Within the next few days a unique expedition will start for Africa—a land from which, so far, have come more heart-burnings than golden joys. Professor R. L. Garner, of the United States, is about to embark on his great quest—not for the Lost Tales of Miletus, but for the lost tongues of the Simaean tribes. It is curious that just as Lord Randolph Churchill has returned from exploring what is believed to be the ancient Land of Ophir, an American should start to investigate another physical aspect of that mystic region. It is on record that King Solomon had at sea a navy of Tharsish with the navy of Hiram, and that once in every three years came the navy of Tharsish bringing gold and silver, ivory or elephants’ teeth, apes and peacocks, to enrich the treasure-houses of Jerusalem. Whether the navies of Tharsish have left any gold in the mines of Ophir is what a large number of “prospectors” are at present concerned to discover, but if the “apes” have the language which Professor Garner supposes (and on fair evidence, it must be confessed) that they have, then they must be even now speaking the tongue which their forefathers spoke in the forests of Sheba, and in the holds of the vessels of Hiram. There is something
rest is on monkeys.

Robert Brown, *The Story of Africa and its Explorers* (London: Cassell and Co., 1892): “Both Rome and Carthage had a far-reaching trade with the Black Barbarians, and we gather from Herodotus that some of his informants had an acquaintance at firsthand with races and places the existence of which it has been left for modern explorers to confirm. But it must be repeated that nowhere in Inner Africa, that is, at any distance from the coast, have Europeans left any trace of their presence which cannot, with two possible exceptions, be legitimately accounted for. These exceptions are the mysterious stone houses of Mashonaland, which were for long believed to be the work of the Portuguese, but are now known, from a narrative by Barbosa (cousin of Magellan) to have been antiquities when the Portuguese first
saw them in the early years of the sixteenth century. By some they are thought to be Phoenician, by others Persian, by a third set of theorists Moorish and by a fourth to have been erected by the early miners from whom Solomon got his supplies of gold. In other words, this region was the Ophir of the Israelitish King, which has been sought in South Arabia, in India, in Sumatra, in the West Indies, and even in Peru. One thing is certain, the buildings were evidently erected for mining purposes, and, as the country is rich in gold and other minerals, and abounds in the traces of exhausted diggings, they were likely enough the work of the same early adventurers who erected the ruined buildings near Zanzibar, which are of strictly Persian type” (1: 9-10).

John Brown, “Ceylon,” Illustrated Missionary News (April 1892): “Many authorities maintain that the modern Point de Galle stands upon the very site on which stood ancient Tarshish, to which the Phoenician ships voyaged once in three years, and from which King Solomon obtained the greater part of the gold and silver... to beautify and adorn his palace and the Temple” (50).

Manchester Courier 2 Aug 1892
ECONOMIC HERESIES.

To the Editor of the Manchester Courier.

Sir,—From Mr. Morgan Brierley’s letter in your issue to-day he judges the writer to be so steeped in "pronounced and extreme politico-economical heresies and dangerous idiosyncracies" that he (Mr. Brierley) "has no expectation of being able to convert him." Still Mr. Brierley is anxious "for those less confirmed in error," whom he hopes to keep from evil courses by pointing out that England "from being the greatest workshop in the world has grown and is growing to be the great storekeeper and general merchant for the nations of the earth, and as such it behoves her, as much as in her lies, to be absolutely free in her action."

