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and we know that the peacocks, asses, ivory, gold-dust, pearls, and other valuables which were brought back to Jerusalem after a coasting voyage of three years, are still to be found in that quarter of the globe. Notwithstanding the difficulties and supposed dangers of eastern travel, commercial caravans have traversed Arabia ever since the days of Solomon, and will no doubt continue to do so until there shall be cheaper and easier means of communication. There can not be a doubt that steamers on the Euphrates and Tigris, or, still better, a railway along the valley of these rivers, would give such an impetus to trade and to the agricultural industry of the country as would restore the land to its state of fertility as described by ancient writers, and would confer great commercial benefits upon England, especially by supplying cotton of excellent quality to any amount required. Queen Elizabeth was quite aware of the benefits to be derived by England from trade with these countries, and William IV. had over and over again expressed to him (General Chesney) the great importance of establishing friendly commercial relations with the people of Syria and Mesopotamia. No doubt in God's good time the great line of intercommunication between Europe and Asia would be replaced. It would be a proud and noble mission for England if she were permitted to carry back the fruits of science, art, literature, and industry to those countries from whence they originally emanated, and were entrusted with the tidings of great joy, and commissioned to raise temples to God in the land inhabited by our first parents, in the spot where man's first dispersion took place, where Jehovah spoke with Abraham and led His people through the wilderness, and where our Lord himself trod, and accomplished his ministry on earth. (Loud applause.)
VARIETIES.

WHERE WAS OPHIR?

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER, in his Lectures on the Science of Language, takes up the question, which has so long been an open one, where the Ophir of the Scripture was situated. He confirms what has long been the prevailing opinion—that it was in India; but he does this by an argument somewhat new and unique. He says, “A great deal has been written to find out where this Ophir was; but there can be no doubt that it was in India. The names for opium, peacock, ivory, and alum-trees (brought by Solomon’s fleet from Ophir) are foreign words in Hebrew, as such as gutta-percha or tobacco are in English. Now, if we wished to know from what part of the world gutta-percha was first imported into England, we might safely conclude that it came from that country where the name gutta-percha formed part of the spoken language. If, therefore, we can find a language in which the names for peacock, opium, ivory, and alum-trees, which are foreign to the Hebrew, are indigenous, we may be certain that the country in which that language was spoken must have been the Ophir of the Bible. That language is no other but Sanscrit.”

TRUE BLUE.

“He is true blue, he’ll never stain,” is a saying on which Fielding remarks—“Coventry had formerly the reputation for dyeing blues, so much so that ‘true blue’ came to be a proverb, signifying one that is always the same. Blue was formerly a colour appropriated to the dresses of servants, and persons in low life. ‘You proud varlets, you need not be ashamed to wear blue when your master is one of your fellows.’ It was also the colour of handkerchiefs, whence they came in for the appellation of ‘blue-bottle.’ It is now applied to a certain party in politics.” From
Tristram 1883 (org. 1867) on peacocks: “Some old critics, maintaining the identity of this Tarshish of Solomon with the Phoenician Tartessus in Spain, suggested guinea-fowls… forgetting that, in spite of its name, the guinea-fowl was never found within many hundred miles of Numidia. But this Tharshish or Ophir is clearly indicated as being in the region of the Malabar coast of India or in Ceylon, from the fact that the Tamil name for the Peacock, there indigenous and abundant, is ‘tokei.’ Sir E. Tennant observes: ‘It is very remarkable that the terms by which these articles (ivory, apes, and peacocks) are designated in the Hebrew Scriptures, are identical with the Tamil names by which some of them are called in Ceylon to the present day; tukeyim may be recognised in tokei, the modern name for these birds.” — Ceylon, vol. ii. p. 102”

Morning Post 26 May 1868, report of annual meeting of Royal Geographical Society; presidential address by Roderick Murcheson:
It appears that the advices by the Cape mail today tend to corroborate the previous accounts with regard to the existence of extensive goldfields in the interior, about 800 miles from Natal, the principal advantages of which, if they should be found capable of being worked on a large and permanent scale, are likely to be enjoyed by that colony. In an address delivered about 10 weeks back to the Royal Geographical Society, Sir Roderick Murchison, after alluding to the discovery of coal of superior quality in Natal, made the following statement in relation to the gold deposits now attracting attention:

"The existence of another source of wealth in an adjacent region on the north-west, commonly known as the country of Mosilikata, has recently thrown the colonists of Natal into a state of great excitement. In that part of the interior, to the north-west of the Transvaal Territory, hitherto chiefly noted for its ivory and ostrich feathers, gold has been discovered in considerable quantity. Mr. Carl Mauch, to whom we are indebted for the realization of this fact, has proved himself to be an explorer of considerable merit, both as a geographer and a geologist. Leaving Trieste in 1863, he has been travelling in South Africa since 1865. Having traversed and examined the Transvaal Territory, of which he constructed a map, he became acquainted with Mr. Hartley, an elephant hunter, who, in quest of ivory, had visited all the highest lands of the region which forms the broad-backed lofty watershed between the rivers Zambezi, on the north, and Limpopo on the south. Being informed by Hartley of the existence in these high and rocky lands of the relics of ancient metalliferous excavations, Mr. Carl Mauch explored them hammer in hand, and in two separate localities—the one in S. lat. 20 deg. 40 m., and on an affluent of the Limpopo, the other on an affluent of the Zambezi, about 60 miles south of Tete—he discovered rich auriferous white quartz rocks, embayed in a variety of ancient crystalline rocks. The auriferous quartz rocks, which is abundant in..."
The auriferous quartz rock, which in places is still seen to rise a few feet above the surface, has, where rich in gold, been quarried down in open trenches to the depth of 6ft. or more. These works seem to have been abandoned simply from the influx of water, and in one spot the traveller detected the remains of smelting operations, with slag and scoria, the relics of lead ore being also observable. Of the auriferous localities described by Mr. Mauch, that which lies to the north, on a tributary of the Zambesi, is the most sterile, and this fact explains why the Portuguese have never made much of it, Dr. Livingstone having only spoken of small quantities of gold-dust being washed down in the rivers to the south of Tete. On the other hand, the existence of the rich tract on the river Thuti or Tuti, an affluent of the Limpopo, and the proof of old works having been in operation there, greatly favours the suggestion I am about to offer that the Ophir of Solomon was probably near the mouth of that great stream. In the meantime, the discoveries of Mr. Mauch have awakened the interest of many of the colonists of Natal, and doubtless the tract, which seems to have been neglected for so many centuries, will be soon the scene of active operations of the miner. This newly-discovered auriferous tract is, I may state, precisely in that position in which, as a geologist, I should have expected to find gold—i.e., in the elevated and ancient alstty quartzose rocks (probably silurian), with granite and greenstone, which form the mountains in S. lat. 21 deg. that constitute the watershed whence some streams, tributaries of the Zambesi, flow to the north, and others, tributaries of the Limpopo, to the south.
THE GOLDFIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA,

