

plained to him what I thought would be our best course, when suddenly, without any delay, the koodoo saved us any further trouble by suddenly starting off down the hill like a leaping rock.

"So pushing through the bush we proceeded to hunt every other likely spot about, with the same result. "I suppose she must have taken him right away," I said at last, sadly enough. "At any rate, he will be dead by now, or feel have mercy on him, we can't help him. What's to be done now?"

"I suppose that we had better wash ourselves in the pool and then go back and get something to eat. I am filthy," said Harry. "This was a practical, if a somewhat unfeeling, suggestion. At least it struck me as unfeeling, before I could even cock my rifle, she had bounded right across the crystal pool and vanished over the opposite bank. It was all done in an instant, as quick as thought.

"She had been sleeping on the bank, and oh, horror! what was that sleeping beside her? It was the red remains of poor Jim-Jim lying on a patch of blood-stained rock. "Oh! father, father," shrieked Harry, "look in the water!"

"I looked. There, floating in the center of the lovely, tranquil pool, was Jim-Jim's head. The lions had bitten it right off, and it had rolled down the sloping rock into the water.

CHAPTER III.

"Poor Jim-Jim! We buried what was left of him, which was not very much, in an old broad bag, and though whilst he lived his virtues were not great, now that he was gone we could have wept over him. Indeed, Harry did weep outright, while I registered a quiet little vow on my own account that I would let daylight into that lions' den before I was 40 hours older, if by any means it could be done.

"We buried him and there he lies where the lions will not trouble him any more. So there is an end of the book of Jim-Jim. "The question that now remained was how to circumvent his murderer. I knew that she would be sure to return as soon as she would be hungry again, but I did not know when she would be hungry. She had left a little of Jim-Jim behind her that I should sorely regret to see her the poor creature unless indeed she had cut. Still, I felt that it would not be wise to miss the chance of her coming, and I began to make preparations for her reception. The first thing that we did was to strengthen the bush wall of the stern by dragging the large quantity of the tops of thorn trees together and laying them one on the other in such a fashion that the fierce pointed spears. This, after our experience of the fate of Jim-Jim, seemed a very necessary precaution, since if there one sleep can jump another can follow, as the Kadris say, how much more is this the case where an animal is active and so vigorous as the lion is concerned! And now came the further question, how were we to beguile the lioness to return? This was a question that have a strange knack of appearing when they are not wanted, and keeping studiously out of the way when their presence is required.

"Harry, who, as I have said, was an eminently practical boy, suggested to Pharoah that he should go out to the stern in the moonlight as a sort of bait, assuring him that he would have nothing to fear as we would certainly kill the lioness before she killed him. Pharoah, however, strangely enough, did not seem to take this suggestion. Indeed, he walked away, much put out by Harry for having said this. "It gave me an idea, however. "Well, I said, 'there is that ox. He must die sooner or later, so we may as well utilize him.' "Now, about thirty yards to the left of our stern, if one stood facing down the hill toward the river, was the stump of a tree that had been destroyed by lightning many years before, standing equidistant between two little in front of, two clumps of bush, which were severally some fifteen paces from it. "Here was the very place to tie the ox; and accordingly a little before sunset the poor animal was led forth by Pharoah and made fast there, little knowing, poor brute, for what purpose; and we commenced our work right, this time without a fire, for one object was to attract the lioness, and not to scare her. "For hour after hour we waited, keeping ourselves awake by pinching each other—by, by the way, remarkable with a difference in the force of pinches requisite to the occasion, as in the mind of pincher and pinchee—but no lioness came. The moon waxed and the moon waned, and then at last the moon went down, and darkness swallowed up the world, but no lion came to swallow us up. We waited till dawn, because we did not dare to go to sleep, and then at last we took our rest as we could get. "That morning we went out shooting, not because we wanted to, for we were too depressed and tired, but because we had no more meat. For three hours or more we wandered about in a fruitless and looking for something to kill, but absolutely without results. For some unknown reason the game had grown very scarce about the spot, though when I was there two years before every sort of large game except rhinoceros and elephant was particularly abundant. The lion, of whom there was many, alone remained, and I fancy it was the fact of the game they live on having temporarily migrated that made them so daring and ferocious. As a general rule a lion is an amiable animal enough if he is let alone, but a hungry lion is almost as dangerous as a hungry man. One hears a great many different opinions expressed as to whether or no the lion is remarkable for his courage, but the result of my experience is that very much depends upon the state of his stomach. A hungry lion will not stick at a trifle, whereas a full one will live at a very small reluke. "Well, we hunted all about and nothing could we see, not even a duck or a bush back, and at last, thoroughly tired and out of temper, we started on our way back to camp, passing over the brow of a steepish hill to do so. Just as we got over the ridge I froze up to a pointer dog, for there, about 600 yards to my left, his beautiful curved horns out-laid against the soft blue of the sky, I saw a noble koodoo bull (streplosus kudu). Even as I was looking at it, I could distinctly see the white stripes upon its side when the light fell upon it and its large and pointed ears twitch as the breeze worried it. "So far so good, but how were we to get at it? It was ridiculous to risk a shot at that great distance, and yet both the ground and the wind were very ill for stalking. It seemed to me that the only chance would be to make a sally of at least a mile or more and stand upon the level of the koodoo. I called Harry to my side and at

"She's done for! she's dead!" yelled Pharoah in exultation; and at that very moment the lioness, with a sort of convulsive rush, half rolled, half sprang into the patch of thick bush to the right. I fired after her as she went, but so far as I could see without her instantaneously. It was wonderful to see her collapse all in a heap like an empty sack. "My word, Pharoah, I said, 'that was well done, and none too soon. "Yes, he answered, it was a good stroke, indeed. 'Jim-Jim will sleep better now.' "Then, calling Harry to us, we examined the lioness. She was old, if one might judge from her worn teeth, and not very large, but thickly made, and must have possessed extraordinary vitality to have lived so long, she was as she was; for, in addition to her broken shoulder, my express bullet had blown a great hole in her that one might have put one's fist into.

