Or, A Mysterious Affair.

CHAPTER XV .- (Cont'd).

I looked, after the action, for the old chap, but his body had disappeared, though how or whither I have no con-ception. His blood be upon his own head! He would be alive now if he had not interfered, as the constables say at home, "with an officer in the execution of his duty." The scouts tell me that his name was Ghoolab Shah, and that he was one of the highest and holiest of the Buddhists. He had great fame in the district as a prophet and worker of miracles—hence the hubbub when he was cut down. They tell me that he was living in this very cave when Tamerlane passed this way in 1397, with a lot more bosh of the sort. I went into the cave, and how any man could live in it a week is a mystery to me, for it was little more than four feet high, and as damp and dismal a grotto as ever was seen. A wooden settle and a rough table were the sole furniture, with a lot of parchment scrolls cov-ered with hieroglyphics. Well, he has gone where he will learn that the gospel of peace and good-will is superior to all his Pagan lore. Peace go with him!

Elliott and Chamberlain never caught the main body-I knew they wouldn't-so the honors of the day rest with me. I ought to get a step for it, anyhow, and perhaps, who knows? some mention in the Gazette. What a lucky chance! I think Zemaun deserves his telescope after all for giving it to me. Shall have something to eat now, for I am half starved. Glory is an excellent thing, but you can-

not live upon it. October 6, 11 a.m.-Let me try to set down as calmly and accurately as I can all that occurred last night. I have never been a dreamer or a visionary, so I can rely upon my own senses, though I am bound to say that if any other fellow had told me the same thing I should have doubted him. I might even have suspectd that I was deceived at the time had not heard the bell since. However, I

Gust narrate what happened.

Elliott was in my tent with me having a quiet cheroot until about ten o'clock. then walked the rounds with my jemi- one has passed from the tent." dar, and having seen that all was right turned in a little before eleven. I was just dropping off to sleep, for I was dogtired after the day's work, when I was brought on by the nervous excitement of at it all over, then ran whining a little firmament, found his first inspiraroused by some slight noise, and, look-ing round, I saw a man dressed in Asiatio took me. From over my head there sud-the coat again, and finally elevating its ing round, I saw a man dressed in Asiatic costume standing at the entrance of my tent. He was motionless when I saw him, and had his eyes fixed upon me with a solemn and stern expression. My first thought was that the fellow was some Ghazi or Afghan fanatic who had stolen interior of the tent carefully, but without of the tent carefully, but without interior of the tent carefully interior of t will to spring from my couch and de- gave the mystery up, and throwing my- general's footsteps. fend myself, but the power was unaccountably lacking. An overpowering languor and want of energy possessed me. to put the whole of my yesterday night's languor and want of energy possessed me. to put the whole of my yesterday night's passed through a gap in the hedge and Had I seen the dagger descending upon experience down to imagination, but I on to the moor, across which we were led his pen. my breast I could not have made an was soon disabused of the idea, for I had in a bee-line to the northward. The sun effort to avert it. I suppose a bird when hardly risen before the same strange had by this time risen above the horizon, very much as I did in the presence of loudly, and to all appearance as cause- and sweet, from the blue, sparkling sea this gloomy-faced stranger. My mind was lessly, as before. What it is or where it to the purple mountains, that it was diffieyes once or twice and tried to persuade threats have something in them and this engaged. myself that the whole thing was a de- be the warning bell of which he spoke? stammer out a few words, asking the in- morning. truder who he was and what he wanted.

and the greatest crime which it is pos- perience has been the same as mine. nigh up to our waists. sible for man to do. You have slain one He has heard the sound too. What is the for my own part, I have no idea now, of the thrice blessed and reverent ones, meaning of it all? My brain is in a looking back, what goal it was which I an arch adept of the first degree, an whirl. elder brother who has trod the higher path for more years than you have numbered months. You have cut him off at a this last laconic entry terminated the speculations. Could it be that the three abandoned the awl to seek a fortoria. a climax and when he was about to it did after four days' complete silence attain a height of occult knowledge which it told a clearer tale of a shaken nerve would have brought man one step nearer and a broken spirit than could any more would have brought man one step nearer and a broken spirit than could any more tion of their track seemed at first to supported by friends, poor like is not only armless, but only posto the Creator. All this you have done elaborate narrative. Pinned on to the favor this supposition, for it lay in the without excuse, without provocation, at a journal was a supplementary statement line of the upper end of the bay, but it to me, John Heatherstone.

