"You are able to place implicit trust in them then?" I saked, amazed at the profidence with which she spoke.

"The most implicit trust," alle said, "My servauts are carefully chosen, they give their services cheerfully, and like my dog there, they would over it any cost, however great, to them.

For a few moments she sat wrapped in thought, looking at a flower the lad taken from a vase. Then she lifted his jest again and addressed me with an air of authority that sat well upon her. "We have fluished our breakfast, think," she said. "Now I imagine you will be anxious to inspect your patients. Well if you will walt ten minutes

will accompany you. so saving she led me out into the veranda, where we seated ourselves in long cane chairs. A tall native was in waiting, and when she had said some-

while I transact a little legal business.

thing to him be withdrew. Now you will have an opportunity of witnessing a little piece of retributive justice," she observed, "and also of observing how I treat those who misconduct themselves in my domains."

She had hardly spoken before the forner, and next moment two stalward batives appeared escorting a young man also an islander, whose bright, attracts ive countenance won my regard from the first. Behind this party came the sompleinant, an elderly native, whose puckered and wrinkled face was about appreposessing as the other's was leading. Seeing their ruler beforem, they prostrated themselves with the accordand remained in that position that they were told to rise. When they had done so, Alie narrated the feature of the case to me in English. The old man, it appeared, had a young wife; the prisoner was her consin, and, if the complainant could be believed, had shown himself fonder of ber than was comfortable for the husband's peace of toind. Age, proving jealous and at the same time suspicions of the motive of youth's consinly affection, had tramped up a charge of stealing gardening im-plements against him and had brought sworn testimony to prove that the study articles had been found in his possession. tiut it so happened that Alie had been aware for some time past that the real object of the youth's affection was obe of her own domestics, a comely enough damsol, employed in the house.

The upshot of it all was that the charge was dismissed, the old man had to listen to a short homily on jealousy; the young couple were married there and the a and given a but in the townn was preferred, by way of compensa. brought, to provide them that selfsame day with certain goods and chattels necessary to their housekeeping. As for the three false witnesses, who had placed so small a value apon their fopatations for veracity as to allow them. colves to be suborned against an inco-bent man, their case was somewhat harder. They were taken to the rear of the house, where they received ton strokes of the rod apiece, well laid on, as a warning to them against future dealings in unsound evidence.

This case finished, Alle made another sign to one of her men, who instantly disappeared. Then she settled herself her chair, and I noticed that a hardes

look came into her face.
'You have witnessed how I conduct one side of my court, " she said. "Now

Again the tramp of feet was beard, and once more guards and prisoned made their appearance round the corner. To my surprise, the latter was none other than my old acquaintance Kwon Fung, the notorious Chinese pirate. But though he must have remembered me his sullen, evil face betrayed action of surprise. He only stood between his guards watching my hostess and waiting for her to speak. Presently she did so, in Chinese, and once, only opco, did he answer her. During the harangue I glanced at her face and was smalled at the change in it. The old soft expression was completely gone, and in its place had come one that, to tell the honest truth, even frightened me. Nove before or since have I seen such a parfect exhibition of self contained by all consuming rage. Once more she bother to the prisoner, who refused to answer. She instantly addressed herself to the scorts.

The man in command was in the act of replying when the prisoner, by some means which I shall never be able to explain, raised his right arm before his guards could stop him. In the palm of his hand lay a knife, comewhat resulting a Malay crosse, but with a mortis and straighter blade. With the friffness of thought the hand seemed to drop back and instantly resume its ofright position. The importes thus given such the weapon flying along the veranda toward us, and if I had not thrown a left arm before her there could be in

doubt that it would have found a scab-bard in Alie's breast. As it was, it stuck in the sleeve of my white jacket, passing through the fabric without even scratching the fiesh. Unperving as the incident was, the Beautiful White Devil did not show the slightest sign of fear, but simply said, "Thank you!" to me and then resumed her instructions to the guard. Kwong Fung was immediately led away.

For some seconds after this departure neither of us spoke, then, noticing that her face was regaining its old expression, I took courage enough to inquire my enemy's fate.

