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CHES OF CONNAUGHT

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March 2 .- Her Royal less of Connaught resented a challenge

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Burroughs

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HAPTER I.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1914

In the Wilds. HAD this story from one who had no business to tell it to me or to any other. I may credit the se-

ductive influence of an old vintage upon the narrator for the beginning of it and my own skeptical incredulity during the days that followed for the balance of the strange tale. I do not say the story is true, for I did not witness the happenings which

The yellow, mildewed pages of the diary of a man long dead and the records of the colonial office dovetail perfectly with the narrative of my convivial host, and so I give you the story as I pieced it out from these several various agencies.

If you do not find it credible, you will at least be as one with me in acknowledging that it is unique, remarkable and interesting.

From the records of the colonial office and from the dead man's diary we learn that a certain young English nobleman, whom we shall call John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, was commissioned to undertake a peculiarly delicate investigation of conditions in a British west coast African colony from whose natives another European power was known to be recruiting soldiers for its army, which latter it used solely for the forcible collection of rubber and ivory from the savage tribes along the

Kongo and the Aruwimi. We learn also that on a bright May morning in 1888 John, Lord Greystoke, and his bride, Lady Alice, sailed from

Dover on their way to Africa. A month later they arrived at Freetown, where they chartered a small sailing vessel, the Fuwalda, which was | fear that any animal could break into to bear them to their final destination. And here John, Lord Greystoke, and Lady Alice, his wife, vanished from the eyes and from the knowledge of

Two months after they weighed anchor and cleared from the port of Freetown, a half dozen British war vessels were scouring the south Atlantic for trace of them or their little vessel, and it was almost immediately that the world that the Fuwalda bad gone such before they had hoped to return down with all on board, and thus the search was stopped ere it had scarce

Fuwalda mutinied, slew her officers and spared John Clayton and his wife | strange life. This book he kept locked because of a favor done to the leader | in a little metal box. of the mutineers by Clayton. Later sufficient arms and tools to enable ton could realize that his wife was

them to maintain life with work. Near the shore Clayton built a little cabin for himself and his wife. They endured much hardship, seeing no human creature, but watched often by the giant apes which infest that region. injured by one of the great apes. Clayton slew the beast and bore his wife back to the cabin.

That night a little son was

Temple Building

the tiny cabin beside the primeval forest, while a great tiger screamed before the door and the deep notes of the lion's roar sounded from beyond

Lady Greystoke never recovered from the shock of the great ape's attack, and, though she lived for a year after ber baby was born, she was never again outside the cabin, nor did she ever fully realize that she was not in

In other ways she was quite rational, and the joy and happiness she took in ssion of her little son and the constant attentions of her husband made that year a very happy one for

her, the happiest of her life. Long since had Clayton given up any hope of rescue, except through acci-With unremitting zeal he had worked to beautify the interior of the

Skins of lion and tiger covered the floor. Cupboards and bookcases lined the walls. Odd vases made by his own hands from the clay of the region held beautiful tropical flowers. Curtains of grass and bamboo covered the windows, and, most arduous task of all with his meager assortment of tools, he had fashioned lumber to neatly al the walls and ceiling and lay a smeth floor within the cabin.

During the year that followed Clayton was several times attacked by the great apes, which now seemed to infest the vicinity of the cabin, but as he never ventured out except with both rifle and revolvers he had little fear

of the huge beasts. He had strengthened the window protections and fitted a unique wooden lock to the cabin door, so that when he hunted for game and fruits he had no

At first much of the game he shot the end the animals learned to fear the strange lair whence issued the terrify ing thunder of his rifle.

In his leisure Clayton read, often aloud to his wife, from the store of books he had brought for their new home. Among these were many for little children-picture books, primers. the wreckage was found upon the readers-for they had known that their shores of St. Helena which convinced | little child would be old enough for

diary, which he had always been ac-We know now that the crew of the | customed to keep in French and in which he recorded the details of their

A year from the day her little sor the crew, fearing discovery, set John | was born Lady Alice passed quietly Clayton and his wife ashore on the away in the night. So peaceful was wild west coast of Africa, giving them | her end that it was hours before Clay-

The last entry in his diary was made the morning following her death. In it he recites the sad details in a matter of fact way that adds to the pathos of it, for it breathes an apathy born of One day Clayton imprudently left his | long sorrow and hopelessness, which wife alone, and she was attacked and | even this cruel blow could scarcely

awake to further suffering: "My little son is crying for nourishmen Oh, Alice, Alice, what shall I do? And as John Clayton wrote the last

words his hand was ever destined to pen he dropped his head wearily upon his outstretched arms, where they rested upon the table he had built for her who lay still and cold in the bed beside

For a long time no sound broke the deathlike stillness of the jungle midday save the wailing of the tiny man-child.

In the forest of the tableland a mile back from the ocean old Kerchak, the ape, was on a rampage of rage among his people.

The younger and lighter members of his tribe scampered to the higher branches of the great trees to escape his wrath, risking their lives upon branches that scarce supported their weight rather than face old Kerchak in one of his fits of uncontrolled anger.

The other males scattered in all directions, but not before the infuriated brute had felt the vertebrae of one snap between his foaming jaws.

Then he spied Kala, who, returning from a search for food with her young babe, was ignorant of the state of the mighty male's temper until the shrill warnings of her fellows caused her to scamper madly for safety.

But Kerchak was close upon her, so is that he had almost grasped her ankle had she not made a furious leap far into space from one tree to another -a perilous chance which apes seldom take, unless so closely pursued by danger that there is no other alternative.

She made the leap successfully, but as she grasped the limb of the further tree the sudden jar loosened the hold of the tiny babe where it clung frantically to her neck, and she saw the little thing hurled, turning and twisting, to the ground thirty feet below.

With a low cry of dismay Kala rushed headlong to its side, thoughtless from the cabin windows, but toward | now of the danger from Kerchak, but when she gathered the wee mangled form to her bosom life had left it. With low moans she sat cuddling the body to her, nor did Kerchak attempt to molest her. With the death of the babe his fit of demoniacal rage passed

as suddenly as it had seized him. Kerchak was a huge king ape, weighing perhaps 350 pounds. His forehead was extremely low and receding, his eyes bloodshot, small and close set to thin, but smaller than most of his

His awful temper and his mighty strength made him supreme among the little tribe into which he had been born

some twenty years before.

Now that he was in his prime, there was no simian in all the mighty forest through which he roved that dared ontest his right to rule, nor did the ther and larger animals molest him. Old Tantor, the elephant, alone of all the wild, savage life, feared him notand him alone did Kerchak fear. When Tantor trumpeted the great ape scurried with his fellows high among the trees of the second terrace. (To be continued.

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