

"Pat, be quiet! That's very rude."

"It is not, Bridgie; it's thirst for information. Or snails, Mademoiselle? Have you often eaten snails?"

"Never once, or frogs either. We have a breakfast much as you have here. Rolls of bread, and honey, and butter, and coffee—ver' good coffee!" and there was a regretful tone in Mademoiselle's voice as she struggled womanfully to swallow the grounds of chickory which seemed to constitute the leading feature of coffee as served at Knock Castle. She did not intend to show her distaste, but the Major exclaimed in eager agreement with the unspoken criticism.

"And this stuff is not fit to drink. If you will teach my girls to make coffee as you have it in France, Mademoiselle, you will be doing me a life-long favour. I suppose you can cook by instinct, like most of your countrywomen?"

"I think I can—pretty well, but I do not often get the chance. If Miss Breegie will let me teach her some of our favourite dishes it will be a pleasure to me, too! I used to be very happy cooking tempting things for my father to eat!"

"Hark to that now, Bridgie! There's no better ambition for a young girl than to wait upon her father and see to his comfort!" cried the Major solemnly, and a merry laugh rang out from the doorway as Esmeralda came forward, and standing behind his chair, clasped her arms round his neck, the while she sent her bright, inquiring glances round the table.

"The whole duty of woman is to wait upon man!"

and a good long time she has to wait if the man is anything like yourself, me dear! We will make him an omelette for his lunch this very day, Mademoiselle, if he'll promise to eat it when he returns an hour past the proper time! I hope you're well, and had a good sleep after your travels."

Mademoiselle murmured something in reply, but what, she scarcely knew, so absorbed was she in studying the charming picture made by father and daughter, the Major with his hair scarcely touched with grey, his charming smile and stalwart figure, and above him Esmeralda, in all her wonderful, gipsy-like beauty. Her hair was as dark as Bridgie's was fair, and stood out from her head in a mass of curls and waves, her features were perfect in their haughty, aquiline curves, and the bloom of youth was on her cheeks. With such hair and colouring it would have been natural to expect brown eyes, but what gave to her face its note of distinction was the fact that her eyes were grey, and not brown—wonderful clear grey eyes which gave the beholder a thrill of mingled surprise and admiration every time she lifted her curled black lashes and turned them upon him. Mademoiselle stared in speechless admiration, and Esmeralda's brothers and sisters stared at her in their turn, well pleased at the effect produced, for what was the use of groaning beneath the whims and tyrannies of "the beautiful Miss O'Shaughnessy" if one could not enjoy a little honour and glory once in a while!

(To be continued.)

GIRL VOLUNTEERS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.



VER three thousand British girls have volunteered to go out to South Africa to teach the little Boer children how to read, write, and spell and do their sums and learn to sing. The Board of Education at Whitehall asked for one hundred girls, and three thousand have responded, so two thousand nine hundred will have to stay at home disappointed. These girls have been warned that it is anticipated that the work will be very hard and continuous.

They will have to live in tents in the concentration camps, either in the Transvaal or the Orange River Colony. The teachers are to work together in pairs, two girls sharing each tent. They will be provided with Government rations—probably bully beef and biscuits—and the salary offered is £100 a year and a second class passage out, and a return passage if they wish to come back at the end of the year. Lord Milner says that the ladies who go will have a courteous reception from the parents, and that the children are very willing to learn and are amenable to discipline. The girls who are accepted will go out at the rate of about twenty-five a month, the first party starting as soon as it can be arranged.

What is the country like to which British girls seem so anxious to emigrate? If you look at a map of Africa, you will find these British possessions in the south and south-eastern portion of that continent. Our territory is very large, and the climate is very varied. Remember that as it is on the other side of the Equator to our British Islands, the winter months are contrary to ours. June, July and August are the cold months out there. On the sea coast of Cape Colony there are nine months of warm weather and

three months of winter. The winter is generally cold and wet. But even in the summer the contrast between day and night is great; the days are hot and sunny, and the nights cold and chilly. In the Orange Free State the climate is very dry and very healthy and very exhilarating. Doctors often send people out there who are threatened with lung disease, and sometimes they get quite cured. Here again the nights are cool in summer and very cold in winter. Girls who are going out to any part of South Africa ought not to be misled by accounts of the great heat; the sun is often extremely hot during the day, but the nights are often so very cold that warm clothing is most necessary.

