

greatest of pleasure too, out all of our friends in wealth, basking in the sweet sunshine of beauty's smiles, and—and—but pshaw! it is not so, so what is the use of talking when you have nothing more to say.

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## CECIL JOHN RHODES.

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That he is a man of no ordinary parts is evident from the fact that Editor Stead has awarded him the distinction of being the third greatest of living Englishmen, Gladstone and Salisbury alone being greater. But Sir Cecil's present greatness is not so interesting as the singularity and romance of his career. He is not only the greatest man in Africa, but the richest as well. He is only about 40 years old, but his wealth is estimated at \$100,000,000.

Sir Cecil is the sole author of his own fortunes. Like nearly all the great men of the British colonies, he is Briton born. His father was an English clergyman. Cecil was the seventh son, and about the time of the great diamond discoveries at Kimberley went to South Africa fortune seeking. He did not achieve anything brilliant until he got up what is known in this country as a trust. In fact, Sir Cecil was one of the first men to form a trust, just as he was one of the first to reap the greatest profit from this form of modern aggrandizement. The Kimberley mines, which are now producing all the diamonds of commerce except those taken from two small mines in the Orange Free State, were controlled by rival companies—the De Beers syndicate and others.

Cecil acquired an interest in one of the richest of these mines—the De Beers—and in a few years rose to the presidency. The period from 1882 to 1889 was a time of great activity at Kimberley. In the former year the



famous Bultfontein diggings were first developed, and from that time forward the great Du Toit's Pan, De Beers and Kimberley mines, together with the smaller diggings in the neighborhood, were worked to their full capacity. The output was enormous. The markets of the world were flooded with precious stones, prices declined, and the shareholders noted an appreciable diminution in their dividends.

Now, a decline in dividends calls for heroic remedies. A diamond trust was demanded. Then Cecil Rhodes stepped to the front and accomplished what other and better-known financiers had been unable to perform. He reconciled conflicting claims and consolidated the mines in one grand syndicate with a capital of \$19,750,000. The syndicate controlled the diamond market, and the dividends were saved. An idea of the princely character of those dividends may be obtained from the fact that in fifteen months \$19,600,000 worth of diamonds were taken from the mines.

Cecil Rhodes became the hero of the hour. The King of Diamonds, people called him, and the glitter of the gems shed a halo over his fame. His services in the consolidation were liberally rewarded, and his fortune has waxed as only a diamond king's fortune can.

In politics, as in business, Cecil Rhodes succeeded where others had failed. His talents for organization and conciliation were again brought into play, and harmony between the Boers and English settlers—a consummation which older statesmen had deemed impossible—was effected. Cecil Rhodes became the premier and practical ruler of Cape Colony.

But his genius was not restricted to the ordinary channels of business and statecraft. While at work in Kimberley and Cape Town he nourished visions of an imperial province in that mysterious Eldorado north of the Transvaal which the eyes of few white men have ever beheld.

Frederick Selous, the veteran hunter and explorer, told him in enthusiastic phrases of the fabulous wealth of Mashonaland. Rhodes resolved to carry the British flag to the Zambezi.

He repaired to England. With the prestige of his coup at Kimberley and his supremacy in Cape Colony he had no difficulty in interesting certain influential capitalists in his scheme. He secured a charter from the crown and organized the Imperial British South Africa Company, with the Duke of Abercorn as chairman, Duke of Fife deputy chairman and Hon. Cecil John Rhodes as managing director. Certain half-forgotten concessions granted by King Lobengula in an incautious hour to men now dead and gone were revived and "consolidated under imperial authority." These antiquated concessions were repudiated by the savage monarch, but they gave the color of legality to the invasion of the whites which was presently organized.

Lobengula meant to resist the pioneer expedition of 1890, but he was outmaneuvered by Selous, and the party reached Mashonaland in safety. Then the Matabele king deemed it expedient to compromise, and peace was purchased. But the propinquity of the warlike Matabele was a constant menace to the settlers in Mashonaland. Moreover, the gold deposits of Matabeleland were of surprising richness, and the diggers cast lustful looks toward Buluwayo. The company, too, was in straitened circumstances, and needed to strengthen its hold on Zambezia. So when Lobengula's young bloods clamored for war the challenge was eagerly accepted, and the machine gun prevailed over the assegai. The chartered company's flag waves over Buluwayo, and 524,000 square miles have been added to the British dominions.