"Death," she answered. "I have forgiven that man times out of number. I have helped him when he was in distress, and once I rescued him when he was within an ace of being executed. But since he has murdered one of my bravest subjects in cold blood and cannot respect the orders I have given, but must needs attempt the lives of those I have sworn to protect, he must be prevented from doing any more harm by the safest means we can employ."

She was silent again for a few moments, then picking up the dagger, which had fallen on the floor, she looked me steadily in the face and said:
"Dr, De Normanville, I owe you my

life. If ever the opportunity arrives, you will not find me ungrateful. It was a near escape, was it not? I shall have to change my servants if they cannot see that their prisoners are unarmed."

I was about to reply, but was interrupted by the arrival of a second batch

of litigants, who were followed by a third. They were all natives, for, as I discovered later, there was not one single instance on record in the history of the Island of the white population havthe island of the white population having found it necessary to resort to law to settle their differences. A more peaceable, happy and law abiding community could not be found. One thing was very noticeable in each of these cases, and that was the pacific reception of and the resignation with which the decisions of their ruler were received. She spoke to them, chided them, sympathized with them and smoothed down their ruffled feathers just as if they had in reality been what she had called them—her children. And as a result in each case plaintiff and defendant went each case plaintiff and defendant went off together, their differences settled and their former animosity quite forgotten. When the last case was concluded, Alie put on her large white hat, which throughout the legal business had been lying beside her, and we were in the act of setting out for the village, accompanied by the deg, when an incident occurred which was fraught with as much interest to me in my study of her extraordinary position and character as anything else I had so far met

with during my stay in the island. We were descending the long stone steps before described, when a young and attractive native woman hove in sight, carrying in her arms a bundle, which on her nearer approach proved to be a baby. Arriving at the steps, she halted and knelt at Alie's feet, kissing the hem of her dress, and at the same time saying something to her in the soft native tongue I have so repeatedly ad-

When she had finished, Alie turned to me and said:

"Doctor, this is your first case, and a sad one. Will you tell me if you can do anything for this poor creature's child?" Turning to the woman, I signed to her to let me look at the infant. The poor little thing was in the last stage of confluent smallpox and presented a sickening appearance.
"Is it a hopeless case?" Alie asked,

with almost an entreaty in her voice, a



She halted and knelt at Alie's feet note that had certainly not been there a quarter of an hour before, when she

a quarter of an hour before, when she had sent Ewong Fung to his doom.

"Quite hopeless," I answered, "but I will endeaver to make death as painless as possible. Will you tell the poor soul to bring the child to me in half an hour in the village?"

Alte translated my speech and must have given the mother some encouragement, for she fell at my feet and in the depart reverence kissed my boets. Then with an obcisance to my companion she massed down a side path and disappeared among the trees. among the trees. Alie turned to me and said,

deep sigh:
"Now, Dr. De Normanville, if you are ready we will set off on our tout

I agreed, and accordingly we passed through the gate and went down the path toward the settlement.

CHAPTER V. Leaving the house behind us, we made our way by means of a circuitous path round the base of the majestic waterfall before described, down toward the buildings on the plain.

As we made our way down the path we talked on many subjects—European politics, of which her knowledge was extensive; the beauties of the east, literature and art—but somehow of another, however far we might wanded from it, the conversation invariably came hads to the spidemic that was the

At last we left the jungle and pre-pared to descend the precipitous hillside by means of a long flight of wooden which ended at the con

liant sunlight the township looked a pretty enough little place, with its well laid out and nicely planted thoroughfares, neatly built European houses and picturesque native huts. It was hard to believe that, clean and healthy as it all looked, it had lost more than a quarter of its population by the ravages of one of the most awful pestilences hu-man flesh is heir to. Indeed, so much impressed was I with its beauty that for a moment or two I stood watching it, unable to say a word. Then I looked at my companion. She, like myself, had been very silent for the last hundred pards, and now as she looked down at her kingdom I saw her beautiful eyes

fill with tears. "Dr. De Normanville," she said, as we arrived at the bottom of the steps, "if you will allow me some day, when we are a little better acquainted, I will tell you the story of this place and the influence it has had upon my life. Then you will be able to understand how it s that I am so much affected by my people's sufferings."

I murmured an appropriate reply, and we entered the village. Our arrival had been anxiously expected, and at the gate of the first house we were met by an old man, who was evidently a person of considerable importance in the place. He had a white skin and a slightly Scandinavian east of countenance, and, though he spoke Chinese and the native tongue with unusual fluency, was evidently more than half an Englishman. On seeing my companion he raised his hat politely and waited for her to speak.

