

A BLACK NAPOLEON.

SHIMULU WAS ONCE RULER OF AFRICA'S GREATEST EMPIRE.

THE ISLAND OF St. Helena, where the white Napoleon ended his days as a prisoner to the English, a black Napoleon is now also a prisoner. It is a singular chapter of coincidences which seem to unite the fortunes of the house of Bonaparte and the house of Chaka.

Early in the century, when Napoleon was overrunning Europe with his armies and dazzling the minds of men with his genius, an English sailor was wrecked off the African coast and wandered into Zululand.

He was taken before the young chief, Chaka, and to him he told of the wonderful outside world, of which the chief had heard rumors, and as all the world was then filled with the name of Napoleon, he told of the rise of the Corsican and how he had conquered nations and built up for himself a great empire.

The story of Napoleon captured the fancy of Chaka, and he resolved to be an African Napoleon.



DINTZULU, THE BLACK NAPOLEON.

Then began the rise of the great empire in South Africa, and Chaka spread his conquests over great territories and subdued neighboring tribes and built for himself an empire. It flourished until it broke itself to pieces against the English, just as the empire of the man whose name had inspired its building did before it.

The empire established by Chaka stretched along the whole southeast seaboard of Africa, from Limpopo to Cape Colony, and extended far inland.

When the English landed in Natal in 1824 the empire of the Amantulu was the most powerful in Africa. Chaka made a treaty with the English, allowing them to live in Natal, and for this he was killed by his brother, Dingaan, in 1828. Then began the struggle between the white man and the black man which was to end in the destruction of the empire founded by Chaka.

Peace and war alternated, and all the time the Zulus lost ground.

Finally, in 1883-84, the British felt bound to blot out the Zulu power. Then it was that Cetewayo, the heir of Chaka, summoned forth his whole force and hurled his "impis" or regiments against the British. At Isandulu the Zulus broke the British squares and routed the redcoats, but the end was the capture of the chief and the breaking of the Zulu power.

In this way the house of Bonaparte again became mixed up with the fortunes of the house of Chaka. The Prince Imperial, grand nephew of the man whose example had inspired the building of the empire of the Amantulu, went out to fight in the ranks of the English and was killed by a Zulu spear.

In 1884 Cetewayo died and the struggle was continued by his son, Dintzulu. Dintzulu was conquered, and now he has been sent to St. Helena to spend his days on the spot where the man whose example caused the building up of the black king's empire died.

As becomes the head of a great and warlike line, Dintzulu is accompanied by his chief by a numerous retinue. He has several wives, a physician and a clergyman, with their wives and children, make up a household of numerous persons.

Prisoners of War as a Gopher. The Prince of Wales is a great golfer, and one of the caddies at St. Andrew's told him so. He—the caddy—was asked his opinion on the respective merits of the Prince, Mr. Ashurst and Mr. Balfour. He replied gravely: "Aye, I mind the names. They'll have a muckie to learn. I telled the Prince so, but he only laughed. A light heart is very well for cricket, but it's a solemn business is golf."

AN ENORMOUS SAPPHIRE.

It Weighs 686 Carats and is Transparent and Flawless.

The London Times tells of a Ceylon sapphire now in that city, the property of Major Gen. Robley, which is not less remarkable for its size than for its transparency and the brilliance of the optical effects it can show. The weight of the gem is 686 carats, and it is of a dark, milky blue color, perfectly transparent and flawless. Larger sapphires have been known, but they have usually, if not always, been dull and muddy, instead of having the clear, translucent color of this specimen.

But in addition it possesses a property occasionally found in slightly cloudy or milky Ceylon sapphires—and sometimes in other gems, too—which greatly enhances its value in the eyes of believers in the occult powers of precious stones to confer health and good fortune on their wearers. It is a star sapphire, or asteria. That is, being cut in cabochon, it displays a beautiful opalescent star, dividing its six rays at the apex, which changes its position according to the movement of the source of light by which it is viewed. By employing two or three sources of light, two or three of these stars can be simultaneously seen in the gem.

By further cutting, it is said that the beauty of this stone could be still more increased, but, of course, at the expense of its size.

Luminous Paint.

Luminous paint is used more in the country than in the city, but its use generally is increasing. It is used in cities in dark scenes in theaters, and dancers' costumes are coated with it. Luminous paint is used for the illumination of doctors' signs, and of street numbers, and night bells, and keyholes and door knobs, and it is used to paint match boxes and various other things. It is not luminous except in the dark, and so, for sign purposes, it is used only in such places as are not reached by the rays from a street lamp.

