30 June 1880

The Desert of the Wanderings.—Between Akaba, the ancient Elath, the port from which Solomon's fleets sailed for Ophir, and the Sinai Peninsula, there is a small region of country which is at present unexplored. Professor E. H. Palmer, the author of "The Desert of the Exodus," has undertaken for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, to pay a visit to this district with the endeavour to complete the map of the scene of the "Wanderings of Israel." Among the places which he proposes to examine may be mentioned the site of Kadesh Barnea, originally discovered by the Rev. J. Rowlands, and more recently visited by Mr. Clay Trumbull, of Philadelphia. Should time allow, Professor Palmer proposes also to revisit the very interesting city of El Barih, north of Petra, which he discovered in 1870, during his journey with Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake.

15 April 1891

New Route to Manica.—We are requested to state that the manager of the Manica Ophir Company, who has explored the new route to Maniceland by the Buzi river, is Mr. Arthur Vaughan-Williams, and not Mr. Montagu Williams, as stated in a Reuter telegram yesterday.
Oceangoing passenger ships continue to advance in size, speed, and luxurious appointments. The Orient liner Ophir, which arrived in the Thames yesterday from Messrs. Napier's yard on the Clyde, is the latest example of this advance so far as communication with Australia is concerned. She is the largest and swiftest vessel designed for the Australian service, and may also be pronounced the safest, seeing that the subdivisions of her hull are more abundant than any of her predecessors built for the Southern seas. She is also the first Australian steamer provided with a twin screw, and the first, consequently, that has been able with safety to dispense with masts and spars and the full complement of sails. She carries two short bare poles of steel, not much taller than her two funnels, and with only enough rigging to carry a couple of staysails and a foresail. The two sets of engines are placed side by side, and are separated from each other by a watertight bulkhead running fore and aft. There are two sets of boilers working to a pressure of 160 lb., one set of four being next the engines, but cut off from them by a watertight bulkhead, and the other set of three being separated from the rest by four watertight coal bunkers occupying a space of 30 ft. of the length of the ship. By this arrangement it would be necessary to penetrate the sides of the ship in different places over a length of at least 50 ft. between the foremost and hindmost fracture before the ship would be brought to a standstill through putting out the fires and swallowing the engines. To disable either both sets of engines or both sets of boilers, separated as they are, would require an accident of a kind outside the ordinary casualties of the sea; and it is difficult to conceive of anything short of an attack by a ram full speed amidships that would entirely disable the Ophir's machinery. In addition to the subdivisions for the protection of the machinery, the hull of the vessel is doubled nearly throughout, and in no case is the distance between the outer and inner skin less than 3 ft. 9 in. This double skin is subdivided into numerous compartments, many of which are used for water ballast.
Into 1900s, ferries cricket teams and dukes to Australia
DR. CARL PETERS, once the hero of the German Colonial party and the determined enemy of this country, has been descanting upon the greatness of England and the beneficence of her colonial policy in a manner which almost forces a deprecatory blush to the cheek of the modest Briton. Recent events have brought home to Dr. Peters with the force of a new discovery that England is a great European Power, and further reflection has convinced him that she is also a great Power in Asia, in Africa, in Australasia, and in the New World. Indeed, he avers in his newborn enthusiasm that she is to-day the great world-Power just as Rome was the great world-Power two thousand years ago; and in the prosperous communities sprung from her loins and bound to her by ties of blood, language, character, and common interests, he
seen the assurance that her position will only be consolidated by the developments of the future. With such a Power he holds it is the interest of Germany to cultivate a close friendship. He finds in the two Empires just that degree of similarity combined with difference which ought to render such a friendship fruitful and enduring. England being essentially a sea Power and Germany a land Power, he sees no reason why they should ever come into collision, nor can he conceive that they can meet in such a life and death struggle as may easily occur between rivals in the same field. Commercial rivalry he recognizes, but he holds that if national affairs are controlled by commercial interests rivalry will never issue in war for the reason that commerce has more to lose by war than can ever be gained by victory. In colonial affairs, we presume, he may be regarded as an expert, and he does not conceal his opinion that the surplus population of Germany is much better off in British colonies than under the German flag. He goes so far as to think that even the Boers would rather be under English than under German control, and to intimate that German officials form an insuperable obstacle to free colonial development. He concludes from his review of the whole case that it is clearly the interest of Germany to cultivate the best relations with this country, to stand between it and embarrassing combinations in Europe, and to reap her reward from a world-wide commerce carried on without risk or national effort under the British flag. While she must stand on guard against heavily-armed rivals upon her frontiers, Dr. Peters thinks that she may relieve her growing industries of an immense strain by allying herself commercially with this country, and cherishing a political friendship based upon obvious interests.
DR. PIETERS ON BRITISH AND GERMAN INTERESTS.

