save savagery. Rhodesia, on the other hand, is a playground for the archaeologist as well as for the speculator, and no one is more keenly interested in the traditions which link the golden land to a remote and half-familiar past than Mr Rhodes. The country where once the Matabele fleeted the time carelessly may now boast two hundred and twenty-four mining companies, with a united capital of twenty millions. But if the speculator be busy, the archaeologist also finds work ready to his hand, in the five hundred ruined temples which await his examination. Though not a little has been done by Bent, Schlichter, and others, much remains to do, and meanwhile the curious may consult for their pleasure and profit
the treatise¹ of Messrs Hall and Neal, recently published. Here are all the materials on which a judgment may be founded. The intricacies of the Sabæo-Arabian and Phœnician occupations are unravelled with skill, and most impartial readers will agree with Messrs Hall and Neal that Rhodesia is none other than the land of Ophir. But if Rhodesia be in truth the Ophir of old, if Solomon found his gold where we, too, seek for treasure, there is an echo of poetry in our most modern industry to which the pioneer cannot be deaf. And when this question be answered there are still the strange temples and their stranger worship to explain. However, we can do no more than refer our readers to Messrs Hall and Neal. The architecture of Rhodesia is already discussed in scientific fashion; its periods are properly divided into first, second, and decadent, from which it is evident that the groundwork is carefully laid. Above all, it is certain that Mr Rhodes, to whom nothing African is indifferent, will take every care of the ruins which add an interest to his country, and will loyally encourage the curiosity of the learned.

Such are some of the new
Starting from the highly probable connexion between the Himyarite kingdom and the Rhodesian goldfields, Prof. Keane sets to work to bring the various references to the sources of gold in Kings and Chronicles, as well as sundry other Biblical references to Ophir, Havilah, and Tarshish, into relation with this assumption. He is a man of such varied attainments that he is able to steer his course among the innumerable quicksands of this complicated problem with tolerable success; but we confess we should have been better pleased if he had not adopted so positive and confident a tone about a great many questions which are still hotly disputed among scholars who have made the subject their special study. At the same time, it must be admitted that he brings to the consideration of the problem not only a great deal of learning and a full study of the published materials, but also much common sense and clear insight. Part of his work is destructive; he has to show that the “gold of Ophir” for Solomon’s Temple was not brought from Tartessus in Spain, nor from Arabian mines, nor from India, nor from the Golden Chersonese, as different authorities have argued. He appears to us to have successfully demolished the Spanish, Indian, and Malay theories, though it would take too long to give his reasons here. The Arabian source is less clearly cut off, inasmuch as for lack of exploration it is still uncertain whether there ever were considerable goldfields in Arabia. The strongest argument against all these suggestions is the immense value of the gold recorded to have been lavished on the Temple, &c., and the difficulty of discovering any articles of commerce that Solomon or Hiram could possibly have produced to offer in exchange for such quantities of gold.
This points pretty clearly to mining in
virgin fields, not to purchase from foreign
peoples. By sending his own fleet, or his
ally's, direct to the African port where the
gold was to hand, a great part of the cost
would be saved.

This part, according to Prof. Keane, was

Prof. Keane has worked out this part of his
thesis with considerable acumen, though he
seems completely to ignore the plain bearing
of the sentence "from Mesha as thou goest
unto Seipher, a mount of the east," which
implies that Mesha was at some distance
west of Seipher. But he will not have it
that Ophir was the source of the gold; it
was only the entrepôt, and the gold came

from Havilah, "a land where there is gold,"
"and the gold of that land is good." The
indubitable position of a Havilah in
Arabia, according to the Biblical docu-
ments, does not dismay him. Just as there
were two or more places called Tarshish, so
he supposes a second non-Arabian Havilah;
and as the traders familiar with Tarshish in
Cilicia may have given the name to a port such
as Sofala, so the Sabean merchants may have
corporated the name Havilah upon the gold
districts now called Rhodesia, whence the
triennial fleet brought the precious metal to

Ophir. We confess we find it difficult to
follow him here: all seems pure guesswork.
Nor do his philological arguments to prove
Himyaritic influence in Madagascar strike
us as conclusive. By omitting the final
vowels, in what he calls the "Yemeni Written
Imperium)
A German in Ophir.