Luminous paint is not phosphorescent, but it absorbs light in the day, or light from electric or other artificial lights, which it gives out in the dark; most commonly, indoors and out, it is used upon objects that are exposed to daylight. The distance at which such objects can be seen at night depends upon their size. Luminous paint is used in the country on highway signboards or guideboards, for painting posts or stones marking roadways, and so on, and on the water it is used for painting harbor buoys.

There is also made luminous cardboard, which is used for various purposes.

Fire-Damaged Coffin for \$3.

Was Hall is the name of a Smith county, Kan., farmer whose 17-year-old daughter died recently. He went to town after a coffin and found one, it is said, that had been badly damaged in a fire that he could buy for \$3. Loading the coffin into his wagon, so the story goes, he drove around to the different carpenters of the town in search of one who would repair it.

Knowing that Hall was well off, the carpenters indignantly refused to do the work, and he was compelled to take the casket home and repair it in the kitchen of the house where his dead daughter lay. The local papers took up the affair, and it is believed that the country will be made too warm for Hall by his scandalized neighbors.

Frog Skin Gloves for Cyclists.

There is a constant increase in the utilization of the products of nature for the manufacture of gloves. The skin of the kid, dog, rat and even the lizard are staple for this purpose, and now a use has been discovered for the soft but serviceable skin of the frog.

Like all novelties frog skin gloves are at present extremely expensive. They are especially recommended, on account of their fineness and toughness, to the cyclist.

The demand for frogs until now has been solely for their use as dainties for the tables, but no doubt before long we shall have frog farms springing up all over the country in order to carry on a trade in skins with glove manufacturers.

Packers in Public Schools.

Whistling is encouraged in some of the public schools of Philadelphia. In the Zaner street school, where the Board of Education has its offices, shrill notes from the classrooms above float down upon the committees in the midst of their deliberations. The repertoire includes "Yankee Doodle," "Star Spangled Banner" and "Home, Sweet Home." Strange as it may seem, the girls, after a little practice, make better whistlers than the boys. They enjoy it immensely, and when engaged in these "recitations" twist their little mouths into the sweetest of puckers.

Prizes of Wales as a Gelfer.

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Overplayed His Conscience.

"For many long years," announces a Chillisnothe restaurant man in the local press, "the people here have been paying 25 cents for oyster steaks. In doing this they have been robbed, and I have been one of the robbers, but I have repented and will now serve the same class of steaks for 15 cents."

A HOSTILE CANAL.

CANADA'S STRATEGIC WATERWAY WHICH MENACES OUR BORDER.

Strongly Fortified Blockhouses defend the Rideau Canal, built by Great Britain for use in the event of War with us—its Great Value to the Dominion.

In the event of warfare between the United States and Canada the name of the quiet little manufacturing and trading town of Ganougue, upon the dominion side of the St. Lawrence River, opposite Clayton, N. Y., would almost certainly become famous at once as the scene of the first battle, and probably the next fight would happen at or near the Welland Canal, the great channel threading Canadian soil around Niagara Falls.

The importance of the second incident would be entirely contingent upon the result of the first.

The primary action would occur between Canadian volunteer troops and an "American" force, which, arriving upon the frontier with plenty of field artillery to support an infantry column, over the well-equipped Rome. Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, would leave Clayton upon a fleet of steamboats and scows, masked by the intricate groups of islands and landing at or near Ganougue, which is unfortified, might easily avoid any temporary defenses and execute a rapid march of 20 miles over a good road to Jones' Falls, the nearest point upon the Rideau Canal. The mission of the invaders would be to destroy the important series of locks at this point and thus block the passage of gunboats, troops and munitions between Ottawa and Kingston.

If the attacking force was driven back and the integrity of the canal was maintained, the enemy would promptly run its fleet of lightdraft gunboats from Halifax or Quebec up the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers



A FORTIFIED BLOCKHOUSE.

and through this convenient side door to Kingston, where, under the guns of Fort Henry, the armament of the boats sent thither by rail, would be replaced and Lake Ontario with its one antiquated "revenue cutter" upon the American side would be subject to the pleasure of the commodore directing the British naval force. His pleasure would, of course, involve incidentally the ravaging of the south shore of the lake, including the important ports of Oswego and Rochester.

It is, indeed, quite possible that armed vessels of the enemy should proceed directly up the St. Lawrence River through the chain of locks at the several rapids and get safely by the hastily constructed forts which would range along the American shore of the river in the vicinity of Ogdensburg, where the whole width of the stream is within range, but when the Rideau Canal was built by the British Government, as long ago as 1830, at a cost of \$6,000,000, it was created distinctly and solely as a military work, giving Canada an effective key to the great lakes, or Ontario.

