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ALLAN QUATERMAIN ;

A FROWNING CITY.

BY H. RIDER HAGGARD. Author of "King Solomon's Mines," "She," "Dawn," etc. Published by the Rose Pub. Co., 110 N. York St., New York. For sale by all the Book-sellers. Copyrighted.

CHAPTER XV.—SORAIS SONG.

After our escape from Agon and his pitous crew, we returned to our quarters in the palace and had a very good time. The two queens, the nobles and the people vied with each other in doing us honor and showering gifts upon us. As for that painful little incident of the hippopotami it sank into oblivion, where we were quite content to leave it. Every day deputations and individuals waited on us to examine our guns and clothing, our chain shirt, and our instruments, especially our watches, with which last they were much delighted. In short we became quite the rage; so much so that some of the fashionable young swells among the Zu-Vendi began to copy the cut of some of our clothes, notably Sir Henry's shooting-jacket. One day, indeed, a deputation waited on us, and, as usual, Good donned his full-dress uniform for the occasion. This deputation seemed, somehow, to be of a different class to those who generally came to visit us. They were little insignificant-looking men, of an excessively polite, not to say servile, demeanor; and their attention appeared to be chiefly taken up with observing the details of Good's full-dress uniform, of which they took copious notes and measurements. Good was much flattered at the time, not suspecting that he had to deal with the six leading tailors of Milosia. A fortnight afterwards, however, when on attending court as usual he had the pleasure of seeing some seven or eight Zu-Vendi "mashers" arrayed in all the glory of a very fair imitation of his full-dress uniform, he changed his mind. I shall never forget his face of astonishment and disgust. It was after this, that, chiefly in order to avoid remark, and also because our clothes were wearing out and had to be saved up, we resolved to adopt the native dress; and a very comfortable one we found it, though I am bound to say that I looked sufficiently ludicrous in it, and as for Alphonse! Only Unstopogans would have none of these things; when his mocha was worn out the fierce old Zulu made him a new one and went about unconcerned, as grim and naked as his own battle-axe.

Meanwhile we pursued our study of the language steadily, and made very good progress. On the morning following our adventure in the temple, three grave and reverend seigniors presented themselves armed with manuscript books, inkhorns, and feathered pens, and indicated that they had been sent to teach us; and, with the exception of Unstopogans, we all buckled to with a will, doing four hours a day. As for Unstopogans, he would have none of that either. He did not wish to learn that "woman's talk," not he; and when one of the teachers advanced on him with a book and an inkhorn and waved them before him in a mild persuasive way, such as a churchwarden invitingly shakes the offertory bag under the nose of a rich but niggardly parishioner, he sprang up with a fierce oath and flashed Iukosikaasi before the eyes of our learned friends, and there was an end of the attempt to teach him Zu-Vendi.

Thus we spent our mornings in useful occupation which grew more and more interesting as we proceeded, and the afternoons were given up to recreation. Sometimes we made trips, notably one to the gold mines and another to the marble quarries, both of which I wish I had space and time to describe, and sometimes we went out hunting buck with dogs trained for that purpose; and a very exciting sport it is, as the country is full of agricultural inclosures and our horses were magnificent. This is not to be wondered at, seeing that the royal stables were at our command, in addition to which we had four splendid saddle-horses given to us by Nylepha.

Sometimes, again, we went hawking, a pastime that is in great favor among the Zu-Vendi, who generally fly their birds at a species of partridge which is remarkable for the swiftness and strength of its flight. When attacked by the hawk this bird appears to lose its head, and, instead of seeking cover, flies high into the air, thus offering wonderful sport. I have seen one of these partridges soar up almost out of sight when followed by the hawk. Still better sport is offered by a variety of solitary snipe, as big as a small woodcock, which is plentiful in this country, and which is flown at with a very small, agile, and highly trained hawk having an almost red tail. The zigzagging of the green snipe and the lightning rapidity of the flight and movements of the red-tailed hawk make the pastime a delightful one. Another variety of the same amusement is the hunting of the very small species of antelope with trained eagles; and it certainly is a marvelous sight to see the great bird soar and soar till he is nothing but a black speck in the sunlight, and then suddenly come dashing down like a cannon-ball upon some covering buck that is hidden in a patch of grass from everything except that piercing eye. Still finer is the spectacle when the eagle takes the buck running.

On other days we would pay visits to the country-seats at some of the great lord's beautiful fortified places, and the villages clustering beneath their walls. Here we saw vineyards and cornfields and well kept park-like grounds, with such timber in them as filled me with delight, for I do love a good tree. There it stands so strong and sturdy, and yet so beautiful, a very type of the best sort of man. How proudly it lifts its bare head to the winter storms, and with what a full heart it rejoices when the spring has come again! How grand its voice is, too, when it talks with the wind; a thousand molian harps cannot equal the beauty of the sighing of a great tree in leaf. All day it points to the sunshine, and all night to the stars; and thus passionless, yet full of life, it endures through the centuries, come storm, come shine, drawing its sustenance from the cool bosom of its mother earth, and, as the slow years roll by, learning the great mysteries of growth and of decay. And so on and on through generations, outliving individuals, customs, dynasties—all save the landscape it adorns and human nature, till the appointed day when the wind wins the long battle and rejoices over a reclaimed space, or decay puts the last stroke to his fungus-fingered work.

