

## NEW TARIFF BILL.

### ITS PRINCIPAL FEATURES ARE EXCELLENT.

Necessaries of Life Cheapened, Free Iron Materials to the Front, Securities and Subsidies to the Rear—The Bill Should Be Passed.

#### A Commendable Measure.

The Ways and Means tariff bill, which will probably be known as the Wilson bill, is, on the whole, a satisfactory response to the demands of the country. The Democratic administration and the Democratic majorities in the two houses of Congress were chosen to give relief from the high taxation imposed by the McKinley act, and this bill is the response to the country's desire.

The first, because the most universal, demand was that the necessities of life should be made cheaper to the people by the abolition of taxes on the materials used by American manufacturers and on the tools of agriculture and trade. The bill is fully satisfactory in this respect. In making the additions to the free list the Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee have shown a commendable consideration. They have refused to heed the protests and outcries of protected interests in their own districts. This is especially true of the Chairman of the committee, who, in his district, contains many coal and iron mines, and whose constituents clamored loudly against the abolition of the tariff taxes on coal and on iron ore. But the duties on coal and on iron ore are an annual tax on manufacturers of more than \$1,750,000, and have closed up many furnaces and iron and steel mills in New England. Cheap ore and pig iron lie at the basis of our industries, and Mr. Wilson and his associates have sought the good of the whole.

With the taxes removed from these articles, there is every reason to believe, from the present state of the metal market, that American iron masters will soon control the iron and steel trade of the world. In the not remote future, when Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Alabama themselves will find free ore and coal beneficial.

The remainder of the free list additions are directly for the relief of the people who are bearing the more serious burden of the present tariff. Not only are wools made free, but the tax on wearing apparel is also repealed. Clothes are to be cheaper. Fuel, lumber, stone and structural iron that go into houses, the tools of the mechanic, the machinery and implements of the farmer are to be made cheaper. The monopolies that were fostered by the taxes on cotton ties and binding twine are to have their hold on their victims loosened. Sham reciprocity, which, untaxing foreigners only, raised the price of coffee and extended the area of protection under the pretense of granting relief to commerce, is to be abandoned.

The bounty on sugar is to be withdrawn gradually, and the tax on refined sugar is to be reduced. The most disappointing feature of the new bill is the sugar schedule. Most Democrats will say that the bounty ought to have been taken away at once, for such a tax is directly hostile to American institutions and especially to Democratic principles. Many difficulties, however, stood in the way of radical treatment. The sugar growers of the country protested against being suddenly stripped of all protection. They argued that they would be discriminated against; that while other protected interests were to have their favors withdrawn gradually it was proposed to cut off the sugar bounty at once and after the growers had arranged business with their customers to it. In order to satisfy these people and their representatives in Congress, who were for the bill otherwise, the plan of gradual withdrawal of the bounty was adopted. It is a compromise concerning which some might say that it is a concession to the reduction of the rate on refined sugar will be a blow at the trust, but not a serious one.

The bill generally is excellent. It has been prepared with great care and entire conscientiousness, and is far, perhaps as far as it is possible to go at once, toward a complete fulfillment of Democratic pledges. When it passes and becomes a law, a new and brighter era will begin for American commerce.—New York World.

**Immediate Tariff Reduction.** The following quotations are from A. Augustus Healy's article, in the December Forum, and are further proof for immediate tariff reduction:

"The present time is most opportune for changing the tariff. The financial panic through which we have passed, and by its attendant disaster and suffering, has furnished a golden opportunity for putting the tariff on a new basis with the least possible displacement and loss.

"The great majority of manufacturers are not at all afraid of a lower tariff. It will in reality be a great boon to them. But they policy, if they are patient to know what it is to be in all its details.

"The new tariff should be put into effect as soon as possible, in order that it may have time to vindicate itself and establish itself in the favor of the people before the Congressional elections of 1894. The permanency of the reform may be involved in having this done.

"I have every confidence that a wise tariff law, such as we may reasonably expect at the hands of the present Ways and Means Committee, if put into operation by the 1st of January, 1894, will find great favor in the eyes of the people before the Congressional elections of next year, and will continue to give universal satisfaction until, with general consent, the business of the country shall be prepared for a further reduction of duties; thus repeating the history of the low Walker tariff of 1846, which, having brought property to the country during a period of ten years, was further reduced in 1857. Mr. Blaine tells us in his 'History' that 'this act (the tariff of 1857) was well received by the people, and, indeed, was concurred in by a considerable proportion of the Republican party.'