Whether this obscure but dangerous little canal, the very existence of which is not generally known, is really regarded by the dominant or British Government as a menace to the lake cities of the west, depends upon their faith in an ability to hold the Welland Canal open over the entire length for a considerable period after the declaration of hostilities. At any rate, an amount of care and expense is lavished in keeping up the numerous locks and in maintaining a good channel which is out of all proportion to the importance of the commerce passing through it, the tollage from which never has met and evidently never can meet the annual repair bills.

The Rideau Canal has its beginning upon the Cataract River at Kingston, a prosperous business town just at the foot of Lake Ontario, and extends 126 3/4 miles to the capital city of Canada. The canal is, in reality, mainly a chain of picturesque lakes, some of which were formed by the construction of the dams at the locks.

The wonderful neatness of everything relating to the locks and the Government property adjacent is impressive. Massive though diminutive block houses are invariably standing where they command a view of both approaches to the locks.

No one who has traversed the enchanted Rideau region as the guest of a princely steam yacht owner will find fault with that provident spirit of protection in the breast of our long-headed cousin, John Bull, which led him to create, more than seventy years ago, this lovely aqueous highway, and to maintain it so excellently to the present time.

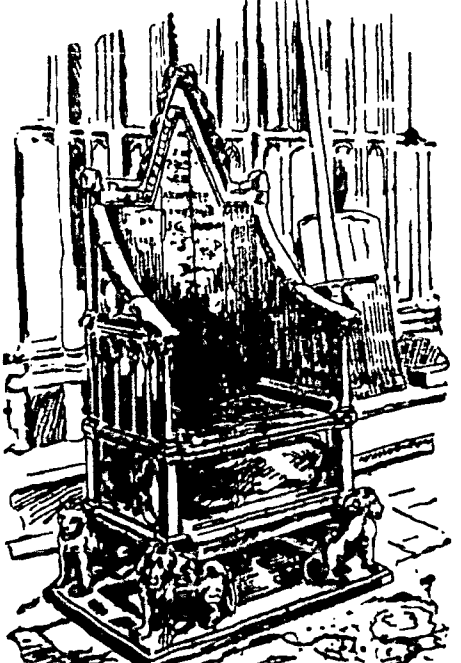
Felt Hat Life Preservers.

It is not generally known that when a person falls into the water a common felt hat can be made use of as a life preserver. By placing the hat upon the water, and sitting down with the arm round it pressing it slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.

A CORONATION CHAIR.

It is the British Sovereigns' One Crowned and is Esteemed as a Precious Relic.

The most precious relic in all England and to the English in all Europe is an old gothic chair which stands in the Chapel of St. Edward in Westminster Abbey beside the sword and shield of Edward III. It is made of black oak in the gothic style, and the back is covered with carved inscriptions, including the initials of many famous men. The feet are four lions, that look like poodle dogs with their tails curled up over their backs. The seat is a large stone about 30 inches long by 18 inches wide and 12 inches thick, and all the sovereigns of England for the last 800 years have sat upon it when they were crowned. The chair is known as the coronation chair, and the stone is claimed to be the same which Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, used as a pillow when he



CORONATION CHAIR IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

lay down to sleep on the starlit plains of Judah that memorable night as he was on his way from Beersheba to Haran in search of a wife. It was then he had his dream, and saw angels and archangels ascending and descending a ladder that reached to heaven, and Jehovah came to him and made the great promise which is being fulfilled to the Jews this very day. And Jacob took the stone and set it up for a pillar and poured oil upon it, and vowed a vow and called the name of the place Bethel.

The kings of Israel were crowned upon this stone from the time that they ruled a nation—David and Saul and Solomon, and all the rest.

The story goes that 680 years before Christ, at the time of the Babylonian captivity, Circa, daughter of Zedekiah, the last king of Judea, arrived in Ireland, and was married at Tara to Heremon, a prince of the Tuatha de Danann—which is said to be the Celtic name of the tribe of Dan. The traditions relate that this princess went originally to Egypt in charge of the Prophet Jeremiah, her guardian, and the palace Taphanes, in which they resided there, was discovered in 1886 by Dr. Petrie, the archaeologist. After some years they went hence to Ireland, and from Circa and Heremon Queen Victoria traces her descent through James I., who placed the lion of the tribe of Judah upon the British Standard.

Jeremiah is said to have concealed this sacred stone at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of the Jews, and to have brought it, "the stone of the testimony," Bethel, the only witness of the compact between Jehovah and Israel, to Ireland, where it was known as the Ila phail (stone wonderland). It was carried to Scotland by Fergus I., and thence to London in the year 1200, and has been used at the coronation of every king and queen of England from Edward I. down to Victoria. It is thus the most priceless historical object in the British empire, as it was the Palladium of Israel. It is a curious fact that the altars of Ireland were called Bethel, houses of God.