(From the Natal Mercury, July 9.)

A great feature of our budget this month is the intelligence we have received that the gold prospectors have found the southern goldfield discovered by Mr. Mauch as rich as they hoped it would be. This long-awaited news reached us in a letter from our Potchefstroom correspondent, dated June 22. It appears that on the 18th of June Mr. C. Solomon, a trader from Secheli’s town, which is on the road from the Cape colony to Bamangwato, the residence of the ruling chief, Matjén, brought a letter from Mr. H. Taylor, of the former place, and dated the 5th of June, “which places the success of the diggers beyond all doubt.” The substance of this communication was to the effect that in the early part of May 60 to 70 men were successfully at work on the quartz reef discovered by Mauch on the north bank of the Tatin. So rich were the deposits of gold on this reef that the diggers confined their attention to it, and were hammering and blasting pieces of quartz, remarkably rich in the precious metal, which is reputed to be present in “its most pure and unalloyed form.” The veins are sometimes more than an inch broad, and some of the small flat pieces of quartz which at present reward the diggers’ toil contain, at a rough valuation, from £1 to £3, worth of gold.
and of obtaining security for life and property. In the Transvaal Republic—a republic only in name—disorder is still more rampant. A paralysed and depraved Government sits as an incubus upon the country. It winks at the system of
ments sits as an incubus upon the country. It winks at the system of child-enslavement, and its chief officer is himself the proprietor of several of the so-called native "apprentices." Its misdoings have excited through the length and breadth of the land an ardent longing for British interposition and the establishment of British rule. The native tribes living to the westward and northward of the Republic are anxious to come under British protection, and have made known their desire to become subjects of the Queen. A deputation is now in Maritzburg from tribes living near the Limpopo, who have heard of the privileges and would fain share the rights of men living under the peaceful rule of the English Crown. Terrorized by the Boers, and fairly dealt with by Englishmen, they look on the former as their natural foes, on the latter as their protectors and friends. At last opened up to the enterprise and energies of this progressive age, the African goldfields—the Scriptural Ophir—the El Dorado of the Portuguese three centuries ago—the dimly-rumoured gold country of modern times—are certain before many months are over to have attracted a large concourse of British subjects, and to be in due time the scene of a vast European population. It is rumoured that Prussia is in treaty with Portugal for the purchase of some of her settlements on the east coast, with the ulterior view of laying claim to the back country, now occupied and ruled by these native chiefs, some of whom seek to become British subjects. The Boer Government of Pretoria, President of the Transvaal, hearing of this, has proclaimed the goldfields and other large territories, including a port at Delagoa Bay, part of the Republic—thus extending their miserable misrule over a vastly widened area. Is it desirable that either Prussia or the Transvaal should thus acquire territory which properly pertains to the British territory in South Africa? England has constituted herself the representative of European civilization and guardian of Christianity in this part of the globe. Let her, then, prove equal to her self-appointed work, and extend the pacifying and beneficent influences of her rule as far as the Zambesi. Such a policy would cost comparatively nothing, but it would gain much. It would disclose to Africa such a prospect of peaceful advancement, such a career of civilization and improvement, as few enthusiasts have dared to prefigure, and no man now can fairly measure or conceive.

Morning Post 31 Jan 1871

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.—The general meeting of the fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute was held last night in the theatre of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Great George-street, Westminster—Mr. James A. Youl in the chair. There was a very large attendance of members, amongst whom were Mr. H. E. Montgomerie, Captain Goodliffe, Mr. G. Molineux, Mr. Paul F. Tedian, Rev. Mr. Browne, Mr. Frederick Pontifex, Mr. W. Maitland, Mr. W. A. Ross (late Governor of Gold Coast), General Cavanagh (late Governor of Singapore), Mr. W. Westgarth, Mr. E. J. Leveson, Mr. Edmund Carton Booth, Mr. H. C. Macdonald, and Mr. E. J. Burgess. Prior to the commencement of the business of the evening the chairman alluded in terms of the deepest regret to the lamented decease of Sir William Denison, the reading of a paper by whom had furnished the members with a discussion extending over three evenings, and paid a tribute to the memory of the deceased gentleman, whose sudden demise had left a gap not only in his family and friends, but in scientific circles, which could not easily be filled. The chairman then called upon Mr. Leonard Wray, who read a paper upon the British Settlements in the Straits of Malacca. The essayist set out by lamenting the ignorance generally prevalent in respect to these settlements, observing that they were unknown except among colonists and colonial merchants. The settlements comprised the island of Penang, Singapore, and Malacca, the latter of which he considered as identical with the Ophir mentioned in Holy Writ, whence gold was brought to Solomon. There were many rich tin mines, but mining enterprise was nipped in the bud by the onerous laws in force and the unjust mode in which they were administered. The settlements were not by any means in a flourishing condition, though for agricultural purposes the land and climate were everything which could be required. He traced the history of the settlements from
The discovery of gold in the country which lies beyond the north-west boundary of the Trans-Vaal Republic promises to revolutionize this region of Africa. If half that is said concerning the extent and productiveness of the new gold-fields be true, and if the physical difficulties consequent upon labouring in so remote a region are overcome, the establishment of a British colony in a part of Africa hitherto known only to a few adventurous explorers, is a matter of tolerable certainty. That gold is to be had on the banks of the Tatin (a tributary of the Limpopo) is proved by the report of the miners who have already commenced operations; and it is also certain that the quartz is rich in the proportion of the precious metal which it will yield to machinery. It is true that the journey is 700 or 800 miles from Natal, but there are few perils to encounter by the way, and