Mr. Brierley further writes, "Foreigners, as they have done, may continue to hamper her in their petty ways, for they know no better, but to put shackles upon herself, especially with her recent, fine, and profitable experience would indicate a decline in mental health, surely prognosticating of inevitable national decay and dissolution." So it comes to this that under Free-trade England’s destiny is to become "the great storekeeper and merchant for the nations of the earth." Some of us have had a notion that England’s greatness consisted in the full, varied, and profitable employment of her working and producing people, and that national production constituted national wealth. "It was the merchants, not the manufacturers, who conferred honour and fame upon ancient Tyre." I had an idea that the merchants of Tyre, Sidon, and Carthage, with the Phoenicians, Venetians, and Romans were examples of warning to Englishmen, not to trust in commerce and commerce alone, for preserving their greatness and Empire. But no. Baal is God, and we are to imitate the doings of Hiram and the precious merchants of Free-trade Tyre. About two years ago Mr. Brierley extolled the doings of the merchants of Tyre—unfortunately I did not preserve his letter—and the Biblical Hiram, from whom Solomon, "the wisest man," took lessons, and also took his daughter in marriage. Solomon was a Free-trader in the marital department—he had 700 wives. Mr. Brierley also referred to Solo-
had 700 wives. Mr. Brierley also referred to Solomon's commercial entre-pot (Tadmor) and the ports of Tarshish and Ophir, and their ships anchoring off the south-west coast of Cornwall. To-day Mr. Brierley informs us of the ships of Tyre "bringing the textile fabrics of the East to the rocky isle of St. Michael in exchange for tin," and "Solomon's marvellous wisdom which consisted chiefly in opening up, in conjunction with his friend Hiram of Tyre, his little country to the then trade of the world, and not so much in administering justice to bereaved widows or in the constitution of his domestic establishment." Solomon may have fathomed the philosophy of Free-trade, and he evidently improved the occasion of his visit to Hiram by altering the constitution of his domestic arrangements, but Mr. Brierley has omitted to moralise upon the idolatry of the ancient Free-trader in "bowing down to Baal with his Free-trade wife (No. 701), for we read as he gave himself up to his wives, he surrendered himself to their idols also. There is little doubt but that Solomon got himself into trouble over that visit to Hiram. Awful warning for Free-traders in modern England. Baal and the 450 prophets could not save and protect the merchant princes of Tyre, including Hiram, his daughter, and son-in-law. In reply to Mr. Brierley's letter two years ago, I compared the Baal of ancient Tyre to the Baal of modern Free-trade. May I reproduce the comparison, for in the interval I see no reason to doubt the conclusions I then arrived at? Baal was supposed to do anything for the worshippers—gave them sunlight, food, flowers, enriched their vineyards, and gave "commercial" prosperity. Since 1846, in this country, there has been a Baal (the idol free imports), and its devotees, mainly for political purposes, look to it for peace, sunshine, and prosperity. In reading the Scripture history of Elijah, the servant
of one that hid himself ("the name without a form") we ascertain what became of Baal and the prophets of Baal. It remains to be seen what will become of the prophets and priests of the Baal of 1846 and the creed which bids every man look first to his cashbox, which disregards the bonds of good will which unite man to man, and is just now divorcing capital from labour, destroying industrial England and setting up an artificial financial England. This image of iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold will be "broken to pieces, and become like the chaff of the summer-threshing floor." Whatever Mr. Brierley may say upon "commercial heresies" he has not replied to the arguments contained in my letter. It is more important to get an answer to the query, "How can our working people combine for the protection of their wages and demand an eight hours' day—i.e., restricting competition, while Free-trade means unrestricted competition?" than over-hauling the history of Tyre and the merchant princes of that wicked city. Again, I am charged with reading Adam Smith, "through ill-made glasses, not to say with a peculiar mental squint." I simply quoted Adam Smith, "A nation, whether it consumes its own productions, or with them purchase from abroad, can have no more to spend than it produces. Therefore, the supreme policy of every country is to develop its own producing forces." I referred to the value of "domestic exchanges"—that "the entire price or gross value of every home-made commodity constitutes net national gain or revenue." Let the philosopher of Denshaw House meet these arguments, and not fiddle away over the days of Tyre and the doings of Hiram and Solomon.

Yours, &c.,

EDWIN BURGIS.

Rusholme, July 30, 1892.
MR. BENT'S TRAVELS.

The exploration of Africa by the Europeans has led to no more curious and interesting literature than that which records the travels in Mashonaland of Mr. and Mrs. Bent and Mr. Swan. The author and his wife are well-known travellers and explorers; and their expedition to Mashonaland, to inquire into and report on the ruined cities of the country now administered by the British South Africa Company, was due largely to their knowledge of Arab history and archaeology. The results entirely justify the labour and expense incurred. These ruined cities or fortified places are always close to the old gold-workings of bygone days. With the aid of Mr. R. M. W. Swan's scientific attainments, their character and object have been ascertained with considerable precision. Although it was quite possible that we might learn the results of these travels with accuracy, yet it is eminently satisfactory to find that they are embodied in a volume which is full of interest for the general reader. Mr. Bent is a practised literary hand, and he knows well how to recount the adventures of the party, their work at the ruins, their "finds," and the more reliable conclusions as to the history of these wonderful cities. The novelist and romancer have been hard at work in spinning their imaginary webs round these old ruins. They have been confidently associated with the land of the Queen of Sheba, of the mines of Solomon, and of the gold of Ophir. Even a German traveller of twenty years ago has experienced the fatal results of saying more than public opinion was likely to swallow. Though his conclusions are often too romantic, yet his facts are fairly well confirmed by Mr. and Mrs. Bent's travels. Mr. Bent is, however, very careful to confine his remarks to the subject of the ruins, the gold-workings, and the past and present inhabitants of the country. His history of the central mass of ruins at Zimbabwe is supplemented by accounts of expeditions to other ruins which have certainly not been visited by any living Europeans; and these last journeys are in some sense the most interesting in the book. They involved separation from every comfort, and even (on the journey to the Pungwe coast, parallel to the course of the new building Beira Railway) a narrow escape from absolute starvation. The work of the expedition occupied nearly the whole of the year 1891, and in no one of the hardships incident to travel in a new country did Mrs. Bent fail to take her full share. She was the only one of the party who did not suffer from illness. If the reader seeks for definite and tangible conclusions as to the identity of Zimbabwe and its gold workings with Ophir, he will be disappointed. Mr. Bent is not satisfied. But the fact of Arab domination is clear, and the extent of the gold workings is proved by the great crucibles for ingots which were unearthed. In fact, the fortress, "the most mysterious and complete structure that it has ever been my fate to look upon," was evidently a temple, a workshop, an arsenal, and a treasure-house in one environment. He says——
Standard 24 Nov 1892 on Bent:

which, judging from similar remains, seems to have been almost universal. These ruins were nearly forgotten until the Expeditions of Mauch and Baines, more than twenty years ago, again brought them into notice. But they were known to the earliest visitors to that region. Barbosa, cousin of Magellan, refers to them as mysteries in his days, which at once puts the theory that they were built by the Portuguese quite out of the field. The Moors, the Chinese, the Persians, and the Phoenicians have all been credited with their erection, and it is, perhaps, needless to say that as this region has been pronounced—what gold country has not?—the Ophir of Solomon, the Hebrew King and the Queen of Sheba have an irresistible attraction for the theorists on the Mashonaland ruins. There was a time when Mr. Bent fairly revolted at the conjunction of these historical names. For while encamped at Zimbabwe, far as it is in the outer world, he and his party had plenty of curious visitors, in the shape of prospectors, who came over to see the solitary traces of antiquity in all that very modern region.

Also reviewed in Morning Post 14 Feb 1893; and Glasgow Herald 24 Feb 1893, in article “The Partition of Africa”:

Now, Mr Bent has given very strong reasons for supposing that these ruins, and the gold mines to which they related, were of Arabian origin, and if this be correct (somehow Mr Keltie ignores Mr Bent’s work) then the Arabs seem really to have been the earliest settlers in Africa from the outside, and the partition of the Dark Continent would date back to the days of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Mr Keltie, however, prefers to suppose that the partition of Africa began with the Phoenicians some 3000 years ago. The point is not material in a political, although it is in an historical, and perhaps also in an ethnographical, sense.
THE LAND OF OPHIR.—Mr Cecil Rhodes, Premier of Cape Colony, firmly believes that in the Lymanbya ruins in South Africa lies the land of Ophir, the real King Solomon's mines. He says:—"There are shafts sunk there ages ago, with crucibles for working the gold, which no rude, uneducated natives could ever have constructed. The place is of prehistoric date, and, from the traces of the kind of worship carried on, as also from the specimens of glass found on the spot, we gather clearly that the city must have been built by the Phoenicians. Undoubtedly it is the Ophir of King Solomon."

Ship and Mail News 8 May 1893

MR. LOWE'S DIVINITY EXAMINATION.

Mr. Patchett Martin's "Life and Letters of Viscount Sherbrooke," published by Longmans, contains inter alia, an account of the late Lord Sherbrooke's school days. The following was Mr. Lowe's examination in Divinity, as related by himself:

"Examiner: "Which gave the better counsel to Rehoboam, the old men or the young men?"

I: "The old men. It was quite right to lighten the taxation."

Examiner: "Did not Solomon obtain large revenues by commerce?"

I: "I don't think so. Princes have, as Adam Smith tells us, always been bad traders; we do not know what he exported to Ophir, but he brought back gold and silver, many articles of luxury, and monkeys; and peacocks, not, I apprehend, a very profitable consignment."

(A laugh.)

"Examiner: "Still, the country is described as being very prosperous under his government, and the revenue is described as being large?"

I: "Yes, but then see how it was squandered: there was the Temple, the Golden Throne, and the Sea of Gold, and the lions, and the cherubim, and the Mercy Seat."

Examiner: "Still, that hardly bears out the opinion of the old men."

I: "No, sir. There was besides the support of 360 wives and 700 concubines. We often see a man ruined by one wife; surely a thousand women were enough to ruin a whole country." (A general roar of laughter.)

Examiner: "Thank you, sir. Your examination has been very pleasing."
NEWPORT.