In the same chapel surrounding the coronation chair in Westminster abbey are the graves of six kings, five queens, four princesses, a duke and a bishop.

Total Abstinence at Sea.

Whatever the deep-water sailor's inclinations and habits may be ashore, he gets no liquor to drink at sea, unless it comes from aft and is dealt out to him. When the men that make up the crew go aboard, which they do just before the ship sails, their traps are searched, and if whiskey is found it goes usually over the side; sometimes the Captain takes charge of it and deals it out to the men in bad weather. It might be possible for a sailor to smuggle aboard a little whiskey, enough to last for a day, but after that he would be most likely a total abstinence until the ship reached port.

Set Afire by Waves.

On the Western coast of Ireland, at Ballybunion, the sea set fire to the cliffs. For centuries the great Atlantic rollers had been breaking them down and making great fissures in them. In their depths were masses of iron, pyrites and alum. At last the water penetrated to these, and a rapid oxidation took place, which produced a heat fierce enough to set the whole cliff on fire. For weeks the rocks burnt like a regular volcano, and great clouds of smoke and vapor rose high in the air.

Maelborough, Fireman.

The Duke of Maelborough is one of the most enthusiastic of amateur firemen, and he takes a keen interest in the Fire Brigades Union. He occasionally dons fireman's uniform.

A SKATING EXPERT.

CHAMPION SWEZEY WRITES ABOUT THE EXHILARATING SPORT.

The Excitement and Strain of Racing Produce Nervousness and Enlargement of the Heart—Advice to Athletes Upon the Way to Train for Racing on the Ice.

New York's champion ice skater, Arthur B. Swezey, has written the following article, telling of the excitement of racing and particularly of the astonishing enlargement of his heart, due to the terrible pressure upon it, which has necessitated his retirement from future contests. He writes a warning to other skaters that they carefully study the effect on the heart of racing:

It is now a well-known fact that heart trouble is responsible for my retirement from the skating field. Many causes have produced this, nervousness being the chief one. It is my misfortune to be of a very nervous disposition, which is increased before and during competition. I have actually stood on the scratch line, waiting for the pistol with my teeth chattering and my knees shaking, simply through pure nervousness. All of this has a very bad effect on the heart.

Every athlete worries more or less about his races and further excites it. Again, my lungs are highly developed and take a great deal of strength from the heart. One with poor "wind" is very seldom affected with heart trouble. More than half of the athletes of my acquaintance admit that they have this weakness in some form. The constant nervousness, hard exercise and competition gradually wear on it and the organ becomes enlarged.

Should one continue to race, heart disease pure and simple is likely to result; while, on the contrary, if stopped in time, it is quite probable that the heart will decrease in size and assume its normal condition. In two years' competition I have knocked about five years off of my life. All the medals and silverware in existence cannot repay me for such a loss.



NEW YORK'S CHAMPION SKATER.

This enlargement with me often produces severe palpitation, which never lasts more than ten minutes. A slight dizziness will occasionally follow. Twice my heart has skipped a beat. In each case it has caused me to stumble and fall. I would urge my fellow athletes to notice carefully this vital organ.

With the proper instrument the action of the heart can be heard very distinctly. It looks like a small telephone receiver, and is placed over the heart. To this are fastened two connections, similar to those of a phonograph. Upon placing these in each ear the heart beats are plainly heard, and the sound greatly resembles that of a small suction pump. One can hear a "chik-a-pung," "chik-a-pung" every time the blood passes through the valves.

Invariably I am asked, "What do you think about during a race?" Of outside matters hardly anything. I may think a little of the crowd; perhaps not. If I have a party of friends there I listen for their encouragement every time I pass. Of course I think of my opponents and if possible try to catch a glimpse of their features to see how they are holding out. I study my own condition and know how much I can stand at the finish.

Now we come to the last quarter. The race has been hot and I am tired. The applause of the crowd seems like a faraway murmur, and I can hardly hear my coacher on the side lines. The home stretch is reached and it needs one more effort. Here is the crucial test of strength and nerve. The faint hearted racer stops here and will not punish himself. Punishment is certainly his, and the race is an excellent mirror. The agony shown there is often startling, and in a great measure portrays the strain undergone.

