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An Algerian Lion Story.

How I came to be sitting in very good company, one glorious September evening in the moon lighted garden of the hotel at Algiera is neither here nor

My companions about the round table which was garnished with alim bottles, glasses and piles of eigarettes, were all Frenchmen three old Algerian colonists, the fourth an exclientenant of the navy, who had exchanged a life on the ocean wave for that of a hunter in three-quarters of the globe.

Refere dinner I had picked up in the saloon Du Chaillu's gorilla book, which I had never seen before, and my saying something about this turned the conversation in the garden upon wild beasts and the hunting of them.

Some wonderful stories were told, especially by the ex-sailor, though not a bit more wonderful than one hears from old Indian sportamen.

For the matter of that the most extraordinary sporting story I ever heard was told by of all men in the world-a hare to load, and then serewed on again.
hunter, who capped therewith a make and It would have been a handy weapon and elephant narrative, quite unique of

Presently a short silence, caused by the ancorking and tasting of a new bottle of hermitage, was broken by the eldest of the party, who had not said much before. He was a good looking man of fifty, with board grayer than his head and a merry twinkle in his eye. What he said I shall repeat for the sake of clearness in the first

"The adventure which I am going to mistaking Cognac's voice. good many years ago. It was my first and sepulchral. It seemed to come from corious inferview with a lion, like inside the free. Where the dence was many serious things it had a comic side, he

old colonist, whose acquaintance I had trees there popped a small yellow head made on board ship coming out from with cars.

Our business was corn and cathle raise ing, and we did very well together, until my partner died with fever, and after that I took a dislike to the place. I thought I would shift my ground into this prove in e. Algiers, push towards the frontier, and got a grant of government land and the beast charged at the little dog. make a farm of the so, gotting a neight hor to give an eve on things in my abo sence I started on my prospecting expedic; from the inside,

word three of us, sworn comfades, as ever Oh, how I frembled for Cognac.

bridle. He was bred between a Burb sire | enough for his safety. and an English mare belonging to a cole copper was as good as his confage was barrel. high, he would follow me about like a With a scream of rage he bounded the but he had one failing, and that was back. that stood on four legs,

We all have our pronlatities, and this was his, flipods were all very well, but after a bit he lay down further off, and multiply the legs by two and he let My pretended to go to sleep. Cognac barked at him till he was tired, and then retired Agreem Marchell.

Thirdly thore was Counte, the faithfollows, the oldest, the most honest, and left, and concluded to reserve them for a the wickenfost little dog the world ever crisis of his how! he always howled if left alone | to hallow description. During the fourfrom years I had him he solden left me thay of nights On a journey he would run bosids, and when tired get up and sit in my wallet. The great pleasure of his tile was to steal behind people and secently lift their legal

Majongo work friends from the first. They now aloop under the same tree.

Well we started and after going over a good deal of ground I thought I had dec cided on a location, and turned my face homeword, My direction was by Alma to drike the great road that runs under the Atles easiward into Constanting,

It was about 8 6'clock one morning when I had been some two hours in the saddle, that I emerged from a narrow valran, on to a sandy plain dotted with Insahiss and sornh.

I had just lain the roins on Marengo's nook, when anddenly he gave a tremendone shy that pitched me clean off, The next minute, with a horrible roar,

a lion sprang at his head.

ped him, so that he fell sideways on the than that.

The heavy jork nearly brought the horse down, but the throat lash broke and the heidle was pulled over his cars, and recovering himself he darted away among a grove of trees that stood by the way.

So intent was the lion on the horse, that he paid no attention to my lying defenseless before him.

Crawling swiftly along the ground, he pursued Marengo, whom I gave up for just for his chances against the lithe brufe among the trees was hopeless.

How ver, as luck would have it, there was an open space about a dozen yards across. In the centre of this Marengo took his stand, and with his tail toward a monkey, and or very short commons,

He stood quite still, except for the slight shifting of his hind feet and lifting

mischief. The lien probably thought so too, for he kept dodging to try and take his opponent by a flank movement. But the old horse knew his game, and pivoting on his forelegs, still brought his stern guns to bear on the enemy.

Soon, with a roar, the lion made a spring, but Marengo lashed out both heels together with such excellent judgment of time and distance, that catching him full in the chest he knocked him all of a heap to the ground, where he lay motionless. Then with a neigh of triumph THE STOWACH, galloped through the plain, and was

he was dead, or any rate quite hors du combat, and was just running to pick up the brudle and follow Marengo when he sat up on his haunches. This made me could hardly hold the flint and steel, but

As he sat there with his need to wagging from side to side and mouth half open, he looked quite vacant and directly, and I dropped it plum on the back of his neck. For an instant he did back of his neck.

Suddenly his head stopped wagging, and he pricked his ears and by the flash of his eye and changed expression, I know he had seen me. Only one thing was to be done, and I did it. The outermost tree was large and branched. To it I ran and up it I crambled, and had just perched in a fork about aftern feat above torre from as the lies.

arrived at the bottom, Looking up at me with two red-hot coals for eyes, his long, nervous tail lasting his sides, every hair on his back turned to wire; and his great claws protruding, he chaftered at me as a cat chatters at a bird out of its reach. His jaws snapped like a steel trap, and he looked per-fectly diabolical. When he was tired of

chattering he stood and growled. Catching sight of the bridle he walk-ed to it, smelled it and then came back and glared at me.