"It seems clear to me that to postpone the revision of the tariff is to postpone the revival of prosperity by introducing uncertainty, as a constant element, in a large class of industries. On the other hand, the prompt passage of a new tariff bill would clear up all doubt; business would at once adapt itself to new conditions; our merchants and manufacturers would have courage and confidence to undertake new and large enterprises, and with a more liberal commercial policy, it is probable that we should at once enter upon a long course of business prosperity.

"The people of the United States are inclined to favor that party which is able to accomplish results. They desire prompt action at the hands of their representatives in carrying into effect needed legislation.

**One National Republic.**

While the free-listing of these and other articles reduces the revenues

about twenty-two millions, it is better, the revenue question apart, that some of them should be duty free. This is the case with wool, for reasons which this paper has stated repeatedly. The removal of the duty on lumber will be followed by increased importations from Canada, the destruction of the American forests, which has been progressing so rapidly, will be checked. The tariff protection of those forests has contributed to their untimely destruction. That free iron ore will increase the iron-ore man of the United States will be questioned. What the effect of the removal of the duty on coal will be time will show.—Chicago Tribune.

**Taxes According to Value.** It is plain that the ad valorem or "according to value" style of duty is much more equitable than the fixed or specific style of duty. Rich people naturally like the specific style of duty more than that of the other, as under it they are not required to pay their proper share of taxation. It is to the great advantage of the poorer classes to have ad valorem duties on everything, as then they are not required to pay their own share of taxation and a considerable slice of the rich man's share as well. The inferior qualities of goods which poor people buy are not any longer to be taxed two, three or four times as highly as the fine qualities of goods in the same line which millionaires buy.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

**Understands His Business.** George A. Macbeth, a lamp chimney manufacturer of Pittsburgh, talks like a man of courage, enterprise and American spirit of the new tariff bill. There has been too much tariff, "he says, "and if it were taken of altogether it would be a good thing, which other manufacturers cannot see now, but will later. Without a tariff on the finished product the markets of the world would be open to us. We are nothing in our business for foreign competition. Labor-saving machinery, skilled workmen and all the natural benefits we possess give the Americans an advantage in manufacturing which no other country possesses. That is the American spirit which wins and conquers.

**Tax the Income.** THERE are no sound reasons advanced sufficient to justify the defeat of this species of taxation.—Nashville American.

It is just, will keep down discontent among people on whom taxation is a burden and will make the rich more secure in their property holdings.—Washington (Ga.) Chronicle.

The income tax is opposed by many of the "goldbugs" upon the ground that it is inequitable, but as all taxes are inequitable, it is burdensome this argument should not prevent the lawmakers from placing it upon the statute books.—Bangor Commercial.

**Our Consul at Chemnitz** finds that the income tax in Saxony has worked very successfully, and that in the main it has benefited and certainly resulted, with little loss and less complaint. It would be our own fault if we were not to make our income tax popular.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**We need the income tax** to make good the deficiency in the Treasury now existing and likely to continue, and to equalize taxation. Under the present system taxes are so unequally distributed that the wealthy bondholder may escape while his poor neighbor pays more than his just part.—Atlantic Constitution.

**Push the Bill Through.** Let the tariff bill become a law before Mr. Cleveland's first year in office expires.—St. Louis Republic.

The Wilson bill ought to pass both branches of Congress without material modification or unnecessary delay.—Kansas City Star.

SINCE the tariff must be changed, the one imperative duty is to perfect the change as promptly as possible. Some business must be done in the meantime, but no large engagements can be entered into until these questions are settled.—Philadelphia Times.