THE ELDORADO OF THE ANCIENTS. By Dr. Carl Peters.
With Maps and Illustrations, mostly by Tennyson Cole.
(Pearson. 21s. net.)

For some years past those who stand by what Mr. Gladstone called "the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture" have rejoiced in geographical discoveries which located the biblical Ophir in South Africa with tolerable certainty.

Now comes Dr. Peters with a bulky volume in which it is shown "that the Ophir of the time of Solomon was the country between the Lower Zambesi and the Limpopo river." The base of his evidence is the record of an expedition made by him in 1899-1900 with the view of acquiring in Macombe's country—known in fable as Monomotapa—an auriferous Tom Tiddler's ground. We assume the book to be a translation for two small but persuasive reasons: first, because the name of Bishop Smythies, which Dr. Peters has disagreeable cause to remember with all accuracy, is misprinted; and secondly, because a passage supposed to be cited from Dr. Theal's "Portuguese in South Africa" is in reality only a paraphrase of the doctor's words.

Dr. Peters expressly alludes to the loss of his commission in 1896 on a charge of misusing his official power in German East Africa—a colony which owes its existence to his enterprise—and therefore it is no breach of good manners to say that our first curiosity in his book was directed to the revelation of himself, which could hardly fail to be made in the course of more than 400 pages. The revelation is forthcoming, and not wholly displeasing. Dr. Peters is perhaps at pains to show himself human and humorous. In December, 1900, for instance, he is
We have no space to follow Dr. Peters in his learned disquisition on Ophir. A sentence will show his ground argument: “It stands to reason that an Eldorado, from which a single expedition, lasting three years, returned to Jerusalem with a mass of gold weighing 420 talents . . . must be indicated to-day by unassailable archaeological remains.” The root of the name Ophir “written in English is A.F.R.,” and this word has perhaps a connection with the name of Mt. Fura, which signifies “a mine.” But when the material conditions required in an Ophir answering to the biblical references are sought for, Maombo’s country springs into sudden glory. We see in the Makalanga the Punic blood, we see in their earth-god the Baal who enraged Elijah. Ruins are there and mines are there, and Dr. Peters has picked up a phallus. Maombo’s country has added a chapter to the Bible. Dr. Peters has read that chapter and proven himself thereby one of Nature’s chosen bookworms.

The El Dorado of the Ancients. By Dr. Carl Peters. (London: C. A. Pearson. 21s. net.)

Dr. Carl Peters has won a great reputation as an African explorer, and his English friends will be glad to read his defence against the charges of cruelty brought against him in his own country. He is persuaded that ample justice will be done him in due time. Meanwhile he has been working out his theory that the “Ophir” of Solomon was the country between the Lower Zambesi and the Limpopo River. He thinks that much more light is thrown on this problem by such investigations as he has made on the Zambesi than by any of the great libraries of
Europe. He gives strong reasons why South Arabia was not likely to be the place which Solomon’s navy visited. In South Africa he claims that all the conditions are satisfied. The great temple of Zimbabwe was built about 1100 B.C., that is about a century before Solomon sent ships to Ophir; the Sabæans, the allies of Solomon, were predominant in the district at that time. Gold was mined there on a large scale; precious stones, copper, tin, and all the other products of the Ophir voyages were found there. This is a strong case, and the whole subject is discussed in a way that throws welcome light on a great Bible question. On the negro question Dr. Peters has strong convictions. He holds that the negro should be led step by step towards the new order of things, and compelled to give some years of his life to Government. A real training of the black for work might thus be secured. Dr. Peters defends his proposals from the charge of inhumanity, and maintains that the only solution of a difficult problem is to be sought in the direction which he indicates. The account of his travels is told with great spirit, and is profoundly interesting. Dr. Peters met Bishop Hartzell at Old Umtali. He says, “His is a very interesting personality, with great intellectual keenness, combined with wonderful activity and energy.” The book is one of the most important contributions to a study of South Africa and its problems which has recently appeared, and its maps and pictures add much to its interest and value.
The Eldorado of the Ancients. By Dr. Carl Peters. Illustrated by Tennyson Cole. (Pearson.)

