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The Evening Telegram．

##  <br> 




BY H．RIDER HAGÇARD， Author of King＂Solomon＇s＇s Mines，＂＂She，＂

Mosr of you boys will have heard of Allan
Quatermain，who was one of the party mo Quatermain，who was one of the prty who
discovered King Solomon＇s mines some little time ago，and after ward came to live in England
near his friend Sir Heory Curtis．He has gone near his friend sir Henry Curtis．He has gone
back to the wilierness now，as these old
hanters almost invariably do，on one pretext for veryer．Theng，its nannot endare civivilization racket and the
omnipresence of broadclothed hamanity prov－ ing more trying to their nerves than the danger
of the desert．I think that they feel lonely here，for it is a Pact that is too little under－
stoon，thoogb it has often been stated，that there is no loneliness like the loneliness of
erowds，especially to those who are unaccus－ tomed to them．＇What is there in the world，
old Quatermain would say，s so desolate as to stand in the streets of a great city and listen
to the footateps falling，falling，multitudinous as the rain，and watco the white line of faces
as they harry past，you koow not wence，you know not whither？They come and go，their
eejes meet yours with a cold atare，for a mo－ ment their features are mritten on your mind，
 presently they once more vanigh into the black－
ness，taking their secrets with them．Yes ness，taking their secrets with them．Y
that is lonelineess pare and undefied；but one who knows and loves it，the wilarrases
not lonely，because the spirit of nature is eve there to keep the wanderer company．He
finds，companions in the rushing winds－the sunny streams babble like Nature＇s children at
his feet；high above him，in the parple sunset， his feet；；high above him，in the parple sunset，
are domes and minarets and palaces，such as no mortal man tate blorions angels of the sun
flaming doors the ge
do move continally．And then there is the wild game following its feeding gronds in
great great armies，with the epring－buck thrown out
before them for skirmibers ；then rank upo rank of logg－faced blesbuck，marching and
wheeling like infantry；and last the shining troops of quagga and the fierce－eyed dhaggy
vilderbeeste to take the vilderbeste to take the place of the coss
host that hangs upon an army＇s flanks． ＇Oh，no，＇he would say，＇the wilderness not lonely，for，my boy，remember that the
farther you get from man the nearer you grow to God，and thoogh this is a saying that migh wody who has wateced the sun rise and set on the limitless deserted plainas；and seen the thunder chariots roll in majesty across stand．
Well at any rate he went back aggin，and all of him，and to be frank，I greatly doobt if angbody will ever hear of him again．．I fear thas the wildernese，that has for so many years been a mother to him，will now also prove his
monument and the monament of those who accompanied him，for the quest upon which and they have started is a wild one indeed．
Bnt while he $w a s i n$
in Bat mhile he was in England for those thre
years or so between his return from the snc
 treasures，and the death of his only son，I a great deal of old Allan Quatermsin． after be came home，whenever I had nothing better to do，I nsed to ran ap to Yorksbire and saay with him，and in this may I at one time and another heard many of the incidents of hie past lite，and most curions some of them
were．No man can pass all those yeara follow－ ing the rough exitence of an elephant hunter
and one way and another old Quatermain h certainly seen his share．Well，the story that Is am going to tell you in the following pages it $I$ remember right，it happened in the year
1875．R any rate $I$ know that it was the only one of his trips upon which he tookk his son Harry（who is since dead）with him，and that
Harry was then about fourteen．And now for he etory，which I will repeat，as nearly as I can in the words in which hanter Quatermain
told it to me one night in the old oak－panelled veetibule of his house in Yorksb
talking abont gold－mining
talking abont gold－mining－
＇Gold－mining！＇he broke
once went gold－mining at Pilgrims＇Rest in the
Transvaal，and it was after that that we had the turn up abont Jim．Jim and the lions．Do
you know it？Well，it it or was，one ot the
queerest little placees your ever sam．The town itself was pitched in a sort of stony valles，
with mountais all aboot it and of sich scenery as one does not often get the chance of seing．
at Well，for some months I dug away gayly pick or of a washing trough became hatefull to me．A bundred times a day I cursed my own
folly for having invested eight bundred pounde， which was about all that I was worth at the
time，in this gold－mining．Bat like other better people before me，I had been bitten by
the gold bug，and now had to take the conse quences．I had bught a claim out of which ${ }^{\text {a }}$
man had made a fortune－five or six thousand pounds at least－as I thooght，very cheap；
that is， $\begin{aligned} & \text { had given him five hundred poonds } \\ & \text { down for it．It was all that } I \text { had made by a }\end{aligned}$ very rough year＇s elephant tunting beyond the
Zambesi，and $I$ sighed deeply and prophetically
when $I$ when 1 saw my sueecesful friend，who was
Yankee，sweep up the roll of Standard bank
notes with the lordy ai made his fortune，and cram them into bis
breeches pockets．＂＂Well，＂ssid to him－the
$\qquad$ yours has been．＂He smiled；to my excited
nereves it seemed that he smiled ominously，as
 more especiol when there ein＇t no more going
of the rounds sa for that there claim，well， she＇s been a good nigger to me；but between
you and me，stranger，speaking man to man now that there sin＇t any filthy lacere between guess shes＇s about worked out＂）
I I gasped；the fellow＇s effrontery tooks the breath out of me．Only five minutes before
he had been swearig by
appeared his gods， appeared to be numerous and mixed，that there
were half a dozen fortunes left in the claim， and that he was only giving it up becanse he
was downight weary of shovelling the gold out． ＇＂＂Don＇s look so vesed，stranger，＂went on
my tormentor，＂perbaps there is some shine in the old girl yet；any may you are a down－
right good fellow，；on are，therefore yon I guess，bave a real A 1 plate－glass opportunity of working on the feelings of Dame Fortane． Any way it will brigg the muscle up apon your
grm if the stoff is uncommon stifi，and what is more you will in the course of a year earn
sight more than two thousand dollars in valo sight more tha，
of experience．＂
＇And he went，just in time，for in another
minute I should have his a －Well，I set to work on the old claim with my boy Harry and a halt dozen Kafirs to help
me，which，seeing that I had put nearly all my me，which，seeing that I had put nearly all my
worldy wealth into it，was the least I could worldly wealth into it，was the least I could
do．And we worked，my word，we did work －early and late we went at it－but never a bit of gold did we see ；no，not even a nugget large erican gentleman had mopped up the whole lot and left us the sweepings．
－For three months this game went on till at last I paid away all or very near all that was the Kafirs and ourselves．When I tell you that Boer meal was sometimes as high as four pounds a bag，you will unaterstand that it did count．
－At last the crisis came．One Saturday night I had paid my men as usnal，and bought a muid of mealie meal at sixty shillings for
hem to fill themselves witb，and then I went with my boy Harry and sat on the edge of the handering great hole we had dug in the hill－ aide，and which

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