Ah, one should always think twice before one cuts down a tree!

In the evening it was customary for Sir Henry, Good, and myself, to dine, or rather sup with their Majesties—not every night, indeed, but about three or four times a week, whenever they had not much company, or the affairs of state would allow of it. And I am bound to say that those little

business with... the most charming thing of it all... the very highest in rank... the most simple and kindly... the two being very much what one sees every day in England between the old, out-at-elbows, broken-down county family, and the over-bearing, purse-proud people who come and "take the place." I really think that Nylepha's greatest charm... her sweet simplicity and her kindly, genuine interest even in little things... the simplest woman I ever knew... where her passions are not involved, one of the sweetest; but she can look fierce enough when she likes, and be as quick as any savage, too.

THE TEMPERANCE WAVE.

Appeal of Men and Women in Earnest—What a Priest Says of It. Winnipeg ladies have invited the Dominion W.C.T.U. to hold its next meeting in that city. The liquor traffic is to-day the heaviest clog upon progress, and the deepest disgrace of the nineteenth century.—New York Tribune. "Oh, Lord, remove the curse of rum from our nation," prayed the christian. The next day this same christian said the town he lived in could never get along without the license fee, so he voted the same ticket the saloon keeper voted.—Prohibition Era. "If a thing is wrong can taking more money from it make it right? If the price of Judas' crime had been \$1,000 instead of 30 pieces of silver, would it have been any less detestable?" "A political party that allies itself with the rum power commits suicide."—Canon Wilberforce.

It is a good thing for the voter to make his protest against the liquor traffic in the prayer meeting or by his manner of life, but if we would really tell the government, as well as the Lord and people, that he wants the saloon closed, there is but one method by which he can be recognized, but just one law under which his opinion can declare itself, and his conviction make itself felt, and that law and method are full filled when he drops into the box a ballot that calls for prohibition.—Frances Willard. "At every mass last Sunday, Rev. Hugh P. Fleming, pastor of St. John's church, Orange, spoke at some length on the evil results of intemperance and upon the saloon question. He said he believed that if his congregation knew half the misery that was caused by saloons they would rise up to sweep them all off the face of the earth. Little children, who had come to school the previous week, had told him that their mothers could not pay their school money because their fathers had only taken home \$2 on Saturday night. Those same fathers, the priest said, made \$12 and \$15 per week, and all but the miserable \$2, which they grudgingly gave their wives, they spent in saloons. "All working men have now plenty to do in this city, but the saloons are deriving all the benefit. I heartily wish that they were at the bottom of the Atlantic ocean, for their owners might then be saved from suffering forever in the bottom of hell."—New York American Catholic News.

SHORT NOTES.

From Our Correspondents in the District—Coming Entertainments. Mrs. Lucas Kerr, of Chaffey's Locks, is dangerously ill. A raffle of a \$50 meerschaum is to take place on Friday evening at McLaren's hall, Wolfe Island. A concert will be given in Westbrook on Thursday evening, Dec. 8th, to assist in providing public school prizes. Foster, the horse thief, was captured by Constable Bolton, of Westport, at Portland and brought before Justices Ripley and Arnold at Westport. Sales of farm stock, implements, etc., at Michael Tighe's, Pittsburg, on Wednesday, 30th, by Murray; at William Pillar's, near Glenvale, on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, by Haycock. Charles Simmons, watchmaker, Westport, has a large supply of watches, clocks, jewelry, silverware and fancy goods and is daily adding stock. He is selling at rock-bottom prices and does repairing with neatness and despatch. J. H. Johnston, Head of the Lake, has rented his farms, one to James Watson, of Newburgh, and one to Capt. Smyth, of this place. He will move to Belleville for three years to educate his family, after which he intends to resume farming. The Peterboro Review is encouraging gymnastics. Part of its reading matter yesterday was put in such a way that a man would have to stand on his head to read it. Hitherto the editor was the gymnast, but we suppose he now wants the people to see what a hard time he had in pleasing everybody. The Methodists of Harrowsmith are to give a Christmas tree entertainment on Xmas eve; also a tea meeting on the Monday evening following, Dec. 26th. W. A. Webster, of Kingston, an old friend and acquaintance of the Rev. Mr. Bell's, will preside at the tea-meeting. A number of prominent speakers are expected to accompany an excellent programme of music.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria, When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria, When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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Opium, morphine, chloral, tobacco, and kindred habits. The medicine may be given in tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person taking it if so desired. Send 6c in stamps, for book and testimonials from those who have been cured. Address M.V. Lubon, 46 Wellington St. East, Toronto, Ont. Cut this out for future reference. When writing mention this paper.

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There is much in a title, as regards Burdock Blood Bitters. You do not have to take quarts and gallons to get at the medicine it contains. Every drop in every case has medical virtue as a blood purifying, system regulating tonic.

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