

gators, that sleep, or turn their threatening heads slowly through the air, always toward the water, their piercing, somewhat nasal voices, making a savage concert. Once a hole was discovered with forty alligator eggs, and the voyagers took delight in destroying them, while the horrible mother looked on unmoved at the destruction of her future family. A heavy raised edge to the raft having been firmly built after Apatou's narrow escape, there was no more trouble from the reptiles, and the explorers used long days in noting the results of observations of the formation and the flora of the banks.

Contrary to the popular idea the food accessible was extremely limited, and the travellers lived upon cassava and boiled rice until the sight of a gray monkey shot for dinner was a treat. The remaining resources for fresh meat were fishing and an occasional shot at a drove of peccaries. Fishing was possible, according to Apatou's method only on land. A long rod was firmly fixed in the earth and bent over toward the water, bound lightly on the way to a shorter firm pole. From the free end of the rod a piece of string and a hook fell into the water. A bite pulled the string and rod, loosed the slight fastening from the short pole, and rod, line, hook and fish forthwith swung upright in the air.

At length, near the bounds of civilization, Atoure, an Indian village on the Orinoco, of which the Guayabero is a tributary, furnished archaeological treasures in the shape of pottery, burial vessels of the natives stored in great numbers in grottoes, hard to reach.

The Indians of this village were more interesting than the people who were met later on the Orinoco, where every man had a house, a mandolin, a hammock, a wife and a fever, and none could be persuaded to express a desire for any possession beyond these!

Once the smell of musk announced the presence on shore of a drove of peccaries. Landing, the voyagers found pachyderms to the number of thirty, using their jaws with a sound like the shutting of books with heavy metallic clasps. They saw the hunters, and drew up in line before them. Apatou, acquainted with the animal's ways, knowing that on occasion they tree the hunter and besiege him in regular order, shouted at the top of his voice, 'Attention!' and the peccaries fled in terror.

Another time Francois, the cook, having shot a peccary from a raft, he tried to land, and leaped across as his comrades neared the shore and made fast to a bunch of young branches, which broke. The raft drifted a few rods down the stream, some overhanging branches were seized by main strength and the raft made fast, but afterward, thinking he could reach them, they floated on. In a few seconds they left an arm of the river on either hand, and found that he was on an island and could reach them only by swimming to the left bank and working through a cane-brake to the point opposite. Here the stream flowed in a single channel and they could throw their ropes. After three hours' toil he reached the point and the scientists rowed towards him. The rope they threw him lost its balance-stone and fell far short of Francois, who, in despair of help, threw himself into the stream and reached the raft exhausted by hard work and the terror of finding himself alone in the woods. They never got the peccary, and Francois was destined to perish from a venture that seemed far less perilous than landing almost unarmed and quite alone in an unexplored tropical forest.

In January he died of lockjaw following a slight wound inflicted by a ray-fish. He had waded into the stream one morning to get

clear water for cooking breakfast, and neglecting to beat the water before entering it, he received two tiny, indescribably painful wounds. In two days he was dead, in spite of every care which the scanty comforts of the explorers' outfit enabled them to give him.

