Arabia, the Least Known Portion of the Earth

A BEDOUIN ENCAMPMENT IN AN OASIS

INHABITANTS OF THE DESERT

IN all likelihood it would sound strange to the ears of most people to be told that the least known portion of the earth is the old Bible land of Arabia. It is, however, true that the land which many scholars believe was the home of the Hebrews before they reached the plain of Shinar, and which at different times has been the seat of a great civilization, is now the darkest part of the earth, darker even than any portion of Africa.

An immense country in size, Arabia is as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi river, or larger than all of the countries of Europe combined with the exception of Russia and Scandinavia. That country is almost without rivers and until recently was without railroads. The only ship which sails over the great desert is the camel. A journey along the Red sea coast from Suez to Aden takes eight days, from the Red sea to the Persian gulf 40 days, or to follow about the coast line of the country as an Arab sometimes does, it is a journey of a whole year.

Travelers have frequently penetrated the desert south of Palestine or crossed its northern part from Damascus to Bagdad, but there were but two or three who succeed in reaching the city of Mecca and the South Arabian city of Sana, which was the home of the queen of Sheba. No Christian has succeeded in traversing the land from the north to the south.

Cause of the Desert.

The general impression of the Arabian desert is a vast sea of sand. Quite to the contrary the surface of the greater part of it is almost as hard and as smooth as a floor. Along the western and southern coasts there are barren, rocky ranges raising their peaks to the height of 9,000 feet, but most of the interior is a level plain of great fertility. It is a desert just because of the lack of irrigation. After the hard rains of winter vegetation springs forth, making the dry places look like flower gardens. Water may be found in nearly every part of the desert by digging to a sufficient depth. Here and there it comes to the surface, forming an oasis about which a cluster of date palms grows. It is in the larger of these oasis that the desert encampments are usually fixed.

In central Arabia, where but two or three white men have ever been, there are parts of the desert which are sandy. There the sand is of a reddish or orange color and lies in belts many miles in width. Drifting just like snow, it changes its position after every storm.

As a recompense to the desert dweller for the poverty of the parched plains and sandy wastes, nature has provided him with the strange mirage, which is visible in nearly every part of the desert. Many kinds of trees, lakes, men and figures appear upon the desert horizon, where the Arabs know that only desert can exist. Sometimes the mirage seems so real that the Arabs who are accustomed to seeing it daily are deceived by it.

Hospitality to Travelers.

In the desert, especially among the tribal encampments, there are inns or lodging places provided for travelers. Along the lonely pilgrim routes leading to the sacred cities there are large khans to protect the traveler both from the heat of the summer and the rains in winter, also from the roving bands of thieves. These are large open inclosures with alcoves arranged along the inner sides of the walls to serve as lodging places. Aside from the alcoves, a low platform upon which the Arabian prays and the desert well, the inn offers few conveniences, for in Arabia every one carries with him his bed and cooking utensils. There is no charge for passing a night in the desert hotel.

The wandering Arabs of every encampment possess a great tent, where a stranger is always welcome. It is called the mutif and is like all other tents excepting in size. The traveler on arriving makes his way to it. Stopping before the tent he gives his horse to an attendant, sticks his long spear into the ground at the tent entrance and leaving his sandals outside he enters, salutes and squats down on the ground to wait until some of the bitter Arab coffee is served to him. By tasting the coffee he has accepted the hospitality of the sheik and becomes a temporary member of the tribe. There he can remain for a certain time, eating the food which the sheik provides and wandering about their territory in perfect safety protected by the Arabs. In whatever part of the inhabited desert one may travel, one will always find shelter and almost always food.

There are many bands of roving thieves in the desert. Only if one has nothing worthy of stealing can he be safe in traveling in the desert. Long journeys of a month or more, as from Damascus to Bagdad, are sometimes made by donkey, a beast that is despised in Arabia and hardly considered worth stealing. If one travels by horse or camel he is generally in company with a large well-armed party able to contend with any wandering band.

Animals Used in Traveling.

The horse is used mostly wherever water can be found with sufficient frequency. It has been trained to continue 36 hours without drinking, but the camel is the only animal that may penetrate the driest regions. The dromedary goes about ten miles an hour for 16 hours a day.

There is a camel post over the great desert highway from Damascus to Bagdad. For ten days, with but one single well on the way, the dromedary carries the Turkish mail. The postman, riding 18 hours a day, is able to sleep on his animal by sitting behind the hump, which he uses as a pillow, letting his feet hang down behind.