new and more direct routes will probably be opened. It seems probable that gold exists in large quantities to the eastward and on other tributaries of the Limpopo. It is notoriously worked on a river called the Bepi, where the natives pound the quartz, and then convey the precious residuum to Sofala and barter it with the Portuguese for cattle, beads, and blankets. To Herr Mauch, the enterprising German traveller, belongs the credit of the immediate discovery of these gold-fields, but numerous old workings testify to the antiquity of the knowledge now newly regained. The Natal journals believe that Sofala is identical with the Ophir of Solomon, and concerning which another sacred writer has said, "Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stone of the brooks." It is worthy of remark that Milton thus fixed the locality of the famous port—

"And Sofala, thought Ophir, to the realm of Congo."

Tradition, however, only points to Sofala as it has pointed to Arabia, Malacca, and India. Herr Mauch has gone to explore the ancient ruins which are said to exist to the west of Sofala, and if the old story, that there is in that country a strong fortress of unknown origin and pre-historic antiquity, should prove to be well founded, he may chance to shed some light on the claim of Sofala to the honour of identity with the Ophir of the Bible. Be this as it may, the courageous German, like many contemporary travellers, is doing his best to wipe away the old reproach to which a great satirist gave witty expression:—
It is curious that, during a recent visit to Europe, Father Sabon, of Durban, discovered in one of the libraries of Paris a Jesuit Missionary work of the date of 1620, in which the precise situation of the Victoria gold-fields is indicated. But whether Sofala and Ophir are the same or not, it cannot be denied that the discovery of a gold region beyond Natal and the Trans-Vaal Republic marks a new era in the history of African civilization.

The manner in which Mr. President Pretorius received the intelligence of the discovery was characteristic. He at once issued a proclamation, annexing a vast tract of country, as far to the north-west as Lake Ngami, and of course including the entire area in which the precious metal is likely to reward the patient labour of the digger. The Portuguese Consul-General at Cape Town complained that the proclamation added to the Trans-Vaal a slice of territory which had formed part of the dominions of Portugal since 1546. Sir Philip Wodehouse has also asked Mr. Pretorius for an explanation, and the chiefs, whose territories are thus coolly taken possession of on paper, are even more entitled to one. Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the temper of the Boers towards the natives than this proceeding.

Illustrated London News 22 April 1871 on Cradock, Cape Colony:
The Tarshish of Scripture.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ROYAL CORNWALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—We so often hear it asked in the present day “Where was Tarshish?” that I am drawn to offer the following remarks on the subject, which may, I hope, induce those interested in Biblical study to examine the question for themselves.

The word Tarshish occurs in the Bible twenty-one times, and those who limit its meaning to a certain place only, greatly mistake; for it signifies—1st, a family of people; 2nd, a class of ships; 3rd, a historical locality; 4th, a place in fulfilled prophecy; 5th, a place in unfulfilled prophecy. It is to this last that I would especially invite attention. First then, as a people, we are told in Genesis x., 4, that Tarshish was one of the sons of Javan; but while we can trace his other sons in Greece and the Levant, Tarshish appears almost lost. In Scripture Javan is the title for Greece, and his son Elishah can be traced by the names Elis, Eleusis, and the river Elessus in Greece; while Ezekiel, speaking of the Islands of the Archipelago, calls them the “Isles of Elishah” (Ezekiel xxvii., 7). In like manner Kittim and Dodanim can be traced in Greece and Cyprus. The name Tarshish does not occur in Greece, but the south-east corner of Asia Minor was anciently known by that name; and we meet the name in Tartessus, a place in Spain, which stood near the Straits of Gibraltar. And again, there was a Tarshish somewhere in the Indian Ocean, for Solomon’s ships, we are told, went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold and silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks” (2 Chron. ix., 21). Now Josephus tells us that Solomon’s ships went to get gold at a land anciently called Ophir, which corresponds to India, and Malacca, a mountain in Sumatra being still called Ophir; and a voyage from Ezion-gabir on the Red Sea, along the coast to Sumatra and back, including all delays, might take the three years specified. Hence we conclude that this signification of Tarshish shows a people scattered in various directions, mercantile in their habits, and having settlements in the Mediterranean, the Arabian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean, each settlement being called after the name of the progenitor from whom the family descended.
In fulfilled prophecy Tarshish was a name for Tyre. Thus “The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish” (Isaiah xxiii., 1); and from other places in this chapter, in which the word Tarshish is again used, we see that Tyre is intended, the greatest colonizing, naval power of ancient history.

Now to turn to Tarshish of unfulfilled prophecy. There exists, we are told, a certain mystical power named Tarshish, which, at a future day, will restore the Jews to the Holy Land. Thus it is said “Surely the Isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons (the Jews) from afar” (Isaiah lx., 9). A glance at this chapter will show it is all in the future; and this bringing back of the Jews is often spoken of as “bringing a present,” as is said in Psalm lxxiii., “the Kings of Tarshish and of the Isles shall bring presents.” This future Tarshish is a great naval power, for the “ships of Tarshish” are spoken of in Psalm lxxviii. as suffering shipwreck at a time when assailing armies are overthrown at Jerusalem, an event which has never yet been fulfilled, so that this Psalm (which is a most wonderful one) speaks of a future event. Again, the “ships of Tarshish” participate in the destruction, which is prophesied in the second chapter of Isaiah, and which is yet to come; besides this, the future Tarshish is mercantile, for in Ezekiel xxxviii., 13, the “merchants of Tarshish” are especially mentioned. Finally, the eighteenth chapter of Isaiah speaks of a great naval power “that sendeth ambassadors by sea in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters,” and which is clearly the same as Tarshish, so that we see that the Tarshish of unfulfilled prophecy is a great naval, mercantile power of modern times.