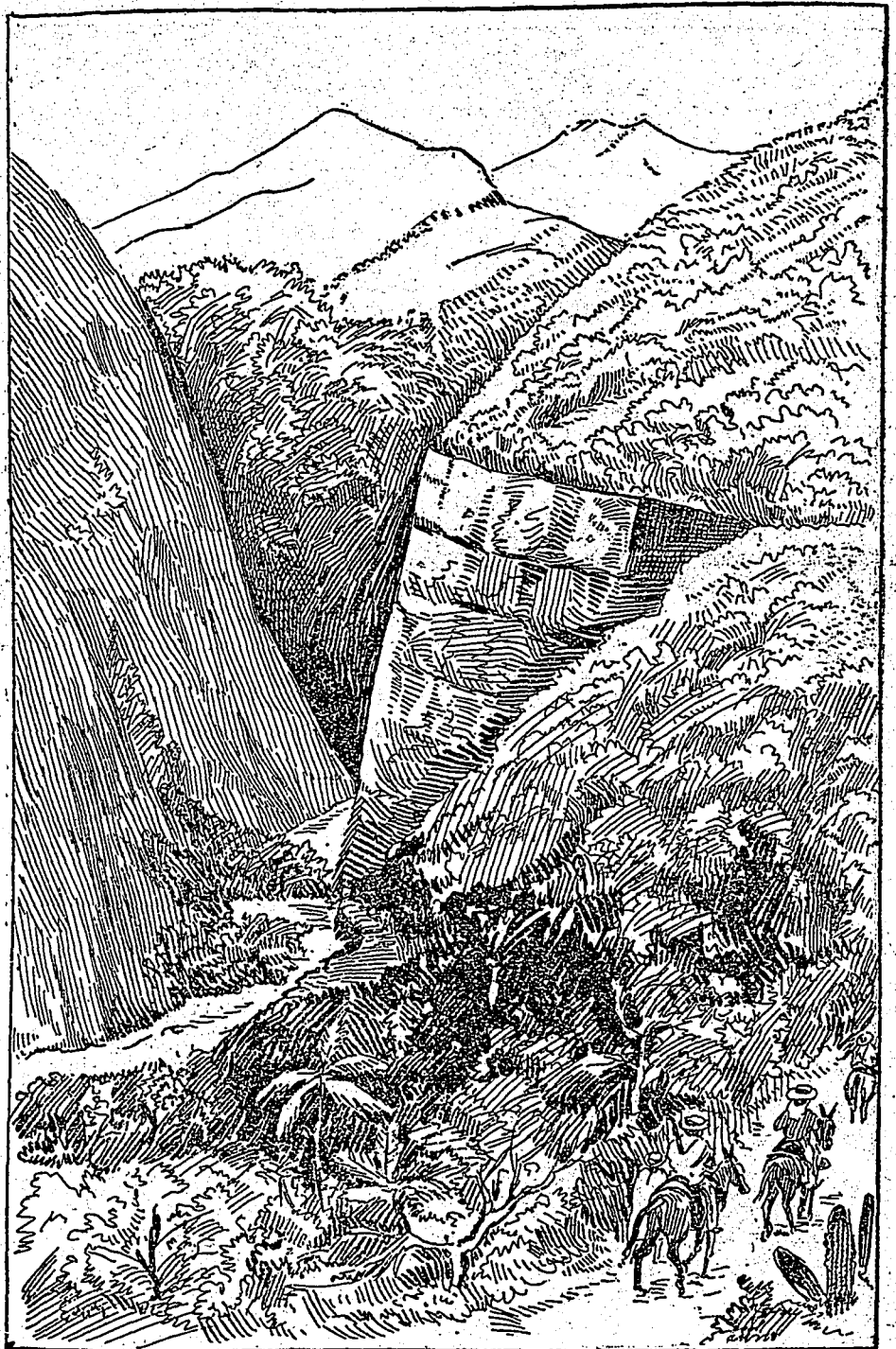
This was, however, the only tragedy of the exploration, which was in all other respects exceptionally fortunate, and in February Lejannes sailed for France, leaving Dr. Crevaux to begin further research. In the allotted half-year they had navigated a river hitherto unexplored, and they had crossed a continent which, for want of accuracy among its earlier travellers, has remained too long the favorite field of careless describers of tropical wonders. These achievements were,

of the tributaries of the Amazon. Shortly after leaving the mission of San Francisco in March, he and his whole party of eighteen were massacred. As the Indians are very gentle, the murder was probably committed by assassins who fly to that region from justice. It is thought that had Apatou been with them the party would have escaped.—'The Christian Work.'

Mamie.

(By G. de Broke Harte.)

Roger and I are old now. We have climbed the hill from childhood to middle age, and now we are slowly descending into the valley of old age. The mists that lie thick in the valley, on the banks of the



THE CORNICE ROAD OF THE ANDES.

however, morely means to an end, this being a research in botany, zoology and geology.

Later Dr. Crevaux returned to Paris, taking Apatou with him, and when he lectured on his explorations, in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, the guide was on the stage, and was warmly applauded. He was so fascinated by his life in Paris that he would not return with the doctor in November to South America, and this, it is feared, led to fatal results. Dr. Crevaux, charged with a scientific commission by the French Government, went to explore the Paraguay to its source, cross the wooded plateau of Mato Grosso, and on the other side descend one

deep river, are already dimming our eyes and deadened our hearing, but we have no fear. Why should we fear? The same God that has led us all the way, will carry us across the dark waters, and will still be there to guide us for ever through the fields of eternity.

We have six children, but they are all out in the world, now, with homes of their own. Except Mamie, she is waiting for us on the other side of the river.

Sometimes I think that it must all be a dream about our Mamie. Then I go and look at a little pair of worn shoes, and a curl of bright hair, and an old wooden doll,