. British tradition tells of a "Tom Thumb" at King Arthur's court; and Gulliver's Lilliputians are among the best known of the historic dwarfs.

Prior to the eighteenth century, dwarfs were very frequently retained as court favorites. Of ancient dwarfs, Philetas, of Cos, tutor of Ptolemy Philadelphus, who was born about 330 B. C., was said to have worn weights in his pockets to avoid being blown away. Queen Henrietta Maria, of France, (wife of Charles the first of England), had two dwarfs whose united height is given as seven feet, two inches. Geoffrey Hudson, mentioned in *The Peveril of the Peak* was only three feet, nine inches tall. Nicholas Ferry, known as Bebe, the dwarf of King Stanislaus, of Poland, was only twenty-three inches in

height. He died at the age of ninety, in Paris in 1858. Borowlaski, who lived from 1739 to 1837, was a Polish nobleman whose height at the age of 30 was 39 inches.

Dwarfs may be divided into two classes—first, those individuals who were very small at birth and remain so all their lives; and secondly, those who became dwarfs from accident in the early months or years of childhood. It is an undoubted fact that the dwarfs who come under the first head are often noticeable for their shrewdness and intellectual capacity, combined with much childish vanity, and an overwhelming love for dress and admiration. They are, taken as a whole, active as regards both mind and body, and they are good-tempered. Upon the other hand, many of those who are deformed and show an unusual development of any special limb are generally dull and weak, mentally. Nicholas Ferry, of whom mention has already been made, was remarkable for his wit, good temper and intellectual attainments. Next after him in celebrity comes a female dwarf, Babet Schreier, who was born in Germany in 1810. Her parents were laboring people of ordinary stature who permitted visitors to see their wonderful child, but who would never consent, although they were poor, to exhibit her for any pecuniary benefit. Babet weighed at birth only a pound and a half, but she was perfectly formed. She grew until she was about two and a half feet high, when she stopped. Her health was always good, and she was amiable and lively.

It is a strange fact that the length of life of dwarfs seems to be in proportion to their size; they arrive at maturity quicker than a normal human being, and they age more quickly. We read of this in the case of the famous English dwarf, Hopkins, who lived 'till about 1750. At fifteen years of age, he measured two feet, seven inches, and weighed only thirty pounds. Up to this age he had the appearance of a fresh, smooth-skinned youth; but suddenly an extraordinary condition, resembling decrepit old age, began to creep upon him. He became bent and suffered severely from asthma. At the same time his sight and hearing began to fail, and his teeth commenced to drop out. Then he became so weak that he could not walk without a stick, and he is said to have presented all the appearance of a withered and aged old man. Before these signs of decay came upon him, his weight had been nineteen pounds, but within six months he lost six pounds, and within two and a half years he died of what appeared to be premature old age. His parents were healthy persons, and there had been no previous member of his family who was abnormal. At the time of his death his age was seventeen years and a

few months. Although dwarfs generally attain a greater age than giants—the latter rarely live to see their forty-fifth birthday—they do not often pass their seventieth year. To this rule there are on record two notable exceptions, but the accuracy of the records must, in the writer's opinion, be open to some doubt. Amias Clowes died in England, in 1784, at the age, we are told, of a hundred and three years. His height is given as three and a half feet. He lived in a little house eight feet square, furnished in a way to suit his size. It is necessary to assume either that he lived alone or that the rest of the occupants of the residence were dwarfs. The only other aged dwarf of whom an account is obtainable was Peter the Great's favorite, a woman named Poupee, whose height was that of a child of six. She was lively and clever, and the emperor seemed to have had an extraordinary affection for her. She is said to have lived to the age of a hundred without ever having suffered from any sickness. There may still be seen in the ducal palace at Matua (Northern Italy), six little rooms which were constructed by order of one of the dukes of Matua for the special occupation of his favorite dwarfs. The walls of these apartments are only six feet high, and the floors eight feet square. The rooms no longer contain any furniture, and even the doors have been taken off their hinges.

In recent times no dwarf has created more sensation than Charles S. Stratton, commonly known as "General Tom Thumb." He was about thirty-one inches in height, and he married Livinia Warren, who was an inch taller. They had one child, a girl, who died when about three years old. Her size and weight do not appear to be known. "Tom Thumb" lived till his forty-fifth birthday, his death having taken place in 1883. General and Mrs. White—their real name was Flynn—succeeded to some of the admiration bestowed upon the "Thumbs." Their imitations of popular actors and singers were highly appreciated by the amusement-loving public. It is obviously undesirable to mention by name any existing dwarf, but it may not be out of the place to say that quite a number can be seen at one of the shows on the "Midway" of the Pan American Exhibition now open in this city (Buffalo, New York.)

In conclusion, some reference should be made to jockeys. They are frequently "artificial" dwarfs, measures being taken to keep down the weight and retard the growth of boys intended for this occupation.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 23, 1901.

The amazing announcement by the secretary of agriculture that the crops of Kansas are uncertain, and that it should not be included in the corn belt, is the first intimation that Mr. Wilson is unfitted for the position which he occupies. If any change is to be made Mr. Coburn, of Kansas, is suggested as a proper candidate.—Kansas City Star.