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career he could not have been terly discomfited. The incident sational, but inexplicable. other member of the band was

ed ere the two as yet unseathght fit to beat a retreat. This w did with celerity, but they their chief with them. It was of Jenks' programme to allow: escape. He aimed again at nearest the trees. There was click and nothing more. The e was a misfire. He hastily o eject it, and the rifle jammed. ing to his feet, with a yell, he vard. The flying men caught a of him and accelerated their nts. Just as he reached Iris aished among the trees.

ig the rifle over his shoulder, d up the girl in his arms. She scious, but breathless.

are not hurt?" he gasped, his zing into her face with an inhat she afterward remembered

she whispered.

" he continued in labored Try and obey me-exactly. I y you-to the cave. Stop there. y one you see-till I come." ard him wonderingly. Was he

leave her, now that he had y clasped to his breast? Im-Ah, she understood. Those t have landed in a boat. He to attack them again. He g to fight them single handed. would not know what happenn until it was all over. Gradvitality returned. She almost the fantastic conceit that she sert him.

placed her on her feet at the to the cave. nderstand," be eried, and with-

ing for an answer ran to the r another rifle. This time, to ement, he darted back through park toward the south beach. or knew that the Dyaks had the sandy bay Iris had chrissugglers' cove. They were acwith the passage through the came from the distant islands. y would endeavor to escape

I at all costs. right. As they came out into he saw three men, not two, off a large sampan. One of s the chief. Then Jenks unthat his bullet had hit the the Dyak's uplifted weapon. result already described. By

ame channel. They must be

he had escaped. lly prepared to slay the three with the same calm purpose inguished the opening phase singularly one sided conflict. ance was much greater, peryards from the point where came into view. He knelt and

judged that the missile struck between the trio. it allow for the sun on the te fore sight," he said, "or pern a bit shaky after the run. In

t they can't go far." ying step on the coral behind ight his ear. Instantly he

o and faced about—to see Iris. are escaping," she said. er of that," he replied, turning m her.

are the others?"

u mean that you killed nearly

them. There were nine in

elt again, lifting the rifle. Iris rself on her knees by his side. as something awful to her in and businesslike declaration

d purpose. enks," she said, clasping her an agony of entreaty, "do not men for my sake!"

y own sake, then," he growlyed at the interruption, as the was affoat. I ask you for God's sake not

nother life. What you have alne was unavoidable, perhaps his is murder!"

ered his weapon and looked at ose men get away they will

ck a host to avenge their com-

nd secure vau." he abled.

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"It may be the will of Providence for such a thing to happen. Yet I implore feassure her. She was still grievously you to spare them."

He placed the rifle on the sand and raised her tenderly, for she had yielded to a paroxysm of tears. Not another word did either of them speak in that hour. The large triangular sail of the sampan was now bellying out in the south wind. A figure stood up in the stern of the boat and shook a menacing arm at the couple on the beach.

It was the Malay chief, cursing them with the rude eloquence of his barbarous tongue. And Jenks well knew what he was saying.

CHAPTER VIII.

HEY looked long and steadfastly at the retreating boat. Soon it diminished to a mere speck on the smooth sea. The even breeze kept its canvas taut, and the sailor knew that no ruse was intended. The Dyaks were flying from the island in fear and rage. They would return with a force sufficient to insure the wreaking of their vengeance.

That he would again encounter them at no distant date Jenks had no doubt whatever. They would land in such numbers as to render any resistance difficult and a prolonged defense impossible. Would help come first?-a distracting question to which definite answer could not be given. The sailor's brow frowned in deep lines; his brain throbbed now with an anxiety singularly at variance with his cool demeanor during the fight. He was utterly unconscious that his left arm encircled the shoulder of the girl until she gently disengaged herself and said

appealingly: "Please, Mr. Jenks, do not be angry with me. I could not help it. I could not bear to see you shoot them."

Then he abruptly awoke to the realities of the moment.

"Come," he said, his drawn features relaxing into a wonderfully pleasing smile. 'We will return to our castle. We are safe for the remainder of this

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gola Bals to retail at \$3.00. ed your gun to fire at those poor They are beauties. Try a pair, wretches flying for their lives. Yet

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disturbed, and he naturally ascribed her agitation to the horror of her capture. He dreaded a complete collapse though search alone would set at rest the last misgiving-that only one sampan had visited the island. Evidently the Dyaks were unprepared as he for the events of the preceding half hour. They were either visiting the island to

procure turtle and beche-de-mer or had merely called there en route to some other destination, and the change in the wind had unexpectedly compelled them to put ashore. Beyond all doubt they must have been surprised by the warmth of the reception they encoun-Probably when he went to Summit

rock that morning the savages had lowered their sail and were steadily paddling north against wind and current. The most careful scruting of the sea would fail to reveal them beyond a distance of six or seven miles at the

After landing in the hidden bay on the south side they crossed the island through the trees instead of taking the more natural open way along the beach. Why? The fact that he and Iris were then passing the grown over tract leading to the valley of death instantly determined this point. The Dyaks knew of this affrighting hollow and would not approach any nearer to it than was unavoidable. Could he twist this circumstance to advantage if Iris and he were still stranded there when the superstitious sea rovers next put in an appearance? He would see. All depended on the girl's strength. If she gave way now; if, instead of taking instant measures for safety, he were called upon to nurse her through a fever, the outlook became not only

desperate, but hopeless. And, while he bent his brows in worrying thought, the color was returning to Iris' cheeks and natural buoyancy to her step. It is the fault of all men to underrate the marvelous courage and constancy of woman in the face of difficulties and trials.

Jenks was no exception to the rule. "You do not ask me for any account of my adventures," she said quietly, after watching his perplexed expression in silence for some time.