Verily, Cecil Rhodes is the man of the hour. Scipio Africanus was a pigmy compared with this modern hero of Africa.

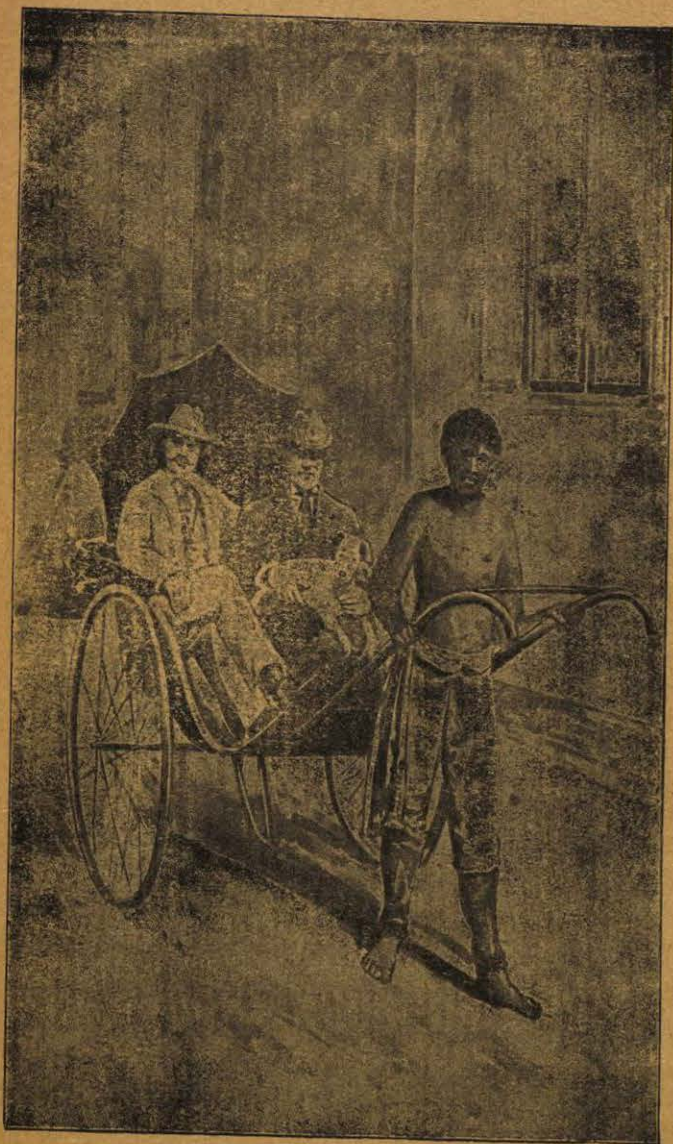


## BARNEY BARNATO.

### CONFLICTING STORIES OF HIS EARLY LIFE.

The place and date of birth and the early life of Barney Barnato, the South African "Diamond King," are hidden behind a veil which will, in all probability, never be drawn aside. Many vague and uncertain stories have been told concerning his origin. One version is to the effect that he was born of Jewish parents in the notorious White Chapel district of London, about the year 1852. There he became a juggler and contortionist, spreading his mat on the pavement wherever a crowd could be collected, and giving, with the aid of his brother, one of the usual exhibitions peculiar to the English metropolis. On the breaking out of the South African diamond craze the brothers sailed for Cape Town. Where the town of Kimberley now stands they gave open-air exhibitions with a trick donkey, and under a tent played "Hamlet" to audiences of easily satisfied miners. Here he amassed a fortune by diamond buying. Following precedents frequent on the stage, he assumed the name, Barney Barnato, his real name being Barnett Isaacs.

During the excitement which followed the thrillingly tragic death of the daring speculator Roland Barnett of Montreal, Canada, came forward with this version: "I am the eldest brother of Barnato, whose real name was Barney Isaac Alri Barnett. Our father was a musician, a connoisseur of paintings and a well-known picture restorer. For years he had charge of the estate of the



BARNATO AS HE APPEARED AT THE ZENITH OF HIS CAREER.  
(224)



old Earl of Dudley. He gave all his children—three sons and one daughter—a first-rate education. Barney was educated at Heidelberg University. The reason he wore glasses was that he spoiled his eyes while studying the strange German characters. We parted in anger in England. Barney went to South Africa and engaged in mining. I came to Canada and engaged in banking."

