ESTAOFATHE AMAZON CANNIBALS.

IN Whitch the Last White Man Tells of a Jungle Solomon, a Poisoned Stream, a Primitive "Wireless" and Other Wonders of the Aborigines.

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fever, I had dragged myself on all fours through the vantage if I kept the Indians ignorant of it for the men fold their stories, each begging the chief in stream we drank of up above?" all but impenetrable underbrush, until, when I vert present tably believe I could not have advanced a dozen feet further, I had been picked up and carried I knew not whither and cared for during five days of delirium and fever.

When consciousness finally returned to me I did not fully realize where I was. When waking I would lie for hours in a sort of bewilderment, wondering whether the dim recollections of the awful experiences I had been through were realities or merely fever dreams.

Then one morning I waked with a clear mind and a full realization of my plight. There must have been some trace of the fever left, for my first impulse was a strange, unmanageable curiosity as to how many persons were in the great, semicircular but in which I found myself. I immediately began to count them and reached 223, though I may have counted some of

The maloca is an institution much resembling the Long House of the famous Five Nations of New York Colonial days. Many families inhabited it, each famfly retaining a small space for its own use. This I gathered from the way in which groups of men and women were huddled about a dozen or more fires, the women cooking and the men lying in hammocks and

I did not know in what manner I would be treated by the savages, so for a time I lay there with my eyes half closed, trying to get my bearings. Just benind me I heard what seemed to be a discussion. Two men, I judged, were conversing in low, guttural syllables, and in some way I felt that I was the subject of their talk. Suddenly, with no sound of motion, a hand was fild on my shoulder. I turned over startled and saw the face of Jahe, the Indian with the blow gun whom I had seen in the forest before misfortune had over-

My heart beat wildly and I scarcely dared breathe, I was in the hands of the Mangeromas. Their reputation was, to say the least, not savory, and it was a question in my mind why they had saved my life. Although they live by themselves and seldom invade another's territory, they are more dreaded by the peoples of the Amazon than is the fatal cobra. I sickened at the thought that they were cannibals.

Behind Jahe stood a sleek sided, well fed man whom, from his bearing and from the gaudy, splendid feathers which were inserted in the cartilage of his nose, I took to be the chief. He regarded me coldly, with a stelld, unblinking expression which I could not read. I suppose this tableau lasted for about twenty seconds, but to me it seemed that it had no end. I wanted to spring at his throat, then to run, then to lepse again into the fever where at least the horrors were not real. Then quietly, without the flicker of a change in his expression, the chief made a conventional sign with his left hand which means "Wel-

In the cestacy of relief which seized me I sprang from the hammock to greet him, but my limbs were weakened by the fever and I tottered into Jahe's arms. I think without an effort he picked me up and placed me in the hammock. Then the chief, with a look which approached a smile as nearly as anything I ever saw on the face of a Mangeroma, pointed to the hammock in which I lay, to the walls of the maloca, and to the food which the women were preparing, at the same time uttering a sound which resembled "Hetrehen." By this I took it that I was welcome to etay as long as I desired.

The hospitality of my friends proved unbounded. The chief appointed two women to care for me, and though they were not startling in any point of eauty, they were as kind as any one could have en to me, watching me when I tried to walk and upporting me when I became too weak. There was a certain soup they cooked, which was served in helf bread-fruit gourd and was delicious. Many the other dishes they prepared were delicious, but there were others which were nauseating and which I had to force myself to eat: I soon earned that it was impolitic to refuse any dish, no entter how repugnant . One day the chief, who and by now taught me much of his lapguage, so that by means of signs and words I could speak nently with him, had prepared a very special dainty which he invited me to partake. None of the ers was permitted to eat it. At the first mouthful I nearly choked. Not only did the meat which was one of the ingredients taste and smell as though had been kept for weeks, but the berbs which were used were so bitter and gave out such a pungent dor that my mouth puckered and the muscles of ay throat retused to swallow. The chief was en-

Forcing His Guest to Eat. Do you not like my dish?" he asked in the dialect I am afraid it sickens me," I replied as politely

"It is the dish of my fathers, and their fathers, their grandfathers," he said. "You shall eat or I will turn you into the forest for the play-

g of the beri-beri and the Evil One."

I had no desire in my weakened condition to ed again into the forest, but to do what the chief anded seemed physically impossible. Jahe, who eas behind the chief, motioned me that I had better it or the chief would certainly turn me out, if, in-I did not suffer some harm at his hands. Such he vindictive, unreasoning nature of these forest Easily insulted they are, when angered well igh implacable. I ate the concoction which was set efore me, and, strange to say, before I had done with I really began to like it. This incident shows upon what a slender thread my safety hung. The friends of me moment might become the vindictive foes of the

en nothing to appeal to, for the natives believe him learn what was the trouble.