"Mr. Christianson," she said, holding out her hand, "this is Dr. De Normanville, who has been kind enough to come to our assistance from Hongkong. I don't think it is necessary for me to assure him that you will give him your entire assistance in this terrible crisis in the same manner as you have hither-

to given it to me.".

The old man bowed to me and then

addressed my companion. "We have done our best in your absence," he said sorrowfully, "but is seems as if fate were against us. There are at the present moment 130 cases all told, of which 84 are men, 23 women and the remainder children. Yesterday there were 18 deaths, among them your eld cockswain, Kusae, who died at 7 in the morning, and Ellai, the wife of Attack, who followed him within an hour. The Englishman, Brandon, died at midday, his wife during the afternoon, and their only child this morning. scarcely an hour ago. Doctor, is there any hope at all of our being able to stop this awful plague?"

I assured him we would do our best, and he agreed that no man could ask or expect us to do more. By the time our conversation was finished I had taken a decided fancy to the old fellow, and with Alie's permission enrolled him there and then as my second in com-

"Now," I said, turning to her, "before we commende our work let me ex-actly understand my position. With what powers am I invested?"
"With full and complete authority."

"With full and complete authority," she answered promptly. "Whatever you may deem best for my unfortunate people, please do without consulting any one. Believe me bo one will attempt to dispute your right."

"That is as it should be, and I thank you." I said. "Now, will you tell up where my own abode is to be? It should be as far removed from the center of the infected district as possible, yet at the same time central enough to be consame time central enough to be con-

"I thought that house on the mound at the foot of the hill," she answered, pointing with her beautiful hand to a neat weatherboard structure about a couple of hundred yards from the place where we were then standing. "In fact, I have even gone so far as to give orders that it should be prepared for you. Shall we go and examine it?"

Accordingly, accompanied by the old man, we set out for it, eagerly watched by a crowd of natives, who, from the expressions on their faces, had come quite to look upon me as their deliverer. The house proved to be a most com-

modious little place of four rooms, and, from the luxury with which the two living apartments were furnished, it was evident that considerable frouble and care had been bestowed upon them. When we entered, an intelligent native lad was called from an inner room and informed in English that I was his new master and that he was to see that I wanted for nothing. It is only fair to add that during meetay in the island no man could have desired a better and

more trustworthy servant.

From the bedroom and sitting room we passed on to the room at the end of the veranda, which I found had been see the varanda, which I found had been set apart for and equipped as a surgery. Neatly arranged round the walls on shelves were enough drugs of all sorts and descriptions to stock half a dozen chemists' shops, while my instruments, cases and other paraphetualia were spread one upon the table in the center. A legether the arrangements were most satisfactory and complete, and I intimated as much to Alfe, who stood watching me from the window.

"It is all Mr. Christianson's doing," the said. "You must thank him."

I did so, and then proposed that we should set about our work at once.

"In the first place, Mr. Christianson," I began, "have you had any symptoms of the disease rourself?"

"Not one. Since it started I have been as well as I remember ever to have been in my life."

"Wash were you vaccinated last?"

Then were you vaccinated last?"

It is the question with some little timidit, for I feared lest by so doing I might wate some unpleasant memory in the eld man's mind. But, whatever his last may have been—and there were few men in the settlement, I afterward found, who had not more or less

of a romantic history—he answered without hesitation: "I was vaccinated in Liverpool 12 years ago next March."

Then, with your permission, I'll do it for you again. After that we'll call up the heads of the village, and I'll

rate on them." So saying, I unpacked my things, and aving done so vaccinated my second a command. When this was accomplished, he gave me a list he had pre-pared of the half dozen principal inhab-

for, and as soon as they arrived my position was explained to them in a short

speech by Alie. "Now, gentlemen," I said when her address was finished, "in view of the serious nature of our position and the necessity for a well organized attack upon the disease which has so decimated your population I propose to enroll you as my staff. You will each of you have special duties assigned to you, and I need not say that I feel sure you will fulfill them to the very best of your ability. Before we go any further, as I bear none of you have taken the disease, I propose vaccinating you all, as I have just done Mr. Christianson. When that has been accomplished, we will get

properly to work."
In half an hour or so this was done, and I was free to enter upon my next course of action.