The Wilson bill, which is destined to supersede the iniquitous McKinley measure, is now ready for the action of Congress. Rush it through with a will, and the great disaster is averted. It is the greatest source of harm in tariff legislation.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Another Great Ship Canal.** The great canal between the North and Baltic seas is fast approaching completion, and the engineers say that it will be opened to traffic next year. It has no locks or sluices along its course, but at each end there are gates regulating the water level in the canal. The average level will be the same as that in the Baltic. The bed of the canal is 27 feet below normal water level and it has a bottom width of 80 yards. The slope of the sides is either two to one or three to one, and the least depth of water is to be about 13 feet deep. The Baltic trading steamers generally draw less water than this depth, and the canal will be such that they can easily pass in the canal. The greatest amount of curvature is made with a radius of 3,000 feet, and 63 per cent. of the canal is straight. During the summer about 5,000 men have been at work on the great dig, and up to the present time about 100,000 cubic yards of excavation have been completed at an expense of about \$17,500,000. The entire cost of the canal is estimated at \$39,000,000, of which sum Prussia contributes \$12,500,000 and the German Empire the balance.

**The Making of Fly Paper.** The substance used in the sticky paper employed to catch flies is a kind of bird lime. The regular bird lime is made from the bark of the holly by boiling it and condensing the product until it is about the consistency of molasses. It is the stickiest stuff known to the chemist. A fly that touches the paper never gets away to tell the tale; a bird that lights on the twig has been secured with it and finds escape an impossibility. The use of it is on paper to destroy insects in an Indian invasion. In Hindostan flies and mosquitoes make life a burden, and without the sheets of sticky paper hung everywhere about the roof and on the walls, existence would be a misery.

**An Income Like a Vanderbilt's.** Dean Hoffman, of the General Theological Seminary, New York, has an income as large as that of Cornelius Vanderbilt. He inherited most of his property, which is in the form of city real estate. The Hoffman House, containing the celebrated barroom, contains principally this property, and he has a million to the church, and his brother, Dr. Charles F. Hoffman, built All Saints Church, endowed it and gave it to the parish.

## WHAT WOMEN WEAR.

### STYLES FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LOOK PRETTY.

Evidences of the Styles of Louis XIII. Appearing on the Fashionable Horizon—The Irresponsible Overstitch is Coming—Sleeves Growing in Size.

#### Many New Modes.

APID are the changes of styles nowadays, and the latest scanning of the fragments of modes discovers the fashions of Louis XIII. on the horizon. This means an accession of dignity and grace. A few characteristics of the period to be reviewed are as follows: Bodices, with long points in front and out high on the hips; skirts of the same material as the bodice open in front over a contrasting petticoat; shoulders are sloping, and sleeves puffed to great size emphasize the sloping effect. Suggestions of all this are already appearing. We may expect soon to see stiffened collars of muslin and lace that extend smoothly from the throat away out over the shoulders, adding to their slope. Such collars are also worn with low-neck dresses, being set into the edge of the gown's neck. The richest needlework will be used on the accessories, and they will be fastened usually with Vandyke points. Cuffs likewise turn back from the wrists, being narrow at the hand and spreading over the sleeves half way to the elbow. Over loose cuffs the effect of an under sleeve loosely turned back. Many delicate ties are put together in gowns, and stomachers richly jeweled will be worn. Already some are for sale in jet, gilt, and embroidery. Evening gowns will have long sleeves. Ribbons will trim everything, as in the days of Louis XIII. when every one was "ribbon mad." Skirts will be moderately full, and their spread will be much reduced.

As has been said, these styles are only on the horizon, and whether they will rise to the zenith or sink out of sight for a long, long time like a Northern

way winter sun is as yet not determined. Pretty gowns in the current styles like those in the first two pictures are for the present safer models. The first of these is a dress of brown velvet with a wide, full skirt, and a plain and very full. The front and cuffs are of brown velvet with brocade designs in buttercup tones. The draped belt is of surah and the front is set off by a jabot of cream lace. The other dress is designed to be a clinging costume and is made from holotone velvet and jet passementerie. The skirt is three and a half yards wide, and snug at the hips. The trimming consists of three bands of velvet heavily embroidered with jet beads. The bodice has a fitted lining over which the stuff is draped, and the fronts may have the usual darts or the fullness can be pushed under the vertical bands of embroidery used for adornment. The belt is made of the same material as the skirt and is hemmed on both sides, and the jacket is velvet and reaches to the top of the belt at the back and sides, while the fronts terminate in sharp points. It is lined with silk, and its revers are faced with cloth and garnished with jet embroidered velvet. The standing collar is hidden by a Henry II. ruffling of white marabout feathers.

