They were in the saddle before sunrise, and travelling in a strange and wild country, which no white man, except Moondyne, had ever before entered. The scene was amazing to the sergeant, who was used to the endless sameness of the gum forests on the plains of the convict settlement. Here, masses of dark metallic stone were heaped in savage confusion, and around these, like great gale serpents or cables, were twisted the white roots of trad trees. So wild was the scene with rock and torrent underbrush and forest, that the sergeant, old bushman as he was, began to feel that it would be dangarous for a man who had not studied the lay of the land to travel here without a guide. However, he had a deep game to play, for a great take. He said nothing, but watched Moondyne closely, and observed everything around that might assist his memory by-and-by.

In the afternoon they rode through

mysterious oriental potentate called presers John.

Behind the aged king, in the full light of the fire, stood two young girls, with the basin of the mountains.

"Now," said Moondyne, dismounting by the lakeside, and turning loose his horse to crop the rich grass, "now we may rest. We are inside the guard of the hills."

The sergeant's manner had strangely altered during the long ride. He could not kelp feeling that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purpose was to dark and descripting that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting the could not kelp feeling that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting the could not kelp feeling that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting the could not kelp feeling that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was so dark and descripting the could not kelp feeling that the man was acting truly to his word; but his own purposes was of ark and descripting the could not have been also as a supposed to his word; while the cunning eyes of the young bushman and his sisters, followed every expression of the old chief and Moondyne.

It was evident that Moondyne was convict and a settler. Standing on an equality with Moondyne, their places had changed and the prisoner was the master.

On the sandy shore of the beautiful lake they found turtles' eggs, and these, with baked bandicoot, made supper and breakfast.

On resuming their ride, next morning, Moondyne said: "To-night we shall reach the gold-mine."

The way was no longer broken; they rode in the beds of grassy valleys, walled by precipiting mountains. Palms, bear, Moondyne simply re-defended

And the passes of series of the control of the cont

cover and threw himself with joyful acclamatics at the rest of Mooidyne.

Tall, lithe, and powerful was the rest was possible as the series and leant on his handful of slender spears, speaking rapidly to Moondyne. Once he glanced at the sergeant, and, smiling, pointed to the still quivering spear in the tuad. Then he turned and led them up the dimensions at a rawine, like the bed of a torrest running is perplexed way between overhanging walls of non-stone.

The sun had gone down, and the stone of the passage became dark as midmight. The horses advanced slowly over the rugged way. A dozen determined men could hold such a pass against an army. Above their heads the fravellers saw a narrow slit of sky, sprinkled with stars. The air was damp and chill between the precipitions walls. The dismal pass was many miles in length; but at last the glare of a fixell tip the rock ahead.

The young bushman went forward alone, returning in a few minutes. Then Moondyne and the sergeant, proceeding with him to the end of the pass, found themselves in the opening of a fall valley or basin, over which the sky, like

MOONDYNE. a splendid domed roof, was clearly rounded by the tops of mountains.

A few paces from the entrance stood a group of natires, who had started from their rest at the approach of the party.

VIII.

THE KING OF THE VASSE.

stalactic pillar of vast dimensions, down which in utter silence streamed water Moondyne sprang from his horse, and, running to the tree, laid his hand on the shivered spear, and shouted a few words heart, that was only strong with evil intent. He glanced suspiciously at moment a tall savage sprang from the cover and threw himself with joyful acclamation at the test of Moondyne.

Tall little, and newerful was the great but acceptable burden of manhood



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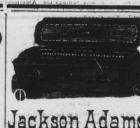
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3 30 P. M.—For Fredericton Junction and for St.
John and points East.

ARRIVE AT FREDERICTOR 10 50 A. M.—From Fredericton Junction and from St. John and all points East. 2 30 P. M.—From Fredericton Junction, and from Vanceboro, Bangor, Portland, Boston and all points West; St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Heulton, Woodstock, Presque Isle, Grand Falls, and points North.

6 00 P. M.—From Fredericton Junction and from McAdam Junction, and St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton and Woodstock, 7 40 P. M.—Express from St. John and interm ---: LEAVE GIBSON

1 10 A. M.—Express for Woodbeek, and for Aroostock and Grand Falls. ---: ARRIVE AT GIBSON :-10 10 A. M.—Express from Aroostock and from Presque I-le and Grand Falls. H. D. McLEOD,
Supt. Southern Division. General Manager.
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St. John, N. B., June 25th, 1886.

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