Lecture on South Africa.—Last night Mr D. S. Salmond delivered a lecture in the Blyth Hall on the subject of “South Africa: Its Mines and Missions.” The hall was filled with an appreciative audience, and Provost Scott, who presided, briefly introduced the lecturer. Mr Salmond treated the subject in a most interesting manner, and he illustrated it by a series of splendid limelight views having reference to a voyage to Africa. First of all a number of pictures of Scottish scenery were thrown on the screen, including Loch Tay and Edinburgh. A splendid portrait of Sir Donald Currie, M.P., managing owner of the Castle Line of steamers, was also shown, along with a number of London views, such, for instance, as St Paul’s Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, &c. Amongst the other illustrations were views of Southampton, the Bay of Biscay, the coast of Madeira, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Natal, Durban, Kimberley, Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, and Mashonaland. The lecturer described Mashonaland as the land of Ophir, and added that latest investigations tended to show that it contained the gold mines of King Solomon. The working of the gold and diamond mines was also depicted, and some interesting facts given regarding mission work. In the course of the evening a number of songs were contributed by Mr Salmond, who was accompanied on the piano by Mrs Salmond. On the motion of Provost Scott, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr Salmond for his lecture, and a similar compliment was paid to Provost Scott.

Broughty Ferry
Mr Labouchère said he thought there would be a general agreement that the House should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to what was now going on in Mashonaland and Matebeleland, more especially as there was a very powerful body who were interested in keeping the country in ignorance on the subject. In 1888 Mr Rhodes obtained a mining concession from Lobengula, who ruled over Mashonaland and Matebeleland, where gold was supposed to exist. This concession, which was negotiated by Mr Rudd, purported to convey to the concessionaires mining rights over this large territory in consideration of £100 and 1000 mukasets. Then, in April, 1889, Lord Gifford obtained another concession from Lobengula. Ultimately the two groups of concessions contested, and in October, 1889, granted a charter to the South Africa Company, who were empowered to work the concessions granted to Rhodes, Rudd, and to Lord Gifford, and also to acquire other rights in Mashonaland and Matebeleland. Now, it was a fact that Lobengula denied that he had ever knowingly granted the concessions in question, and asserted that he had been induced to sign a document of which he did not understand the purport or extent.

The result of the operations of the Company was that at the beginning of the present year there were about 800 English settlers in Mashonaland. But their expectations of obtaining gold were greatly disappointed, and the Company had by this time spent all their money, and were largely indebted. That being the case, the Company first obtained a concession of Manicaland; and this proving equally disappointing, reports were then spread that Matebeleland was the real land of Ophir. At the same time accounts were spread as to the tyrannical and bloodthirsty character of Lobengula’s rule, and it was argued that it was our duty to terminate this oppression and protect the Mashonas against the savage potentate by whose Impia they were raided. He had little to say in favour of Lobengula; but this he must say—that he seemed to be the most respectable person engaged in these transactions (laughter). He then referred to...
XII.—THE MASHONALAND DEVELOPMENT.

In concluding his lecture on South Africa, in connection with the Oxford University Extension Movement at Truro, Mr. W. B. Worsfold, M.A., said the subject was “the Mashonaland Development.” They were dealing with a country not only physically but historically attractive. The region around which the historic interest centred lay eastward of the Mashonaland plateau. The venerable ruins of Zimbabwe were regarded as the scene of Semitic colonisation, undertaken probably under Phoenician auspices at the time of King Solomon. Its object was commercial—to work the gold mines and trade with the natives in ivory and ostrich feathers. The ruins clearly indicated the presence of

A RACE SUPERIOR IN CIVILIZATION
to any native African people, and was identified by Mr. Theodore Bent with the Sabears, and their sphere of operations, with the land of Ophir in the Bible. The earliest European colonists were the Portuguese; but here, as in India, they had been forestalled by the Arabian merchants. The ruins were first seen by a European in 1871, but scientific exploration was delayed for 20 years, when it was undertaken by Mr. Theodore Bent, under the joint auspices of a London Society and the Chartered Company. The original inhabitants were a tribe of the Industrial Bantu. The Mashonas lived in open villages, and had made some progress in the arts, interesting evidences of the character of the people being afforded by the descriptions given by those who had visited the locality. The plateau was not exclusively occupied by Mashonas, the southern portion being in the possession of the Matabele. These retired northward beyond the Limpopo on the defeat of Mzilikazi, and under the son of Mzilikazi these warlike people overran Mashonaland, exterminated the inhabitants of that portion of the country which they selected for occupation, and reduced the survivors to

SLAVERY OR VASSALAGE.
The Location of Ancient Tarshish.

SIR,—I noticed in your paper of the 25th August some statements from Professor Sayce of the University of Oxford, "Did Phoenicians Trade in Cornwall?"

Some time ago I wrote an article, after, I may say, some years of investigation and research, in which I endeavoured to decide the location of ancient Tarshish, which your readers will know has been a lost location from the time of Josephus down. The article would be too long for your paper, but I will try as briefly as possible to state my theory, which I believe, as a whole, is original, as are the arguments with which I endeavour to substantiate it.