In this week’s Financial Chronicle, Dr. Carl Peters has a letter in answer to our leading article of Friday last, “The Times,” he says, “puts the question, for which section of the Germans I might be speaking in dwelling on the community of interests between England and Germany. My answer to this query is, that I hold, of course, no brief from any quarters whatever to develop these opinions. The pronounced colonial circles of Germany can hardly be expected to endorse them in the main, for they are governed above all, by a keen sense of competition with regard to the partition of the transmarine world. But I do believe that the great majority of commercial men in my country, especially the merchants of the Hanseatic communities, and of manufacturers depending on export beyond the seas, share the opinions expressed by me to a far extent. For these are the people whose very economic existence depends upon the commercial relations between Germany and England, and who accordingly hold a vital interest in the establishment of a sound commercial treaty between the two countries. A number of letters which have been addressed to me since the publication of the article amply confirm this view. And it is these circles who will continue, for a long time to come, to hold the casting vote, when the question of our transmarine relations is raised, and will have to be considered by our Foreign Office before any others. Their interest in the open door policy in the Far East, in Egypt, and all over the rest of the world, is just as great as that of the London and Liverpool merchants. It was this point of view only from which I wrote that article, and not that of my personal memories, as suggested by The Times. True, I must confess to bitter disappointment in my own colonial activity in Germany. In 1894, I went to East Africa with the purpose of opening new fields for the display of German work and German capitalistic enterprise. I believed that the colony founded by me would exact a wholesome influence on the mind of the German nation and contribute to widening the rather narrow outlook prevailing in many respects at home. Well, the colony became precisely the opposite of that which I worked for. Instead of succeeding in founding a free national community beyond the seas which might have helped to counteract the onedimensional of our bureaucracy in Europe and thus draw our people into a development analogous to the grand growth of the Anglo-Saxon system, just the opposite occurred. The bureaucracy got hold of my work, and soon had imprinted the features of the old Continental Teutonism upon it. Of course, my personal experiences in Germany were none of the most agreeable. But they could only influence my verdict on any own people and not my opinions on England; for they have been the same for the last 10 years, and -
Dr. Carl Peters’s New Expedition.—A farewell dinner was given by Dr. Carl Peters last night at the Hotel Cecil in connexion with his approaching departure for South Africa as the leader of an expedition to the regions of the Zambesi. The large number of ladies and gentlemen present included Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Sir Thomas Thornhill, the Erskine Minister, Mr. J. T. Armstrong, Mr. Massey-Mainwaring, M.P., Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P., Mr. Ponsonby Bigelow, Dr. Brandes, Mr. James Heckscher, Dr. Rosendoff, Mr. Frank Karuth, and Mr. Linton Forbes. The toast of the Queen and that of the German Emperor having been drunk with full honours, Dr. Carl Peters proposed the health of his guests. He said that in spite of his two years’ residence in London he was still willing to exchange for a time the advantages of civilized life for the rigours of the wilderness; the more so as he was about to start on a very interesting expedition. He proposed to explore certain districts of the Zambesi which had been thousands of years ago the field of exploration and industry, but which for many centuries had been allowed to remain undisturbed. He mentioned the region of “Ophir”, with some exaggeration, for it suggested a fabulous and fantastic mission, but that was not the case at all. He knew exactly which rivers and districts, and even which villages, he should have to visit in order to carry out the task committed to him. He was convinced that the expedition on which he was about to embark would be of as much scientific as practical value, and he believed that the oldest gold country on earth would prove at the same time one of the most valuable of the present age. He was not starting on an expedition to Africa for the first time. Formerly he had been associated with the colonial development of Germany, and his relations with English competitors had not always been exactly of a friendly nature. But he was now going out under the auspices of an Anglo-German company, and his expedition would represent that peaceful co-operation in Africa between Germany and England