In Cape Colony and Natal there are plenty of different fruits and beautiful flowers. Grapes, melons, peaches, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, apples, pears, grow quite easily in well-watered gardens. The white arum lily and the rose grow wild in large quantities. The water supply at present is not always reliable for drinking. I suppose later on artesian wells will be sunk and matters in this respect improved. The safest course to take with regard to the water is never to drink it unless it is boiled. The only filter which is really any use is the Pasteur Chamberlain. It is made of porcelain, in the shape of a candle, and the water is forced through it. It is, however, a rather slow process even when two or three candles are used. The natives in South Africa get their water by digging holes in the ant-hills near the rivers, and the water filters through the river banks into these small pits. Few people seem to realise that drinking is, to a large extent, a matter of habit. With a little trouble you can train yourself to drink only small quantities of liquid, or you can train yourself to drink large quantities. It is said that people who have been trained to control their thirst and to drink little never become drunkards. It is certainly a useful habit to have contracted, if you wish to emigrate to countries like South Africa, where the water supply is doubtful.

As to religious teaching and the churches in South

Africa, you will find almost every Christian body represented there—Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Roman Catholics, etc. In all the larger towns you will find that the Church of England services are held. There are seven bishops, with clergy serving under them. In Grahamstown there is the Railway Mission, which has a carriage attached to the train, in which the missionary lives, and so goes up and down the lines looking after and helping the English settlers out there.

At present there is no great demand for English servants, as the Kaffirs do all the household work in the country districts, and it is only in the towns that well-to-do families keep white servants. However, girls who can bake well and make good cakes, and girls who have been trained in laundry-work, will find plenty of work to do, and receive good pay in South Africa. Bread and cakes can be baked very easily without an oven on the other side of the Equator! You dig a hole in an empty ant heap and line it with stones at the bottom, lay your sticks on, light your fire and close the hole at the top. When well heated, put the dough you want to bake on the hot ashes and re-close the hole. You will find this simple way of baking acts like a brick oven.

The Women's Emigration Association is doing a good deal of work in connection with South Africa, and girls who think of going out to any of our colonies would do well to ask advice from them at their office at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington. They have a training home at Leaton, near Wellington, Salop, to give practical training in domestic work to ladies and girls wishing to proceed to the colonies. This course of training lasts for three or six months or longer, and the terms are 15s. weekly for a single room, or 10s. for sharing a double one. Instructions are given in housework, plain cooking, dairy-work and the care of poultry; laundry-work, simple dress-making, and cutting-out are also taught. This emigration society makes arrangements for sending girls out all over our colonies. It arranges their voyage, providing them with an escort and companionship. It has them met when they arrive at their destination, and, if they require it, situations are found for them by the Association's correspondents, who are scattered all over the colonies. Travellers are housed at lodges and homes of the society, which they have in the principal colonial towns.

They take out with them a letter of introduction to a clergyman or minister, and they also are given introductions to English ladies who will befriend them. At the office in the Imperial Institute every kind of advice, information, and guidance are at the disposal of girls and women of good characters who want to find occupation in the colonies. Sometimes part of their passage money is advanced to them, and afterwards repaid out of their earnings.

This society has already opened a hostel at Cape Town, and others are to be erected in Durban, Pretoria, Kimberley, Johannesburg, and Bloemfontein. At these hostels women and girls will be received for a few days on their arrival, and an employment bureau for every kind of women's work will be opened. A lady superintendent will manage each of these hostels.