Now we saw that Tarshish of history and of fulfilled prophecy signified a trading, commercial people, with settlements on the eastern seas by India, and along the shores of the Red Sea and Mediterranean; consequently, the Tarshish of unfulfilled prophecy will be that power, which in modern times may have settlements at these places, sends forth colonies, and monopolizes the trade of the Indian Ocean; while another characteristic is that Tarshish of the future opposes the last great attack on Palestine as may be seen from Ezekiel xxxviii., 13.
I will not say, as some have, that England is the power marked out, for we know not what future events may reveal, but there may be a worse interpretation, and I would ask all concerned in Biblical study to consider the point for themselves, for I doubt not that this subject has by many been overlooked. I shall be glad to discuss it with any inclined to examine the point, but while happy to do so, there is hardly any need to notice ignorant and unthinking denial. It has become the fashion to sneer at such studies, and to say that they lead to no good; this is folly, and these dogmatizers deny themselves a vast amount of pleasure, merely because they are too indolent to examine the evidences and facts on which prophetical reasoning is based, and to sift the chaff from among the wheat, which will be found in nearly all the writings on the subject. ZETA.

NATAL AND THE DIAMOND FIELDS.

NARROW ESCAPE OF BEING COLONIZED—EMBARRASSED WITH THE PORTUGUESE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It has frequently been asserted by both serious and gushing writers that Natal is the "Ophir" of Scripture; and, now that we have incontrovertibly proved that we have in South Africa both a "Goldconda" and an "El Dorado," it will require no great stretch of the imagination to suppose that Solomon did a little business with the Nataleece of the prehistoric period for the decorations of the Temple. Be that as it may, it is unquestionable that diamonds are "a great fact," and there is little doubt that gold is diffused over a considerable district; and, as more systematic and energetic surveys are being made in the Transvaal and elsewhere, with a certain encouraging amount of success, those who doubted and denied hitherto are beginning to have faith in the ultimate success of the explorations, while the more sanguine look upon it as a "moral" certainty which will have an extraordinary effect on the colony.

The news from the diamond fields...
The great geographer, Herr Petermann, in a letter to the Ostsee Zeitung, expresses himself satisfied by the latest report of the German explorer, Herr Carl Mauch, that our newly acquired diamond fields in East Africa are identical with the Ophir of the Bible, from which King Solomon is said to have conveyed gold and ivory and precious stones to Jerusalem for the construction of the Temple. The whereabouts of the ancient Ophir has long been a disputed point. The Portuguese, on taking possession of Sofala, invested that colony with the Biblical character. Legends were affirmed to be current among the natives that the rich gold mines and the buildings of which ruins were still visible, owed their origin to the Queen of Sheba, and Lopez even asserted the existence of ancient documents proving the removal in ancient times of gold and precious stones to Jerusalem. These assertions cannot, however, in Herr Petermann’s opinion, stand beside the discoveries made in our new colonies by Britton and Mauch, Merensky and Gürzner. Zimbabwe is the place. Its neighbourhood is rich in alluvial gold, precious stones, and diamonds. It possesses ruins of extensive piles of buildings, the structure of which shows them to be of unquestionable and remote antiquity. Ornaments and instruments are still found that could not possibly have been made by the natives, but might well have been left there by Phoenicians. Three days’ journey from Zimbabwe similar ruins have been found, and the surrounding country is rich in all that favours agriculture. The present inhabitants have been in possession only about forty years, and they regard the ruins and relics with a certain awe, due to tradition, which invests them with a sacred character. The geography of the place tallies admirably with the indications given in the Bible. Phoenician vessels would naturally sail along the eastern African coast for the Red Sea, and proceeding by this route they would be about three years coming and going, as stated in the Bible. Herr Petermann concludes with a cut at the “practical sense” of the English, who “with the most naive coolness” have annexed the valuable territory, and winds up with the exclamation, Viva sequens! as a recommendation, probably, to his own Government to follow our example.
The wonderful “land of Ophir,” whence Solomon drew the gold, and ivory, and precious stones, used in the construction of the Temple, seems to be in a fair way to be discovered by enterprising German geographers, who are anxious, no doubt, to “annex” such an interesting piece of territory. Zimbabwe, on the African coast—the site of the English diamond fields—is, as Herr Petermann maintains, identical with the Ophir of the Bible. It possesses ruins of extensive piles of buildings, the structure of which shows them to be of unquestionable and remote antiquity—as old, indeed, as the Queen of Sheba, by whom they may have been built. The soil is rich in alluvial gold, precious stones, and diamonds; the geography of the place tallies exactly with the indications given in the Bible, and the present inhabitants have only been in possession forty years, and regard the venerable ruins with great awe. So far.

Herr Petermann. But Herr Kiepert sneers in the most provoking way at his co-geographer’s grand surmise, and seeks to prove that “the land of Ophir” is situate in India. The words used in the Old Testament—viz., “gold,” “ivory,” “peacocks,” “monkeys,” &c.—are indisputably of Sanskrit origin, and the name “Abhira” has been accepted as corresponding even etymologically to the “Ophir” of the Jews. Everything, in Herr Kiepert’s opinion,—distance, climate, names, &c.—points to the conclusion that the Indian hypothesis is the correct one, whereas Herr Petermann’s theory has only a flimsy basis. As to the Queen of Sheba, Herr Kiepert is inclined to treat that lady with rudeness, so much as the traditions respecting her are mystical and mythical, and not at all such as are worthy of acceptance by the German geographical mind. The controversy promises to be interesting, and it may even turn out to be amusing, for German scholars have an odd habit of losing their temper.
ANOTHER GOLD FIELD.

