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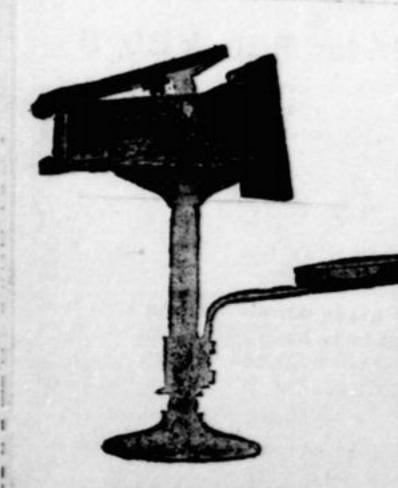
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crawling along the ground. Her eyes



The sailor's rifle went off with an war pected bang.

grew moist, and she paled somewice When he vanished she looked into the valley and at the opposing ledge; three men lay dead within twenty yards of ber. Two others dangled from the rocks. It took her some time to con trol her quavering utterance sufficient ly to say: "I hope I may not have to use a gun.

I know it cannot be helped, but if 1 were to kill a human being I do not think I would ever rest again." "In that case I have indeed murdered

sleep today," was the unfeeling reply. "No, no! A man must be made of sterner stuff. We have a right to defend ourselves. If need be, I will exercise that right. Still, it is horrid, oh,

She could not see the sailor's grim smile. It would materially affect his rest for the better were he able to slay every Dyak on the island with a single shot. Yet her gentle protest pleased him. She could not at the same time be callous to human suffering and be Iris. But he declined the

discussion of such sentiments. "You were going to say something when a brief disturbance took place." he inquired.

"Yes. I was surprised to find how hot the ledge has become."

"You notice it more because you are

obliged to remain here."

After a pause she said:

"I think I understand now why you were so upset by the loss of our water supply. Before the day ends we will be in great straits, enduring agoaies from thirst!"

"Let us not meet the devil halfway," he rejoined. He preferred the unfair retort to a confession which could only foster dismay.

"But, please, I am thirsty now." He moved uneasily. He was only too conscious of the impish weakness, common to all mankind, which creates a lesire out of sheer inability to satisfy it. Already his own throat was parched. The excitement of the early struggle was in itself enough to engender an acute thirst. He throught it best to meet their absolute needs as far as

"Bring the tin cup," he said. "Let us take half our store and use the remainder when we eat. Try to avoid oreathing through your mouth. The hot air quickly affects the palate and causes an artificial dryness. We cannot yet be in real need of water. It is largely imagination."

Iris needed no second bidding. She carefully measured out half a pint of the unsavery fluid-the dregs of the casks and the courings of the ledge.

"I will dri . drst," she cried. "No, no," he interrupted impatiently.

"Give it to me." She pretended to be surprised. "As a mere matter of peliteness"-

"I am sorry, but I must insist." She gave him the cup over his shoulder. He plr id it to his lips and gulped steading.

"There," he said gruffly. "I was in a hurry. The Dyaks may have another vested reefs. The sailor did not even

Iris looked into the vessel. "You have taken none at all," she

"Nonsense!" "Mr. Jenks, be reasonable! You need They were quieting down-the thirst

grumbled. "If you will take the first half I will take the second." And they settled it that way. The

noon they were suffering again. The foot of the rock. a miracle - now appreciated for the eyes." first time in their lives-that the sea She silently followed his instructions. erable. The girl bravely tried to con- her knees and pray. fine her thoughts to the task of the The two halted some ten paces in hour. She displayed alert watchful- front of the cavern, and the belligerness, an instant readiness to warn her ents surveyed each other. It was a fasamong the trees or by the rocks to the life. The yellow faced Dyak, gaudily eriphery assigned to her.

sweltering in the direct rays of a tropical sun are kindred operations strangenot reconcile the physical sensitiveness hood of the preceding days. Her eyes ached somewhat, for she had tilted her sou'wester to the back of her head in the effort to cool her throbbing temples. She put up her right hand to shade the too vivid reflection of the glistening sea and was astounded to find that in a few minutes the back of her hand was scorched. A faint sound of distant shouting disturbed her painful reverie.

"How is it," she asked, "that we feel the heat so much today? I had hardly noticed it before."

"For two good reasons-forced idleness and radiation from this confounded rock. Moreover, this is the hottest day we have experienced on the island. There is not a breath of air, and the here?" hot weather has just commenced." "Don't you think," she said huskily,

"that our position here is quite hope-They were talking to each other side-

ways. The sailor never turned his gaze from the southern end of the val-"It is no more hopeless now than last

night or this morning," he replied. "But suppose we are kept here for several days?"

