THE LOST DIAMONDS OF THE ORANGE RIVER.

just to think it over and settle my minutes' crawl, which as Klaas had told rather highly strung nerves. The Paarl opinion was not of a nature to fortias I could now see, was a unique for- fy me in the undertaking, yet, rathmation of crystal-spar, singularly er than leave the diamonds unexplored. rounded upon its face. It and the glorious canopy of hanging stalactite above it must have been reft bare by was marching steadily across the brasciently torn asunder these mountains, leaving the ravine in which we stood.

and ate some of the dried flesh and biscuits we had brought with us, I noticed Klaas's keen little eyes wandering inquiringly round the base of the precipice in our front. He seemed puzzled; and as we finished our repast and in the rock that leads from this kloof to the diamonds should be over there" was unpleasant, I can tell you, boxed up like this beneath the heart of the mountain. The very thought seemed to as far out of our course as possible; -pointing before him; "but I can't have altered and grown so, since I was here as a boy years and years ago."

We got up and walked straight for the point he had indicated, and reachman hunted hither and thither in the prickly jungle with the fierce rapidity of a tiger-cat; but, inasmuch as he was of fresher air; the turned midster as I endured that day. At last, after what seemed to me hours of this painful crawling and Egyptian gloom, we met a breath of fresher air; the turned midster. Get forward, Maas, for your life as hard as you can, and, please God, we'll pull you through." ly approaching the rock-wall, he apputes we emerged into the blessed sunpeared unable to hit off the tunnel that "baked," even in his old leather crack-loup," was all he said. tle; a signal to approach, to which I see within a small clearing, a thick and branches strongly and closely inby a pile of thorns lying close against

dwelling, inaccessible as it seemed to human life? Klaas soon found a weak spot in the kraal fence, and pulling down some thorns we stepped inside and approached the hut. Here too, Klaas pulled away the dry mimosathorns from the entrance, and was at once confronted by a tiny bow and arrow, and behind that by a fierce little weazened face. Instantly, my Bushman poured forth a torrent of his own language, redundant beyond expression, ly to consist. Even as he spoke, the bow and arrow were lowered, the little head appeared through the entrance, and the tiniest, quaintest, most ancient figure of a man I had ever beheld stood before us. Ancient, did I say? Ancient is the search for diamonds. Directly I saw fect wonderful cures, was stale and inhardly a meet description of his aspect, cleansed in the shall where it had been efficacious, or the poison had got too As he stood there blinking like an owl action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the strong a hold. My poor Klaas never became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood, I knew at once became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels became conscious again, though I fancible action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain and flood in the shallow channels by the latter action of rain a in the fierce sunlight his only covering a we should find "stones;" it resembled ed eagerly that he recognized me belittle skin kaross of the red rhe-bok fas- almost exactly the gravel found in the fore he died, for his lips moved as he tened over his shoulders, he looked inthere strongly ferruginous and mingled hour and a half from the time he was deed coeval with the rocks around him. with red sand, and occasionally lime. bitten, he lay dead. I never saw anything like it. Poor little I noticed quickly that agates, jaspers | So perished my faithful and devotoddity, dim though his eyes were wax- and chalcedony were distributed pret- ed henchman, the stoutest, truest, braving, feeble though his shrivelled arm, curious band-doom stone, so often found upon. We placed him gently in a dulled though his formerly acute senses, in the Vaal River with diamonds, and deep sandy hollow, and over the sand

ed this antediluvian Bushman and then Here we speedily found a rich harvest well to him as best I could, for we suddenly, as he was answered by the of the precious gems. In a feverish neither of us understood one another. word 'Ariseep, a light flashed across his search of an hour and a half, Klaas I noticed bye-the-bye, that no sign of countenance. Seizing his aged country- and I picked up thirty-three fine stones, grief seemed to trouble the old man. man by the shoulders, he turned him ranging in size from a small pigeon's Probably he was too aged, and had seen round and carefully examined his back. egg to a third of the size of my lit- too much of death to think much about Lifting the skin kaross and rubbing the finger-nail. They were all fine dia- the matter. away the coating of grease and dirt monds, some few, it is true, yellow or The rest of my story is soon finishthat covered the right shoulder, Klaas straw coloured, others of purest water, eds. I made my way back to camp, pointed to two round white scars just as I afterwards learned; and we had told my men what had happened, and, below the blade-bone, several inches no difficulty in finding them, although indeed, took some of them back with me apart. Then he gave a leap into the we wandered over not a twentieth part to Klaas's grave, and made them exair, seized the old fossil by the neck, of the valley. I could see at once from hume his body, to satisfy themselves and shrieked into his ears the most won-derful torrent of Bushman language I riches lay spread there upon the sur-are sometimes very suspicious. Then derful torrent of Bushman language I riches lay spread there upon the sur- are sometimes very suspicious. Then have ever heard. In his turn the old face of the earth; beneath, probably we covered him again securely againman started back, examined Klaas in- was contained fabulous wealth. I was st wandering beasts and birds.