Mrs. Blackman of Cleveland, O., claimed to be the daughter of Barney Barnato by his first wife, Anna Esther, with whom he lived fifteen years, in London. Later the couple went to Yagestrof, Poland, where they separated, the mother and daughter coming to America. This story was emphatically denied by Barnato's widow.

The "King of the Kaffir Stocks" never took the trouble to deny any of the many stories which have been published about him. He used to say the only foundation for the "circus story" was the fact that when he went to South Africa he frequently took part in private theatricals for the benefit of hospitals and similar charities. He had considerable ability in this direction, and his favorite roles in later years were Othello and Matthias, in "The Bells."

#### BARNATO AS A KOPJE WOLLOPER.

The King of the Kaffir Mines really laid the foundation of his mighty fortune by what is known in the diamond fields as "kopje wolloping." This is nothing more nor less than sharp trading. The kopje wolloper is a man possessing a good knowledge of values and a natural bent for turning this knowledge to the best account. He makes a business of visiting the mines and purchas-

ing diamonds from the diggers. He buys in the cheapest market he can find and sells in the dearest, and this is the way, it is generally believed, Barney Barnato made his start. He was a man of keen perceptions, of mental and physical courage, and possessed the faculty of absorption of ideas to an unusual degree. It is said of him by those who knew him best that he could apply himself to almost any study and become master of it in a much shorter time than the majority of men who were presumed to be his intellectual superiors. His perception as a trader stood him in good stead as a buyer of property, and he made a number of investments which later on proved the rare perspicacity of his mind.

#### BARNATO—RHODES COMBINATION.

The real rise of Barnato, however, dates from his connection with Cecil Rhodes, who was at that time the invalid son of an English clergyman, temporarily sojourning in South Africa. Rhodes' career is as dazzling in a way as that of Barnato. At the time their acquaintanceship began Rhodes was poor, but even his enemies conceded his genius, and he was ambitious to an extreme degree. It was a case of the communion of kindred spirits, and they formed a compact of the most daring nature. By methods known only to those in the deal, they forced down the price of diamonds until the gems were actually a drug in the market. The stocks of the various diamond mining companies fell in sympathy, and these were quietly absorbed by the combination, until one day South Africa awoke to the fact that Barnato and Rhodes, through capital which they controlled, were in



command of properties worth untold millions of money. Up went the prices of stocks again, and it was not long before the most famous mines of Kimberley were reorganized as a part of the property of the De Beers Mining Company, with a capital of \$50,000,000. Barnato and Rhodes each held a large slice of the stock of this fabulously rich concern.

HAVING SECURED DIAMONDS, THEY SEEK FOR GOLD.

This leap from obscurity into fame and wealth would have satisfied ordinary men, but it was only a stepping-stone for the two leaders in the mad race for wealth in one of the wildest territories ever entered by man. The real opportunity of the Barnato-Rhodes combination came, in fact, after they had completed their diamond deals.

Africa is, in truth, the continent of mystery. Out of it for centuries had come stories of gold mines and mineral wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. Reports of the rediscovery of the mythical mines of King Solomon were frequent, and the existence of the riches of Ophir was always believed in by adventurous prospectors, whose bones are now bleaching on the desert plains of an almost unexplored region.

In 1886 South Africa was again flooded with wonderful stories of gold discoveries in the Witwatersrand district, near Pretoria, the Capital of the Transvaal, and about 300 miles north of Kimberley. Stories wilder than those characterizing the first California discoveries were accepted literally, and the Kimberley diamond miners went crazy over them. Houses and lands were aban-

doned, claims were forsaken, and an immense stream of caravans poured over the Veldt in search of the Promised Land. Scores of these gold seekers were afterward forced to return—heart-broken, foot-sore and weary; but the multitude, with that mad persistence which comes upon men to grasp fortune when she is seemingly lavish with her promises, raced through a country which had before been unable to afford more than a miserable subsistence to a few Boers and blacks, and staked out their claims by the hundreds.