The last bodice runs to perpendicular divisions, but there is a tendency just now which prompts women to get herself into any number of zones horizontally, giving each zone a different color. Her cape or collar will be one color and material, the rest of her bodice another, and the skirt will show two or more shades of color. The skirt, zonally, but you never see dresses made with one color and the other side a contrasting shade. Sleeves may be different in color and material from the rest of the gown, but they are always like each other. It is to be hoped that mention of these facts will not suggest another phase for fashion's frenzy to follow.

The little girl's apron next shown runs to stripes, too, but in this case the up and down divisions are only the pattern of the bodice which comprises it.

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coarse netting for the ruching around the skirt and tulle insertion embroidered with gold. The skirt has a slight train, is lined with silk, and garnished with bands of gold-embroidered tulle. It is finished with revers forming an upright ruching on the shoulders, the collar being cut in connection with the plastron, which is edged with tulle. The lace fans out separately to fasten on the shoulder. The sleeves have balloon puffs edged with a gray ruffle trimmed with a tulle ruching and long cuffs of gold or embroidered tulle.

Overskirts have not yet interfered with the smooth fit about the hips. An especially pretty sort is out with a long point reaching to a little below the knees in front, and shortening at the sides it is closely closed to the figure, while at the neck, where it is hardly more than a little frill, it stands out full. The whole overdress is edged with a deep lace frill, and put on separately to the last fans out prettily at the sides and back, and hangs almost to

the hem in front. The underskirt has three frills of narrow lace at the foot. Rich and heavy black lace is used on the fourth costume sketched to cover the yellow satin bretelles, the whole being edged with a narrow jet fringe. The bodice is designed for those of middle age, and is made from black satin duchesse striped with yellow. The bretelles form a round collar in back and leave the top of the bodice open. The standing collar is finished with yellow lace and edged with a ruching made of yellow crepe de chine. The sleeves have a large puff shirred near the elbow to form a puffing or ruching tied with black satin ribbon having a yellow plect edge. The bottom of the bodice is finished with a ruching of yellow lace and edged with a ruching made of yellow crepe de chine. The sleeves have a large puff shirred near the elbow to form a puffing or ruching tied with black satin ribbon having a yellow plect edge. The bottom of the bodice is finished with a ruching of yellow lace and edged with a ruching made of yellow crepe de chine.

The bodice is slightly pointed in front and back and the basque stops about four inches from the center on each side, thus leaving the front open for about eight inches. This full skirt is covered with a narrow pointed belt of yellow and black ribbon held in place by a yellow rosette on either side. The skirt is lined with yellow silk and trimmed on the inside with a black lace frill. Both sides of the skirt are applied panels of yellow satin covered with jet embroidered tulle and held in place by rosettes, one near the bottom, the other thirty inches higher.

Sleeves are many of them made with puff spreading anonymously at the elbow, and even though the puff is narrower on the inside of the arm than on the outside, the woman who wears them must stand with her hand on her hips or crush her sleeves. As for getting into a coat well, no armhole is made big enough for such puffs to get through either way. The elbow sleeves on the dress worn by the standing figure in the last illustration are of this order, and the wearer is shown with her left arm set akimbo. Such sleeves will make their presence felt, and the woman wearing them will be pretty apt, when not herself on view, to take up an attitude which relieves her mind of them. This dress is made of lilac broche silk, with the panels, and the bodice is of black velvet. The front is pale-yellow crepe de chine embroidered with velvet applique. The other gown of the same picture is in myrtle-green crepon, trimmed with velvet of the same shade. Collar, crosswise band on the bodice, and the

torso around the skirt are of the velvet and the basque is of crepon. Choker collars fastening in the back have a wing-like piece turned over at the top edge of collar, and this edge stands out stiff and flat and is very stylish, uncomfortable and perishable. Collarettes of velvet are finished with this sort of throat-locket, the whole being lined with a silk contrasting in color, which shows at the turn-over place. No protection is worn inside the edge of any collar or sleeve, and the idea seems to be that a gown will of course be worn so short a time that protection for the lining at the neck and sleeves is unnecessary. At the same time, the latest fashion is to always wear collars and cuffs if they like. Yes, verily, she has taken to herself the privilege till now monopolized by her brothers, and she means to wear the shirt front all winter. She, too, has discovered that her summer-like appearance, produced only, and having shared with her brothers the delights of roasting in a "bolled shirt" in the summer, she is now going to be comfortable in one in the winter. But it will look queer to see a shirt front peeping from the loosened seal-skin sacque.