"That was always an unpleasant probability."

"We had water then. Even with an ample supply it would be difficult to hold out. As things are, such a course becomes simply impossible."

Her despondency pierced his soul. A slow agony was consuming her. "It is hard, I admit," he said. "Nev-

ertheless you must bear up until night falls; then we will either obtain water or leave this place."

'Surely we can do neither." "We may be compelled to do both."

"But how?" In this his hour of extremest need

the man was vouchsafed a shred of luck. Before he could frame a feeble pretext for his too sanguine prediction a sampan appeared 800 yards from Turtle beach, strenuously paddled by three men. The vague hallooing they had heard was explained.

The Dyaks, though to the manner born, were weary of sun scorched rocks and salt water. The boat was coming in response to their signals, and the sight inspired Jenks with fresh hope. Like a lightning flash carre the reflection that if he could keep them away from the well and destroy the sampan now hastening to their assistance, perhaps conveying the bulk of their stores, they would soon tire of

staking their thirst on the few pitcher plants growing on the north shore. "Come quick!" he shouted, adjusting

the back sight of a rifle. "Lie down and aim at the front of that boat, a little short if anything. It doesn't matter if the bullets strike the sea first." He placed the weapon in readiness

for her and commenced operations himself before Iris could reach his side. Soon both rifles were pitching twenty shots a minute at the sampan. The result of their long range practice wa not long in doubt. The Dyaks danced from seat to seat in a state of wild excitement. One man was hurled overboard. Then the craft lurched seaward in the strong current, and Jenks told Iris to leave the rest to him.

Before he could empty a second magazine a fortunate bullet ripped a plank out and the sampan filled and went down amid a shrill yell of execration from the back of the cliff. The two Dyaks yet living endeavored to swim ashore, haif a mile through shark introuble about them. After a few frantic struggles each doomed wretch flung up his arms and vanished. In the clear atmosphere the onlookers could see black fins cutting the pellucid sea.

lish speak it.' "Don't you speak Hindoostanee?"

"Yes, sir!" was the joyful response. "Will your honor permit his servant to come and talk with him?"

"Yes, if you come unarmed." "And the chief, too, sahib?" "Yes, but listen! On the first sign of

treachery I will shoot both of you!" "We will keep faith, sahib. May kites

pick our bones if we fail!" Then there stepped into full view the renegade Mussulman and his leader. They carried no guns; the chief wore

"Tell him to leave that dagger behind!" cried the sailor imperiously. As the enemy demanded a parley he resolved to adopt the conqueror's tone few mouthfuls of tepid water gave from the outset. The chief obeyed, with Iris watched the wounded wretch them new life. Nevertheless by high a scowl, and the two advanced to the

time passed very slowly. The sun "Stand close to me," said Jenks to rose to the zenith and filled the earth Iris. "Let them see you plainly, but and air with his ardor. It seemed to be pull your hat well down over your

did not dry up and the leaves wither Now that the very crisis of their fate on the trees. The silence, the deathly had arrived she was nervous, shaken, inactivity of all things, became intol- conscious only of a desire to sink on

companion of the slightest movement cinating spectacle, this drama in real northwest, this being the arc of their attired in a crimson jacket and sky blue pantaloons of Chinese silk, a man Looking at a sunlit space from cover young and powerfully built, and the and looking at the same place when brown skinned, white clothed Mohammedan, bony, tall and gray with hardship, looked up at the occupants of the ly diverse in achievement. Irls could ledge. Iris, slim and boyish in her male garments, was dwarfed by the six foot of the hour with the careless hardi. sailor, but her face was blood stained, and Jenks wore a six weeks' stubb of beard. Holding their rifles with alert ease, with revolvers strapped to their sides, they presented a warlike and imposing tableau in their inaccessible perch. In the path of the emissaries lay the bodies of the slain. The Dyak leader scowled again as he pass-

"Sahib," began the Indian, "my chief. Taung S'Ali, does not wish to have any more of his men killed in a foolish quarrel about a woman. Give her up, he says, and he will either leave you here in peace or carry you safely to some place where you can find a ship manned by white men."

"A woman!" said Jenks scornfully. "That is idle talk! What woman is

This question nonplused the native. "The woman whom the chief saw half a month back, sahib."

"Taung S'Ali was bewitched. I slew his men so quickly that he saw spirits.' The chief caught his name and broke in with a question. A volley of talk between the two was enlivened with expressive gestures by Taung S'Ali, who several times pointed to Iris, and Jenks now anathematized his thoughtless folly in permitting the Dyak to approach so near. The Mohammedan, of course, had never seen her and might have persuaded the other that in truth there were two men only on the rock.