OW I came to be living in a maloca, or tribal arrows and I my automatic revolver, although I had the bog, and each side of it stood the two hunters, which I always carried. There stood one of my but of the Mangeroma Indians, in the heart no great intention of using it. What little ammunition straight as saplings, and gazing stellidly ahead. In a friends with a grin on his face which must have met of the Ameson jungle, has been told in my was left I desired to keep for emergency and, besides, semicircle, facing the chief and surrounding the ... the back of his head. previous stories. Briefly, after Jerome, the I reasoned that I might at some future time be able hunters, sat the tribe, squatted on the ground. The "Ungh," he grunted. "Polson!" last of my companions, had perished with the to use the power and noise of the weapon to good ad- chief meto take a place beside him. The . "Are you crazy?" I demanded. "Isn't that the

wearing a colored girdle or waist cloth, which was his lips pursed to welcome the life giving draught. At court robe, sat cross legged near the fire in the centre that second I was, literally spc-king, two inches from of the maloca. In the reddish light of the fires, a terrible death. Before the first drop had touched dimmed by the smoke, very little of which ever es- my lips there was a cry behind me. I turned slightly caped through the hole which served as a chimney, and then a rough hand gripped my shoulder and I was the scene was weirdly fantastic. On the opposite side flung backward full length on the ground. of the fire from where the chief sat lay the body of Angered, I sprang to my feet and drew the pistol picturesque language to remember that he had ever Then he explained to me and as he talked my knees We had scarcely gone a mile from the maloca when been faithful to the tribe, and assuring him that the wabbled and I turned faint. I had barely missed one



"We Had Not Proceeded Far Up the River When the Canoes Came to a Stop and Our Operator Beran to Beat Upon His Instrument.'

we discovered on the opposite side of a creek, some ndred yards distant, a wild hog rooting for food. We were on a slight elevation ourselves and under cover of the brush, the hog being exposed to view on the next knoll. Almost simultaneously my two companions fitted arrows to their bowstrings. Instead of shooting in the usual manner they placed the great and second toes of the left foot on the cord, and with their left arms gave the proper inclination to the bows, which were at the least seven feet long. With game very minutely, then scrutinized each of the disa whirr the polsoned arrows left the weapons, and putants, while the cords still twanged sailed gracefully about, describing a hyberbola, dropped with a speed which mal at each side of his neck a little distance back of sagacity. The tribe applanded by grunting. At any

The hog dropped in his tracks, and I doubt if he My life among the Mangeromas was for the greater could have lived even though the arrows had not been part free from adventure, and yet I was more than poisoned. Tying his feet together with vegetable once within an ace of meeting my and. In fact, I fibers, we slung the body over a heavy branch and think I looked more squarely into the eyes of death in carried it to the maloca. All the way the Indians dis- that peaceful little community than ever I did in the puted as to who was the owner of the carcuss. From wilds of the jungles or in my most perlious adven- crawl in. This keeps the evil spirit out, but it very time to time they put their burden on the ground to tures. gesticulate and argue. I thought they would come to The little creek which ran near the malora supplied in such quarters. The men all sleep in hammocks, blows, and when they appealed to me I declared that the Indians with water for all purposes. What washthe arrows had descended so rapidly that I had been hig was done-and that was very little-was done at a unable to follow them with my eye and could not tell distance down the stream, so as not to untit the which bad found the mark first. A few yards from water for drinking, and whenever I was thirsty I was the but my two friends fell to arguing again, and a in the habit of stooping to the stream or scooping the thus no sentries. crowd collected about theni, cheering first one, then fluid up in my curved hands. One morning I had been the other. My suggestion that the game be divided tramping through the jungle with a party of natives kindled a flame by means of my magnifying glass and sidered in a way mythical. Finally the dispute grew hot, and my throat was parched almost beyond en- had gathered, squatting in a circle about me, to see The word of the chief was law and none dared ap- to such proportions, the relatives of each hunter join- durance when we came upon a stream which I took the wonder I was to show them, but at the first sign not reach them." al from his decisions. In fact, there would have ing in the debate, that the chief sent a messenger to to be the same which ran by the maloca. My friends of the tiny flames they ran howling to the maloca. I

to be vested in some mysterious power which makes Immediately the crowd dispersed and the combat- he brush. As I reached the water's edge I stooped emerged from the hut him the raise of men. I once had occasion to see him ants quieted. The messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to queuch my thirst. Just before my lips touched the messenger returned from the chief, to q trip in search of wild bogs. They carried bows and decked out in a new set of nose feathers, larger and looked to medike the very clinic of life.

