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The tall man stepped ashore and held out his hand. "I am glad we have met you," he said. "I have a letter of introduction to you from Maurice Gordon of Lo-

Victor Durnovo's dark face changed lightly. His eyes-bilious, fever shot, unhealthy-took a new light. "Ah!" he answered. "Are yeu &

friend of Maurice Gordon's?" There was another question in this, in unasked one, and Victor Durnovo was watching for the answer. But the tade he watched was like a delicately carved piece of brown marble, with a ourteous, impenetrable smile. "I met him again the other day at

This conveyed nothing to Durnov who belonged to a different world, whose education was, like other things about him, an unknown quantity.

"My name," continued the tall man. "is Meredith-John Meredith-sometimes called Jack." They were walking up the bank to-

ward the dusky and uninviting tent. "And the other fellow?" inquired Durnovo, with a backward jerk of the head. "Oh, he is my servant."

Durnovo raised his eyebrows in somewhat contemptuous amusement and proceeded to open the letter which Meredith had handed him. "Not many fellows," he said, "en this

servant." "I understand," answered Meredith, with a half suppressed yawn, "that the country gets finer farther up; more

mountainous.' The proprietors of very dark eyes would do well to remember that it is dangerous to glance furtively to one side or the other. The attention of dark eyes is more easily felt than the giances of gray or blue orbs.

Jack Meredith's suspicions were aroused by the suspicious manner of Durnovo.

"There is no white man knows this river as I do, and I do not recommend it. Look at me, on the verge of jaundice; look at this wound on my arm, it began with a scratch and has never healed. All that comes from a month up this cursed river. Take my advice. Try somewhere else."

"I certainly shall," replied Meredith. "We will discuss it after dinner. My chap is a first rate cook. Have you got anything to add to the menu?" "Not a thing. I've been living on

plantains and dried elephant meat for the last fortnight." "Doesn't sound nourishing. Well, we

are pretty well provided, so perhaps you will give me the pleasure of your company to dinner? Come as you are; no ceremony. I think I will wash, though. It is as well to keep up these

CHAPTER VII. W N that part of Africa which lies within touch of the equator life is essentially a struggle. There is hunger about, and where hunger is the emotions will be found also. Now Jack Meredith was a past master in the concealment of these, and, as such, came to Victor Durnovo in the

guise of a new creation. He had lived the latter and the larger part of his life among men who said, in action if not in words, I am hungry or I am thirsty; I want this, or I want that; and if you are not strong enough to keep it, I will take it from you. This man was different, and Victor

Durnovo did not know, could not find out, what he wanted. He had at first been inclined to laugh at him. What struck him most forcibly was Joseph, the servant. The idea of a man swaggering up an African river with a European manservant was so preposterous that it could only be met with ridicule: but the thing seemed so natural to Jack Meredith, he accepted the servitude of Joseph so much as a

Durnovo accepted him also as part and parcel of Meredith. Joseph took off his coat, turned up his sleeves and proceeded to cook such a dinner as Durnovo had not tasted for many months. There; was wine also, and afterward a cigar of such quality as appealed strongly to Durnovo's

matter of course that after a time

West Indian palate. The night settled down over the land while they sat there, and before them the great yellow equatorial moon rose slowly over the trees. With the dark ness came a greater silence, for the myriad insect life washstill.

"So," said Durnovo, meturning to the subject which had never really left this thoughts, "you have come out here for

"Not exactly. I came chiefly to make money, partly to dispel some of the illusions of my youth, and I am getting on very well. Picture book illusions they were. The man who drew the pictures had never seen Africa." The evening bad turned out so very differently from what he had expected

that Durnovo was a little carried off his equilibrium. Things were so sociable and pleasant in comparison with the habitual loweliness of his life. The fire crackled so chearly, the moon one down on the priver so grandly, the subdued chatter of the bostmen imparted such asfeeling of safety-and

comfort to the scene, that he gave way to that impulse of expansiveness which ever lurks in West Indian blood. "I say," he smid, "when you told me that you wanted to make money,

were you in earnest?"

"In the deadliest *espect," replied Jack Meredith in the half mocking tone which he never wholly learned to

"Then I think I can put: you in the way of it. Oh, I know it seems a bit

premature; not known you long enough and all that. But in this coun try we don't hold much by the formalities. I like you. I liked the look of you when you got out of that boat so cool and self possessed. You're the right sort, Mr. Meredith."

"Possibly for some things. For sitcigars and thinking second class thoughts I am exactly the right sort. But for making money, Tor hard work and steady work, I am afraid, Mr. Durnovo, that I am distinctly the There was a little pause. Durnove

ooked round as if to make sure that loseph and the boatman were out of "Can you keep a secret?" he asked

suddenly. Jack Meredith turned and looked at the questioner with a smile. His hat had slipped to the back of his head, the light of the great yellow moon fell full upon his clean cut sphinxlike face. The eyes alone seemed living, "Yes! I can do that."

"I can see you're a gentleman," Durnovo said. "I'll trust you. I want a man to join me in making a fortune. Loungo. He is an old Etonian, like have got my hand on it at last. But I'm afraid of this country. I'm getting shaky; look at that hand. I've been looking for it too long. I take you into my confidence, the first comer. you'll think. But there are not many men like you in this country, and I'm beastly afraid of dving. I want to get out of this for a bit, but I dare not leave until I set things going."

"Take your time," said Meredith, quietly and soothingly. "Light that cigar again and lie down. There is no hurry."