(Copyright, 1893.)

**Some Long Days.** The longest day of the year at Spitzbergen is three and one-half months. At Wardburg, Norway, the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 22 without intermission. At Tornea, Finland, June 21 is twenty-two hours long, and Christmas has less than three hours of daylight. At St. Petersburg the longest day is nineteen hours and the shortest is five hours.

**Exit "After the Ball."** "After the Ball" has about run its course, and like all the old favorites, will soon pass. It is a song that has succeeded in popular favor by "Daisy," a German tune set to English words by a London composer. It has three verses, and is perhaps the first song that has the bicycle for a hero.

**THE MATABELE KING.** LOBENGULA THE CORPULANT SOUTH AFRICA RULER.

He is Possessed of Great Force of Character, But is an Excessively Cruel Monarch.

Lobengula, the Matabel King, whose trouble with the British troops in South Africa has called general attention to that part of the world, is the son of the deceased Masikatzatze, the conqueror of the natives who had long held possession of the country now known as Matabeland and the Mashona country. After they had been subdued he took up his residence at Inyati and formed a large military kraal now known as Ixatyas, where Lobengula was born. Masikatzatze, known also as Umelekatzatze, ruled his people with a rod of iron, and kept an army of 8,000 warriors, and could bring more into the field if required. He was a king who knew how to rule his turbulent subjects; a splendid warrior himself, he took care that his troops should be so likewise.

He died in 1869, and at his death, after some dispute about who should be his successor, Lobengula was proclaimed King with great rejoicing. Warriors to the number of 10,000 assembled to do homage to their new King. From that time up to the present he has held undisputed possession of the throne. He took up his residence at Bulawayo, situated some sixty miles south of Inyati, which he formed into a large military station, and where he has since resided.

Lobengula is a man of great force of character; his will is iron, and it would be death to any of his subjects to dispute his authority. It is by this iron will that he is able to rule his people. He is tall and well proportioned, but very corpulent. His royal wife died many years ago, leaving Lobengula a widower, with some forty or fifty wives to console him for his loss. There are no children living by his royal wife, although he has several daughters by his others. Some years ago he married a daughter of the King of Gashaland, which adjoins the Mashona country. Previously to this marriage his sister Nuala ruled his household, and was devoted to her brother. Not unnaturally, perhaps, she became very jealous at her brother's marriage, and a fact which displeased him. To get rid of the annoyance, therefore, Lobengula has her smothered.

His cruelty, indeed, knows no bounds. It is by his orders that the constant raids upon the Mashona people are made. Up on the slightest pretext he orders certain regiments to proceed to a particular kraal, where several indunas and some 600 or 800 Mashonas are living in supposed security. The regiments attack them in the night, killing all the men and women and the children over a certain age and bringing the younger ones back with them, together with such booty and cattle as they can lay their hands on. The King divides out the cattle to the regiments who have acted on the occasion, reserving a certain number for himself. The children are distributed among his people. They soon forget their nationality and as they grow up are incorporated in the Matabel nation. Yet with all this ferocity in his nature, and a cruelty surpassing imagination, one would fancy, to see him sitting on the box in front of his wagon indulging in his lunch of fried bullock liver out into immense pieces, that he was a fat but inoffensive old man. There is a certain look in his eyes, however, that is an unmistakable sign of the man. Lobengula is exceedingly clever, but he is full of duplicity. He can read a man's character after a few minutes' conversation with him, and will detect instantly if a man is playing him false. I only know of one good quality possessed by him—he is fond of children. Lobengula himself took a burning piece of wood from the fire and destroyed the eyes and nose of one of his men because he threw a stone at a child and knocked out its teeth; this was witnessed by one of the traders.