The Arabs are divided into hundreds of different tribes. Each is independent and governed by a sheik who has absolute power over his people. He settles their disputes, selects the location of their camp, collects from them his tribute money and in return provides them with food whenever necessity compels them to ask for it. Arabia is generally supposed to be a part of the Turkish empire, but few of the sheiks recognize the sultan.

The dress of the Arabs is as unchangeable as the other desert customs. The undergarment is a long shirt, while the aba, a large square tunic, which may be the seamless garment of the New Testament, is the dress suit of all great occasions. At one season of the year it serves as a blanket, and at another it is the bed. On the head the Arab wears a square cloth, called the kefer. On the feet are sandals of the ancient fashion.

Livelihood and Religion.

The desert Arab obtains his living by camel raising. In the great central plateau one may find him herding thousands of camels. He drives the camels to the large cities once a year to sell to the merchants who whose caravans still transport the merchandise from one end of the desert to another.

Though Mohammed was an Arab and the Arabian city of Mecca is the center of the Mohammedan world, the desert Arab is more or less of a pagan. He calls himself a Mohammedan, yet he seldom prays or fasts, or goes upon the pilgrimage to Mecca, as a good Moslem should.

Decline of Old-Time Chorus Singing.

One of the most marked instances of the decline of true popular sympathy is the gradual disappearance in our time of the habit of singing in chorus. Even when it is done nowadays, it is done tentatively and sometimes inaudibly, apparently upon some preposterous principle (which I have never clearly grasped) that singing is an art. In the new aristocracy of the drawing room a lady is actually asked whether she sings. In the old democracy of the dinner table a man was simply told to sing, and he had to do it. I like the atmosphere of those old banquets. I like to think of my ancestors, middle aged and venerable gentlemen, all sitting round a table and explaining that they never forget the old days or friends with a rumpty-iddity-iddity, or letting it be known that they would die for England's glory with their tooral ooral, etc.—G. K. Chesterton, in London Daily News.

Dimly Reminiscent.

"Rollo," said the slightly deaf old lady, "I've certainly seen that conductor somewhere before. I wish you'd ask him what his name is."

The train on the elevated railway was approaching a station on the loop, and as the little boy walked up to the guard to propound the question that functionary bawled out:

"Adams an' Wabash!"

"I heard him answer you, Rollo," said the elderly dame as the boy came back. "He says his name is Adamson Waugh Bash, does he? It sounds familiar, somehow, but I can't place him."

Incomplete.

"But you're such a little fellow," objected the man behind the counter.

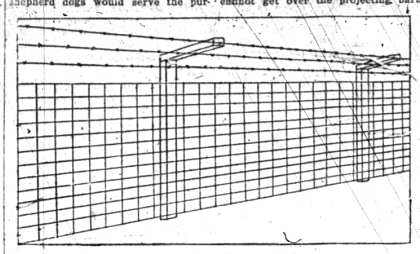
"Yep," said the youthful applicant for a job; "but wot kin ye expeck fm a chapp 'at's on'y a half orphan?"

FENCE PREVENTS WOLVES FROM DEVOURING SHEEP

Best Protection Against Destructive Beasts Is Woven Wire Fence With Barb Wire Stretched Across the Top.

In answering a query as to the best method of preventing wolves from destroying a sheep flock, the Wisconsin Agriculturist publishes the following:

Many bells on a flock of sheep will no doubt do good service toward keeping wolves off though they would not be proof against attacks from the bolder animals. A few well trained shepherd dogs would serve the purpose better and would make very serviceable animals in other respects in helping to attend to large flocks. The best protection against wolves for the flocks, however, would be wolf-tight woven wire fence, with barb wires stretched at the top so as to prevent the wolves from getting over and into the sheep pastures. Such a fence must also be built close to the ground to prevent the wolves from digging their way through underneath. A barb wire stretched tightly along the ground line will be very serviceable in this respect. The woven wire fence should be at least as high as any farm fence ordinarily in use is, and pieces of 2x4's should be nailed or spiked to the tops of all the posts projecting outward from the field enclosed, for sheep pasture at an angle of 45 degrees to the upper parts of the posts. The pieces of 2x4's should be 18 to 20 inches long and to them the barb wires should be stapled. The fence thus made will prevent the wolves from getting over as they cannot get over the projecting barb wire arrangement even though they manage to get up the woven wire to its top. The accompanying illustration shows clearly how the fence is built. Such a fence is of service to any sheep farmer who wishes an efficient means of protecting his flocks against sheep-killing dogs as well as against wolves.



Wolf and Dog Proof Fence for Sheep.

High Prices for Horses.

We may well doubt the prediction that the automobile will soon put the horse out of business and reports from every section of the west show that well-bred animals are selling at $350 to $500 per pair.

