

KING OF THE NIGGERS

ROLAND CREECH, EX-AMERICAN COWBOY, A POWER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

He is Cecil Rhodes' Right Hand Man—Dislikes Civilization—His Earnings Are Marvelous, and Although He Saves Little His Credit Is Unlimited.

After Cecil Rhodes and "Oom Paul" Kruger, the most interesting character in South Africa is an American Cowboy. His name is Roland H. Creech. Before emigrating to Johannesburg he lived at Butte, Mont., and as a product of the wild and woolly west he is a concrete type.

Though a resident of South Africa but five years, it is no exaggeration to say that Creech is now dividing honors with the great English pioneer in the matter of developing the lower end of the dark continent.

No prime ministers extract him from critical positions. No newspapers sound his praises. He is not famous. He may not figure in history.

But from the Zambesi to the Orange river over the breadth of Africa he is known as "King of the Niggers" and when Cecil Rhodes visits the province of Mozambique or Eastern Moshonaland he stays, not with the wealthy English merchants or the government officials, but in the modest abode of Roland Creech, wherever that may chance to be.

Mr. Rhodes' intense fancy for Creech is attributed to the latter's abruptness, his utter indifference to all conventionalities and to his value as a worker. Creech treats the man who holds the destinies of half a continent in his hands with very little more consideration than the blackest of his Basutos. The personality and career of this



ROLAND H. CREECH.

man is unique. He dislikes civilization. He hates to wear a collar. Yet his clothes are of the most expensive importations. He prefers broadcloth, and generally swims a river or wades in the dusty veldt the first day he puts on a new suit. After that it is discarded. It is a popular saying that one-half of Creech's niggers wear some of his clothes.

He seems to have no conception of the value of money. His earnings are marvelous. The bank at Beira stands ready to cash his check for 40,000 pounds (\$200,000). As a rule he has no savings, but his credit is good.

"This man Creech is never happy unless he is broke," remarked Jameson to Rhodes when the former left the telegraph job. "But I'll back him for any amount," the latter is said to have answered, "because we can't get along without him."

Creech got a start in South Africa by leading an expedition in to the Murchison Range, a new gold field north of the Transvaal. He discovered some rich claims and got hold of them for his company. He afterward went up the east coast. He walked inland for 200 miles, living on the spoils of his rifle, and eventually got in with Cecil Rhodes.

What Causes "Snakes."
The familiar symptoms of delirium tremens, known as the "snakes," have been made the subject of study, with some interesting results. It appears that what have been supposed to be hallucinations have a certain sort of evidence in fact. Certain blood vessels in the eyes become congested and assume a dark color. These, when they appear on the retina, which is ordinarily transparent, suggest to the nervous and overworked patient the presence of some moving, living creature. Imagination, of course, increases the nervousness, and finally the mind becomes so disordered that the form of an obnoxious creature is suggested. As these fancies grow by what they feed on, it is easy to see how creeping and crawling things may fill the soul of the victim with the most horrible sensations.

What Hissing Signifies.
Hissing means different things, according to where you happen to be at the time. In West Africa the natives hiss when they are astonished; in the New Hebrides when they see anything beautiful. The Basutos applaud a popular orator in the assemblies by hissing at him. The Japanese, again, show their reverence by a hiss, which is probably somewhat the force of the "hush" with which we command silence.

Natural gas has been flowing for ages in several sections of the Caucasian provinces bordering the Caucasian Sea. Many of these gas wells have constantly emitted flames for a period beyond the memory of living men, and are superstitiously spoken of as the "eternal fires."

CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

Some of the Many Peculiarities of the Mongolian Race.

The spirit of economy in the Chinese race transcends all that can be imagined. The smallest particle of matter is utilized. The old cast-off account book of the merchant is cut into pieces and oiled to serve instead of glass in windows or lanterns.

A coolie who has a six hours' march with a heavy burden will return to his point of departure without having broken his fast, in order to save the two cents his breakfast would have cost away from home.