When the Board of Education has chosen this first batch

of one hundred girls to go out and teach in the concentration camps, as soon as South Africa is in a more settled condition, there will still be plenty of room, plenty of occupations for hundreds more girls. But, girls, if you want to volunteer for this work of colonisation, prepare yourselves for it.

We have been specially asked to give some hints as to what clothes a girl should take to South Africa. We give the following list not as exhaustive, but as suggesting what is most necessary.

Woollen undergarments should always be worn next the skin, thin wool for summer, thick wool for winter. Night-dresses both cotton and flannel. Blue serge is much recommended for coats and skirts—one thin coat and skirt, and one thick. Two or more washing dresses; dark blue or brown Holland look nice. It is difficult to get white *finqué* well washed. Blouses, both cotton, flannel, and silk; Tusson silk is recommended. Two sailor hats and one shady one; the hat recommended is a plain shady felt. Eight pairs of stockings, both thick woollen and very thin wool. Stout brown shoes. A large strong umbrella. A large strong parasol (linen). American snow shoes. A tweed ulster or waterproof.

Linen pocket handkerchiefs and a few dark silk ones. There should be no frills or lace on the linen underclothing, as good washing is a difficulty. One warm jacket or cloak.

Miscellaneous:—A warm rug or Jaeger blanket. Hot water bottle—indiarubber. (This is marked essential in the Board of Education list.) Waterproof sheet. Woollen sleeping bag. This can be bought for 12s. at the Army and Navy Stores. A small bag for keeping money, to be worn on a chain and attached to a belt. Towels, sponge, soap, clothes-brush, tooth-brush, brush, comb. A trunk with a good lock. Plenty of needles, cotton, tape, shoelaces, hair-pins, darning materials, hooks, eyes, scissors, buttons. A small tea-basket, or if you cannot get this, take an iron cup and saucer, and a perforated spoon for making tea. A folding candlestick and candles. Writing paper and envelopes. Knife, fork, and spoon. Lead pencils, pens. A cheap travelling clock. A pillow.

Medicine:—Quinine (powder) in a bottle. Mustard leaves. Carbonate of soda. Gregory's powder. Cascara. Vaseline. Keating's powder (take plenty), and Dalmatian powder and blowing tube. Eucalyptus oil. Essence of ginger. Permanganate of potash—for disinfecting. Eno's fruit salt. Boracic powder—for cuts. A cholera belt made of flannel. Linen rags, bandages, and some coarse muslin.

If going near the sea-coast a mosquito-net should be taken. Insects and dust are two great drawbacks to South Africa; therefore people going out should take plenty of Keating's, or better still, Dalmatian—the powder of which Keating's is made. If you blow the powder through the tube all over your bed and room, it stupefies the flies and insects, and then they can be swept up in the morning.

Take as much money as you can with you, because food, clothing, and house-rent are all much more costly at present in South Africa than they are in England.

A PICTURE.

GIRLS, here is a very "grown-up" picture for you this time, and at the first glance a very pathetic if not sad one.

A prison cell? Yes, a tiny, dreary bare room with a woe grated window, through which comes the only light in the picture, and that light falls on—a dead man beneath the grating, leaning against the wall (in a sitting position). Yes, a dead jail-bird, as men call such. Oh, the pathos of that poor creature with the dark clothes and wan, worn face! Pale, and how much more! weary, stricken, seared with the fire of trouble, of hardship, maybe of sin, for some sin had brought the man there, or a miscarriage of justice, which happily is not frequent in England.

"Poor soul, at last it is all over," you will say. Poor soul? Wait a bit. Look again.

What is this other figure passing towards us from the—beggar, shall we call him? Why, this second man is—a crowned king!—tall, majestic, commanding of build. And his face? We rub our eyes, for we have seen it before. It is surely very like the poor man yonder. The very same. Each feature, each lineament is there: the difference lies in the expression. And what difference? Just the difference between a convict and a king—a good king. This face shows dignity, power, sweetness, withal a great gentleness, above everything a look of joy, of peace, of utter