this comical interlude. It seemed in- sion. Whether they were swept into sand pounds. I have never dreamt of credible; but this old man, 'Ariseep by the valley by early floodings of the going to the fatal valley again. Noname, was his grandfather, whom he Orange River through some aperture thing on earth would tempt me, after had not set eyes on since long years that existed formerly, but had been that ill-starred journey, heavy with before the Boer commando had brok- closed by volcanic action; or whether, the fate of Klaas and the Bechuana before the Boer commando had broken into his tribal fastness, slain his father and mother and other relatives, as an inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the fight; had crept away; and after years of solitary hiding in the mountains around, had somehow penetrated to this grim and desolate valley, where had subsisted on Bushman fare—

The before the Boer commando had broken into his tribal fastness, slain his as I am inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the fight; had crept away; and after years of solitary hiding in the mountains around, had somehow penetrated to this grim and desolate valley, where had subsisted on Bushman fare—

The before the Boer commando had broken into his tribal fastness, slain his as I am inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the fight; had crept away; and after years of solitary hiding in the mountains around, had been shot upwards funnel
The before the Boer commando had broken into his tribal fastness, slain his as I am inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the fight; had crept away; and after years of solitary hiding in the mountains around, had been shot upwards funnel
The before the Boer commando had broken his tribal fastness, slain his as I am inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the fight; had crept away; and after years of solitary hiding in the mountain the visited formerly, but had been shot upwards from subtours the first lill-starred journey, heavy with the fate of Klaas and the Bechuana boy Amazi. As for the tunnel, I would not remained to this fate of Klaas and the Bechuana as I am inclined to think the whole amen his as I am inclined to think the whole amen before us had somehow escaped in the first lill-starred journey, heavy with the fate of Klaas and the Bechuana the first lill-starred journey. I have senfered that ill-starred journey. I have senfered that ill-starred journey. I have senfered the fate of Klaas and the Bechu tains around, had somehow penetrated as diggers call it, the diamondiferous relatives; the balance that I kept, wise from below, and that are of floods. he had subsisted on Bushman fare— wise from below, and that ages of floods ed, for all possible wants of my own. snakes, lizards, roots, gum, bulbs, fruit, and rain-washing had cleansed and left Then I came back to my dearly loved and an occasional snared buck or rock- bare the gravel and stones I had seen South Africa for the last time,; and a that gushed from the mountain side From the search we had had, I made the Chobe River, from which you res-

the old man we wished to get through The excitement of the "find" had quite added: "I have never yet been there, Kidney and Bladder Diseases. the mountains, and that he had lost the tunnel of which he had known as a boy. 'Ariseep, who, it seems, in the years he had been there had explored every nook and cranny of the valley, knew at once what he meant, and quick-lay nointed out to us, not one hundred by nointed out to us, not one hundre the mountains, and that he had lost banished the remembrance of that nor do I think that for the present

I sat down on a rock and lit a pipe, | sibly be encountered in the twenty-I felt prepared to brave the terrors

of this uncanny passage. It was now three o'clock; the sun some mighty convulsion that had an- sy firmament on his eastward trek, and we had no time to lose. "In you go, Klaas," said I; and,