which had set in from the borders of the Nile to Cape Town. The time of contest between the two nations was over, and they could now proceed hand in hand in the real conquest of the Dark Continent. In South Africa the energy of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and his friends had opened a great field for European enterprise, and he should be proud to help in this great work of civilization by opening the way for the miner, the trader, and the settler. Dr. Peters then raised the chair in favour of Sir Thomas Thornhill, after which Mr. Richards, M.P., proposed the health of Dr. Peters. Mr. Frank Karuth also spoke to the toast, and, Dr. Peters having responded, Sir J. Heron Maxwell proposed “The Kindred Races,” to which toast Mr. Ford...
Dr. Peters’s Expedition.—A correspondent writes:—“In the course of July Dr. Carl Peters has led his expedition through all Mosombo’s land and added numerous valuable discoveries to those previously made in connexion with the ancient Ophir. His staff of prospectors and mining experts having thoroughly examined the geological features of the territory they passed through, the Doctor was enabled to peg out a number of claims on reefs which were ascertained to be valuable gold-bearing rock. At Misongwe, the residence of Mosombo, the most cordial terms of friendship were established with this powerful Prince. In view of the present interest attached to those regions, the latter achievement may subsequently prove of political importance. In the course of a descriptive report contributed by Dr. Peters to the Finanz Chronik, the following remarks occur:—‘Msongwe is situated 435 metres above the level of the sea, on the right of the Meina river. It is a place inhabited by some 5,000 people and strongly fortified. The men are fine fellows, the girls conspicuously pretty and graceful. The war of independence raged for centuries against the Portuguese conquest has imbued the populace with a spirit of stubborn pride. Mosombo himself showed me quite a number of trophies taken from their hereditary enemies. Mosombo’s land is absolutely independent, and if it is granted to Portugal by international treaties this arrangement is a mere fiction, appearing utterly absurd in view of the actual facts. I am unable to discern how these matters will develop in the course of the approaching industrial development of the country.’ Meanwhile, Dr. Peters has not only obtained the most formal assurances of friendship and assistance from Mosombo, the master of 7,000 victorious warriors, but also his consent to bring Cunene, the King’s own brother, to London. On leaving Mosombo’s land Dr. Peters marched into Mashonaland, where he has discovered a valuable quartz reef in the Injanga district.”
Dr. Carl Peters's Expedition.—Reuter's Agency is informed that, according to reports received this week from Dr. Carl Peters, the explorer at the beginning of August left Portuguese territory and crossed into Mashonaland, taking with him two of his prospectors, Messrs. Blocker and Gramann. The rest of his expedition he left in the neighbourhood of the ancient ruins re-discovered by him near the Zambesi. He expresses his intention of establishing a permanent station on the Inyanga Highlands, and from that point of exploring the whole of Mashonaland from north to south. Besides gold, Dr. Peters claims to have discovered mica, saltpetre, and diamonds in a district practically uninhabited at an altitude of 8,000 ft., and, he believes, easily capable of cultivation. Dr. Peters has entered into most friendly relations with the powerful chief Macombe, who, although being in Portuguese territory, is independent. As the rainy season is now setting in Dr. Peters will, after exploring some districts on the Pungwe river, proceed to Beira on route for England.
DR. PETERS'S EXPEDITION.—Reuter's Agency is informed that Dr. Carl Peters, in a letter dated Umfali, October 18, 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 expect to arrive about the middle of December, accompanied by Umfene, the brother of the famous chief Blasombe. I am leaving my staff out here. One mining engineer and a trader are left at the Fura station, near the Zambesi, and also at the nyanga station, near Umfali. I am in first-class health, but am feeling a little run down in consequence of the marching, exploring, irregular food, &c. 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. Carl Peters's 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 Mazoe) 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 Theodoros Bent in his "Rained Cities of Mashonaland." With regard to Fura, Couto said:—"The richest mines of all are those of Massape, 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 Mops Afur." Dr. Peters states that no traveller had visited this region within the last 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 working there.
ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF OPHIR.

