

Boekbesprekings / Book Reviews

Shifts and Expedients of Camp Life, Travel and Exploration. W. B. Lord and Thomas Baines.

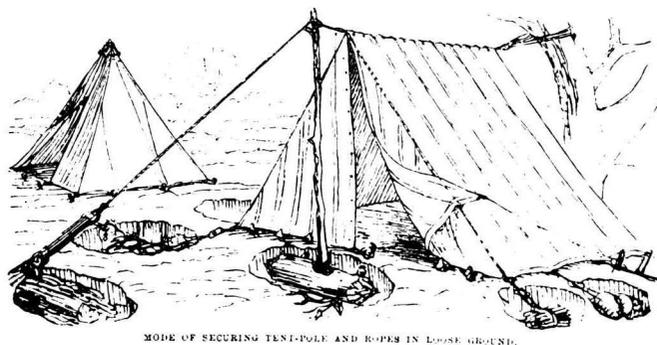
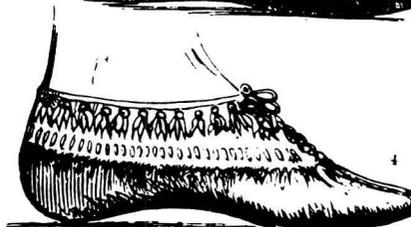
This book is the third volume in the Africana Reprint Library series. The first two volumes being *Eight Months in an Ox-wagon* by E. F. Sandeman and *Camp Life and Sport in South Africa* by T. F. Lucas.

Shifts and Expedients was first published in serial form between 1868 and 1871, it appeared in hard cover in 1871 and again, in a revised edition, in 1876. It was originally printed as a hand book to guide and assist aspirant explorers of the unknown world.

To South Africans Thomas Baines, co-author with W. B. Lord, is no stranger. He was probably the greatest of southern Africa's artist-explorers. Born at King's Lynn in 1820, he first made name for himself as a war artist during the eighth Frontier War in the Eastern Cape. He completed two journeys to the Zambesi river — with Livingstone in 1858 - 9, and with Chapman between 1861 and 1864 via South West Africa. Explorer, naturalist, navigator, cartographer, writer and talented painter, he is only now being accorded the recognition he so richly deserves for his contribution to southern Africa's pioneering past. He died in Durban in 1875.

Of W. B. Lord, less is known. He joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1854 as a veterinary surgeon, served in the Crimean War, in India and, it seems, in Canada as well. He was retired on half-pay in 1864. Like Thomas Baines, he was widely travelled, a man of many parts and varied interests.

Pooling their considerable experience of strange lands, the writers produced an encyclopaedia of practical living for the aspirant explorer of a hundred years ago. According to Frank R. Bradlow, in the Foreword to this edition, 'a 20th century reader, going through this book, will find it full of fascinating, if, today, unnecessary information. Who now, for instance, wants to know how to cook a hippopotamus?' But, on the other hand, this book is invaluable for the wealth of information on veld lore and practical hints ranging from survival in the bush to the handling of boats. The fine illustrations amplify the practical hints and a few examples, will say more than words:



MODE OF SECURING TENT-POLE AND ROPES IN LOOSE GROUND.

This book of nearly 800 pages, fully illustrated, is a must for soldiers, hunters and Boy Scouts. At the price of R13,50 the fathers of adventurous boys need not hesitate because they have found a suitable gift for any occasion. The publishers, *Books of Zimbabwe Rhodesia Publishing Company*, must be congratulated for this venture of bringing rare and out of print Africana within the reach of the ordinary book lover.

Brig W. Otto