

WORLD OVER: PEN PICTURES OF TRAVEL

Beauties of the Irish Rain

NATURE IN THE EMERALD ISLE.....BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE

I must allow that it sometimes rains in Ireland, but Irish rain is not quite like other rain. It is, as a rule, softer than rain elsewhere; and, if the truth must be told, I like rain, so long as one has not to say, "For the rain it raineth every day." Irish weather is not so much capricious as coquettish. It likes to plague you, if but to prepare you to enjoy its more sunny, melting mood. It will weep and wail all night, and lo! the next morning Ireland is one sweet smile, and seems to say, "Is it raining I was yesterday? Ah, then, I'll rain no more." And the runnels leap and laugh, and the pastures and even stone walls glisten; the larks carol on their celestial journey; there is a pungent, healthy smell of drying peat; the mountains are all dimpled with the joy of life and sunshine; the lake lies perfectly still, content to reflect the overhanging face of heaven; and just won't your honor buy the stoutest pair of home-made hose from a bare-footed, bare-headed daughter of dethroned kings, with eyes like dew-drops and a voice that would charm the coin out of the most churlish purse? If, on such mornings as these, you do not lose your heart to Ireland, it must be made of stern, unimpressible stuff, indeed.

British Power in Africa

EUROPE IN AFRICA*....ELIZABETH WORMELEY LATIMER

It seems impossible to understand the past or present history of English power in South Africa without some knowledge of the geography of its various States, and of their present different forms of government. First there is Cape Colony, the presiding State, which, ever since 1852, has had its own parliament, but not until 1872 a cabinet responsible to that body. It has, besides, a governor appointed by the crown, the office being held at present by Sir Hercules Robinson, who is, besides, Imperial High Commissioner for South Africa. There is a small property qualification required for voters. A man who can sign his name, write his address, and has property worth seventy-five pounds, or a salary to that amount, can vote for his representative in the House of Assembly without regard to race, color or condition. The native races in Cape Colony are the Bushmen, the Hottentots, and the Bantu or Kaffirs; the two former races are dying out, in consequence of association with civilization, but the latter thrives. In 1865 a large territory called Kaffraria was united to Cape Colony; and other colonies have been "taken over," as it is called, by degrees; that is, they become crown colonies, and send representatives to the Cape Town parliament; previously they were British protectorates; that is, their own chiefs and headmen carried on home rule, subject to interference by a British resident, who kept the chiefs in order. Before, however, a province became a protectorate, it formed part of the British "sphere of influence," extending to the line of limitation marked out by treaty with other European powers. No foreign power may intrude upon this "sphere of influence," but it is expected that Great Britain or its chartered company of

South Africa, to whom it has delegated its powers in this "sphere," will visibly establish its authority within its bounds as speedily as possible.

North of Cape Colony is the Orange River, which is the southern boundary of the German "sphere of influence" in Western Africa.

East of German territory, and north of Orange River, lies British Bechuanaland, which is under three kinds of government: the southern part is a crown colony; the centre a protectorate; the north, containing Mashonaland and Matabeleland, is a "sphere of influence," given over to the chartered company, which is doing its utmost to develop its resources.

Cape Colony is washed on the west by the Atlantic, and southeast by the Indian Ocean, but on its east side, just south of Natal, is a small native State, Pondoland, which is enclosed on three sides by British territory, and on its remaining border has a seacoast with a fine port called St. Johns, which was reserved by treaty to Cape Colony. An English resident is stationed there. The present chief of Pondoland is a young man whose grandfather was one of the most savage tyrants on record, even in Africa.

North of Cape Colony, on the eastern coast, is Natal, a State which, in 1893, acquired "responsible" government. The Drakenberg chain of mountains runs down this part of Africa, one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles from the sea, and forms the western boundary of Natal. The climate of Natal is tropical for about fifteen miles from the coast, but beyond this it becomes temperate as the land rises in a series of terraces, ending in a lofty tableland.

North of Natal, with a long coast line but no seaport, lies Zululand, now under British protection. To its north, on the borders of the Portuguese "sphere of influence," lies a small district called Anatongaland or Tongaland; while wedged into the South African Republic (or Transvaal) is Swaziland, which has recently been annexed to the Dutch Republic.

Hemmed in by Tongaland, Zululand, and Swaziland, to which it afforded an exit to Delagoa Bay, is a tiny strip of land which has cost diplomats much trouble. Till lately it was occupied by three chiefs, one of them a woman. Within a few months it has been assigned to England, to the great annoyance of the Boers, who wanted to find an outlet through it to the sea, their country lying entirely inland.

Portuguese territory in East Africa, with a long coast line, lies north and east of the "sphere of British influence" and east of the South African Republic. It possesses Delagoa Bay, which receives the Limpopo and other rivers. Lorenzo Marquez, a fine seaport, is on this bay. We used to call the country Mozambique and Monomotapa.

West of the Drakenberg, and north of the River Vaal, lies the Transvaal or South African Republic, whose largest town is Johannesburg, but its capital is Pretoria.

South of the Vaal, and north of the Orange River, which has its rise in the Drakenberg, is another little Dutch Republic—Orange Free State. Its capital is Bloemfontein.

West of Orange Free State, lying north of the Orange

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