Her tone almost startled him, its unassumed cheerfulness was so unlooked

"No," he answered. "I thought you were too overwrought to talk of them

at present." "Overwrought! Not a bit of it! was dead beat with the struggle and We have some good values in with screaming for you, but please Strap Slippers, prices \$1 00 to don't imagine that I am going to faint \$1.75 Also Misses' and Chil- or treat you to a display of hysteria dren's, in Patent Leather, Tan | now that all the excitement has ended. or Dongola. We have a line I admit that I cried a little when you of Ladies' Royal Purple Don. pushed me aside on the beach and rais-

> perhaps I was wrong to hinder you." "You were wrong," he gravely inter rupted.

"Then you should not have heeded me. No, I don't mean that. You always consider me first, don't you? No matter what I ask you to do you endeavor to please me, even when you know all the time that I am acting or

speaking foolishly." The unthinking naivete of her words sent the blood coursing wildly through his veins.

"Never mind," she went on, with earnest simplicity. "God has been very good to us. I cannot believe that he has preserved us from so many dangers to permit us to perish miserably a few hours or days before help actly what happened."

"Then you shall," ne answered. "But first drink this." They had reached their camping ground, and he hastened to procure a small quantity of brandy. She swallowed the spirit, although she really needed no such adventitious

support, she said. "All right," commented Jenks. "If you don't want a drink, I do."

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"I can quite believe it," she retorted. "Your case is very different. I knew the men would not hurt me-after the first shock of their appearance had passed, I mean. I also knew that you would save me. But you, Mr. Jenks, had to do the fighting. You were called upon to rescue precious me. Good gracious! No wonder you were excited."

The sailor mentally expressed his inability to grasp the complexities of feminine nature, but Iris rattled on: "I carried my tin of water to the

pitcher plant and was listening to the greedy roots gurgling away for dear life when suddenly four men sprang out from among the trees and seized my arms before I could reach my revolver." "Thank heaven you failed!"

"You think that if I had fired at them they would have retaliated. Yes, especially if I had hit the chief. But it was he who instantly gave some order, and I suppose it meant that they were not to hurt me. As a matter of fact, they seemed to be quite as much astonished as I was alarmed. But if they could hold my hands they could not stop my voice so readily. Oh, didn't Ayell?"

"You did." "I suppose you could not hear me distinctly?"

"Quite distinctly." "Every word?"

"Yes." She bent to pick some leaves and bits of dry grass from her dress. "Well, you know," she continued rapidly, "in Something must be said or done to such moments one cannot choose one's words. I just shouted the first thing that came into my head."

"And I," he said, "picked up the first rifle I could lay my hands on. Now, if any further alarms threatened at Miss Deane, as the affair has ended so once. Yet he was almost positive- happily, may I venture to ask you to remain in the cave until I return?"

"Oh, please"- she began. "Really, I must insist. I would not leave you if it were not quite imperative. You cannot come with me." Then she understood one at least of

the tasks he must perform, and she meekly obeyed. He thought it best to go along Turtle beach to the cove and thence follow the Dyaks' trail through the wood, as this line of advance would entail prac-

tically a complete circuit of the island.

He omitted no precautions in his ad-

vance. Often he stopped and listened intently. Whenever be doubled a point or passed among the trees he crept back and peered along the way he had come to see if any lurking foes were

breaking shelter behind him. The marks on the sand proved that only one sampan had been beached. Thence he found nothing of special interest until he came upon the chief's gun lying close to the trees on the north side. It was a very ornamental weapon, a muzzle loader. The stock was inlaid with gold and ivory, and the piece had evidently been looted from some mandarin's junk surprised and sacked in a former foray.

The lock was smashed by the impact of Jenks' rifle bullet, but close investigation of the trigger guard and the discovery of certain unmistakable evidences on the beach showed that the Dyak leader had lost two if not three fingers of his right hand. "So he has something more than his

passion to nurse," mused Jenks. "That, at any rate, is fortunate. He will be in no mood for further enterprise for some time to come." He dreaded lest any of the Dynks

should be only badly wounded and likely to live. It was an actual relief to his nerves to find that the important dumdums had done their work too well to permit anxiety on that score. He gathered the guns, swords and

creeses of the slain, with all their uncouth belts and ornaments. In pursuance of a vaguely defined plan of future action he also divested some of the men of their coarse garments and collected six queer looking hats shape. like inverted basins. These things la placed in a heap near the pitcher plants. Thenceforth for half an hour the placid surface of the Ligoon was disturbed by the black dersal this of many charles.

Itls guess at the weather conditions hemilded by the change of wind was right. As the two partock of their evening meal the complaining surf lashed the reef, and the tremulous branches of the taller trees voiced the approach of a gale. A tropical storm-not a typhoon, but a belated burst of the periodic rains-deluged the island before midnight. Hours earlier Iris retired, utterly worn by the events of the day. The gale chanted a wild melody in mournful chords, and the noise of the watery downpour on the tarpaulin roof of Belle Vue castle was such as to render conversation impossible save in wearying shouts.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

a ditle boy in Deering. Me., was brought before his father recently and necused of killing a chicken. "Who told you about it?" asked the boy. "The hen did," said the father. Nothing more was said that day, but the next morning the hen was found dead. and the boy, being accused of killing it, admitted it, saying in defense, "Yes. comes. And I do want to tell you ex- I did kill the hen, and I'll kill every hen that tells on me."

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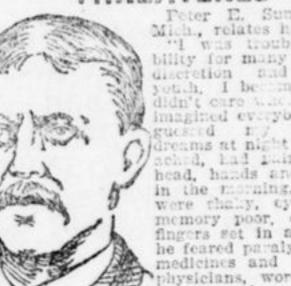
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