nothing loth, Klaas dived into the bow-As we drank from our water-bottles els of the mountains, I at his heels. For five minutes, by dint of stooping and an occasional hands-and-knees creep upon the flooring of the tunnel, sometimes on smooth sand, sometimes over protruding rock and rough gravel we got along very comfortably. Then the roof of the dark avenue, for it was pitch dark now—suddenly lowlit our pipes again he said: "The hole ered, and we had to crawl along. It quite make out the spot, the bushes more oppressive. Even Klaas, plucky from him, and shuddering, cast it be-Bushman though he was, didn't seem to hind me as far as possible.; relish the adventure, and spoke in a subdued and awe-stricken whisper. At that moment I thought for the first time in my life I must have swooned the foot of the precipice. The Bushthough not so painful as I endured I could muster: "Get forward, Klaas, sometimes prevented from immediate- heightened, and in another five min- | Most men would have sunk upon the led, as he had formerly told me, to the ers, leather trousers and flannel shirt. Then we scrambled onward, occasionally halting as the deadly sickness overvalley beyond. Suddenly, after he had As for myself, I was literally stream- ally halting as the deadly sickness over-

and high thorn-fence, outside of which sufficiently striking, the mighty am- ed "Ariseep!" while I got breath for phitheatre in which we lay was infin- a moment. was a low round hut, formed of boughs itely more amazing. Imagine a vast The sun was sinking in blood-red arena almost completely circular in splendour behind the mountains, and shape, flat and smooth, and composed, the kloof and rock-walls were literally terlaced. Klaas was standing watching as to its flooring, of intermingled sand aglow with the parting blush of day. intently the interior of the hut, which and gravel reddish yellow in colour. Nature looked calm and serenely beau-This arena was surrounded by stupen- tiful, and hushed in a splendour that dous walls of the same ruddy-brown ill accorded with the agitating scene rock we had noticed in Paarl Kloof, there at the mouth of the tunnel. All which here towered to a height of close this flashed across me as I called for-What could it mean, this strange on a thousand feet. In the centre of the old man. Klaas was now breathing the red cliffs, blazing forth in splen- heavily, and getting dull and stupifidour, ran a broad band of the most ed. I took him in my arms and carglorious opalescent rock-crystal, which ried him to 'Ariseep's kraal, whence the flashed out its rays of coloured light as old man was just emerging. At sight if to meet the fiery kisses of the sun. of his grandfather, Klaas rallied, and This flaming girdle of crystal, more rapidly told him what had happened; beautiful a thousand times than the and the old man at once plunged into most gorgeous opal, the sheen of a his hut for something. Then Klaas's fresh-caught mackerel, or the most rad- eyelids drooped, and he became drowiant mother-of-pearl, I can only com- sy and almost senseless. In vain I pare in splendour to the flashing rain- roused him, and tried to make him bows formed over the foaming falls of walk, and so stay the baleful effects the Zambesi, which I have seen more of the poison, now running riot in his than once. It ran horizontally and blood. He was too far gone. 'Ariseep very evenly round at least two-thirds now reappeared with a small skinof the cliff-belt that encircled us. It bag, out of which he took some dirty with those extraordinary clicks of was a wonderful, an amazing spectacle, looking powder. With an old knife he

indeed often considered by diggers as piled heavy stones to keep the vermin of his race, been prepared to do batbe met with. In many places the peb'Ariseep's kraal, I waited for the sloth-In his own tongue, Klaas interrogat- lay thickly piled in hollow water-ways. 'Ariseep from his hut, and bade farebles were washed perfectly clean, and ful dawn. As it came, I rose, called tently from head to foot, and in a thin puzzled at the time, and I have never I trekked back to the old Colony, had inclination on contact the land inclination of cold real and went home. pipe jabbered at him almost as volu- had inclination or opportunity to solve sold off my things, and went home.

hard by supplied him with existence. no doubt that a fortnight's careful cued me in the thirst-land." Here he had lingered for many years hunting in this valley would make me ter, during which I believe Klaas had laid before his monkey-like ancester an his couch with a light heart and elashad further imparted to him the exact but he told the stan I turned with Klass to dismond valley; but he

of cactus and euphorbia bush. Here, after half an hour's hewing and slashing with our hunting-knives, we managed to open a pathway; and at last a cavelike opening in the mountain, about seven feet in diameter, lay before us. The old man, however, gave us warning that was a scuffle in front, a fierce exclamation in Bushman language, and then the opening in the mountain, about seven first, and for half the distance to a sandy part of the tunnel, there was a scuffle in front, a fierce exclamation in Bushman language, and then the opening in the mountain, about seven first, and for half the distance to a sandy part of the tunnel, there was a scuffle in front, a fierce exclamation in Bushman language, and then the opening in the mountain, about seven first, and for half the distance to a sandy part of the tunnel, there was a scuffle in front, a fierce exclamation in Bushman language, and then who rocked it.