COMFORT FOR FARM STOCK

Should Be Fed at Regular Times and Never Roughly Handled by Being Chased by Dog or Left in Cold.

(By A. D. WILSON, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

One of our good dairy farmers, living in Carlton county, who is also a Farmers' Institute lecturer, Mr. F. B. McLeran, in talking on "Care of Dairy Cattle," always emphasizes the importance of making the stock comfortable. He says that if they are made uncomfortable by being fed at irregular times, so that they spend a great deal of their time expecting to be fed, the discomfort shows in lower production. If they are made uncomfortable by having a poor bed, by being roughly handled, by having a dog set on them, or by being left out in the cold or allowed to go thirsty, these conditions result in decreased production. He emphasizes the fact that one of the great advantages of weighing the milk every day, from each cow, is that it gives one a quick check on any condition that brings about discomfort to his animals. If any cow shows a dropping off of her milk flow, as a rule a little observation will show that she has been made uncomfortable in some of the ways mentioned above; and, knowing these facts, the farmer is able to check these unfavorable conditions quickly.

One of the points that Mr. McLeran especially emphasizes is the importance of not allowing the cows to stay out in the winter when they are uncomfortable. He states that a good way to determine this is to take off your coat and go out in the yard with the cows, stand around and act just as the cows do. When you begin to feel uncomfortable and feel like going into the house, put the cows in the barn.

HOW ENGLISH RUN DAIRIES

Cows Are Not Soiled to Any Great Extent but Pasture Is Depended Upon for Entire Summer Feed.

In England cows are not soiled to any great extent but pasture is depended upon for the entire summer feed. They say over there that it takes two acres to keep a cow going as she should.

Early in August the cows are turned on the aftermath of the meadows and later changed back and forth between the pastures and the meadow.

When taken off the pastures in late summer the cows are fed a little cotton seed cake but they do not get much grain at any time.

In the winter they are fed roots—40 to 70 pounds per day, about 15 pounds of straw, half as much hay and about eight pounds of meal and oil cake mixed.

The barn yards are paved with cobble stones to keep the cows out of the mud and the manure is saved under sheds. Not a thing is wasted.

There are very few creameries in England and the butter on the market is all farm butter but it is of fine quality, generally a great deal better than our farmers make.

The prices for milk for the year averages about $1.50 per 100 pounds, after the freight is paid.

Many Goats in Country.

It is estimated that there are over 2,000,000 goats in this country and all are practically free from tuberculosis. Thousands of them are milk goats and are used regularly for this purpose.

Honest Packing.

Pack fruit honestly and label packages so all can know where they come from. A reputation for honesty is a business asset.

COMFORTABLE FARROWING PEN

The brood sows must have dry and reasonably warm quarters. The accompanying illustration gives us a fairly good idea of one style of a litter pen. It is roomy and its long panel doors when opened admit of plenty of light and air. This style of a pen is handier for the attendant than are the triangular shaped sheds. These pens can be more easily cleaned and bedded.

Helping the Hay Crop.

Wheat corn and other crops are no more improved by rotation than hay. The Minnesota experiment station shows that a plot continuously cut for hay the past 15 years has given an average yield of 1.73 tons per acre, while on a plot under a three years' rotation of wheat, clover and corn hay has yielded the past ten years an average of 2.9 tons per acre. In a five-year rotation of wheat, timothy and clover, pasture, oat and corn, the hay has yielded an average of 2.9 tons per acre since 1900. Eight tons of manure per acre were applied once in five years on the five-year rotation plots. There is money in manure.

Autos on the Farm.

Some people have an idea that the farmer will not be able to properly care for his machine, but my experience has been that the farmers who have called for licenses have been fully conversant with the workings of their machines—in fact, many farmers are better informed on mechanics, gasoline engines and the like than the average city man who applies for a license. There is another view held by many city people which is wrong, and that is that the farmer will be content with a small horsepower motor car, says a writer in Baltimore American. As a matter of fact, when a farmer gets a car he wants it so constructed that he can use it for pleasure and for business, and that is the reason that they generally want their cars to have 40 horsepower or better. Time and help are the two things how at a premium on the Ohio farm, and, as an auto saves both, there is an increasing interest in the subject. I feel certain that the present fall and spring will be by far the best selling time for farm autos ever seen.

Over Service.

Many good boars are injured by over-service. This means small litters sure, and probably weak pigs. No boar should serve more than two sows a day and each sow should be served but once. A fully matured boar, if fed well and given exercise, can easily serve from fifty to sixty sows in a season.

WRONG IN THAT DIAGNOSIS

Physician's Method May Have Been All Right, but Here He was at Fault.

