

I took no part in guiding Merwa, for his woodcraft was greater than mine. When night came, he scarcely slackened his pace. Yet I knew that he was growing weary, for his breath came in a series of snorting gasps, and his sides dripped with sweat.

Finally, for my own sake as well as his, since I was nearly dropping with exhaustion, I urged Merwa to halt. We were now well out of the smoky valley of Bridge River. The air seemed cool and pure, and the moonlight filtered through the shivering cottonwoods in a silvery radiance. Beside a tiny mountain lake, Merwa finally sank to his knees, uttering a plaintive moan, expressive of utter weariness.

Other ears than mine had heard that cry, for there came booming across the shallow lake a terrible bellowing roar. I knew it and Merwa sensed it—the battle cry of a bull-moose. There was a splash in the lake, a crash in the underbrush, and there stood a gaunt monster with huge spreading antlers, eager to launch himself at this new rival.

Merwa had seen none of his kind since the death of his mother. But he needed no instruction. He knew that he was expected to meet this mighty creature in mortal combat. I was proud of Merwa as I saw him bound to his feet, lower his head, and bellow forth his defiance. He was a true knight-errant, ready to do battle at all times, even if he was at the point of death.

The attacking moose came on with a mad rush. I knew that in Merwa's weakened condition there could be but one outcome—defeat and perhaps death. I, too, was in danger. But my thoughts were wholly of Merwa as I raised my rifle and sent two crashing shots into the broad chest of the charging bull. With a snort of pain and anger he fell almost at the feet of Merwa, who rumbled the prostrate monarch with his broad horns and then collapsed beside his fallen foe.

THE ORIGIN OF NAMES

III.

As our English language is composed of words taken largely from the Old English and Latin and Greek languages, it is very interesting to trace words to their origin, and by that means find out just what they meant at first. In this way we discover some very interesting facts about the names of many places.

Of the names of the six continents, Europe, Asia and Africa have been used so many thousands of years that it is not possible to find out much about the history of those names; but we do know something about them. The name "Europe" is said to have been formed from a Greek word which meant "a broad, open face"; but many people think it came from Eurus, the name of the east wind. The Phœnicians in olden days called a black man "afer," so we know how Africa got its name. The name "Asia" has come down to us from a very ancient language called the Sanskrit, and is said to have meant "the land of the dawn."