Nothing is more curious than to see them eat, although with their famous chopsticks, they do not perform all the wonderful feats generally supposed. They put their food in bowls or saucers and with the chopsticks they raise the pieces of meat or fish to the mouth with sufficient grace.

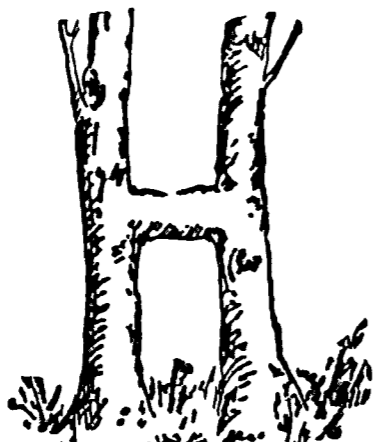
Each has a bowl of rice, which he holds near his lips, and with the aid of the chopsticks he pushes the contents into his mouth. It is curious to see them pick up with their chopsticks the grains of rice that fall on the ground. The children are taught this art from their earliest years, nothing must be lost, not even the smallest grain.

Europeans regard politeness as an expression of those qualities of the heart which render the person who desires to be polite agreeable to those with whom he is thrown. The Chinese look upon the matter from an entirely different standpoint. The same sentiment which accords importance to the preservation of dignity regulates his actions as regards politeness.

To determine your conduct when a Chinese offers you a present is the most difficult thing in the world. Certain things are not offered to be accepted, and others may not be refused peremptorily. In a general manner, nevertheless, one may accept, understanding perfectly that the gift must be returned a hundredfold.—St. Louis Republic.

A New Filament.
Dr. Auer von Welsbach, the distinguished inventor of the incandescent gas light which bears his name, announces a new incandescent filament for electric lights, which has been tried in Germany with startling results. This filament is made of osmium, one of the rarest of metals, which is not only the heaviest of known substances, but is practically infusible. From this circumstance it derives its value as a lighting filament. It may be subjected to any amount of heat and it remains unsoftened. Raised to the temperature at which platinum is almost instantly volatilized, it attains a luminosity hitherto unknown, emitting a white light of almost sunlike power.

Formed By Nature.
A correspondent of the Edinburgh Scotsman avers that in the den of Cowie, near Stonehaven, in Kincardineshire, there are two trees, with distinct tops and roots, but whose trunks are joined together in the curious fashion shown in the figure. "I have climbed the trees," he writes "when a boy and sat on the horizontal piece which is at a height of between four and five feet from the ground."



The question naturally arises: How has this singular connecting "link" between the two trees been established?

Cheap Chinese Papers.
Owing to the cheap quality of paper used for Chinese newspapers, and to the low price of labor, both literary and mechanical, the native papers are issued at an extremely small figure. The price of the ordinary Shanghai journal is four cash, or about one-fifth of a cent, while the paper called Shih Wu Pao, which is published in book form three times a month, is only about three cents.

A Great Record.
The Rev. Wesley Blakely, of Keystone, W. Va., is 107 years old. He has preached 7,768 sermons, baptized 6,023 people and married 1,817 couples in eighty-five years. He says he has 1,081 living descendants, embracing five generations. He served in the war of 1812. His first vote was for James Monroe. In 1896 he walked five miles to vote for McKinley.

New Tropical Terror.
A new terror is in store for travelers in tropical Africa, says the London correspondent of the Birmingham Post. Dr. Oscar Baumann is correct in his assertion that the domestic bee, which was at first only on the west coast of Africa, has spread across the continent, and has just made its appearance at Zanzibar.

A Big Pull.
A locomotive of the Pennsylvania railway recently drew a train about three-quarters of a mile long, made up of 130 loaded coal cars, from Altoona to Harrisburg, 132 miles, in twelve hours. The weight of the train behind the tender was 5,312 tons, the locomotive weighing 104 tons. Even locomotives have a big "pull" occasionally.

Japanese cities have in every quarter public kitchens, where poor families, for a trifling sum, cook their meals

ELECTRICITY TRAP.

AN INVENTION WHICH WILL REVOLUTIONIZE LIGHTING AND HEATING.