His fears were only too well founded. The Mussulman salaamed respectfully and said:

"Protector of the poor, I cannot gainsay your word, but Taung S'Ali says that the maid stands by your side and is none the less the woman he seeks in that she wears a man's clothing."

"He has sharp eyes, but his brain is addled," retorted the sailor. "Why does he come here to seek a woman who is not of his race? Not only has he brought death to his people and narrowly escaped it himself, but he must know that any violence offered to us will mean the extermination of his whole tribe by an English warship. Tell him to take away his boats and never visit this isle again. Perhaps I will then forget his treacherous attempt to murder us while we slept last

The chief glared defiantly, while the Mohammedan said:

"Sahib, it is best not to anger him too much. He says he means to have the girl. He saw her beauty that day, and she inflamed his heart. She bas cost him many lives, but she is worth a sultan's ransom. He cares not for warships. They cannot reach his vil-

tage in the hills. By the tomb of Nizam-ud-din, sahib, he will not harm you if you give her up, but if you refuse he will kill you both. And what s one woman more or less in the world that she should cause strife and **cloodletting**

The sailor knew the eastern character too well not to understand the man's amazement that he should be so colicitous about the fate of one of the weaker sex. It was seemingly useless to offer terms, yet the native was clearly so anxious for an amicable settlement that he caught at a straw.

"You come from Delhi?" he asked. "Honored one, you have great wis-

dom." "None but a Delhi man swears by the tomb on the road to the Kutub. You have escaped from the Anda-

"Sahib, I did but slay a man in self

"Whatever the cause, you can never again see India. Nevertheless you would give many years of your life to mix once more with the bazaar folk." The brown skin assumed a sallow

"That is good speaking," he gurgled. "Then help me and my friend to es-

dered and annoyed by this passionate appeal which he did not understand. He demanded an explanation, and the shouted Jenks in Urdu of the higher ready witted native was obliged to in-



The belligerents surveyed each other.

vent some plausible excuse. Tet when Unless we were pretty sure Dr. Harte's "Sahib," he said, endeavoring to conceal his agitation, "I am one among

many. A word from me, and they would cut my throat. If I were with CHEMIST - AND - DRUGGIST you there on the rock I would die with you, for I was in the Kumaon regiment when the trouble befell me. It is of no avail to bargain with a tiger, sahib. I suppose you will not give up the miss sahib. Pretend to argue with me. I will help in any way possible."

Jenks' heart bounded when this unlooked for offer reached his ears. The unfortunate Mohammedan was evidently eager to get away from the piratical gang into whose power he had fallen. But the chief was impatient, if not suspicious, of these long speeches. Angrily holding forth a rifle, the sail or shouted:

"Tell Taung S'Ali that I will slav him and all his men ere tomorrow's sun rises. He knows something of my power, but not all. Tonight at the twelfth hour you will find a rope hang ing from the rock. Tie thereto a vessel of water. Fail not in this. I will no forget your services. I am Anstruther Sahib of the Belgaum regiment,"

The native translated his words into a fierce defiance of Taung S'Ali and h Dyaks. The chief glanced at Jenk and Iris with an ominous smile. II muttered something. "Then, sahib, there is nothing mor

to be said. Beware of the trees of your right. They can send silent Cent even to the place where you stand And I will not fail you tonight, on m life," cried the interpreter. "I believe you. Go! But inform your chief that once you have disa peared round the rock whence yo

came I will talk to him only with Taung S'Ali seemed to comprehen the Englishman's emphatic motions Waving his hand defiantly, the Dyak turned, and, with one parting glance of mute assurance, the Indian follower

Iris touched his arm and he tole her all that had taken place. Iris be came very downcast when she grasped the exact state of affairs. She was a most certain when the Dyaks proposed a parley that reasonable terms would result. It horrified her beyond measure to find that she was the rock on which negotiations were wrecked Hope died within her. The bitterness of death was in her breast.

"What an unlucky influence I have had on your existence!" she exclaimed. "If It were not for me this trouble at least would be spared you. Because I am here you are condemned. Again, because I stopped you from shooting that wretched chief and his companions they are now demanding your life as a forfeit. It is all my fault. & cannot bear it."