Good One would reward him if he gave a decision favorable to the speaker.

When they had finished the chief turned to me. "What would you do, white man?" he asked.

"I would give half to each," I replied. "Ungh!" grunted the chief, and there was no doub that he held poor opinion of my logic.

The Chief's Decision. In a very dignified manner he arose, examined the

"The hog is mine," he said. "Go." The matter was ended. There seemed to be no dismade them almost invisible, and plunged into the ani- position to gramble or to appeal again to the chief's

rate the chief bad shown bo partisanship.

of the most terrible deaths a man can die. It seems that the Mangeromas often poison the streams below their drinking places in order to get rid of their enemies. In the present case it had been rumored at the maloca that a party of Peruvians might be coming up the river and this is always a signal for alarm among the Indians. Although you cannot induce a native of Brazil to go into the Indian country the Peruvians are more than wifting to go there because of the girls. A band of Peruvians, or even two or three alone, will sneak close to malo at night, force the door, which is always bolted against the Evil One, but which can be cut open, and fire a volley of shots into the hut. The Indians sleep with their blow guns and bows suspended from the rafters and before they have collected their sleepy senses and procured their weapons the Peruvians in the confusion have carried away three or four of their girls. On this account to Mangeromas bate the Peruvians and

will go to any extreme to compass their death. The poisoning of the rivers is the favorite method, but this often results in injury to the mnocent and even to their own people, though so delicate is their sense of smell that they can usually detect the odor of the poison if it is strong enough to kill,

Two mouthfuls of the water which I had attempted to drink, I was told, would have resulted in a death of agony before I could have risen from the stream.

It seems strange to me that during all my stay among the Mangeromas, who were heathens and cannibals, I saw no signs of idolatry. They believed implicitly in a good and an evil spirit. The good spiritseemed merely to exist and was not very active. He took no especial interest in protecting man or in trying to guide him to a good life. He was purely pas-

The Evil One, on the other hand, was extremely energetic, and could be heard at nighttime shricking and howling in his pursuit of those wandering alone in the forest. So thoroughly afraid is the Mangerom of the Evil One that at night he bolts the only door to the majora so closely that a mosquito could not nearly stifles one who is not accustomed to sleeping while the women have to content themselves with the bare ground. It is this fear that makes the Indians so easy a prey to the Peruvians, for not one of them remains outside the but after dark, and they have

Thinking to amuse some of my friends, I one day was scoffed at. Such a hing would have been con- who were in search of foodstuffs. We were tired and a few dry twigs. A group of ten or twelve Indians were at a little distance from me, beating through stood nonplussed, the glass in my hand, until the chief

and asked me to make him a present of the glass. life that I may one day meet them agute.

more brilliant than I had ever seen him wear and I hesitated a second in pleasant anticipation, my Now I had no desire to part company with the instru ment, as it had been too good a friend before, and f. I were again thrown on my own resources I might need it sadly, so thinking to deter him from asking for it I explained that it was inhabited by a sort of a spirit who would obey none but me.

Fear of the Evil Spirit.

The chief shot me an angry glance and demanded why I brought evil spirits to hurt his people. Explain as I would, I could not make him understand that the frit was harmless and could not act without my command. At last, in desperation, to appeare him I offered to give him the glass, but he grunted in terror and told me that if I should use it again he would have me strangled. It was two days before I was established again in the good graces of the chief.

It was no easy position I occupied in the family of this despot. Kind as he was, the least thing insuited him, and my life was not worth a snap when he was gered. Besides this, I was entirely well of the fever and anxious to return to my home and to civiliation. One night I explained as tactfully as I could the chief that I was strong enough to march and that I was desirous of going home to my own chief in er to tell him how kind had been my treatment at be hands of the Mangeromas. A little to my surprise, the chief took my suggestion in good part and emed rather pleased than otherwise. He never, I think, quite forgave me for the episode of the magnifying giass.

He was very kindly, however, and told me that if I would wait until the next full moon he would take me to a friendly tribe further up the river, who, in turn, would see me well on my way. This meant a delay of several weeks, but in addition to not wanting to offend my benefactor, I was more than glad of the help he promised. I had no desire to repeat my former experiences in the forests.

At last the moon was full and the expedition was organized. I was not absolutely sure of how I would be treated by the neighboring Indians, and I am almost ashamed to say that despite the faithful, unwerving friendship which the Mangeromas had shown me I had it in my mind that they might attempt to do me some harm, so black was the name which popular conception had given them.