FORESTALLED BY THE BARNATO CIRCLE.

Nine out of every ten of these eager prospectors found, to their amazement, that they had been forestalled. Barnato and Rhodes had, with consummate shrewdness, pounced down on the gold-bearing reef, which extended about forty miles from east to west, and had picked out the very heart of the rich ledges. Their claims occupied about two miles of the center, and every subterfuge possible under the extremely lax laws of the Transvaal was resorted to in order to make these claims legal. It was charged that Barnato's blood relatives, out to the tenth degree and back lineally for four generations, were represented as the owners of some of the claims; but, be that as it may, their titles were secured.

What has since then become known as the "Barnato Circle" began to exercise that wonderful control which has made South Africa a very toy in their hands. Barnato and Rhodes gave the confiding public a chance to become owners in some of the mines which they had so boldly usurped. The innate genius of Rhodes, aided by



the inherited shrewdness of Barnato, was revealed when they began organizing company after company, with capitals ranging from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000, and floating the stocks in European financial centers.

#### THE IMMENSITY OF THEIR SCHEMES.

As many as three companies under the Barnato régime were floated in one week, and wealth rolled into the coffers of the projectors of the multifarious schemes faster than ever. Every foot of ground lying out of doors became a veritable Golconda—on paper—when manipulated by the Circle; and the gullible public bought and bought faster than the shares could be issued from the printing presses.

The maddest speculative whirl of which any record is known set in. The Circle ran things with a high hand. It was "Black Friday" over again to the majority; but worthless shares rose as if by magic from an intrinsic value of not over 25 cents to \$2, and then by bounds, measured actually by seconds and minutes, to \$20, \$50, \$100, and even \$300. Amazing as it now sounds, the shares of the Griqualand, West Copper, Asbestos and other mines advanced in one day from a few dollars to the highest figure mentioned; and the fever was not yet spent at this tremendous increase. All this time the Barnato Circle, which was receiving 60 and 70 per cent. of the capital of the companies for property rights, kept on unloading stock until it seemed that the most insatiable greed would have been satisfied many times over; but such was not the case.

#### JOHANNESBERG SPRINGS UP LIKE JONAH'S GOURD.

Johannesberg, the center of the gold district, was a second San Francisco, and affords the only instance where the wonderful history of Pithole, Pa., has been re-enacted. From a rude Kaffir settlement it grew to be a bustling city of 50,000 inhabitants—an American frontier city transferred to Africa. But under disadvantages which were hundreds of times harder to contend with than were those which marked the building of Pithole, Johannesberg grew and flourished. The nearest railroad was 300 miles distant, and it is said that every stick of timber, every nail, every pane of glass and every article of civilized manufacture had to be hauled across arid prairies by means of ox wagons. The "dollar-a-pound flour" stories of early California were true with respect to this latter-day reincarnation of the American gold camp; but Johannesberg never stopped a day in its growth. Inside of one year it had theaters, churches, magnificent buildings, and the Barnato Circle were seeing to it that it was to have more. American brains came into play here, for it was through the aid of a firm of which an American, Henry J. King, was the prime mover that the Barnato Circle obtained government concessions for the construction of street railways in the city of Johannesberg, were granted rights for electric lighting and secured water privileges for the whole district—worth in themselves millions of dollars.

#### THE BARNATO CIRCLE RULED THE GOVERNMENT.

Barnato and his aids did not stop at that. The Transvaal authorities were like mere children in the hands of



these men. They forced the President of the Republic to build a railroad several hundred miles long, from the Cape Colony frontier to Pretoria, and they treated with the government like kings.

Mashonaland and Matabeleland were their next objective points. Having first obtained a royal charter for the British South Africa Company, they then incited the Matabele war. The company promised rich gifts to its followers, and the conquest was soon complete. Poor, blundering King Lobengula was brushed away like a troublesome fly. The English government turned the province over to the company, which had assumed the cost of the campaign. The English boast that this was the only war the Empire ever waged without cost.

The indomitable members of the Circle were soon at work again. They had gotten out of London nearly as much as they thought the city could stand, and they next set Paris and Berlin crazy with their schemes. Millions again flowed into the company's hands.