"Well, that is the story of the death of poor Jim-Jim and how we avenged it, and it is rather interesting in its way, because of the fight between the two lions, of which I never saw the like in all my experience, and I suppose, of amonishing the others to our assistance. At any rate, they came, and quickly, too, for within five minutes, popping through the bushes of our stern fence, we saw a magnificent lion bounding along toward us through the tall standing grass like a leaping rock. On he came in great leaps, and glancing to see if he were alone. When within fifty yards or so he stood still in an open space and roared, and the lioness roared, and that there came a third roar, and another great black maned lion stalked majestically up and joined No. 2, and really began to realize what Jim-Jim must have undergone.

"Oh, Harry, I whispered, 'whatever you do, don't fire—it's too risky. If they let us, let them be.' "Well, the pair of them marched off to the bush, where the wounded lioness was now roaring double tides, and the whole three of them began to fight, and grumled away together. Presently, however, the lioness ceased roaring and the two lions came out again, the black maned one first to prowl, I suppose, and walked to where the carcass of the ox lay and sniffed at it. "Oh, what a sight! whispered Harry, who was trembling with excitement. "Yes, I said, 'don't fire; they might all of them come for us.' "Harry said nothing, but whether it was from natural will or from some other cause, he was thrown off his balance by excitement, or from sheer recklessness, I am not sure, but he never having been able to get a satisfactory explanation from him; but at any rate the fact remains, he was not a man to be trifled with, and his warning his exhortations, lifted up his West-ley Richards and fired at the black maned lion, and, what is more, hit it slightly on the flank.

"In addition to the brilliant red which, especially in cloth and fannel, is now so much used for children's dresses, have been seen some equally pretty frocks made entirely of blue. A dress of satin blue is trimmed with a row of the long-haired black lynx fur. Gray cloth gaiters that button above the knee are worn with this costume. "A pretty ornament for the hair is a 'rose bow.' The petals of the rose are formed of two inches long of green cord ribbon cut in sharp points at the upper edge. The petals are formed of a fine white material, which can be made of satin ribbon and a few ends of gilt wire stem the stems. This is set on a long hairpin. "Red linen handkerchiefs, blue-stitched, are worn with muffs in preference to the white ones, being a more delicate and scarcely touch fur without losing its luster. "Evening haques are laced with narrow satin ribbon instead of cord. "Ostrich feather fans are not considered good style for debutantes. Theirs should be of cork plumes or else painted gauze. "A distinguished-looking skating coat has a skirt of very heavy black cloth with black astrakhan trimmings. The basque and drapery is of smooth dark-blue cloth, braided and worn either at the side or in the coils of hair surrounding the forehead. "A late fashion in Paris, and one of which the Audition Society will grieve to dress the hair, such as one sees in pictures of the fashions of 1821. It is rather a trying fashion and only young fresh faces can stand it. All the tendency, though, is towards a high and extremely narrow effect, with one curled lock in the centre of the forehead. "In Paris they are dressing young girls in full plain skirts of figured materials, with low round gathered bodies, surrounded by a white sash. Sandal shoes and high collars, with the hair combed off the forehead, make the costume still more like the fashions of the twenties, which are being industriously revived. "One of the newest creations of fashion is a bodice intended for ball-room wear, called the half high and half low in very pretty style. This low bodice seems to be made of flowers of light pink silk ruffling, and the bodice proper goes over the shoulders in two drapings, which becomingly clothe the display of shoulders to which some people are so partial.

LOVE LETTERS.

No Man or Women in Love Who Has Not Written Them—A Few Ideas on an Interesting Topic.

(Washington Post.)

The writing of love letters began at a very early period of the world's history. We cannot bring documentary evidence to prove just where or how it began, or who started it, for history is hazy when we undertake to get at the facts, away back near the time of the primal pair; but inasmuch as love was included in the original outfit of the human family, it must have been talked in Eden, and inasmuch as writing is merely talking at long range, it follows—the conclusion, we submit, is inevitable—that love letters passed between the first pair of lovers who happened to be separated after the invention of writing. "If Adam and Eve had known how to write and could have guessed how much pleasure they could find in the new sensation, we have no doubt they would have passed from each other a few days just to indulge in epistolary communication. True, there was no general post office, no fast mail, no carrier system, no green stamps in their time, but they might have left their letters, as millions of their descendants have done, in a hollow tree—an apple tree, for instance—under some of those stone on top of the garden wall. What a relief from ennui they would have found in such an exchange of vows and compliments and tender nothing. "Why is it that the publication of love letters in its courts of law or in the newspapers sends a snicker across the continent? Why do people, old and young, sometimes, if you will, call upon the editors to send a snicker across the continent? Why do they do so? Why do grave men and sober women skip all the sensible reading in a newspaper if it happens to contain a love letter, and having read it, laugh it as if it were the latest and best of Gilbert's operative jokes? 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