The latest news from Africa includes the discovery of another goldfield within only 200 miles from the port of Sofala, on the east coast. According to Dr. Beke, who claims to have predicted this, the country is healthy, lying more than 4,000 feet above the sea level, well watered, fertile, and thickly inhabited by industrious and well-disposed people of the tribe of Makalaka, growing rice and corn, and possessing horned cattle, sheep, and goats. He adds:—‘Herr Mauch has made the further remarkable discovery of the remains of one of the ancient cities which have long been reputed to exist in this very locality, consisting of buildings with the walls 30ft. high, 15ft. thick, and 450ft. in extent, a tower and other erections, and formed exclusively of hewn granite, put together without mortar, and with ornaments which seem to show that they are neither Portuguese nor Arabian, but are of much greater antiquity, and not improbably of the age of the Phcenicians or Tyrians and King Solomon. But this subject and the speculations arising out of it as to whether this may or may not be the Biblical Land of Ophir—I say no—interesting as they undoubtedly are to the archaeologist, are insignificant in comparison to the importance—political, commercial, and social—of Herr Mauch’s discovery of this new goldfield of Zimbabwe.’


men have found no imitators. The primeval solitude of Mount Ophir has since been undisturbed except by an occasional visit from an erratic Briton (Wallace, the naturalist, spent a week at its foot), and the tradition which fixes it as the place which supplied Solomon’s Temple with gold wholesale (a distinction claimed also for another Mount Ophir in Sumatra) must be left to rest on the old excavations, for it certainly has not received much confirmation in modern times.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD.

Sir,—Though quite unable to give any information as to the ruins recently discovered near the South African diamond fields, yet I venture to state that there is no probability of their having any connection with the Ophir of King Solomon, and for these reasons:—1. Because there is little or no gold in the neighbourhood. 2. Because King Solomon sent ships to obtain gold, ivory, precious stones, &c. He could hardly have done so anywhere near the diamond fields, seeing the nearest port is some three hundred miles off. But I think that the opinion of Bruce, who places Ophir at Sofala on the east coast, is very likely to be correct, and that before long we shall have full particulars of some vast ruins that have been discovered by Herr Manch, the German traveller. Dr. Petzmann, of Gotha, writes thus:—"The ruins consist of fragments of buildings, walls, &c., up to 30 feet high, and 15 feet thick; a tower 400 feet in diameter. That they are all, without exception, of hewn granite without mortar indicates in itself a great age. The drawings sent in by Mauch of the ornaments of the ruins leave no doubt that they originate neither from the Portuguese nor Arabian, but indicate a much earlier time." "In short, to the quartz gold fields, the alluvial gold lately discovered by Button and Manch, the growing importance of the diamond fields, the Ophir of King Solomon seems now to be added."

These ruins are about 40 miles from the sea west of Sofala, and old gold quartz workings have been discovered covering a large extent of country situated in lat. 20.14 deg. S, and long. 31.48 deg. E.

That South Africa has a past history of which little or nothing is known is quite evident from these recent discoveries. Near (De Beer's) New Rush I have seen some remarkable ruins, and I have no doubt all that ancient cities will be found buried in the sands that have blown across from the Kalgaree Desert. Perhaps "T. K. H." will give the public any further details, should his brother write again on the subject.—I am, Sir, yours very truly,

Oct. 28,

J. H. W.
The Ruins of Ophir.—M. Manch, an African traveller, some time since discovered certain remains which he believed to be those of the ancient Ophir. The accuracy of that supposition was, however, called in doubt at the time, and the matter was forgotten. But a letter has just appeared in the Weser Gazette from that gentleman, dated St. Helena, November 2, 1872, addressed to M. Mohr, a fellow-traveller, in which he says:—"I believe that I have found the real Ophir in lat. 20 deg. 15 min. S., long. 26 deg. 30 min. E., and I think I possess proofs of the fact. The ruins which have been so often spoken about are composed of two masses of edifices in a tolerably good state of preservation. The first is on a mountain of granite; and amongst other constructions is to be remarked one which is an imitation of the Temple of Solomon, being fortress and sanctuary at the same time, the walls of which are built in wrought granite, without mortar, and still being more than 30 feet high. Beams of cedar served as ceiling to the narrow and covered galleries and I have brought away some fragments of it. In reality no inscription exists, but only some special designs of ornamentation which announce a great antiquity. The whole western part of the mountain is covered with blocks of great size which seem to indicate terraces. The second mass of ruins is situated to the south of the mountain, from which it is separated by a low valley; it retains a well preserved circular form, with walls constructed as a labyrinth, also without mortar; a tower still exists 30ft. high, 17ft. in diameter at the base and 9ft. at the top. Cedar-wood is used there in the same manner as previously described, and if anything is astonishing it is the fact that it should have endured so long without having suffered from the field fires which occur every year. The circular edifice is accompanied by a large number of others situated in front, and which doubtless served as the habitation of the Queen of Sheba's suite. I have drawn, not without difficulty, a general sketch and a plan of this palace. I was confirmed by the natives themselves in the idea that these ruins date from the Queen's time; for, about 40 years ago, before the irruption of the Matebele from the west, and the Zulu from the east, sacrifices were still offered up on the mountain. The natives still call the circular building the House of the Great Princess."

This article runs in Huddersfield Daily Chronicle, Belfast News-letter, Northampton Mercury, and Birmingham Daily Post under headline “Discovery of the Queen of Sheba’s Palace”
THE OPHIR OF SCRIPTURE.