I pass by the numerous locations which have been given by so many writers, and which can easily be looked up by the interested, to mention my own: that the Eastern Tarshish comprised the Straits settlement, or Banca, and Billiton, and the Western (for there were an eastern and western) Great Britain; and my line of argument tersely stated is this: After the flood, in the original distribution of the world to the great grandsons of Noah, of which Tarshish was one, and although not the eldest, the most enterprising, there was given to the Japheth branch (as see Gen. x., 4 and 5) the isles of the Gentiles. I therefore conclude that the patrimony of Tarshish included, from the centre of population, remote islands; the Japheth branch had therefore to claim and keep their maritime supremacy.
Forgotten atlases are turning up. The same week that Mr. Roberts unearthed the map bearing on the Venezuela boundary at Castle Howard, Dr. Carl Peters discovered an atlas printed at Amsterdam in the beginning of the eighteenth century, which proves that two hundred years ago the Portuguese had knowledge of Africa which, had we but been aware of it, might have saved innumerable exploring expeditions and deplorable loss of life. With the decline of the Portuguese power there, this knowledge went out of sight. Now the accidental discovery of an old Dutch atlas reveals an early and accurate knowledge of the East and South-West Coasts of Africa, of the courses of the river Congo and Zambesi, of the dwarf tribes Akka, and of the great forest in the north-western bend of the Congo, whose discovery we usually ascribe to Mr. Stanley. But perhaps the most interesting feature to nine people out of ten which the old atlas reveals is the site of Ophir, where Solomon got his gold from. Indeed, Dr. Peters is bold enough to ascribe the very term Africa to the famous gold mines, for the Hebrew of Ophir is AFR, and you have but to add the Latin ending “ica” to have the name complete. If this theory will hold water, we may be on the eve of another discovery. From Ophir came the almag trees, besides the gold, which are of so doubtful a character that they are sometimes called almag trees, as though the excibles were not quite sure of the spelling. Now, if the old atlas definitely fixes the site of Ophir, surely the trees of the neighbourhood, even if buried, will be brought to light, and a question very interesting to scholars satisfactorily settled.
Robert Wallace, *Farming Industries of Cape Colony* (London: P.S. King and Son, 1896), dedicated to Rhodes, opens with a “Historical Preface” by H.S. Caldecott: “For this I am mainly indebted to Mr Worsfold.

B.C. 1700. Land of Punt (S.E. Africa) conquered by the Egyptians.
B.C. 1000. Solomon’s Expedition to the land of Ophir (S.E. Africa).
B.C. 600. Voyage of Phcenician seamen (from Red Sea) round Africa” (xvii); ending in 1896: “1896. Invasion of Transvaal by Dr Jameson with a body of 480... This brings the history of South Africa down to date. It is a story of constant worry and war — expansion and progress. Mr Lucas is quite right in saying that the colonisation of South Africa has been no easy task, owing to conflicting interests” (xxi). Appendix: “Some archaeologists maintain these drawings are relics of the termination of the Shemitic civilisation, inaugurated by Solomon, whose colonists, Phoenician and Judean, occupied Manicland and Mashonaland (the Land of Ophir), and where their ruined cities are now being discovered” (519).
"Monomotapa (Rhodesia): Its Monuments and its History, from the Most Ancient Times to the Present Century," by the Hon. A. Wilmot, is a disappointing book. Not that the work, per se, is a bad work, or even a poor work, but because of the poorness of the original material, compared with the ambitious title.

Mr. Wilmot, who has had much experience in Rhodesia, divides his work into three parts: treating of Phoenicia, Arabia, and Portugal, and the aim of his design is to prove that Monomotapa (Rhodesia) was originally founded as a Phoenician-African Empire, and that the splendid architectural remains found there are proof of this. The account of the Portuguese occupation of the land is remarkably entertaining, but we cannot agree with Mr. Wilmot that the ancient kingdom of Monomotapa was the ‘Ophir’—or even one of them—of Solomon. No doubt gold was found there in those far-off times, as it is found yet, in great abundance, but the Ophir of Solomon was identified as the home of certain birds, and other animals which are—and, as far as we know, have always been—unknown in Africa, but are peculiar to India. No doubt both M. Hout and Bruce long ago identified Ophir with Sofalo, on the African coast; and these are high authorities. Nevertheless it is recorded in 1. Kings, ch. 10, v. 22, that “ivory and apes and peacocks” were brought from Ophir. Now, there are no indigenous peacocks in Africa, that gorgeous bird being of strictly Eastern origin. Mr. Wilmot goes even farther afield in his elaborate Phoenician speculations, and becomes quite ridiculous when he claims the “round towers” of Ireland and “Stonehenge” as remains of Phoenician dwellings, and “Stonehenge” as “round-arched” Phoenician “architecture.” We are free to admit that the “Stonehenge problem” is not yet solved, but it is demanding too much to ask us to believe that the same people who erected Stonehenge were the authors of the “round towers” of Ireland. The book is enriched by some interesting drawings and a fac-simile of an ancient map of Africa in the Propaganda College of Rome. It has a preface by Mr. H. Rider Haggard, and “the narrative is only brought down to the year 1630, and therefore is not concerned with the conquests of the British South Africa Company.” No index is provided, which in a historical work is unpardonable. (London: Fisher Unwin.)
Paul Herring, “Three Chums or For Sport; For Gold; For Wild Adventure,” Halfpenny Marvel 24 November 1896.