A short time ago he ordered a young Kaffir to be killed for pulling a straw out of the thatch of one of his huts. No one is allowed to touch these on pain of death. There is no doubt about his ordering the deaths of Captain Patterson, Mr. Sargeant (son of Sir W. Sargeant), and young Mr. Thomas (son of the Rev. Mr. Thomas, Bishop), while on their way to the Victoria Falls. They were warned that foul play was intended, but they would not believe the report. When their death was reported to the King he said to some of the white traders, "Now Captain Patterson is dead the agreement goes for nothing." They had previously entered into some agreement with the King, which he afterwards regretted, and he disposed of the matter in the way we have just mentioned. No documents were found on the bodies, but on another occasion, which will be last out of many more I could relate, a large impi went into the Mashona country, where they killed all the old people, making some of the women and big girls carry the plunder to the boundary, where they made them put the things down on the ground and then killed them, that they might not run away. They were brought into Matabeland. The children, who soon forgot the land they had left, were preserved.

**LIKE A HEART IN HIS LEG.** An Interesting Operation on a St. Louis Patient.

Dr. Marks, Superintendent of the City Hospital, on a heart out of a man's leg the other day. Instead of being necessary to the patient's existence, the heart usually is, this organ was a very dangerous possession and was likely to end his life at any moment. The heart was almost as large as the one usually found inside a man's ribs, and beat in very much the same manner. It was situated upon the inside of the right leg, four or five inches above the knee, and was more tender than the ball of the owner's eye.

Charles Gentry, a laborer, was the owner of this very remarkable organ. To the surgeons the phenomenon is called a traumatic aneurism of the femoral artery. This artery is the big blood feeding pipe that runs from the heart down through the body and leg, furnishing life to the different parts of the anatomy as it goes. About two months ago Gentry was struck upon the leg just over the artery by a shaft of a piece of machinery. The inner wall of the artery was burst, and the big pipe began to bulge out at this point. The outer wall, or coat of the artery, luckily stretched and held the blood, or Gentry would have bled to death in no time. The artery kept on swelling with every pulsation of the patient's heart from the force of the bulge grew and grew until it was larger than a man's fist. How the artery managed to stand it without bursting was a matter for wonder even to the surgeons. The least touch given to the skin over the swelling caused Gentry horrible pain, and he was obliged to keep very still lest any sudden movement or contact would break and by the

**WASTE ABOARD BIG SHIPS.** Knives, Dishes, Table Linen & China Thrown Overboard.

A man came over on the big Cunarder Campania last trip who, being of an inquiring turn of mind, used his eyes and ears to good advantage all the way, and he expressed to a reporter the most unqualified amusement of the constant wholesale waste of valuable material.

"I don't think so much of the stewards' selling saloon fare to the steerage," he said, "because the food would be thrown overboard anyway, and the stewards, or 'funkies' as the seamen call them, may well make something of it if they can. Their pay is small, so the transaction results in substantial benefit to them. A great many persons come over in the steerage because they don't care what their accommodations are so long as they get good food, and they are pretty sure of being able to buy that from the stewards. Of course, I fear the square thing to do; but what I wondered the most at was the utter disregard for the ship's outfit.

"For instance, a steward would take down to the steerage a dozen dishes and plates of choice food in a large bucket, carefully covered so the contents would not be seen. Of course the bucket contained silver forks, spoons, knives and very often silver vegetable and dessert dishes and individual china, the silver and glass pots. When the food was eaten the china and silver went back to the bucket and the whole business was quietly dropped into the refuse chute and down into the sea! I've seen as many as ten buckets taken down by the same number of stewards three and four times a day throughout a trip, and in every case the crockery, silverware and bucket went overboard. No man may take my word for it that anything a steward carries below never gets back to its proper quarters again, not only because of the risk of detection but because of the trouble.

"I doubt, though, if the risk is very great, for some of the officers are themselves exceedingly careless and destructive. I've seen large, brand new, handsome blankets taken into an officer's room for him to use as a rug while taking a bath. When he finished the blanket was rolled up and quietly dropped down the chute. And that happened a number of times during the voyage, too. No, I can't suggest a remedy, and the company wouldn't extend me a vote of thanks if I could, but it seems to me it would pay to have those things looked into a little and a responsible man placed in direct charge of affairs.