A representative of Reuters Agency who met Dr. Carl Peters on his arrival from Africa yesterday has obtained details regarding his discovery of Ophir. As a result of his investigations on the subject, the explorer was convinced that he knew the position of Ophir. Dr. Peters at the time kept his information secret, but claims now that his original theory was correct, and that he has actually discovered Ophir.

Dr. Peters said that he had this summer explored the country between the Zambesi and the Rungwe in Portuguese East Africa and Eastern Mashonaland. Before he started from England he had acquired geographical information which led him to believe that Furua was near the eastern entrance of the Lupata Gorge. There he had found it. It was situated on the banks of the Mvura River about 15 miles south of the Zambesi and half-way between Sana and Tete.

At the time of his discovery he had with him Mr. Puszey and two mining engineers—Mr. Gramann and Mr. Napolski. Furua was the native corruption of the word Afur, by which name the Arabs of the 16th century knew the district. Afur was the Sabean, or South Arabian, form of the Hebrew name Ophir.

He had ample proof that the Furua which they discovered and explored last summer was the Ophir of the Old Testament. The natives called themselves Makananga, which means People of the Sun. They were to this day sun and fire worshippers. They were quite unlike the ordinary African and had a distinct Jewish type of face. On arriving in the district he soon found that the natives had some idea of the existence of the ancient Ophir. In fact, they washed gold themselves after the rainy season and after storing it in quills did a fairly large trade in it with Beira and Tete. A chief gave him valuable information regarding the position of ancient ruins and workings which he at once investigated. Going to the spot indicated he found ancient ruins of undoubtedly Semitic type. Furua itself he found to possess a formation of quartzite slate and diorite between which gold reefs were running. The ancient workings which he found were not only surface workings, but there were also shafts and roads hewn into the rock.
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION.
COMMERCIAL COURT.
(Before Mr. Justice Mathew.)

SACHS V. THE CARL PETERS ESTATES AND EXPLORATION
COMPANY (LIMITED).

The plaintiff in this action claimed damages for
wrongful dismissal and arrears of salary. On January 13,
1899, the plaintiff, who was a Hungarian, and who had
for many years taken great interest in African travel,
entered into an agreement with the defendant company
to join a trading and exploration expedition which was
setting out for the Portuguese Zambesi district, under
Dr. Carl Peters, the well-known African explorer. The
plaintiff engaged with the defendants for one year
certain at a salary of £150 a year, to be paid quarterly,
and a percentage of the trading profits. The plaintiff
started for Zanzibar, but on his arrival there he was
arrested for debt and detained there for some weeks.
He was ultimately released on giving a declaration of
trust of all his rights of salary and profit under the
agreement in favour of his creditors, and it was
arranged that he should draw no salary for the time
during which he had been detained at Zanzibar. He
then joined the expedition and was appointed to act as
storekeeper, first at a place called Mitonga, and subse-
quently at Tonje, which was about 330 miles inland,
where the expedition had formed a camp. The plaintiff's
instructions from Dr. Peters, who did not remain at
either of these places, were that the plaintiff was to act
as subordinate to a man named Napoliski. The latter
was engaged in prospecting work, and the greater part
of the time was at a place about three hours' march
from Tonje. The relations between Napoliski and the
plaintiff became very strained, the latter accusing the
former of gross cruelty to the natives employed by the
company, so that, according to the plaintiff, the
interests of the company were likely to be prejudiced;
whereas Napoliski charged the plaintiff with neglect of
his duties in supplying the prospecting party with food.
An angry correspondence went on between the two for
some weeks, and eventually, in September, the plaintiff
left the camp at Tonje and wrote to Dr. Peters stating
that he could not continue to act as subordinate to
Napoliski. Dr. Peters answered by saying that the
plaintiff's contract was dissolved on the ground
of his disobedience to orders. The plaintiff then
made his way to the coast and returned to
England, and commenced this action. The plaintiff,
in his evidence, contended that he acted in the
way he thought best in the interests of the company.
Napoliski was called as a witness and denied that he
had been guilty of cruelty towards the natives.

Mr. William Wills appeared for the plaintiff; Mr.
Hume-Williams, Q.C., and Mr. A. J. David for the
defendants.
MR. JUSTICE MATHEW, in giving judgment, said that by the terms of the contract the plaintiff bound himself to faithfully obey the orders of Dr. Peters and to use his best endeavours to promote the interests of the company. The plaintiff alleged that his quarrel with Napolski was due to the latter's ill-treatment of the natives. If that were so, the plaintiff should have complained to Dr. Peters and taken instructions from him. Instead of doing that he withdrew from his post, leaving the camp and the stores, which he had buried, in the charge of the natives. It was said that in these circumstances Dr. Peters was not justified in treating the contract as dissolved on the ground of the plaintiff's disobedience because the plaintiff had acted in good faith and in what he conceived to be the best interests of the company. But the plaintiff was not placed at Penje to do that; he had to obey the orders of Napolski; and even if Napolski had ill-treated the natives the plaintiff ought not to have left his post; but it seemed that, in the question of the alleged cruelty, the plaintiff had acted on the insufficient testimony of the natives themselves. It was contended that, in any event, the plaintiff was entitled to recover the amount of his fare home from Zanzibar because under the contract the defendants had agreed to pay that. But the defendants' obligation as to that depended on the performance by the plaintiff of his obligation to faithfully serve the defendants, which he had not done, and therefore the plaintiff could not recover the amount of his passage money. Then, as to the arrears of salary, the plaintiff, having been justly dismissed for misconduct, was not legally entitled to receive the arrears, but his Lordship thought that on this question the defendants might well take into consideration what the plaintiff had undergone. On the cardinal point in the case, the alleged wrongful dismissal, his Lordship, after the most anxious consideration of the correspondence and evidence, felt compelled to come to the conclusion that the defendants were in the right, and there must, therefore, be judgment for the defendants with costs.
Wines worth drinking.