My carbine-confound it-was slung to my saddle. My only weapon beside my hanger was a pocket pistol, double barrelled, and what in those days we called a breach loader, that is, the barrels unscrewed

person, just as he told the story him- an awful and familiar yell. It had a suppers goes without saying. And that strange muffled tone, but there was no gentleman is my story." tell you, gentlemen, happened to me a Again it came, resonant, long drawn

The lion appeared utterly astonished, I was a young man then, and had been and turned his care too far back to listen some half-dozen years in Constantine, that they were almost inside out, when farming in partnership with a friend, an from some hole among the roots of the

'Down, down, Cognac!' I cried in my agony; 'go back, sir!'
A cry of delight, cut short by a pitcous

whine, was his reply as he spied me, then dashing fully a yard toward the lion he barked defantly. With a low growl and ruffling mane

Back went Cognac into his cave as quickly as a rabbitt, and stormed at him

Thrusting his great paw right down I say I, but I should say we, for there the hole the lion fried to claw him out.

But he kept up such a ceaseless fire of First, there was your humble servant; snapping and snarling that it was secondly, there was my horse, Marengo, plain that he was either well and a better never looked through a around a corner or that the hole deep

All the same, to see the great, cowards and of Universiones, of whom I bought by beast digging away at my little dog him in town when his regiment was going like that was more than I could stand home. He shoul about fifteen hands Cooking my pistol, I shouted; as he looked high, carried the Rarb head and the fest up I fired at his blood shot eye. He of his body was all bone and muscle. His shook his head and I gave him the other

an insupposable objection to the close Cognac immediately shot forth his proximity of anything except one thing, head, and insuited him with jeering

But he was not to be drawn again, and to his castle.

Reloading, I found I had three bullete

New. Ho was more like a terrier than It was past noon. To beguile the time, southing else, with a short vellow coat, a | I smoked a pipe or two, sung a song and for a head, very long cars and a very short | ont my name, Cognac's and Marengo's on tail. The shrillness of his back pearced the tree, leaving a space for the lion's, conferred like a knife, but the awfulness which I determined should be Welling-

> I wished he would go away. Having some milk in my bottle, took a drink, and should like to have given some

The lion began to pant, with his red thorny tongue hanging a foot out of his mouth. He was as mangy and disrepufix some mysterious affinity he and table a brute as I ever saw.

By and bye he got up and snuffed the air all around him, and then without as much as looking at me, walked off and went deliberately down the road.

Slipping down the tree I caught up Cognac, who had crept out directly, and after looking carefully round for the Hon was smothering me with caresses. The lion was turning toward a bushy clump in the hollow about two hundred yards off. That light green foliage-willows. ley, or ravius, through which the road water, how the cunning brute suiffed it

Anyhow it was a relief to stretch one's legs, after sitting six mortal hours on a branch. The lion disappeared round the bushes. I strained my eyes over the plain, but could see nothing moving. tion sprang at his head.

Then I gave Cognac a drink of milk and I made sufe he was on top of him, and a few bits of bread cake, for which he he would have been, but as Marengo was very graceful. Of course there was wheeled short around like lightning on no use beginning a race against a lion his hind legs, the streaming reins caught with only 200 yards, the start in any the brute's forepaw and, as it were, trip- number of miles. The tree was better

All the same he was a long time; per

hole. Then I scrambled again to my perch. Cognet retired growling into his fortress and the beast of a lion mounted guard over us as before.

He looked quite cool and comfortable and had evidently had a good drink.

Another hour and he was still

the lion and his head turned sharply over he got up and walking quietly to the his shoulder, watching him. he got up and walking quietly to the foot of the tree, without uttering a sound, sprang up at me with all his might.

He was quite a yard short, but I was so startled that I nearly lost my balance.

His coup having failed, he lay down right under the branch I was on, crouchup of his quarters, which I knew meant ing his head on his paws as if to hide his

mortification. Suddenly the thought came into my mind: Why not make a devil and drop it on his back? I dismissed it as ridicul-ous, but it came again. As we have all, including our English friend here, been boys you know what I mean—not a fallen angel, but a gunpowder devil.
Good—well it seemed feasible, 1 would

I had plenty of powder in my little flask, so pouring some into my hand, I moistened it well with spittleand kneaded alloped through the plain, and was away until it cameout a tiny Vesuvious of black paste. Then I formed the little crater; which I filled with a few grains of

My hand shook so with excitement I could hardly hold the flint and steel, but I struck and struck—the tinder ignated

then with an angry growl, he jumped up and tore savagely at the big firy flea on his back, which sent a shower of sparks into his mouth and nose.

Again and again he tried, and then raved wildly about, using the most leonine language, for the devil had worked well down among the greasy hair, and must have stung him like a hundred hornets. His back, hair and mane burst in flame and he shricked with rage and terror.

Then he went stark staring mad, clapped his tail between his legs, laid back his ears, and rushed out of the grove at twenty miles an hour and disappeared up the ravine.

Almost as mad as the lion with joy and feeling sure that he was gone for good, I tumbled from the tree and ran along the road as hard as I could, with Cognac barking at my heels. By-and-bye I had to pull up, for the sun was still very hot, but I walked as fast as I could, looking out all the time for Marengo, who would not, I knew, go very far from his master. Presently I spied him in a hollow. A whistle, and whinnering with delight he trotted up and laid his head on my shoul-

In my hurry I had forgotten the bridle, but with my belt and handkerchief I extemporized a halter; tied one end round his nose, and catching up Cognac, mountstwould, I knew be all over with the poor, little fellow.

All at once there were

All at once there arose, close at hand, did it. That we all three enjoyed our We agreed it was wonderful.

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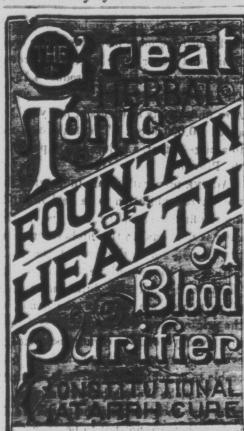
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