pursued many thousands of years ago, it sion of that dreadful sound with its acwas found by the learned that the short tenure of human existence was too limited to allow a man to attain the loftiest heights of inner life. The inquirers of those days directed their energies in the first place, therefore, to the lengthening against the continual strain. I am a against the continual strain. I am a of their own days in order that they broken man in mind and body. I live in might have more scope for improvement. By their knowledge of the secret laws of Nature they were enabled to fortify their bodies against disease and old age. It my dreadful condition to them, with no only remained to protect themselves hope of comfort on this side of the grave. against the assaults of wicked and violent men who are ever ready to destroy what is wiser and nobler than themselves. There was no direct means by which this protection could be effected, but it was in some measure attained by arranging me. Forty years have passed since the occult forces in such a way that a slew Ghoolab Shah, and forty times the occult forces in such a way that a terrible and unavoidable retribution have gone through all the horrors of should await the offender. It was irrevocably ordained by laws which cannot be reversed that any one who should shed the blood of a brother who had attained a certain degree of sanctity in this lonely country, and surrounded should be a doomed man. Those laws are myself with barriers, because in my extant to this day, John Heatherstone, and you have placed yourself in their power. King or emperor would be helpless before the forces which you have called into play. What hope, then, is there for

"In former days these laws acted so instantaneously that the slayer perished with his victim. It was judged afterward that this prompt retribution prevented the offender from having time to realize the enormity of his offence. It was therefore ordained that in all such cases the his post until he has been relieved in retribution should be left in the hands due course by the authorities. I have no of the chelas, or immediate disciples of the holy man, with power to extend or shorten it at their will, exacting it either at the time or at any future anniversary of the day when the crime was committed. Why punishment should come on those days only it does not concern you to know. Suffice it that you are the murderer of Ghoolab Shah, the thrice blessed, and that I am the senior of his three



chelas commissioned to avenge his death. "It is no personal matter between us. Amid our studies we have no leisure or inclination for personal matters. It is an d. Affild our studies we have no leisure of inclination for personal matters. It is an immutable law, and it is as impossible for us to relax it as it is for you to escape from it. Sooner or later we shall come to you and claim your life in atonement for the one which you have taken. The same fate shall be meted out to the wretched soldier, Smith, who, though less guilty than yourself, has incurred the same penalty by raising his sacrilegious hand against the chosen of Buddha. If your life is prolonged it is merely that you may have time to repent of your misdeed and to feel the full force of your punishment. And lest you should be tempted and to feel the full force of your punishment. And lest you should be tempted to cast it out of your mind and to forget it, our bell—our astral bell, the use of which is one of our occult secrets—shall ever remind you of what has been and what is to be. You shall hear it by day and you shall hear it by night, and it will be a sign to you that, do what you may and go where you will, you can never shake yourself clear of the chelas of Ghoolab Shah. You will never see me

that anticipation which is worse than death." With a menacing wave of the hand the figure turned and swept out of my tent into the darkness.

The instant that the fellow disappeared ing to my feet, I rushed to the opening and looked out. A Sepoy sentry was standing leaning upon his musket, a few

Ghoolab Shah. You will never see me

more, accursed one, until the day when we come for you. Live in fear, and in

"You dog." I said in Hindustani, "what do you mean by letting people disturb me in this way?" The man stared at me in amazement. "Has anyone disturbed the Sahib?" he

"This instant-this moment. You must have seen him pass out of my tent." "Surely the Burra Sahib is mistaken," the man answered, respectfully but firmly. "I have been here for an hour, and no

"Lieutenant Heatherstone," he answernotes with Gunner Rufus Smith of the
ed, speaking slowly and gravely, "you have Artillery, who knocked the old fellow tinuous, rapid journey over the roughest committed this day the foulest sacrilege over with the butt of his gun. His ex- of ground, with the heather often well-

"From that day to this," it said, "I "When first the occult sciences were have no night or day free from the intrucompanying train of thought. Time and a state of tension, always straining my ears for the hated sound, afraid to converse with my fellows for fear of exposing I should be willing, Heaven knows, to die, and yet as each 5th of October comes round, I am prostrated with fear because I do not know what strange and terrible experience may be in store for which lies beyond. I have no means of weaker moments my instincts urge me it all is. They must come quickly now, for I grow old, and Nature will forestall them unless they make haste. "I take credit to myself that I have is woman's. kept my hands off the prussic acid or opium bottle. It has always been in my power to checkmate my occult persecu-tors in that way, but I have ever held that a man in this world cannot desert

scruples, however, about exposing myself to danger, and during the Sikh and Sepoy wars I did all that a man could do to court death. He passed me by, how- deepest known spot in the ocean. ever, and picked out many a young fellow to whom life was only opening and who had everything to live for, while I forty sea miles off the north coast survived to win crosses and honors which had lost all relish for me. Well, well, these things cannot depend upon chance, found to be numerous in this refor it all. One compensation Providence gion, but the record sounding showhas made me in the shape of a true and ed the amazing result of 9,780 met-faithful wife, to whom I told my dreadful secret before the wedding, and who nobly consented to share my let. She has lifted half the burden from my shoulders, but with the effect, poor soul, of crushing her own life beneath its States cable steamer Nero in 1901. weight. My children, too, have been a This spot was to the north of the comfort to me. Mordaunt knows all, or This spot was to the north of the nearly all. Gabriel we have endeavored island of Guan, and the deep sea prevent her from knowing that there is something amiss. I should like this stateto keep in the dark, though we cannot ment to be shown to Dr. John Easterling, of Strangaer. He heard on one occasion this haunting sound. My sad experience may show him that I spoke the truth