"We will now," I said, after a little consultation with Alie, "assemble the healthy folk of the village on the green yonder.

This was soon done, and at the word of command the entire population able



carefully examining each in turn.
to get about assembled themselves on the open space before my verandablacks and whites, yellow and copper color, all mixed up higgledy piggledy in glorious contusion. From a cursory glance at them they appeared to come from all countries and from all parts of the globe. I could distinguish Englishthe globe. I could distinguish English-men, Frenchmen, Germans, Swedes,

men. Frenchmen, Germans, Swedes, Italians, Portuguese, Spaniards, Russians, Hindoos, Malays, Dyaks and even Chinamen. The dusky population, however, predominated.

The first business to be performed when they were all before me was to separate the men from the women and, as soen as this was accomplished, to carefully examine each in turn. After that I singled out those who were skilled in carpentering and hut building and kept them on one side. Fortunately I was able to procure nearly 30 who were in some degree efficient. All of these—I mean of course, those who had not had the distance were forthwish vaccinated and distance, under the leadership of one of my six lieutenants, to a site I had chosen on the hilleids for the hospital. There they were employed erecting and with all

the billside for the bospital. There they were employed erecting buts with all possible dispatch.

When the remainder had undergone the necessary operation, volunteers were requested to enfoll themselves for the work of nursing the sick, and for this duty no less than 20 held up their

hands, eight of whom had themselves been victims of the pestilence.

Long before I had completed my work of vaccination the sun had disappeared behind the hill, and it was time for the evening meal. But, tired as we all were, it was necless to think of stopping, so it was taseless to think of stopping, so after we had broken our fast the work of hut building and vaccination proceeded again by torch and lamp light until long after midnight. By the time my last patient was dismissed I was atterly worn out. But this was not the case with Alie, who throughout the day and up to the very last moment at night had never abated one jot of her energy. Encouraging the women, cheering the men, weighing out stores and measuring cloth, she had been occupied withing cloth, she had been occupied without ceasing. Her enthusiasm was like a

stimulant, and it had the effect of one upon all concerped.

When my arms ached and my brain seemed fagged out beyond all recouping with plotting, planning and giving advice, it was like a breath of new life to see her moving about among her peo-ple, taking no thought of herself or of the danger she was running, thinking only of the terror stricken wretches

only of the terror stricken wretches who turned to her in their hour of trouble for sympathy and help. And certainly as the passed about among them, Beelsebub, the bulldog, alouching along at her heels it was wonderful to see how their faces would brighten and the light of fear for the moment die out of their eyes. Nothing in my science had the power to do as much for them. As I put down my implements and received Christianson's report that the fourth hus was ready for occupation the clock on the mantelpiece of any sitting soom struck a quarter to 1. Bidding him good night and warning him to be early astir on the morning, I took my hat and prepared to accompany Alie on her holloward journey.

Then it was alie who began the conversation.

versation.

"Dr. De Normanville," she said—
and is must hot be thought conceited
on my part to repeat it—"I want to
thank you from the bottom of my hear)
for the way in which you have taken
up your work of mercy. I cannot say
what I would like to do because my

heart is too full for utterance, but if you could only realize what a relief it is to me to know that you are here to conduct matters you would understand something of the gratitude I feel."

I uttered some commonplace reply, all the time watching the wistful look upon her face. Then she said suddenly: "We have sorreely known each other three days yet, but somehow I feel as if, despite all you have heard of me, you are my friend."

"And you are quite right in so feeling," I said. "Believe me, I have forgotten all the foolish stories I have heard about you." "No, no. I don't know that you ought to do that," she continued, "besause, you see, a great number of them

"You wish me to remember them, then?" I cried in some surprise.

"Yes," she answered. "I think you ought to get a clew for your own guidance out of them. But in saying that I wish you to understand why I do so. To do that involves my telling you my history. Are you too tired to listen to it tonight?"