Moonshine 22 May 1897

Mr. Theodore Bent, whose premature death we deeply lament, was a traveller of the scholarly class. His most remarkable work was the discovery of vast ruins of great antiquity in Mashonaland. He came to the conclusion that the architectural monuments were the remains of one of the Ophiros to which Jewish merchants traded in King Solomon’s reign. We can quite believe this, as from time immemorial “No reasonable Ophiros refused” has been the commercial motto of the enterprising Levite.
Friend of India 8 June 1897

The death of Mr. Theodore Bent removes a man who knew more about Rhodesia and the domain of the Chetwood Company than any other man but Mr. Selous. His name will be specially associated with the discovery of the ruins of Zimbabwe, which some have associated with the land of Ophir, whence Solomon got his treasures. Mr. Bent was a son of Mr. James Bent of Baldon, Yorkshire, and was born in 1852. Educated at Wedham College, Oxford, he became a traveller and explorer at a comparatively early age, and since 1877, when he married a daughter of the late Mr. R.W. Hall-Dare, of Wexford, his intrepid wife had been the companion of many of his journeys.

The Shannon has issued a little book of the life and work of Mr. T. Bent:

Pluck no. 162 (1897): “For His Queen; or, A Trooper of Dr. Jim” (publ. by Harmsworth).

In the full glare of the sunshine Mr. Jameson, Sidney Lennox, and a number of Kaffir carriers left Fort Salisbury on their expedition to explore the unknown country eastward.

Around them stretched the broad velds, hollowed here and there into deep hollows, densely screened with luxuriant vegetation, or rising into thickly wooded karanzis (steep hills), sometimes spanned by a jungle of wild wood, and everywhere strewn with ferns and feathery grasses.

“"We’re on the road to Ophir, Lennox,” laughed Jameson, as they rode alongside. “There are many wild stories connecting South Africa with King Solomon’s Mines, and almost all of these agree that the district of Sofala, on the
Leicester Chronicle 13 November 1897

Dr. Carl Peters is preparing a small work for the English Press in which he proves conclusively that Solomon's Ophir is situated in South Africa, an important part of it being within the territories of the British South Africa Company. His forthcoming expedition to South Africa has for its object the examination of the ancient gold mines—the greater part of which have never been discovered—the position of which the doctor has been able to determine.

Pall Mall Gazette 8 Dec 1898

The End of the Matter.*

If any one should wish to know the portion of the world in which the eldest mining country of history was situated, “King Solomon’s Golden Ophir” is obviously a book to be consulted. Dr. Carl Peters would not dare, he assures us, to publish a treatise on so controversial a subject unless he were certain that he could add something new to the conjectures already brought forward. The conclusions, briefly, are these. The part of Africa to which Solomon's gold fleet sailed must be looked for in the primitive Sabao-judean gold country beyond Sofala. It may even do to refer to the whole continent so far as it fulfils these conditions. “The ancient Jew” meant by Ophir the regions of the Zambesi beyond Sofala. Where Sabaoans, Phoenicians, and Jews unearthed their vast stores of gold, there British Colonial enterprise has proclaimed the modern gold fields of Mashona and Manica-land. The thorough exploration of Ophir has yet to be carried out. “Whoever leads the exploration must command that wide range of knowledge which alone can decipher such phases in the history of the human race. And above all, he must possess that rare power of perception,” &c., &c. What a blessed thing it is to be born a German! For, of course, “I am on the point of leading myself an expedition for mainly practical purposes into these very districts,” and equally so, of course, “I hope I shall be able to contribute somewhat to the further solutions of the problems.” So that, poor Ben, will have a worthy successor near Zimbabwe, at least in the estimation of the worthy successor.

