

STOPPED AFRICAN BATTLES

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Dr. Snyder Tells How He Did It in Congo Free State.

He Has Just Returned After Several Years of Missionary Work Among the Natives.

The Rev. De Witt Clinton Snyder, for several years a missionary to the Congo Free State, arrived on the American liner St. Louis yesterday. His wife, who was a Miss Wood of Brooklyn, returned from the Congo last Summer, sick with African fever. Her life was in danger for many weeks, but she recovered finally and was at the pier to meet her husband, bringing with her a little baby that the father had never seen. When Dr. Snyder kissed the baby it began to cry and hid its face on its mother's shoulder. Thereupon the doctor took an African rattle from one of his valises, and its presentation calmed the little one.

Dr. Snyder said yesterday that he would not return to Africa, but would, to a certain extent, continue his work at home. He has been sick also of the African fever, but is now well again.

"It has been two years," said Dr. Snyder, "since I left New York. Most of that time I spent in the Upper Kassa district of the Congo Free State. This part of the country is 1,000 miles from the coast, and is reached by journeying up the Congo River, and then by one of its tributaries. "This is the only district in Africa where the natives have free trade, and for a time they were very prosperous. King Leopold of Belgium, who owns personally the Congo Free State, has spoiled all this, however. The King has organized a syndicate, with himself at the head. He gets half the shares and half the profits on the sale of rubber, which is the principal export. The King ordered the price of rubber lowered about 50 centimes a kilo, and stationed soldiers at the different towns to see that his order was carried out. Many natives have been put to death because of their objection to the King's order, the natives' argument being that they cannot sell at this price with any profit.

"King Leopold, I have heard, is considered to be a philanthropist and a good man, but I think he is a fakir. The natives in the Congo Free State are vastly more intelligent than the American negro. They

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More examples to come of the African Cups, pipe, swords, etc.



Various Congo masks

intelligence than the American Negro. They are not nearly so obstinate, and are quick and ready to learn. I have, single handed and unarmed, stopped a battle between two different tribes, while the javelins were traveling through the air as thick as flies. They are always quick to appreciate an arbitrator, and many tribes that are living near each other in peace and harmony would be enemies still if it were not that they listened to me and let me decide who was right and who was wrong.

"I shall go direct to my home in Brooklyn, where I shall rest for two months before taking up missionary work again. I shall spend my first week at home getting acquainted with the baby."

Dr. Snyder brought nine trunks over with him, most of them being filled with native curios. One of the trunks contained two magnificent native head dresses, which are made out of beads and shells and are worn by the chiefs at their dances. Another trunk contained wonderfully made battleaxes, wooden drinking cups, wicked-locking native daggers and swords, and several bowls which are used by the natives for crushing corn. Dr. Snyder also brought three elephants' tusks which are worth about \$20 each. The doctor procured them in exchange for salt, each tusk costing him about 75 cents.

A big bundle of spears and two gray African parrots are also contained in the doctor's collection. The parrots are named General and Nan, and are said by Dr. Snyder to be fluent talkers.

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