"Of course I am not." I answered quickly, only too glad of the opportunity of hearing a story that others would have given anything to have had related to them. "But if it means recalling unhappy memories, why tell it to me? I shall serve you just as faithfully without knowing it," "I do not doubt that for an instant,"

she said. "But you must surely see, Dr. De Normanville, that, being brought into contact with you as much as I am, I want to set myself right with you. I want you to know all about me. Hitherto you have only thought of me, remember, as—well, as a beautiful woman whose pleasure in life it is to rob and blackmail innee nt and unsuspecting folk in this distant portion of the globe. Having seen your kindness and gentleness to my unfortunate people today and honoring you for it as I do, is it to be wondered at that I want you to understand my work in life properly? May I tell you my story?"

'Please do! It will interest me deen-

She moved over from the gate to the broad wooden rail that ran along the path side and which had evidently been placed there to protect foot passengers from the abyes. Leaning on it, she scanned the moonlit valley for some moments without speaking. Then, turning her face toward me, she began:

"My father, you must know, Dr. De Normanville, was a typical Englishman. He came of a good old Yorkshire family and was an officer in her majesty's havy. He was also remarkable for his great height, strength and wonderful personal beauty. He was very popular with his fellow officers and men and in the early part of his career saw a good deal of active service in various parts of the globe. It was during the time that he was stationed in the West Indies and soon after he was made commander of his ship that he met my mother, a beautiful creole, and married her. From the moment of his marriage the good lack which had hitherto attended his pareer seemed to desert him. He lost his ship on an uncharted rock, and when he was appointed to another was ordered to a had station, where he nearly lost his wife and his own life of fever. With his recovery came the most unfortunate part of his career, for just as he was part of his career, for just as he was about to be relieved a charge was preferred against him by the admiral of the station of so base and wicked a description that all those who heard it refused at first to entertain the notion. He was court martialed and expelled the satvice. Hince then the charge has been proved to have been entirely without foundation, but by the time that was known my poor father had died in exile. He appealed, but what was the use of that?

"To a proud, headstrong man, con-scious of his innocence, such disgrate was unbearable, and he at length fied from England, resolved to shake its dost forever off his feet. He went to India, but the result of the trial was known there, and every post was barred to him. He passed on to Singapore, and finally to Hongkong, but always with the same result. By this time everything that was obstinate and worst in him was roused, and when he admiral, the same who had brought the charge against him, was transferred to the China sta-tion my father sought him out in Shanghai, decoyed him catside the city, requested him to publicly admit that the charges he had brought against him vere false, and on his refusing proluced pistols, invited him to a duel and shot him dead. Then, while the police were hunting for him, he fitted out a boat, with a large sum of money that had some time before been left him, collected a dozen other men as desperate as himself, tested them thoroughly before he trusted them, and having bound them to secrecy set off to find an island where they could lead their own lives unhindered by the outside world. This was the place they came to, and those old houses near the barbor were their first dwellings. Once in every six months my father went on to Hongkons for supplies, and it was during one of these excursions that he met the man whose destiny it was to recognize him, whose destiny it was to recognize him, and so hasten the trouble that lay before him. High words passed between them, and the result was a betrayal, and a fight with the police, in which two men were left dead upon the beach. That was the beginning of the end. The same night a boatload of marines put to arrest my father, who was in the sot of getting his schooner under weigh. When they came within hallful distance, they was challenged and asked their business. The officer in charge to plied that he held a warrant for my interest of all into the sutheristics hands their business. But the latter had no destine to fall into the sutheristics hands there is a treet. But the latter had no destine to fall into the sutheristics hands to be a treet, between the board. Again they were warned not to pottouch, but they paid so heed. The sends may be imagined. A colley was send from the subconer, and tout mentions of the six constituting the board.

crew, including the officer in charge,

"Without more ado my father got under weigh and raced for his life out of the harbor, pursued by three shots from the cruiser in the bay. From that day forward he was a proscribed man. Rewards were offered for his capture in all the principal ports of the east not only by the English government, but by the rich residents of Singapore, Hongkong and the treaty ports. Considering that it was not their affair, this action on the part of his former friends so enraged my father that he swore that if ever one of the signatories fell into his hands he would make him pay dearly for his action. It may interest you to know that Mr. Vesey, the man whom you perhaps remember I abducted, was the chairman of the meeting that offered the first reward for my father, and years afterward for me.

"Well, months went by, and once more the stores on the island began to

Continued on Second Page.

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