*“King Solomon’s Golden Ophir.” By Dr. Carl Peters. (London: The Leadenhall Press.)
The rediscovery of King Solomon's mines is the task which Dr. Carl Peters, the famous explorer, hopes to accomplish. We are all aware that in the field of fiction one of the heroes created by Mr. Rider Haggard has already anticipated the Doctor in the achievement of his quest, but in the field of fact the whereabouts of the mines is still a mystery. This romantic expedition has been organised by a British-German syndicate. It will comprise as second in command a distinguished British officer, mining and commercial experts, and a couple of English prospectors. In a booklet recently published the Doctor deals with the archaeological aspect of the question, and he has come to what he describes as an indisputable conclusion that the land of King Solomon's golden Ophir was not in India as many of the learned have hitherto argued, but in Africa, and that in fact the two names Ophir and Africa are etymologically the same meaning, "red" country or ruddy gold land. The Doctor is convinced that the mines were in that part of Africa between the Limpopo and the Zambesi. He is not prepared to give at present any geographical details as to the precise area of his researches. The reason for refusing this information is that he does not wish to be forestalled as he was in the search for Emin Pasha some years ago. We are told, however, that two expeditions of Portuguese origin have already endeavoured to explore the region of his hope and belief, though neither of them succeeded—partly on account of mutiny of their carriers and partly on account of the state of war which prevailed two years ago in South-East Africa. All the other members of the expedition have already left for Beira to purchase stores and plant, and prepare the way for the gold hunt in territories in the Zambesi country, some of which belong to the Chartered Company and some to Portugal. Dr. Peters is to have a grand send-off to-morrow, when his friends in the Metropolis will entertain him to a farewell dinner. He will leave London the following day for South Africa, and will probably return to London in the late autumn or winter to "report progress."
KING SOLOMON'S MINES.

RHODES BELIEVES THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND

And King Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Edoh, on the shores of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.

And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon.

And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, 420 talents, and brought it to King Solomon.

And it is said further that this navy of Hiram came once in three years with gold and silver, apes and ivory and peacocks.

And ever since then men have dreamed of the lost mines of Ophir. Gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks can be found in India and in Africa. So most students have settled on one of these two lands as containing the lost treasure houses of the earth. Others maintain that the land of Ophir was in Arabia.

But Africa is the favourite place now, and so hard-headed and unvisionary a man as Cecil Rhodes believes not only that the mines are on that continent, but that he has reason to feel assured that their location has been established almost exactly, at least exactly enough to make it possible to find them. In a communication which he has just made to the shareholders of the Chestered Company he asserts that the ancient mines are situated on the southern affluents of the Zambesi River, and that their rediscovery is under way of being made a fact.

Now there has just come news from the interior of Africa about strange discoveries that at least point to coming revelations of vast interest. The report comes from an exploring party under Dr Carl Peters, and is to the effect that in Macombie's country, which is in South Zambesi—that part of British South Africa known under the general title of Rhodesia—that he has discovered a huge mountain, on which there stand mighty and ancient ruins of a character identical with
mountain, on which there stand mighty and ancient ruins of a character identical with those discovered in Zimbabwe. All the indications, according to the short report, are that they belonged to a settlement of miners and assayers, there having been found enough evidences of their work to warrant such a conclusion as to the profession of these forgotten inhabitants of inner Africa.

Now it has been fairly well established, as far as theory aided by careful study and knowledge could do it, that the inhabitants of Zimbabwe were miners who worked for Solomon, and as these newly-found ruins are identical with them in character they furnish additional testimony in support of the belief that the world is on the track of King Solomon's famous mines at last.

In his report Dr Peters refers to the old tradition that half a day's journey from the River Mansoro is a fort named Massapa, and that near this is the "great mountain of Fura, Very Rich in Gold, and that there are people who say that this name of 'Fura' is a corruption of the name Ophir." It is this mountain in which are Cyclopean ruins, according to the story. It was to find these ruins that Dr Peters made his journey from the Zambesi; he concluded that the Muira is the Mansoro of the old maps, and he investigated that territory.

He found ruins there, of which he says:— "The ruin is about two miles distant from Inja-ka-Fura. I went to this ruin in the afternoon with Herr Gramann, and we ascended it, undoubtedly the first whites who have done so for centuries, as Mr Puzey had only looked at it from the bottom. . . . We stood in a courtyard before an ancient Cyclopean wall, partly fallen to pieces, partly rising up to 12 feet to 15 feet in height. With a feeling of awe I stood in the midst of these remains of ancient, very ancient, human activity. We discovered towards the centre of the top another ground wall which had undoubtedly been a part of a building, maybe a temple, maybe a storehouse. This wall had been worked into the natural rock. The remains of a ground wall along the edge of the top led me to believe that a second
Dr. Peters' African Expedition

Further Reports of Marvellous Discoveries.

