#### Dream Life and Real Life.

#### A LITTLE AFRICAN STORY.

"You may have all the money," said the Bushman; "but I want the cask of brandy. I will set the roof alight in six places, for a Dutchman burnt my mother once alive in a hut, with three children."

" You are sure there is no one else on the farm !" said the navvy.

"No, I have told you till I am tired," said Dirk; "the two Kathrs have gone with the son to town; and

the maids have gone to a dance; there is only the old man and the two women left,"

"But suppose," said the navvy, "be should have the gun at his bedside, and leaded?"

"He never has," said Dirk; "it hangs in the passage, and the cartridges too. He never thought when he bought it what work it was for! I only wish the little white girl was there still," said Dirk; "but she is drowned. We traced her footmarks to the great pool that has no bottom."

She listened to every word, and they talked on.

Afterwards, the little Bushman, who crouched over the fire, sat up suddenly, listening.

" Ha! what is that I' he said.

A Bushman is like a dog; his ear is so fine he knows a jackal's tread from a wild dog's.

"I heard nothing," said the navvy.
"I heard," said the Hottentot,

"but it was only a coney on the rocks." "No coney, no coney," said the Bushman, "see, what is that there

moving in the shade round the point?"
"Nothing! you idiot," said the navvy. "Finish your meet: we must start now."

There were two roads to the home stead. One went along the open plain, and was by far the shortest; but you might be seen half a mile off. The other ran along the river bank, where there were rocks, and holes, and willowtrees to hide among. And all down the river bank can a little figure.

The river was swollen by the storm full to its banks, and the willow trees dipped their half drowned branches into its water. Wherever there was a gap between them you could see it flow, red and muddy, with the stumps upon it. But the little figure ran on and on; never looking, never thinking; panting, panting! There, where the rocks were the thickest; there, where on the open space the meonlight shone; there, where the prickly pears were tangled, and the rocks cast shadows, on it ran; the little hands clenched. the little heart beating, the eyes fixed aiways ahead.

It was not far to run now. Only the narrow path between the high rocks and the river.

At last she came to the end of it, and stood for an instant. Before her lay the plain, and the red farmhouse, so near, that if persons had been walking there you might have seen them in the moonlight. She clasped her hands. "Yes, I will tell them, I will tell them!" she said; "I am almost there!" She ran forward again, then heaitated. She shaded her eyes from the moonlight, and tooked. Between her and the farmhouse there were three figures moving over the low bushes.

he sheeny moonlight you could see how they moved on, slowly and furtively; the short one, and the one in light clothes, and one in dark.

"I cannot help them now!" she cried, and sank down on the ground, with her little hands clasped before her,

"Awake, awake!" said the farmer's wife; "I hear a strange noise; something calling, calling, calling!"

The man rose, and went to the win-

"I hear it also," he said; "surely some jackal's at the sheep. I will load my gan and go see."

"It sounds to me like the cry of no jackal," said the woman, and when he was go she woke her daughter.

"Come, let us go and make a fire, I can sleep no more," she said; "I have heard a strange thing to-night. Your father said it was a jackal's cry, but no jackal cries so. It was a child's voice, and it cried, 'Master, master, wake!"'

The women looked at each other; then they went to the kitchen, and made a great fire; and they sang psalms all the while.

At last the man came back; and they asked him, "What have you seen?" "Nothing, he said, "but the sheep asleep in their kraals, and the moonlight on the walls. And yet, it did seem to me, he added, "that far away near the 'krantz' [precipice] by the river, I saw three figures moving. And afterwards-it might have been fancy -I though I heard the cry again; but since that, all has been still.

Next day a navvy had returned to the railroad works.

- "Where have you been so long ?" his comrades asked.
- "Keeps looking over his shoulder," said one, "as though he should see something there."

"When he drank his grog to-day," said another, " he let it fall, and looked round."

Next day, a small old Bushman, and a liottentot, in ragged yellow trousers, wero at a wayside canteen. When the Bushman had brandy, he began to tell how something (he did not say whether it was man, woman or child) had lifted up its hands and cried for mercy; had kissed a white man's hands, and cried to him to help it. Then the Hottentot took the Bushman by the throat, and dragged him out.

Next night, the moon rose up, and mounted the quiet sky. She was full now, and looked in at the little home; at the purple flowers stuck about the room, and the kippersol on the shelf. Her light feil on the willow trees, and on the high rocks, and on a little newmade heap of earth and round stones. Three men knew what was under it; and no one else ever will.

THE END.

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