BURGOYNE'S BURGUNDIES

HARVEST...For Daily use.
TINTARA...Finest natural recuperative.
OPHIR...Nature's Cruicest Burgundy.
HIGHERCOME...An elegant white.

Everywhere.
13 Sept 1918
CARL PETERS DEAD.

A GERMAN MISSIONARY OF OPPRESSION.

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 11.—A Brunswick telegram announces that Dr. Carl Peters died at Woltersdorf (Brunswick) yesterday.—Reuter.

Carl Peters was born at Neumark in 1866. His father was a Lutheran pastor. After completing his education at Göttingen, Tübingen, and Berlin, he proceeded to London, where he read the newspapers, tried his own hand at writing, and gave it out that he was “studying British colonial policy and administration.” He conceived the idea of founding in Germany a company for the exploitation of the Zambesi region, and by 1883 he was back in Berlin.

Thanks to a chance acquaintance with Count Felix Boehr, Peters was able to interest in his schemes a number of persons who passed for influential in the German capital. On March 28, 1884, a meeting at a restaurant in the Mohrenstrasse constituted itself as the “Society for German Colonization,” and forthwith cast about for a promising field for German activities. In September, 1884, Peters, accompanied by Pfeil and two others, sailed from Trieste for Zanzibar to conquer a new world for Germany. By the middle of December Peters had concluded a series of “treaties” with native “chiefs” in the regions beyond the Sultan of Zanzibar’s coastal possessions and pushed up country as far as Bagamoyo. At the beginning of February, 1885, he was back in Berlin with his “treaties,” which were quite unexpectedly approved by the old Emperor William, who believed that Peters intended to found in East Africa a development company on the lines of the historic East India Company. Within a fortnight Peters had secured his “charter,” the first in German colonial history.

Bismarck groaned his scorn at “the case with which, at the price of a few old gums, a scrap of paper sealed over with niggers’ crosses” could be obtained. But his natural combative nature was excited when in the following April the Sultan of Zanzibar addressed to the Emperor William a protest against the cession to Germany of lands that “have been ours from the time of our fathers.” This protest was not recorded.
Armed with his charter Peters advertised his German East African Company by every means. Funds were badly needed. The "foundation" members were none of them financially strong enough to run the "ceded" territory and make it a going concern. In 1888 Peters, in sheer desperation, called a congress of "patriots" in Berlin, and canvassed his wares. At this congress was founded the so-called "German League," which, after manifold vicissitudes, was destined, under the discontent over Bismarck's fall and the Anglo-German Treaty of 1890, to blossom out the following year into the notorious "Pan-German League." In 1887 the Peters Colonial Committee merged into the "German Colonial Society."

In 1888 Peters took part in the Emin Pasha search-expeditions and reached Victoria Nyanza in 1889 only to find that Emin had already left with Stanley. He consol ed himself by concluding more "treaties" with Uganda chieftains, promising them German "protection." These arrangements were annulled in 1890, but Peters was loudly acclaimed by the Chauvinists on his return to Germany. The Treaty with England in 1890 was followed by the transfer of the East African Company's territories to the administration of the German Government, and in 1891 Peters was appointed an Imperial Commissioner. But after quarrelling with Wiseman, he returned once more to Berlin and was attached to the Foreign Office from 1893 to 1896.

In 1896 Bebel, the Socialist leader, denounced him in the Reichstag for the hangman and torturer that he was. The result of the disciplinary proceedings against Peters that followed in 1897 and the subsequent findings of the Leipzig Appeal Court are common knowledge. Peters was deprived of his rank as Imperial Commissioner and was condemned in costs, less for his established acts of brutality than for "want of tact." The Court of Appeal suggested that it was not "tactful" to use girls who had been presented to him by a native chief for immoral purposes, and they added that "it was impossible to set up a special standard of morals for Africa."

After his degradation Peters lived a great deal in London. After the outbreak of war Peters gave vent to the following diatribe in a letter to the German Press:

"I shall never have peace until we have the..."
"We shall never have peace until we have thrown our enemies, and especially England, completely to the ground. In my opinion we shall be able to do this only if we defeat the British Empire at the Suez Canal and in Egypt—which belongs to Turkey—and if possible in India. The more plainly we afterwards make them feel the visits the more permanent will be the peace that we shall secure. Any pity will be accounted to us as weakness all over the world and will make any peace only a temporary armistice. So we must all hope that 'gentle Heinrichs' and the genuine 'German Michael' will have nothing to do with the peace negotiations."

This ideal was duly approved by Peters's Pan-German associates.