A Brick Tower One Hundred Feet High—The Electric Fluid to Follow Its Natural Tendency and Run Through a Cable to the Earth.

Dr. William M. Gross, of Gillespie, N. Y., is preparing to set a trap for the earth's wild electricity. He will build a tower 100 feet high. At that altitude, he believes, this strange, unseen but serviceable force attains its greatest strength. He will enmesh it with a spangle of thin wires, carry it down by a strong cable to the earth and shackle it with the chains of science.

Lighting and heating and even the methods of war will be revolutionized. There will be "millions in it" for somebody and the high noon of the electrical age will have been reached. The tower will be built substantially of brick. A wire nearly half an inch in



DR. W. M. GROSS. diameter will run through the center of it to the top. On the end of a bunch of small wires will be exposed to the atmosphere. These spangles will arrest the electricity in the air. The tendency is for it to seek the earth. It will descend the wire. At the base of the tower will be the induction generator to divert the current and prevent it from shooting in to the earth. The visible feature of the induction generator is a revolving disk, which, in order to effect induction, must travel in the reverse direction faster than the earth.

Points on Food.
Cheese is a good example of concentrated food value, being one-third protein, one-third fat and one-third water.

Wheat flour, cornmeal and oatmeal when compared show that oatmeal has most protein and fat than the others. It is a bone and muscle-producing food.

A quart of milk, three-quarters of a pound of moderately fat beef and five ounces of wheat flour all contain about the same amount of nutritive material—protein, fat, carbohydrate and mineral matter.

Oysters contain very little nutriment. Oysters in shell are four-fifths waste, the one-fifth remaining being water, with an almost imperceptible amount of protein. Even oysters without the shell show so little food value that one wonders why we eat them at all. They are easily digested, however, and add pliancy to a meal.

Potatoes are way down in the list of good foods, for they are mostly water and their is very little nutriment in them. It takes three and one-half pounds of potatoes to equal one pound of rice so far as food value goes. The turnip alone outranks the potato in the amount of water it contains—it is nine-tenths water. The great trouble with the potato is its excess of starch, necessitating the eating of great quantities to produce nutritive results.—Exchange.

A Blind Prodigy.
Kokomo, Ind., has a blind prodigy who took his cottage organ to the Court House Square, tore it down and put it together in three hours. The organ contains 255 pieces, including keys and reeds. After he reconstructed the organ he played upon it. Not long ago the town clock in the City Hall tower got out of order, and the blind man climbed to the clock, 185 feet, and repaired it. His name is William Brinkman.

Unique Souvenir.
Commodore Philip has sent a unique souvenir to the Governor of Texas as a testimony of the loyalty and efficiency of the battleship which was christened after that State. He had taken one of the armor plates which was pierced by a six-inch projectile from the guns of the Vizcaya and has framed it in handsome style, to be hung as a memento in the State House at Austin.

Live Without Exercise.
Most of the Chinese mandarins pass the whole of their lives without taking a single yard of exercise. The late Nanking viceroy (father of the Marquis Tseng) was considered a remarkable character because he always walked 1,000 steps a day in his private garden. Under no circumstances whatever is a mandarin ever seen on foot in his own jurisdiction.

A Strange River.
One of the strangest streams in the world is in East Africa. It flows in the direction of the sea, but never reaches it. Just north of the equator and when only a few miles from the Indian Ocean, it flows into a desert, where it suddenly and completely disappears.

Nicknames of States.
The nicknames of some of the new States are: South Dakota, Swing Cat State; Washington, Chinook State; North Dakota, Flicker-tail State; Montana, Stib-toe State; Nebraska, Blackwater State; Nevada, Silver State.

Steinway, Ivers & Pond, Sterling, Crown and Other High Grade

PIANOS



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Do Not Experiment

With new-named Pianos that are unknown and equally uncertain qualities—the dealer who does his trade will suffer the consequences. Somebody's got to pay for mistakes.

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The best Piano business in Rochester is ours. Why? Because we sell reliable Pianos.