"J. B. Heathcratone." It was going on for dawn by the time neered,

its way to England yet.

when I said that there was much know-

ledge in the world which has never found

narrative, to which my sister and Mor-daunt Heatherstone listened with the most absorbed attention. Already we most absorbed attention. Already we could see through the window that the stars had begun to fade and a gray light to appear in the east. The crofter who owned the lurcher dog lived a couple of miles off, so it was time for us to be on foot. Leaving Esther to tell my father the story in such fashion as she might, we thrust some food in our pockets and set off upon our solemn and eventful errand.

CHAPTER XVI.

It was dark enough when we started to make it no easy matter to find our way

the two, for the man was a towsy-headed fellow with a great mop of yellow hair and a straggling beard, while the dog was of the long-haired, unkempt breed looking like an animated bundle of oakum. All our way to the Hall its owner kept retailing instances of the creature's segrecity and newers of scent, which are sagacity and powers of scent, which, according to his account, were little less from my sight I recovered from the leth-argy which had fallen upon me. Spring-than miraculous. His anecdotes had a poor audience, I fear, for my mind was filled with the strange story which I had Indeed, it knocks more often at the been reading, while Mordaunt strode on with wild eyes and feverish cheeks, without a thought for anything but the prob at the entrance of the rich man's lem which we had to solve. Again and again as we topped an eminence I saw him look eagerly round him in the faint hope of seeing some trace of the absentee, but over the whole expanse of moorland there was no sign of movement any that are gone in examples of or of life. All was dead and silent and

Our visit to the Hall was a very brief greatest poets, Mr. William Watson portance. Mordaunt rushed in and emerg. first saw the light in a Warfedale one, for every minute now was of im-Puzzled and disconcerted, I was sitting ed with an old coat of his father's, which farmhouse; and Mr. John Mase-by the side of my couch wondering wheth- he handed to Fullarton, who held it out field, the latest star in the poetical to the dog. The intelligent brute sniffed

time in its eagerness. Had we not all Evening .- Have managed to compare three been fleet of foot and long of wind

> For my own part, I have no idea now, to be our terminus.

(To be continued.)

Man's Brain Second Best.

man possessing a larger brain than the wonder of his voice. Miss Stel- who paints and draws with her feet. woman, and this has led to the la Carol, when she was similarly claim through many years that man's brain was superior. But now there are some authorities, who of a winter evening; M. Giorgini, are declaring that in reality man's the famous Italian singer, when he brain is second best in the matter was hawking fish in the streets of of relative size. It is admitted Naples, and Herr Rontman when, man's brain is larger than the as a huckster, he was taking round death, without attaining the blessed peace brain of woman, but it is said it is vegetables on a wheelbarrow. really only about one-tenth larger. M. Rousseliere, the king of knowing in what shape my fate will really only about one-tenth larger. M. Roussellere, the king of come upon me. I have immured myself Taking into consideration the fact French operatic singers, was not so that man is a larger animal than many years ago working as a blackwoman, and that he really aver- smith, "passing rich" to take some steps for self-protection, but I know well in my heart how futile ages more than one-tenth larger than woman, his brain is not as large in proportion to his body as

Deepest Spot in Ocean.

A surveying ship of the German navy has recently discovered the It is near the Philippines, about of Mindanao. Great depths were ers, or 406 feet more than six miles.

The greatest ocean depth hitherto known was found by the United

The more a man has the less his neighbors think he deserves it. When put to the test, some vir-

tues are found to be thinly ve-

WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY

Iced Tea with a slice of lemon in it. It will refresh you wonderfully and besides it's invigorating and absolutely pure.

> Allow the tea to steep for five minutes and then pour off into another vessel to cool gradually. Never use artificial means of cooling until ready to serve; then add sugar, ice and lemon.

GENIUSES WERE FOUND IN HUMBLE SPHERES.

Discovered.