Strange stories have been told of late about the Ophir of Solomon having been discovered. The recently-opened diamond-mines of South Africa led to explorations further north, which resulted in the revelation of extensive gold-mines. Mr. Hartley, the lion-hunter, and Mr. Mauch, the German explorer, went further, and made known a more northern auriferous district. It is in the last-discovered gold-field that the real Ophir is supposed to have been seen. The diamond ground is beyond the Orange river, north-east of Cape Colony, running into the Orange Free State of the Boers. Going northward through the South African Republic, the Limpopo is reached; that stream enters Delagoa Bay. Once over the Limpopo, the southern gold-mines present themselves. Entering Mosili Katse's country, one gains the new northern field, extending to the valley of the Zambesi.

Ophir is, like Sofala, a name commonly given to auriferous deposits. There are Ophirs and Sofalas in California, Australia, and Africa. One of the first sites of the precious metal in New South Wales was called Ophir. The ruins claimed to mark the position of the Bible Ophir are placed in latitude 20 deg. 15 min. S. and longitude 31 deg. 40 min. E. This is certainly in the interior of Sofala, in Eastern Africa, and easily accessible from the sea.

The story goes that a German missionary was told of great mines there; but, as the natives feared to go as guides, the missionary did not visit the place. Mr. Carl Mauch now reveals it, and has sent down specimens of ancient works, with moulding of cornices, and other architectural forms. Recent examination, however, throws the cold shade of doubt over this pretty romance. A geologist discovers the "mouldings" to be a calcareous deposit upon the shale, and asserts that concretions of a similar kind are common in all gold countries. The illustration pictures one of the interesting objects of discussion.
On the early Inhabitants of Madagascar.*

It has long been supposed that the native inhabitants of Madagascar are a mixed people, combining races which in remote times had their origin in various other countries, near or more distant. Some are supposed to have emigrated from the eastern coast of Africa; some from Arabia and the shores of the Persian Gulf; and some are supposed to have come by some means or other from Borneo and the adjacent regions, places considered as centres whence radiated the families which peopled many of the islands in the great South Sea and in the Indian Ocean. Those who have compared the language of Madagascar with the languages of those countries, and who have considered the facility with which voyages in ancient times could be made in the

* This interesting paper has been received by Dr. Bleek by the last mail from Madagascar. It is written by Mr. James Cameron, the venerable lay representative of the London Missionary Society in that island; and is kindly placed at our disposal by Dr. Bleek for publication in the Magazine.—En.

The writer of this paper has often observed with deep interest strong points of resemblance between the old heathen rites and ceremonies of the Malagasy and the rites and ceremonies of the Jews previous to the time of Solomon, combined with the grosser forms of worship common among the Phenicians and other nations, and which, from the reign of Solomon to that of Josiah, and even till the Captivity, too frequently mingled with and corrupted the pure worship of Jehovah, as given by Moses. One phase of Phenician worship which mingled with the worship of Jehovah was burning incense to the moon, called the Queen of Heaven; it was at times all but universal in Judea; it was carried on in the streets of Jerusalem, on the flat roofs of their houses, in the places round about Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah.
The above-mentioned customs and modes of worship have been practised among the Hovas from time immemorial; many of them have a curious reference to the ceremonies and modes of worship common among the ancient Jews, whether revealed to them through their great Lawgiver at Sinai, or adopted by them from the heathen nations surrounding Palestine. Are such coincidences to be considered as accidental and such as are to be found among many barbarous nations? Or are they to be considered as of a more special character, such as may be attributed to a more intimate connection, we shall say, between the remote ancestors of the present Hovas and the Jews and Phenicians of the times of Hiram and Solomon? The present writer considers such coincidences as much more in favour of the latter hypothesis than of the former, and the following considerations may have some weight in strengthening his view of the matter.

1. The Phenician navigators were particularly noted for successfully planting colonies on the shores of the seas navigated by their ships. Thus on the Mediterranean their colonies were numerous, planted for the protection of their commerce and the periodical supply of what was necessary for their slow-moving ships.

2. The Phenicians, having neither strongly built ships nor mariner’s compass, are said to have seldom sailed far from the sight of land. And if they ever lost sight of land, it was deemed imperative to turn towards land as soon as possible. And in this way they are said to have certainly explored the north-east coast of Africa, from the Red Sea southwards, if not to have sailed round the entire continent from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

3. If they explored the north-east and east coast of Africa, they would probably visit the Comoro islands in the Mozambique Channel, and, at least, the west coast of Madagascar, for their craft would be quite as suitable for such waters as the Arab dhows of the present day. And again, if, as some suppose, the gold-producing regions west of Sofala, though now long denuded of most of its surface gold, rock gold only still remaining, should turn out to be the real Ophir of the ancients, the Phenicians were, without doubt, well acquainted with the Bay of Sofala on the east coast of Africa.

4. That the Ophir of the Jews and Phenicians lay in that direction appears now more than ever probable by the recent information respecting the discovery of extensive ruins of a large city in south-east Africa. This important intelligence is conveyed in a
letter addressed to Dr. Petermann, the celebrated German geographer, by Carl Mauch, a famous German explorer in South-east Africa, and dated September 13, 1871, written at Zimbabwe, in 20° 14'5 latitude, and 31° 48' east longitude, under 200 miles due west of the port of Sofala and little more than 100 miles north of the Limpopo River. Here Herr Mauch has found the ruins of buildings with walls 30 feet high, 15 feet thick, and 450 feet across; a tower and other erections formed exclusively of hewn granite without mortar, and with ornaments which seem to show that they are neither Portuguese nor Arabian, but are of much greater antiquity,—not improbably of the age of the Phenicians or Tyrians and King Solomon. Dr. Petermann is inclined to the opinion very prevalent among scholars, that herein South-east Africa is the land of Ophir of the Bible, &c., &c.—
(From The Colonies, Feb. 14, 1872.)