The heart pounds like a sledgehammer, a heavy mist grows before the eyes, the ears buzz and ring like a sawmill, the lungs are overtaxed and breathing is hard indeed, a knife seems to be in one's stomach, and you can hardly stagger along. At last the tape is reached and the will power relaxes, the principal desire being to grab at anybody or anything for support and then nature asserts herself.

Frozen Eggs for Klondike.

A method of shipping eggs to the Klondike, which has proved successful in other directions, has been revived by a Portland man, says Ice and Refrigeration. The eggs are broken into cans, sealed up and frozen. The shipper intends to keep them in cold storage until their arrival at Dyea.

DIMINISHING STATURE.

Why the Armies of Europe Mainly a Minimum Standard of Five Feet.

This relation between stature and health is brought to concrete expression in the armies of Europe through a rejection of all recruits for service who fall below a certain minimum standard of height, generally about five feet. The result of this is to preclude the possibility of marriage for all the fully developed men during their three years in the barracks, while the undersized individuals, exempted from service on this account, are left free to propagate the species meanwhile. Is it not apparent that the effect of this artificial selection is to put a distinct premium upon inferiority of stature in so far as future generations are concerned? This enforced postponement of marriage for the normal man implies not merely that the children of normal families born later in life—that would not be of great moment in itself—it means far more than this. The majority of children are more often born in the earlier half of married life, before the age of 35. Hence a postponement of matrimony means not only later children, but fewer children. Herein lies the great significance of the phenomenon for us. Standing armies tend in this respect to overload succeeding generations with inferior types of men.

She Tames Wild Horses.

Miss Vaughan-Lewis is the byphenated name of the woman who can boast that she is the first of her sex to adopt the profession of horse breaking.

She is the daughter of a Welsh clergyman. At sixteen she had a reputation among his parishioners for her power over vicious and unmanageable animals. Then her father died and she was obliged to earn her own living. She went to Canada and soon had a number of clients, who kept her busy breaking their half-wild horses for them.

Now she has a farm near San Francisco. She can board twelve horses at a time. Three men servants and two women form her retinue. She breaks all the horses herself. By 6 o'clock every morning she is in the stable. She tames the most vicious brute and entirely without whip or spur. Her wrists are very strong, her patience inexhaustible and her will indomitable. These three qualifications, she says, are all that are needed to make a woman a success as a horse breaker.

Simon's Jail-Made Guitar.

"That necessity is the mother of invention was never more clearly shown than in Russellville, Ky., the other day," said a gentleman from Logan county.

"Simon Cannon, a negro, in jail at Russellville, has always been of a musical turn of mind, but when he was cast in the county bastle he found himself without his favorite guitar. Nothing daunted, the ingenious dave determined to try his hand at 'making something to play on,' as he expressed it. He took the tin pan in which his daily meal was brought and made the head of the banjo. A rough piece of poplar, smoothed with an old broken-bladed Barlow knife, was made into the neck and screws. He took 12 cents he had and bought five strings, and the odd-looking banjo was ready for the music-loving Simon. Jailor Morris says the jail bird can make the sweetest of music on his home-made 'gitar,' as Simon calls it."

Mr. Astor's Dining Table.

The cross-section of a California tree which William Waldorf Astor imported to England for a dining table top is fourteen and a half feet in diameter and one foot thick. It is a piece of beautiful timber, evenly grained and exquisitely polished, and forty guests may be seated about it with ample comfort and room to spare. It is to be arranged with a center-piece representing in miniature form the tree from which it was cut and as it originally stood. At its base will be a carved figure, proportionately small, with his axe engaged at the apparently hopeless task of cutting through its enormous girth.

A Shaved Cat Gives Himself Away.

A man in Paris has been making a good deal of money exhibiting a curious animal in the cafes chantant and such places. It was a very queer little animal, and the alert Parisians were willing enough to drop the petit gas for a sight of it. Still, look as they would, none could determine the creature's species. It was interesting, but it was baffling, and the exhibitor coined money. One day, however, a dog chanced to follow a curious beholder into a cafe chantant. Immediately the wondrous animal jumped its back like a diprinitic camel and began to hiss and spit! The mystery was solved! It was a shaved cat!

Insuring Frozen Meat.

Three of the largest New South Wales meat freezing and handling companies have formed an association to endeavor to localize and prevent damage to shipments of frozen meat, which damage has assumed most serious proportions during the last two years. The insurance companies are at present smarting under continuous and heavy claims which have resulted in raising their premiums about 20 per cent. The association seeks to attain its end by a thorough inspection of the refrigeration machinery on board the steamers, the condition of the meat and the temperatures of the hold.

So many automobile torpedoes, costing \$25,000 to \$30,000 each, have been lost by the navy in experimental work that boards will be appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending future losses.