A steward's pay is very small, ranging from \$3 to \$10 a month, but never exceeding the latter sum. In many cases they get no pay at all, but, instead, not only work without a stipend but also pay the company for the privilege of serving it.—[St. Louis Post Dispatch.

## THE MATABELE KING.

### LOBENGULA THE CORPULANT SOUTH AFRICA RULER.

He is Possessed of Great Force of Character, But is an Excessively Cruel Monarch.

Lobengula, the Matabel King, whose trouble with the British troops in South Africa has called general attention to that part of the world, is the son of the deceased Masikatzatze, the conqueror of the natives who had long held possession of the country now known as Matabeland and the Mashona country. After they had been subdued he took up his residence at Inyati and formed a large military kraal now known as Ixatyas, where Lobengula was born. Masikatzatze, known also as Umelekatzatze, ruled his people with a rod of iron, and kept an army of 8,000 warriors, and could bring more into the field if required. He was a king who knew how to rule his turbulent subjects; a splendid warrior himself, he took care that his troops should be so likewise.

He died in 1869, and at his death, after some dispute about who should be his successor, Lobengula was proclaimed King with great rejoicing. Warriors to the number of 10,000 assembled to do homage to their new King. From that time up to the present he has held undisputed possession of the throne. He took up his residence at Bulawayo, situated some sixty miles south of Inyati, which he formed into a large military station, and where he has since resided.

Lobengula is a man of great force of character; his will is iron, and it would be death to any of his subjects to dispute his authority. It is by this iron will that he is able to rule his people. He is tall and well proportioned, but very corpulent. His royal wife died many years ago, leaving Lobengula a widower, with some forty or fifty wives to console him for his loss. There are no children living by his royal wife, although he has several daughters by his others. Some years ago he married a daughter of the King of Gashaland, which adjoins the Mashona country. Previously to this marriage his sister Nuala ruled his household, and was devoted to her brother. Not unnaturally, perhaps, she became very jealous at her brother's marriage, and a fact which displeased him. To get rid of the annoyance, therefore, Lobengula has her smothered.

His cruelty, indeed, knows no bounds. It is by his orders that the constant raids upon the Mashona people are made. Up on the slightest pretext he orders certain regiments to proceed to a particular kraal, where several indunas and some 600 or 800 Mashonas are living in supposed security. The regiments attack them in the night, killing all the men and women and the children over a certain age and bringing the younger ones back with them, together with such booty and cattle as they can lay their hands on. The King divides out the cattle to the regiments who have acted on the occasion, reserving a certain number for himself. The children are distributed among his people. They soon forget their nationality and as they grow up are incorporated in the Matabel nation. Yet with all this ferocity in his nature, and a cruelty surpassing imagination, one would fancy, to see him sitting on the box in front of his wagon indulging in his lunch of fried bullock liver out into immense pieces, that he was a fat but inoffensive old man. There is a certain look in his eyes, however, that is an unmistakable sign of the man. Lobengula is exceedingly clever, but he is full of duplicity. He can read a man's character after a few minutes' conversation with him, and will detect instantly if a man is playing him false. I only know of one good quality possessed by him—he is fond of children. Lobengula himself took a burning piece of wood from the fire and destroyed the eyes and nose of one of his men because he threw a stone at a child and knocked out its teeth; this was witnessed by one of the traders.

A short time ago he ordered a young Kaffir to be killed for pulling a straw out of the thatch of one of his huts. No one is allowed to touch these on pain of death. There is no doubt about his ordering the deaths of Captain Patterson, Mr. Sargeant (son of Sir W. Sargeant), and young Mr. Thomas (son of the Rev. Mr. Thomas, Bishop), while on their way to the Victoria Falls. They were warned that foul play was intended, but they would not believe the report. When their death was reported to the King he said to some of the white traders, "Now Captain Patterson is dead the agreement goes for nothing." They had previously entered into some agreement with the King, which he afterwards regretted, and he disposed of the matter in the way we have just mentioned. No documents were found on the bodies, but on another occasion, which will be last out of many more I could relate, a large impi went into the Mashona country, where they killed all the old people, making some of the women and big girls carry the plunder to the boundary, where they made them put the things down on the ground and then killed them, that they might not run away. They were brought into Matabeland. The children, who soon forgot the land they had left, were preserved.

**LIKE A HE**