Klaas called out in a hoarse voice; "A snake has bitten me!" What a situation! Cooped up in this frightful bur-row, face to face with probably a deadly snake, which had already bitten my companion. Almost immediately, Klaas's voice came back to me in a hoarse guttural whisper: "I have him by the neck, sieur; it is a puff-adder, and his teeth are sticking into my shoulder. If you will creep up and lay hold of his tail, which is on your side of me, we can settle him; but I can't get his teeth out without your help.

Crawling forwards, and feeling my way with irightened benumbed fingers, I touched Klaas's leg; then softly moving my left hand, I was suddenly smitten by a horrible writhing tail. I seized it with both hands and finally gripped the horrid reptile, which I felt to be swollen with rage, as is the brute's habit, in an iron grasp with both hands. Then I felt, in the black darkness, that Klaas took a fresh grip of the loathsome creature's neck, and, with an effort, disengaged the deadly fangs from his shoulder. Immediately, I felt him draw his knife, and, after a struggle, make the oppression a million times and then I dragged the writhing body

Sometimes since, as I have thought of ed. But quickly I be hought me of poor that most gruesome passage, I have faithful Klaas, sore stricken; and I of fresher air; the tunnel widened and fierce courage more than now.

again disappeared; he gave a low whis- ing; every thread on me was as wet took Klaas. At last the light came, as if I had plunged into a river. We and as my poor Bushman grew feebler quickly responded. Quietly pushing my ing rocks, and then sat up and look- him, and so dragged him behind me to the opening. Here I propped him for If the Paarl Kloof, as Klaas called a moment on the sand outside with his

and I think quite the most singular of scored the skin and flesh around the many strange things, and they are Klaas's wound, and then rubbed in the not few, I have seen in the African in- powder. I had no brandy or ammonia to administer, and therefore let the old Well, we sat gazing at this crystal Bushman pursue his remedy, though rainbow for many minutes, till I had I felt somehow it would be useless. So Then we got up, and at once began which I believe Bushmen often do ef-

Finally, Klaas enlightened me as to presence of diamonds in such profuhis comical interlude. It seemed insion. Whether the such profurealized in England twenty-two thou-



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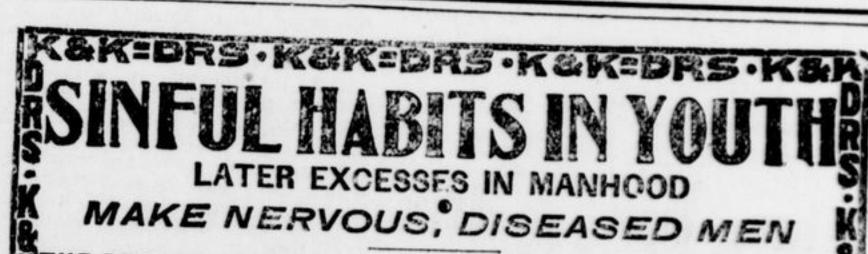
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From the search we had had, I made had lingered for many years alone and isolated.

After nearly an hour's incessant chatter, during which I believe Klaas had laid before his made had before his made had been assent that the control of the last time,; and a few years later made the journey to the Chobe River, from which you restored me in the thirst-land."

South Africa for the last time,; and a few years later made the journey to the Chobe River, from which you restored me in the thirst-land."

Weakness and Spermator: hone, Emissions the Chobe River, from which you restored me in the thirst-land."

VARICOCELE said experience. In eighteen months we were divorced. I was a millionaire, or something very like it. At length I was satisfied; and as the transport rider. Our narrator would no by talling us that Mowbray the transport rider. Our narrator would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would no by talling us that Mowbray the eastering sun was fast stooping to would not be a sun and search was a sun as such as the control of the chobe River, from which you restored the chobe River and Spermator: he chobe River and Spermator: he chobe River and Spermator: he chobe Riv

epitomised history of his life, he told tic step I turned with Klaas to depart. In the old man we wished to get through the excitement of the "find" had suited by the diamond valley; but he we treat and cure varicoccie, Emissions, Nervous Debility, Seminal Sweakness, Gleet, Stricture, Syphilis, Unnatural Discharges, Self Abuse Kidney and Bladder Discasses.

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