She was on the verge of tears. The strain had become too great for her. After indulging in a wild dream of freedom, to be told that they must again endure the irksome confinement, the active suffering, the slow horrors of a siege in that rocky prison, almost distracted her. Jenks was very stern and curt in his

"We must make the best of a bad business," he said. "If we are in a tight place the Dyaks are not much better off, and eighteen of their number are dead or wounded. You forget, too, that Providence has sent us a most useful ally in the Mohammedan. When all is said and done, things might be far worse than they are."

cold, his manner so abrupt, not even in the old days when he purposely endeavored to make her dislike him. She walked along the ledge and timidly bent over him.

Never before had his tone been so

"Forgive me!" she whispered. did forget for the moment not only the goodness of Providence, but also your self sacrificing devotion. I am only a woman, and I don't want to die yet, but I will not live unless you, too, are

this dreadful brooding.

"The fact is," he said, with a feeble attempt at cheerfulness, "we are both hungry and consequently grumpy. Now, suppose you prepare lunch. We

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he raised his face to Jenks there was | Pills would do what we claim for them, the look of a hunted animal in his eyes. | we wouldn't dare make such an offer. By the single box the Pills are 50c.

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Det ever so much better after we

The girl choked back her emotion and sadly essayed the task of providing a meal which was hateful to her. A few tears fell now and made little furrows down her soiled cheeks. But

cemten."

they were helpful tears, tears of resignation, not of despair. Although the "destruction that wasteth at noonday?" was trying her sorely, she again felt strong and sustained. She even smiled on detecting an involuntary effort to clear her stained face. She was about to earry a biscuit

and some tinned meat to the sailor

when a sharp exclamation from him caused her to hasten to his side. The Dyaks had broken cover. Running in scattered sections across the sands, they were risking such loss as the defenders might be able to inflict upon them during a brief race to the shelter and food to be obtained in the

other part of the island. Jenks did not fire at the scurrying gang. He was waiting for one man, Taung S'Ali. But that redoubtable person, having probably suggested this dash for liberty, had fully realized the enviable share of attention he would attract during the passage. He therefore discarded his vivid attire and by borrowing odd garments made himself sufficiently like unto the remainder of his crew to deceive the sailor until the rush of men was over. Among them ran the Mohammedan, who did not

look up the valley, but waved his hand When all had quieted down again Jenks understood how he had been fooled. He laughed so heartily that Iris, not knowing either the cause of his merriment or the reason of his unlooked for clemency to the flying foe, feared the sun had affected him.

He at once quitted the post occupied during so protracted a vigil. "Now," he cried, "we can eat in peace. I have stripped the chief of

his finery. His men can twit him on being forced to shed his gorgeous plumage in order to save his life. Anyhow, they will leave us in peace until night falls, so we must make the best of a hot afternoon." But he was mistaken. A greater dan-

ger than any yet experienced now threatened them, for Taung S'Ali, furious and unrelenting, resolved that if he could not obtain the girl he would slay the pair of them, and he had terrible weapons in his possession.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Going For the Doctor. "Wait a bit, my little miss: What makes you walk so fast? You've got the day before you; The sky is not o'ercast." "I'm going for the doctor, sie,

I guess she's took a chill." "Put a bandage round her head And mustard to her feet; Give her cambric tea to drink

For my doll is very fil:

She's got a raging fever, sir,

And not anything to eat." "I tried all that two hours ago: The fever didn't abate. I lay all the trouble, sir, To pudding which she ate."

"What if the doctor isn't in Or doesn't care to come Or charges-as he often does-A most outrageous sum?"

"If he isn't in I'll wait, What if his charge be high! Do you think because of that I'd let my dollie die?"

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it more than I. I d-dont want to-live fiend was again slowly salting their cape. Compel your chief to leave the w-without-you." veins-when something of a dirty white Once already that day she had ex-His hands shook somewhat. It was color fluttered into sight from behind island. Kill him! Plot against him! pressed this thought in other words. well there was no call for accurate the base of the opposite cliff. It was I will promise you freedom and plenty Was some shadowy design flitting shooting just then. capidly withdrawn, to reappear after of rupees. Do this, and I swear to you through her brain? Suppose they were "I assure you I took all I required," an interval. Now it was held more I will come in a ship and take you faced with the alternatives of dying he declared, with unnecessary vehesteadily and a brown arm became visiaway. The miss sahib's father is powfrom thirst or yielding to the Dyaks. ble. As Jenks did not fire, a turbaned erful. He has great influence with the Was there another way out? Jenks head popped into sight. It was the Mo-"At least drink your share to please Indian government." shivered, though the rock was grilling me," she murmured. of a medicine. Taung S'Ali was evidently bewilhim. He must divert her mind from "No shoot it," ac reared. "Me Eng-"You wished to humbug me," he