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REASON No 18

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BRANCHES: TORONTO, WINNIPEG.

"It may be the will of Providence for such a thing to happen. Yet I implore 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 billowing 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.

THEY 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 throbbled 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 day, at any rate."

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J. S. McIlraith

"Then you snarl," he 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."
"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 I yell?"

"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 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, Miss Deane, as the affair has ended so 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 cave and thence follow the Dyaks' trail through the wood, as this line of advance would entail practically a complete circuit of the island. He omitted no precautions in his advance. Often he stopped and listened

attentively. Whenever he doubled a point or passed among the trees he crept back and peered along the way he had come to see if any lurking foe 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 of 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 Dyaks should be only badly wounded and likely to live. It was an actual relief to his nerves to find that the wounded dundums had done their work too well to permit anxiety on that score.

He gathered the guns, swords and crosses of the slain, with all their pouch belts and ornaments. In preference 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 shaped like inverted basins. These things he placed in a heap near the pitcher plants. Thenceforth for half an hour the phlegm surface of the lagoon was disturbed by the black dorsal fins of many sharks.

His guess at the weather conditions, heralded by the change of wind was right. As the two partook of their evening meal the compelling 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 kind—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 chorals, 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 little boy in Deerling, Me., was brought before his father recently and accused 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, I did kill the hen, and I'll kill every hen that tells on me.'"

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THREATENED WITH PARALYSIS.

Peter E. Summers, of Kalamazoo, Mich., relates his experience: "I was afflicted with Nervous Debility for many years. I lay it to my overwork and excessive in early youth. I became very despondent and didn't care whether I worked or not. I imagined everybody who looked at me, sneered at my general appearance. My dreams at night were all of my back aching, and I was in the habit of my head, hands and feet were cold, tired in the morning, poor appetite, blinks were heavy, eyes blurred, hair falling out, memory poor, etc. I consulted several physicians, were an electric belt for three months, went to Mt. Clemens, Mich., but received little benefit. While at Mt. Clemens I was induced to consult Dr. Kennedy & Kergan, though I had lost all faith in doctors. Like a drowning man I grasped the New Method treatment and it saved my life. The improvement was like magic—I could feel the vigor going through my nerves. I was cured mentally, physically and sexually. I have sent them many patients and will continue to do so."

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