5. The joint fleet of Hiram and Solomon undoubtedly passed the island of Socotra at the entrance of the Red Sea from the Indian Ocean. The voyage from thence to the east coast of Africa, to the Comoro Islands, or even to the west coast of Madagascar, would be just such a voyage as the Phenicians in their ships could manage, perhaps quite as well as the Arabs of the present day. Indeed, after accomplishing, as we know they did, the voyage from Eziongeber near Socotra, another voyage of about the same length, but much less dangerous, would bring the ships of Hiram and Solomon to Bambetoka Bay, and the principal port, and which receives the Betsiboka, the principal river on the west coast of Madagascar, while much shorter and not more dangerous would be the voyage from Bambetoka Bay to the Bay of Sofala.

But it may be said, have no remains of Phenician settlements ever been found on those shores, as in any other places where they formed settlements or founded colonies? It may be said in reply that foreigners from temperate climes, owing to the unhealthiness of those coasts, have never been able successfully to plant colonies, either on the east or west side of the Mozambique Channel. On the western side neither the Portuguese colonies of 200 years standing, though constantly strengthened by men from Portugal, and whose object was not to live by hard labour, but to enrich themselves by supplying the world with slaves, have ever been able to take a permanent root in the soil; nor has the well appointed mission under Bishop Mackenzie, and led by all the experience of Livingstone, and whose object was to extirpate slavery, and to plant the glorious Gospel of Christ in its stead, been able to conquer the malaria of that coast, nor to find a position inland where European families could live in the enjoyment of ordinary health. But supposing the servants of Hiram and Solomon attempted a settlement or colony, or half-way house, at the mouth of the Betsiboka River, on the west coast of Madagascar, their circumstances, in one respect, would have been much more favourable than it would have been at any place on the western side of the
channel; for there they were at the mouth of a large river which led up to an elevated table land, the present dwelling place of the Hovas, which they could reach by sailing up the river a few days in their boats, and then after a few days' travel by land, reach the healthy plains of Vonizongo and Imerina. Let us then suppose that from time to time, parties of the servants sent by the Kings of Israel and Syria made their escape from the fever-ridden coast to Imerina, a land resembling the upper lands of their own Judea and Syria, and we may to some extent account for the introduction of many of the customs and modes of worship referred to above. All attempts to colonize, or by missions to christianize, Madagascar, from that day to 1820, have either been abandoned in despair or have led to the imitation of what the Phenicians are here supposed to have done, i.e., forced their way to obtain a footing in the interior.

And further, if the peacock referred to in Scripture be in reality the ostrich (see Kitto, 3rd ed., Ostrich), and if the ape included varieties of the Madagascar lemur, quite as likely to be an interesting favourite with the royal naturalist as the common baboon, then the whole of Solomon's imports could easily be found in the course of a three years' voyage from Eziongeber on the Red Sea to the Bay of Sofala on the east coast of Africa, and back again, and the fact that gold has been again discovered west of Sofala in rocks in sufficient quantity to induce Europeans at the present time to send up machinery for the purpose of crushing the rocks to obtain the gold, and that precious stones in great abundance have been discovered in South-east Africa, seems to add rather than otherwise to the probability of what is only conjectured in this paper.

The discovery of the Moabite Stone was hailed by many as a verification of a single point in ancient Jewish sacred history. In like manner the abovementioned customs and modes long known to prevail among the Malagasy may at least point to an original people, where in ancient times, they were known and practised, for good or evil, in a more perfect manner.