Dr. Peters's volume is at once a book of travels, a contribution to archaeology, and a speculative thesis. He went over a new country and found interesting remains, which lent themselves to very curious historical suggestions. As far as we know he is the first modern traveller who has explored Macombe's country on the Zambesi, and in so doing he has brought to light a large number of ancient sites which bear an obvious relation to the ruins of Rhodesia, lately described in detail by Messrs. Hall and Neal. Macombe is a Makalanga chief whose reputation is apt to keep visitors at a distance, but Dr. Peters and his companions found him quite "fatherly" in the way he looked after the travellers' wants, though perhaps a little too eager to demonstrate his friendship by sharing their champagne. Cognac he rather despised: "This is for our men," he said; "we two big ones will drink champagne. I have come to make brotherhood with thee," which he did somewhat at the cost of Dr. Peters's head.

Isn't buy it, but:
skilled and thorough excavation by archaeologists. Let Prof. Petrie or Dr. Arthur Evans tear themselves away from Egypt or Crete and plunge into the tempting problems of South African digging, and we believe that the answer will be found and the proofs established. There is a splendid field for scientific exploration, and no country in the world offers such fascinating opportunities for unveiling a buried chapter of ancient history. But that chapter cannot be written on hypothesis, however probable: like Lord Rosebery’s party, it needs spade-work.

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Some doubt appears to have existed in the minds of those responsible for the production of this book as to its precise purpose. It is a blend of the popular and the learned, the old and the new. Its main object no doubt is to give an account of the steps taken by Dr. Carl Peters to prove that “the Ophir of the time of Solomon was the country between the Lower Zambesi and the Limpopo River.” His discoveries “tend to establish the fact that the Egyptian ‘Punt’ expeditions in search for the yellow metal, copper, frankincense, and many other things were directed to the same regions.” Incidentally Dr. Carl Peters enters upon his own defence against the charge which resulted in the loss of his commission. The Peters case is fresh in our memories. He was found guilty by a Disciplinary Court of barbarous treatment of certain natives, on evidence which he thinks he is now in a position successfully to rebut. Deprived of the opportunity of serving Germany in East Africa he turned to the ancient land of Monomotapa, and whilst we fail to see that he adds very much to the knowledge imparted by other inquirers in the same field such as Bent and Glaser, Mauch and Keane, his book is immensely suggestive and will be read no doubt by many to whom an exclusively scholarly work would not appeal. Naturally he rejects altogether Professor Keane’s view that “the Solomonic Ophir was situated in South Arabia.” With the exception of the “Carte du Royaume du Congo, du Monomotapa et de la Cafferie” the illustrations, to which no exception can be taken as illustrations, belong mainly to the order which we expect to find in any ordinary travel or adventure book, and a considerable section is devoted to Zambesia as it appears to-day. Dr. Peters takes a rather more flattering view of British enterprise than might have been the case if he had not had so much difficulty with his compatriots in Africa. Germany he seems to think can give no points to Portugal. “Have we,” he asks, “an honest autonomy, the ‘open door’ for all? Do not our colonies also suffer from an impossible system of bureaucracy, a short-sighted monopoly by the State? We shall only be able to exchange glasshouses for dwellings of a more substantial kind if we take a leaf out of England’s colonial policy.”