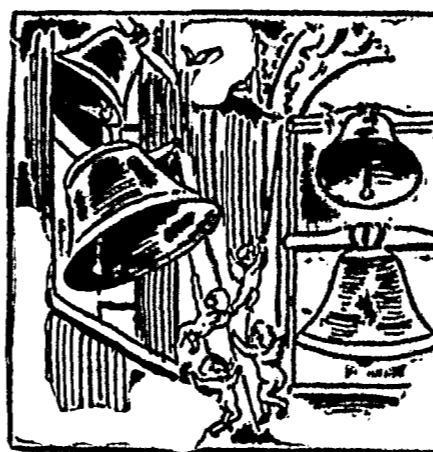
We are the only Music House in Rochester that does not sell Stenciled Pianos. The line of Pianos we represent and our unparalleled success has no doubt worried other dealers. It has come to a denial that some persons think we are connected with another firm of similar name. We desire to most emphatically deny it and to ask the public not to confound the old firm with the one next door to us. See that the sign reads J. W. MARTIN & BRO. Look for the drum above the door.

The shrewd buyer who is willing to profit by a sensible suggestion will buy Pianos that bear time-honored names. Better buy a slightly used Piano of a reliable make than a cheap Stenciled Piano made to sell at a low price.

Bargains for This Week.

Weber Grand, good as new, perfect condition \$450 D. S. Fry & Co. Chokering Square
Sohmer Grand, perfect condition, taken in exchange for Crown Orchestral Piano \$400 Emerson Square
Stults & Bauer \$175 5 good High-Top Organs, from \$15 to \$25
Haines Bros. \$150

Aeolians, to close them out, little more than half-price.



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GEMS AND THEIR STORY.

Some Pretty Stones and Tales Connected With Them.

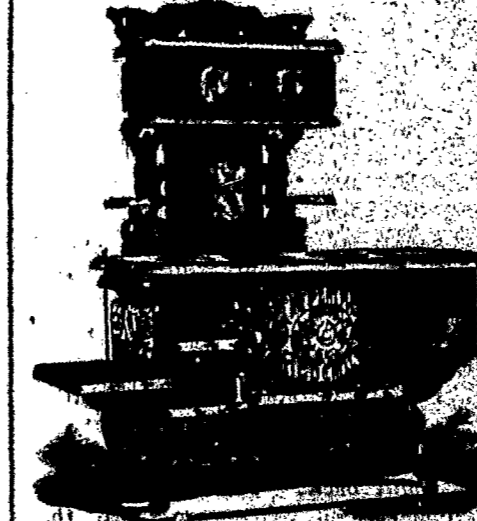
Who could wish for a prettier stone than the delicate blue turquoise, the gem which in Russia is set in every engagement ring, and with which the wearer must never part if she values the love and fidelity of the giver? It is said to be far more precious if given and not bought, and is credited to change color when the wearer is sick or sorry or when danger is near. Its meaning is success and faithfulness.

The topaz is much valued by mariners, because it is supposed to possess an inner radiance which will give light in darkness, and if worn around the neck will act as a charm against magic spells, will banish melancholy and calm terror and madness. Therefore, it behooves every maid to see that a topaz is among her possessions.

Another exquisite gem is the opal, its beautiful creamy surface lit with red, blue and yellow rays scintillating in the light and giving it a place in the front rank of precious stones. Unfortunately, the opal has a bad name, and we know the proverb about the dog with the unlucky cognomen. Superstition credits this beautiful stone with bringing misfortune to its owner, and superstition will win its way so long as the world lasts.

Next we come to pearls, the costly product of the pearl fish of the Persian Gulf. These lovely gems are obtained from the bed of the sea by divers, who bring up as many of the oyster-like shells as they can, and then place them in heaps on the shore covered with sand. They are left for several days while the fish decay and the shells open, after which the sand is sifted and the pearls found. They are then cleaned and polished. The value of the pearl depends on its size, roundness, color and brightness. The most renowned pearls were the two which formed Cleopatra's earrings, one of which she dissolved in a goblet of vinegar and drank to the health of her guest, Marc Antony.

The remaining pearl became the property of the Emperor Augustus, who had it cut in two for earrings for his daughter Julia.



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