I had until this time never used my gun, but before we started on our journey I decided to give them an example of its power, hoping to awe them. Inviting the chief and all the tribe to an exhibition, I explained that with the little weapon I could make great thunder and could bore holes in a tree. The chief examined the pistol gingerly. He had heard of such weapons, he said, but supposed them to be much larger and heavier. This one, he thought, must be a baby and he was inclined to doubt its power.

Selecting an assai palm of about nine inches dlameter across the brook, I took steady aim and fired three times. Two of the bullets went through the same hole and the other pierced the trunk of the palm about two inches higher. The chief himself hurried across the stream and examined the holes. He and some of his men discussed them for about an hour. The empty shells which had been ejected were picked up by two young girls, who fastened them in their cars with coarse wirelike fibres, whereupon a dozen other women crowded about me, beseeching me to give them more shells. I discharged more than a dozen of my precious cartridges to please these children of the forest, who were as completely slaves of fashion as are their sisters of more civilized lands.

Early the next morning we started up the river. In one canoe the chief and I sat on jaguar skins, while two savages paddled. In another were four men armed with bows and arrows and blow guns, and a fifth who acted as a "wireless operator." The system of signalling which he employed was by far the most ngenious device I saw while among the savages, and considering their resources and the state of their civilization it was really remarkable.

Before the canoes were launched one of the men fastened two upright forked sticks at each side of the canoe about the middle. About three and a half feet astern of these a crosspiece was laid on the bottom of the craft. To this were fastened two short sticks, forked. Between each pair of upright forked sticks was placed a crosspiece, thus forming two horizontal bars, parallel to each other, one a few inches from the bottom of the boat and the other about a foot and a half above the gunwales.

Next four slabs of hard wood, of different thicknesses, about three feet long and eight inches wide, are suspended from these horizontal bars, so as to hang lengthwise of the canoe and inclined at an angle of forty-five degrees. Each pair of slabs, though separated by a longitudinal slit, are joined by end pieces

which are finely carved and painted. The operator or the signal man strikes these slabs with a heavy wooden mallet or hammer, the head of which is wrapped with an inch layer of caoutchouc and then with tapir skin. Each section of the wooden slabs gives forth a different tone when struck, and as I remember them they were the first four notes in the scale. By means of all the combinations of these four notes, and by what corresponds to a dot and dash system, the operator is able to send any message to any person who understands his code.

We had not proceeded far up the river when the canoes came to a stop and our operator began to beat upon his instrument. He repeated his message several times, but, receiving no answer, we proceeded for another mile. Then we stopped and signalled again. Very faintly came a reply. I learned afterward that we were at least five miles from the answering station, Our man was asking if we were welcome, the chief told me. It was a moment of suspense for me. Perhaps we would be repulsed, in which case I would be in a worse plight than before. Quivering on the air came the answer.

Dot, dash, dot, dot, dash, Welcomed by "Wireless."

"We are welcome," said the chief, and my heart pounded with joyousness as the canoes responded to

the sinewy backs of the paddlers. Another mile un the river and we stopped again. The man in our offer canoe was asking how many of our friends were waiting for us.

"Two hundred," was the answer. "Are any strangers with you?" asked the man up the river, and the chief read me the question.

We replied that there was a white man in our party. "Is he welcome?" asked our chief. Again I was in a perspiration of suspense, and the answer was slow in coming.

He is welcome if you will vouch for him," was The chief repiled that I was a great and powerful friend of his, that I had lost my people and that I was seeking help in finding them. After that there were

no delays, though the operators kept signalling inces-"Are you armed?" we were asked. "Does the cobra travel without his fangs?" was the

reply of our chief. You must come no further unless you will leave your arms in the canoes," came to us.

"We will do so if you will leave yours in the maloca," replied our man. This was agreed upon, and although I was scary out parting from my pistel, the chief insisted that uld not break faith with his friends, and I was obliged to acquiesce, not without some misgivings. g before we reached a turn in the creek and came en, women, children and dogs, the clear, Tylophor

enly in sight of two malocas and a crowd of ones of the answering signals seemed to come from the water directly beneath us. After the two chiefs had welcomed each other, I was presented to my new friend. "What is your name?" he asked "Mister," I said, knowing that he could not pro-

with this and repeated it again and again,
"Have you no people?" he asked.
"Yes," I replied, "but they are far away and I can-

unce my real name. He was very much pleased

The chief expressed sympathy for me and promised to help me. This he did handsomely, sending six of is men to start me on my journey. They escorted me to within six hours' waik of a rubber camp. It took