#### BARNATO'S LAST COUP—FIRST MODERN BILLIONAIRE.

Barnato's last coup was the most astonishing in financial history. He put on the market the stock for the Barnato Bank, Mining and Estate Corporation (Limited). No prospectus was issued, nor was any statement made of the constitution, object or management of the institution. One or two preliminary deals were made, and then the stock was unloaded on the public at an advance which yielded the projector \$10,000,000 in a single day. The demand for shares seemed limitless. Five-dollar shares sold in immense quantities at \$22 before

business closed on the exchanges. It has been found a difficult task to obtain even approximate figures of the "Diamond King's" monumental wealth. Through the Barnato Circle he controlled upward of \$1,000,000,000. This is more than the combined wealth of the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts and Goulds. He was undoubtedly the first real billionaire of modern times.

#### MENTAL COLLAPSE—SUICIDE—PERSONAL POINTS.

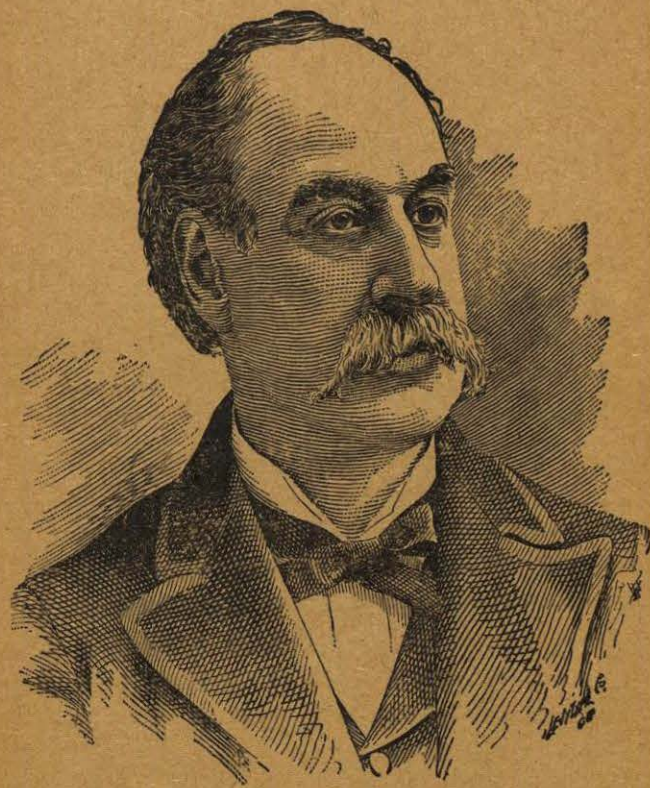
At the beginning of 1895 Barney Barnato stood at the zenith of his successes—apparently ready for coronation as King of Finance. But soon a slump in "Barnatos" set in, which could not be checked. Barnato, single-handed, spent \$15,000,000 in one day, in a vain effort to brace his declining stocks. By 1897 the shrinkage in the market value of stocks issued by corporations which he organized had reached £34,000,000, or \$170,000,000. Despite these reverses, he is believed to have died worth over half a billion.

But the tide was ebb—one on which Barnato had never before floated. His sudden retirement was explained by his friends as due to brain fever and a slow convalescence. But, in truth, his reason was dethroned and he was under close surveillance night and day. His family sailed with him from Cape Town for London, June 2, on the steamer Scot. A new and gorgeous palace, in the heart of fashionable London, was awaiting their reception. When near the port of Funchal, Island of Madeira, Barnato wrested himself from the protecting arm of his nephew and jumped overboard. His



body was recovered, and the steamer put into Funchal, whence the world was startled by news of the suicide.

Barnato left a widow, two sons and a daughter. He married in South Africa. Although unprepossessing in face and figure, he was genial and vivacious, and made friends readily. He was a patron of the drama and a frequent entertainer of dramatic celebrities. Charity was no stranger to him. On one occasion he sent the Lord Mayor of London \$75,000 for distribution among the needy of that city.



Many persons who are now  
being educated by signs, have  
sufficient hearing to be taught  
with the Audiphone articulate  
speech instead. Truly yours  
Paris France  
Dec 21 1890. R. Rhodes.