We are told that the latest sensation in the medical world is the assertion of a doctor that he is able, by looking into a patient's eye, to make an accurate diagnosis of the complaint which the patient is suffering. But is this really as novel as it is supposed to be? I recollect hearing some time ago of a doctor who said to a patient who was under examination: "I can see by the appearance of your right eye what is the matter with you. You are suffering from liver."

"My right eye?" asked the patient.

"Yes," returned the doctor. "It shows me plainly that your liver is out of order."

"Excuse me, doctor," said the patient, apologetically. "My right eye's a glass one."

One of the Best Rest Cures.

Is a good story.

To many women it is as good as a trip away from home.

When you are tired out and your nerves are on edge, try going off by yourself and losing yourself in some good story. You will, in nine cases out of ten, come back rested and invigorated.

One woman who has passed serenely through many years of hard work and worry that go with the managing of a home and bringing up of a large family of children, said that she considered it the duty of every busy housekeeper to read a certain amount of "trash," light fiction, for the rest and change to the mind that it would give.

Try it, you who lead a strenuous life, and who sometimes grow exceedingly weary of the same.

AWFUL BURNING ITCH CURED IN A DAY

"In the middle of the night of March 30th I woke up with a burning itch in my two hands and I felt as if I could pull them apart. In the morning the itching had gone to my chest and during that day it spread all over my body. I was red and raw from the top of my head to the soles of my feet and I was in continual agony from the itching. I could neither lie down nor sit up. I happened to see about Cuticura Remedies, and I thought I would give them a trial. I took a good bath with the Cuticura Soap and used the Cuticura Ointment. I put it on from my head down to my feet and then went to bed. On the first of April I felt like a new man. The itching was almost gone. I continued with the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment and during that day the itching completely left me. Frank Gridley, 325 East 43rd Street, New York City, Apr. 27, 1909." Cuticura Remedies are sold throughout the world; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props, Boston, Mass.

Mutual Expectations.

A notoriously close-fisted man was taking his golf match in Scotland, where he hoped to improve his game, and, by driving a hard bargain, had managed to secure the exclusive services of a first-class caddie, who was known to be a very good player. Mind, now," said the ambitious southerner, "I expect to receive some really good tips from you during my stay here, you understand?" "Aye," replied the Scotsman, hitching up the golf bag, "an' Ah'm expectin' the like frae ye, ye ken."—Golf Illustrated.

STATE OF OHIO CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886.

A. W. GLEASON,
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Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Planning a Desperate Revenge.

The haughty, imperious beauty handed him back his ring.

"Now that that is over between us," she said, "I suppose you will buy a revolver and put an end to your wretched existence?"

"Worse than that!" he hissed, being careful to introduce the necessary sibilant; "far worse—see! I shall steal a revolver! And I shall shoot your measly little sore-eyed poodle!"

A wild shriek burst from her lips.
She fell upon her knees and—
But he had gone.

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for Red, Weak, Weary, Watery Eyes and Granulated Eyelids. Murine Doesn't Smart—Soothes Eye Pain. Druggists Sell Murine Eye Remedy. Liquid, 25c, 50c, $1.00. Murine Eye Salve in Aseptic Tubes, 25c, $1.00. Eye Books and Eye Advice Free by Mail. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago.

The Exception.

"Doesn't your husband like cats, Mrs. Blinks?"

"No, indeed. He hates all cats except a little kitty they have at his club."

His Luck.

"I know a man who is always up against it."

"Who is he?"

"The paper hanger when he has to fix a new wall."

A good honest remedy for Rheumatism, Neuralgia and Sore Muscles is Sloan's Wizard Oil. Nothing will so quickly drive out all pain and inflammation.

Take as much pains to forget what we ought not to have learned as to retain what we ought not to forget.—Mason.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Some people treat the sermon as a table d'hote dinner, picking out the things that will not agree with them.

An ingrowing conscience drives many a man into sin.

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You will be pleased when you buy my shoes because of the fit and appearance, and when it comes time for you to purchase another pair, you will find you will be more than pleased because the last one wore so well, and gave you so much comfort.

CAUTION! Wear genuine W. L. Douglas shoes. Take no substitute. If your dealer cannot supply you with W. L. Douglas shoes, send for Mail Order Catalog. W. L. DOUGLAS, 122 Spark Street, Brockton, Mass.

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The Rayo Lamp is a high grade lamp, sold at a low price. There are lamps that cost more, but there's no better lamp made at any price. Guaranteed to give the best light possible. An ornament to any room in any house. There is a dealer in your town who will supply you with a Rayo Lamp. If not as yours, write for descriptive circular to the nearest agency of the

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