Reuter's Agency is informed that Dr. Carl Peters, in a letter dated Umtali, 15th October, just to hand, announces that during the rainy season, when practically no prospecting work was possible, he intended to come to England. He adds: — "I have evidence that can prove we have really discovered 'the Fura' of the old reports." In explanation of this Reuter's Agency is informed that Dr. Peters' expedition was mainly based on an old atlas published in Amsterdam in 1705, with French text, the author being unknown. In this atlas it was stated that "near this place (south of the Zambesi and near the River Manzoro, now Manzo) is the great mountain of Fura, very rich in
gold, which some people regard as a corruption of the word Ophir. This view was also held by the Portuguese writer Couto, who was quoted by Theodore Bent in his "Ruined Cities of Mashonaland." With regard to Fura, Couto said: "The richest mines of all are those of Massapa, from which the Queen of Sheba took the greater part of the gold which she went to offer to the Temple of Solomon, and it is Ophir for the Kaffirs call it Fur, and the Moslems Asur." Dr. Peters states that no traveller has visited this region within the past 200 years. He has now rediscovered ancient ruins of Semitic origin, including fortifications, and what he regarded as a temple or storehouse. The whole region is practically uninhabited. He also claims to have found distinct traces of ancient gold workings there.

The Gold of Ophir

Site of Solomon's Mines

Dr. Peters on his Discoveries

Interesting Statements

Dr. Carl Peters was met on his arrival from Africa yesterday by a representative of Reuters Agency, who has obtained the following details regarding his travels in Africa.

Dr. Peters said: I have this summer explored the country between the Zambezi and the Zambesi, in Portuguese East Africa and Zanzibar Mashonaland. Before I started from England I had acquired geographical information which led me to believe that Fura was near the eastern entrance of the Lupata Gorge. There I have found it. It is situated on the bank of the Muira River, about fifteen miles south of the Zambesi and halfway between Sans and Zeto. At the time of my discovery I was with Mr. Pusey and two mining engineers, Messrs. Gramann and Napolitani. I should perhaps explain here that Fura is the native corruption of the word Asur, by which name the Arabs of the sixteenth century knew the district of which I am speaking. Asur is the Semitic or South Arabian form of the Hebrew name Ophir. I have ample proof that the Fura was discovered and explored this summer is the Ophir of the Old Testament. Also it was
Opheir of the Old Testament. Aitf, or Opheir in the Syrian language, means mine. Fur as in the language of the people who now inhabit the district, also means mine.

The natives, who are under the powerful chief Macombe, call themselves Maraffay, which means People of the Sun. Unlike any other Africans I know, they are to this day sun and fire worshippers. They are quite unlike the ordinary African, and have a distinct Jewish type of face; and in my opinion they are a mixture of the Asiatic conquerors with the original inhabitants of the country.

On arriving in the district, I soon found that the natives had some idea of the existence of the ancient Opheir. In fact, they wash gold themselves after the rainy season, and after storing it in quilts do a fairly large trade in it with Beira and Toti.

At first I had great difficulties with these people. For five weeks they refused to sell me food and performed war dances to frighten me. Macombe, the Chief, then sent his brother Coutete to me, demanding what I meant by entering his country. By this time, however, as I had succeeded in getting food from other sources, Coutete seemed inclined to be friendly. I made friends with him, and I have brought him to England. Up to the present his greatest surprise is that he has not seen the sun. This chief subsequently gave me valuable information regarding the position of the ancient ruins and workings, which I at once investigated. Going to the spot indicated, I found ancient ruins of undoubtedly Semitic type. I discovered phallic emblems, which have always been connected with the ancient Semitic sun worship. Fur as...
between which gold reefs were running. Under the rocks I found a large alluvial tract, in which we discovered gold, and near it magnificent quartz reefs. The ancient workings which I found were not only surface workings, but there were also shafts and roads hewn in to the rock. I have built a station in this district, and also one in Inyanga, both of which are in charge of trustworthy Europeans. I intend next summer to further investigate the traces of diamonds, coal, white mica, and saltpetre which we found.

"My theory with regard to Ophir," said the Doctor in conclusion, is this: "The ancient conquerors heard at the mouth of the Zambesi of rich alluvial gold up river, and sailed up to the eastern entrance of the Lufara, beyond which rapids made navigation difficult. They then proceeded overland, and found, under the very walls of the fortifications (ruins of which we have discovered), alluvial and also reef gold. They then settled for a considerable period, and afterwards migrated to the west towards the Rume. They eventually settled in the cool climate of Inyanga, conquered all the districts west and south-west as far as the Sanyate River and Tuti, and built a great empire along the Zambesi and Sabi rivers. This ancient Sebean Empire probably lasted for thousands of years. Its existence was well known among the Semitic nations, and it is interesting to note that Ophir is always mentioned in the Old Testament without any explanation as to its locality. I have seen enough to be assured that all the products of the ancient Ophir are to be found on the Zambesi.

"As a result of my investigation, the Arabian and Indian theories regarding Ophir fall to pieces, and I claim unhesitatingly to have located this year the Golden Ophir of King Solomon and King Hiram."