Genius is no respecter of persons. door of the poor man's cottage than

The present generation, says London Tit-Bits, is just as fruitful as genius in humble life. Of our tion while working in the fields.

it is under the influence of a snake feels sound was repeated in my very ear as and the whole countryside looked so fresh name at least a score of living au- been proved in several cases, notathors of repute for whom life has bly in those of Mr. Bertram Hiles clear enough, but my body was as torpid as though I were still asleep. I shut my not heard it since. Can the fellow's was the enterprise upon which we were taking into account such poets of When a boy of 8, Mr. Hiles had the The scent must have laid strongly upon undoubted, if obscure, genius as misfortune to lose both arms

himself, who subscribed a few sesses one leg, and who also does time when he was pleading the cause of which had evidently been recently added ended by branching off and striking ditte helpless and distressed. Listen now by the general. tramp eighteen miles a day-to Pe- court Coyon prize at the Salon of saro and back-for his lessons.

discovered, was singing on a Hamstead pavement in the chilly dusk

On Three Francs a Day;

Mlle. Cavalieri was first known to local fame as the prettiest flowerseller in Rome, and her wonderful voice was first heard in Paris cafes, where her reward was a few coppers a night-just as, long years earlier, the great Christine Nilsson, "Queen of Song," witched coppers from frequenters of Swedish fairs by her nightingale notes; and

Miss Evia Gwyn's voice was "discovered' when she was "pouring out her soul in blithesome song" in a baker's shop at Pwllheli.

And similar romantic stories are told of many a musician whose name to-day is famous—from Herr Fielder, the Polish violinist, who harvest of pence by playing in the streets.

Art, like music, calls her clever, children from the most unlikely places. There are half a dozen living policemen who have proved that they can ply a skilful brush, from Mr. Jones, of Leeds, whose work has been honored by the Royal Academy, to P. C. Rushen, of the City of London force, one of whose clever canvases may be seen in the museum of the Guildhall. Mr. Walter Marshall, whose normal work is the repairing of electric tram-cars, has had a picture accepted by the Academy. Nor must we forget Mr.

thought was that the fellow was some that the fellow was some time ago gave an exhibit and we all set off upon our search, the intention of stabbing me, and with the intention of stabbing me, and with this idea in my mind I had all the with this idea in my mind I had all the with the mystery up, and throwing my; and throwing my

That it is possible even without It would be an easy matter to hands to win fame as an artist has myself that the whole thing was a delusion, but every time that I opened them there was the man still regarding me with the same stony, menacing stare. The silence became unendurable. I felt that I must overcome my languor so far as to address him. I am not a nervous man, and I never knew before what Virgil meant when he wrote "adhoesit faucibus ora." At last I managed to stammer out a few words, asking the interest of the spoke of the state of the spoke of the state of the spoke of the state of the warning bell of which he spoke? The scent must have laid strongly upon the dog never hesitated nor stopped, dragging its master along at a pace which rendered conversation impossible. At one place, in crossing a target to set down what he said as accurate the ground, for the dog never hesitated nor stopped, dragging its master along at a pace which rendered conversation impossible. At one place, in crossing a small stream, we seemed to get off the strail for a few minutes, but our keennoted to the rade and followed it over the trackfaucibus ora." At last I managed to stammer out a few words, asking the interest of the dog never hesitated nor stopped, dragging its master along at a pace which rendered conversation impossible. At one place, in crossing a small stream, we seemed to get off the who have earned their daily bread by navvy work and farm labor.

Wr. A. O. Williams, hammerman; through being run over by a tramform over by a tramform over by a tramform over stopped, dragging its master along at a pace which rendered conversation impossible. At one place, in crossing a small stream, we seemed to get off the word to deal the ground, for the dog never hesitated over the ground, for the dog never hesitated over the ground, for the dog never hesitated over the ground for certificate at the Bristol Art It is, however, among musicians Schools for freehand-drawing, althat we find the most remarkable though he was obliged to hold his examples of talent/in unexpected pencil in his mouth! In later years places. Alessandro Bonci, the he achieved considerable fame as a expected to reach at the end of our pur. world-famous singer, was working painter; several of his canvases be-October 10 (four days later).—God help suit. I can remember that my mind was as a bootmaker's apprentice less ing bought and treasured by no less full of the vaguest and most varying than thirty years ago; and when he exalted a patron than Queen Vic-

1896, against the cleverest artists in Caruso, at the time, was wield- France; and Queen Alexandra ing a blacksmith's hammer; and treasures an exquisite portrait of was serving as a private soldier herself, painted in pastel, the work A great deal has been said about when a passing officer discovered of Mme. Rapin, an armless lady

> There are but few shade trees in the average man's field of labor.

The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make other people happy.

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T Most people would be benefited by the occasional use of Na-Dru-Co Laxatives Gently, thoroughly, and without discomfort, they free the system of the waste which poisons the blood and lowers the vitality. 25c. a box, at your Druggist's. National Drug and Chemical Co. of Canada, Limited. 176