Durnovo obeyed him meekly. "Tell me," he said, "have you ever heard of simiacine?" "I cannot say that I have," replied

Jack. "What is it for, brown boots or coast can afford to keep a European spasms?" "It is a drug, the most expensive drug in the market. And they must have it, they cannot do without it, and they cannot find a substitute. It is the

leaf of a shrub, and your hatful is worth a thousand pounds." "Where is it to be found?" asked Jack Meredith. "I should like some in

"Ah, you may laugh now, but you won't when you hear all about it. The scientific chaps called it simiacine, because of an old African legend which, like all those things, has a grain of truth in it. The legend is that the monkeys first found out the properties of the leaf, and it is because they live on it that they are so strong. Do you know that a gorilla's arm is not half so thick as yours, and yet he would take you and snap your backbone across his knee? He would bend a gun barrel as you would bend a cane, merely by the turn of his wrist. That is simiacine. He can hang on to a tree with one leg and tackle a leopard with his bare hands-that's simiacine. At home they are only just beginning to find out its properties. It seems that it can bring a man back to life when he is more than half dead. There is no knowing what children that are brought up on it may turn out to be. It may double the power of the human brain; some think it

Jack Meredith was leaning forward, watching with a certain sense of fascination the wild, disease stricken face, listening to the man's breathless periods. It seemed that the fear of death, which had got hold of him gave Victor Durnovo no time to pause

for breath. "Yes." said the Englishman, "yes,

go on." "There is practically no limit to the demand that there is for it. At present the only way of obtaining it is through the natives, and you know their manner of trading. They send a little packet down from the interior, and it very often takes two months and more to reach the buyer's hands. The money is sent back the same way and each man who fingers it keeps a little. The natives find the leaf in the forests by the aid of trained monkeys and only in very small quantities. Do you follow me?"

"Yes, I follow you." Victor Durnovo leaned forward until his face was within three inches of Meredith's, and the dark, wild eyes flashed and glared into the English-

man's steady glance. "What." he hissed-"what if I krow where simiacine grows like a weed? What if I could supply the world with simiacine at my own price? Eh-h-h! What of that, Mr. Meredith?"

He threw himself suddenly back and wiped his dripping face. There was a silence, the great African silence that

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Mrs. Talbot's complication of troubles all came from sick kidneys. That's why Dodd's Kidney Pills cured pondent them. For Dodd's Kidney Pills are no cure-all. They simply cure kidney disease of any kind. They never wail to do that.

arives educated men mad and fills the imagination of the poor heathen with wild tales of devils and spirits. Then Jack Meredith spoke without

"I'm your man," he said, "with a few Victor Durnove was lying back at full length on the hard, dry mud, his

arms beneath his head. Without altering his position, he gave the details, speaking slowly and much more quietly. It seemed as if he spoke the result of long pent up thought.
"We shall want," he said, "at least £2,000 to start it, for we must have an armed force of our own. We have to penetrate a cannibal country of the dercest devils in Africa. It is a pla-

teau, a little plateau of two square miles, and the niggers think that it is haunted by an evil spirit. When we get there we shall have to hold it by force of arms, and when we send the stuff down to the coast we must have an escort of picked men. The bushes grow up there as thick as gooseberry bushes in a garden at home. With a little cultivation they will yield twice as much as they do now. We shall want another partner. I know a man, a soldierly fellow, full of fight, who knows the natives and the country. I vill undertake to lead you there, but ou will have to take great care of me.



"Yes." said the Englishman, "yes, go

You will have to have me carried most of the way. I am weak, devilish weak, and I am afraid of dying, but I know the way there, and ho other man can say as much. It is it my head here; it is not written down. It is only in my head, and no one can get it out of

"No," said Meredith in his quiet, refined voice—"no, no one can get it out. Come, let us turn in. Tomorrow I will go down the river with you. I will turn back, and we can talk it over as we go downstream."

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ondon, Sarnia, Port Huron, Detroit and S.01 p.m.—Express, daily except Sunday

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SATURDAY, AUGUS

HEN dresses are no decidedly when they are not they are covered by that give them diaphanous filminess. Slash the general undressed look lightly veiled shoulders the at lining is of pale flesh pink at the most crêpe de Chine. are of silky transparency. colored, with open sandal heeled shoes, are one of the and this fashionable undressing that Contrasting velvet hats, which a feature of the summer season set by their great contrast t

gauziness, and the huge butte butterfly bows that are pos add a delightfully airy touch to This style feature of excess ness which has been growing st ing the entire season reached during the last Paris race m warmer weather allowed every pear in the lightest of clothi parent sleeves and yokes and letes gave a strange and undre to afternoon gowns.

In one robe of white taffeta,

to skirt and banded about the mi a filmy black Chantilly lace co whole upper part of the gow white chiffon, the lining describi décolleté without shoulder strap place evidently by the outsi only. Transparent sleeves she transparent cuffs of the Made of lapped breadths, the opening disclosed an underskirt pleated chiffon. With this cos worn a hat having a small vely outlined and hidden by two v ruffles of Chartilly lace; and gai tween with a satin ribbon. new skimpy aigrettes being thrust back. In the same group of pret two other gowns showed two ferent types of filminess. One. satin and applique lace, had a the waist line in pleats and was to twelve or fourteen inches if tiny round buttons. The lace i sleeved and laid transparently shoulders, fell below the belt onger on one side than the oth row white satin revers outlined pointed décolleté, repeating e the skirt material on the he space was filled in with olded fichulike and pinned with a brooch. Small, of lightly rolling at the sides, the with this had a white aigrette

The third fashionable figur oup wore a black satin skirt, ped up under a horizontal fold. ero shaped green satin coat.

arless and cut away in front

COLOR IN THE COST