J. C.
STARCROSS.—Mr. Geo. Peacock, F.R.G.S., or Regent House, Starcross, formerly a master in the Royal Navy, and author of "The Handbook of Abyssinia," has sent us a lengthy and very interesting letter, giving a probable narrative of the ancient history of the Gold Coast. Alluding firstly to the similarity of the names of several places on the Gold Coast to those in Abyssinia, and especially Axum and Ankober, not far from Agoona, the writer says this Agoona may have been the Agow of Cosmas, and a part, if not all, the Gold Coast, a colony of the Abyssinian Auxmites. Cosmas states that "every other year the King of Axum (the central capital of the once mighty empire of Abyssinia) sent several persons of distinction to traffic with the natives of Agow (? Agoona) for gold. At this period the Abyssinians were acquainted with the art of navigation, and had imbibed the spirit of trade, and acquired the seaport of Adulé or Zoola (now Annesley Bay) from which they penetrated as far as the Equator in search of gold, emeralds, and aromatics." But as Mr. Salt found Greek inscriptions amongst the ruins of Axum and at Adulis, in Annesley Bay, in 1805, this Adulis might have been originally one of the early Greek colonies, coeval with, or even anterior to, the reigns of David and Solomon, even before Axum became the central capital of Abyssinia. Scientific parties attached to the Abyssinian expedition in 1867 on digging into a mound at the ruins of Adulis found a pair of bronze scales, very ancient and in good preservation—these might probably have been used for weighing gold brought from the Gold Coast. It is quite possible that these enterprising Greeks were the first to double the Cape of Good Hope, under the auspices of the reigning monarch of Abyssinia, probably great Queen Mareb or Azeb herself; and, query, did they, finding abundance of gold there, and a savage people worshipping a huge serpent, call it Ophir, from a Greek word signifying a serpent or Python? The Pythian games were established in renovated Greece about this time, the first year of the Olympiad, during the reigns of David and Solomon; and abundance of gold poured into Greece at this period as well as Judea (see 1st Chron., xix., 25; xxii., 14; and 1st Kings, x., 16-29), probably brought from Azoona, or the neighbouring kingdoms of the Gold Coast. It must not be forgotten that one of the ancient names of Africa was Olympus. Another of the ancient names of
Africa was Olympus. Another of the ancient names of Africa was Lybia. After the description of the siege of Troy, by Homer, the great bard describes Egyptian Thebes; and Greek inscriptions are to this day found on the ruins of that once enormous city. Did not the Greeks, then, some years after the Trojan war, become identified, as it were, with Egypt during the eighty years of obscurity in Greek history, and hence the invasion of the Heraclidae, after which the Olympic games were established, and from the science acquired in Egypt and the gold from Ophir, Greece became a powerful nation. Dr. Doig, formerly master of Stirling Grammar School, came to the conclusion that the Ophir of Solomon was situated on the Gold Coast of Africa; and it is probable that the voyage thither down the Red Sea, via Abyssinia (anciently Sheba), and returning home by the Pillars of Hercules ( Gibraltar) occupied three years. Bruce considered that Sofala, on the south-east coast of Africa, was the Ophir, but Mr. Peacock rather agrees with the opinion of Dr. Doig, backed as it seems to be by the writings of Cosmas, and the extraordinary similarity of names on the Gold Coast to those of Abyssinia. The natives of this coast, too, to the present day, worship the Great Python, or harmless serpent of the country, rearing temples to its honour, and regarding it as a God! They also worship, or did worship, idols in groves, like the Canaanites; and a tribe of the Abyssinians, called Agowa, residing at Lasta and Damut, in Abyssinia, supposed by Bruce and Salt to have been the descendants of the Canaanites driven out of Canaan by the Jews (see Joshua xi. 23) also pay divine honours to the rivers Nile and Taccazzi, as the natives of the Gold Coast do at the present time to the sea. The circumcision of both sexes is also practised by the Gold Coast negroes and the Abyssinians alike, the former saying the custom was handed down to them by their ancestors. Other customs are also identical. With reference to the auriferous nature of the soil of this part of Africa, Mr. Peacock says the natives do not work their gold mines now, owing to religious scruples, and are very jealous of their position being known. They merely accumulate such of the precious metal as becomes disintegrated and is washed down the rivers in the rainy season. There is no doubt that if the mines were thrown open and worked like those of California, Australia, and New Zealand, any
is no doubt that if the mines were thrown open and worked like those of California, Australia, and New Zealand, any amount of gold might be produced under the tuition of English, American, or Australian miners; and King Koffee could easily procure sufficient gold not only to pay all the expenses of this untoward war, but an annual tribute of a million or more if compelled to do so. As to the personal appearance of the natives Mr. Peacock says he has himself seen negro slaves at Rio de Janeiro and Maranhao, said to have been brought from the Gold Coast, with decided Ethiopian features, with long black hair and aquiline noses, like the Sikha of India, but he has not been able to ascertain whether the Ashantees proper are so distinguished, or of the regular negro type. If the former it would seem to confirm the writings of Cosmas, that the Auxmites, under Grecian leaders had planted a colony on this coast some 2,900 years ago. After a description of the principal geographical features of the Gold Coast Mr. Peacock goes on to say that there has been, no doubt, a great deal of bad management in the government of this British protectorate for some years past, and the result is now seen in the present war. The question having now assumed a phase where British honour is involved the Ashantees must be subdued at all cost; but, as “out of evil comes good,” it is to be hoped that, having succeeded in this respect, the necessity of promoting civilisation among them, will be recognised by the endowment of public schools, like those of Lagos and other parts of civilised Africa. Efforts should also be made to abolish their superstitions as to sacred gold mines, and evil genii mines (once so prevalent in Cornwall). In conclusion Mr. Peacock strongly advises the teaching, by good negro missionaries, of the pure religion of Jesus Christ, but not that portion of the Bible narrating the wars of the Jews, which up to now has only confirmed the Ashantees and other tribes in the belief that they are fully justified in engaging in bloody wars and perpetrating acts of gross cruelty. The indiscriminate importation of arms and munitions of war should also be prevented, and everything possible done to encourage the arts of industry and peace, especially in gold mining, the staple produce of the soil, by the introduction of miners to teach the art to the people; and by placing an export duty on gold a large revenue would be raised for supporting the Government without taxing the British dominions.
“Thus,” says Mr. Peacock, “the inescrutable ways of Providence may, by the present unlooked-for war, eventually bring about happiness to some five millions of human beings, who are at present suffering more misery than when the foreign slave trade, with all its horrors, was in full force; and also prove the means of establishing a universal specie currency, and preventing those lamentable panics in the money market which bring such misery into the families of a civilised community.” — *Western Morning News.*

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The Guinea, or Gold, Coast of Africa, formerly a Colony of the Axumites, or ancient Abyssinians in the reign of King Solomon, and the veritable Ophir of Scripture, now an undisputed Colony of Great Britain. By Captain George Penneck, R.E.G.S.—Exeter: W. Pollard, North-street.

The author of this interesting and handsomely get up pamphlet is a true son of that superb lady, Britannia, who “Rules the Main,” is well known at St. Lawrence, and in many other places of this wide world besides. This is not the first time by many that the Captain has put pen to paper for the Press, but never on a subject more out of the common track. We learn from the Pianace that this truly designated “elaborate, and curious” paper was written in 1873, shortly after the break ing out of the Ashantee war, “shewing that the Gold Coast of Africa, or Guinea, was originally a Colony of Abyssinia during the reign of Maquida or Azeb, the Great Queen of Sheba, and this rich country was undoubtedly the veritable Ophir of Solomon.” This subject will engage deeply the attention of Biblical students, and less the regard of those who are in search of the same precious metal that made Solomon so rich, and are now forcing companies to dig for it in Afric’s golden sands. The learned have long differed as to the whereabouts of Solomon’s Ophir; it will be a considerable feather in our Captain’s cap if he shall succeed in proving it to be the Gold Coast of Africa, Josephus having placed it “at the commencement of the Christian era, in India, and others since at as many places as there are letters in the name. The reader has the assistance of two good maps, one a facsimile map of the Gold Coast territory, by D’Anville, printed in the year 1729; the other consisting of Plans of the ports of Cape Coast Castle, Axim or Axum, Dix’s Cove, Elmina, and the entrance of the River Volta, from Admiralty surveys. This is altogether a stirring contribution to our knowledge of ancient and modern geography, and giving a good account of her Majesty’s dominions in the regions of Western Africa.