MIRAMICHI ADVANCE, CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, DECEMBER 22, 1887.

A TALI: OF THREE LIONS. FBY H. RIDER HAGGARD. CHAPTER I.

Most of you will have heard of Allan who discovered King Solomon's mines came to live in England near his friend be numerous and mixed, that there swered politely.

or another. They cannot endure civili- shovelling the gold out. zation for very long, its noise and rack- "Don't look so vezed, stranger went 'osl alter 'owl." et and the omnipresence of broadclothe (humanity proving more trying to some shine in the old girl yet; any way, is not to be wondered at, seeing that their nerves than the danger of the desert. I think that they feel lonely here, for it is a fact that is too little a real A I, plate-glass opportunity of sternly, taking no notice of my intar understood, though it has often been stated, that there is no loneliness like ithe to be a real A 1, plate-glass opportunity o those who are unaccustomed to them. stand in the streets of a great city and experience." listen to the footsteps falling, falling,

multitudinous as the rain, and watch the white line of faces as they hurry past, you know not whence, you know eyes meet yours with a cold stare, for a Kafirs to help me, which, seeing that I "No,' I said boldly, 'it isn't'-the

He finds companions in the rushing very near ali that was left of our little

winds—the sunny streams babble like Nature's children at his feet; high above him, in the purple sunset, are domes and minarets and palaces, such as no mortal man hath built, in and out of whose flaming doors the glorious angels of the sun do move continually. And then there is the wild game, following its feeding grounds in great armies, with the spring-buck thrown out before them for skirmishers: then rank upon rank of long-faced blesbuck, marching and wheeling like infantry; and last the

upon an army's flanks." "Oh, no," he would say, "the wilderness is not lonely, for, my boy, rememanybody who has watched the sun rise and set on the limitless deserted plains, and seen the thunder chariots roll in exactly fourteen and ninepence. majesty across the depths of unfathom-that is the sum total of our wordly theive or kill. able sky, will easily understand.

Well at any rate he went back again. and now for many months I have heard all the rest.' nothing at all of him, and to be frank,

ain't any filthy lucre between us to ob- dered his mate with a handspike. He sculate the features of the truth, I guess was now no doubt prowling about like she's about worked out!' a human hyena to see, what he could "I gasped; the fellow's effcontery steal. Quartermain, who was one of the party took the breath out of me. Only five "Is that you, 'unler Quatermain? minutes before he had been swearing he says. some little time ago, and afterwards by all his gods, and they appeared to "Yes, that's me, Mr. Ton,' I an-Sir Henry Curtis. He has gone back were half a dozen fortunes lift in the "'And what might a'l that there

ters almost invariably do, on one pretext because he was downright weary of along, a-taking of the evaning air and a-thinking about my soul, when I 'ears on my tormentor, 'perhaps there is "'Well, Mr. Tom,' I answered, 'that

you are a downright good fellow, you like yourself they are nocturnal birds.' are, therefore you will, I guess, have "''''O'wl after owl!' he repeated

the loneliness of crowds, especially to up upon your arm if the stuff is uncom- listens again and thinks, "No, it ain't, mon stiff, and what is more you will that 'owl is the 'owl of hexultation; "What is there in the world," old Quar-in the course of a year earn a sight more some one's been and got his fingers than two thousand del'ars in value of into a gummy yeller pot, I'll swear, and gone off 'is 'ead in the sucking of "And he went, just in time, for in them. Now, 'unter Quatermain, 18 I

another minute I should have gone for right? is it nuggets? Oh. lor!' and he him, and I saw his face no more. "Well, I set to work on the old claim yellow boys—is it them that you have him, and I saw his face no more. not whither? They come and go, their with my boy Harry and a half a dczen just been and tumbled across?

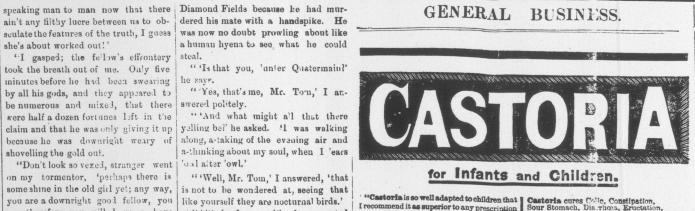
moment their features are written on your mind, and then they are gone for-into it, was the least I could do. And overcoming my aversion to the lie, for we worked, my word, we did work- I knew that if once he found out what they will never see you again; they come up out of the blackness, and pre-sently they once more vanish into the blackness, taking their secrets with them. Yes, that is loneliness pure and moment of the American gentleman had moment on the taken a scarf pin out of. The American gentleman had moment of the Am

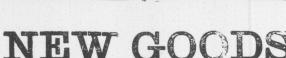
"'If you want to know what it was winds-the sunny streams babble like capital in wages and food for the Kafirs Mr. Tom,' I went on with my politest

and wheeling like infantry; and last the shining troops of quagga and the fierceeyed shaggy vilderbeeste to take the place of the cossack host that hangs hanging over the edge of the claim, and the argifying of yer'-and he leered unwere melancholy enough for anything. Presently I pulled out my purse and emptied its contents into my hand. were melancholy enough for anything. Presently I pulled out my purse and now I'll be saying good-night, for I the nearer you grow to God," and There was a half sovereign, two florins, don't like disturbing of a family party though this is a saying that might well nine pence in silver, no coppers, for No, I ain't that sort of a man, I ain't. be disputed, it is one I am sure that copper practically does not circulate in Good-night to yer, 'unter Quatermain-South Africa, which is one of the things good-night to yer, my argified young

that makes living so dear there, in all one:, and Mr. Tom turned away disappointed and prowled off elsewhere, like "There, Harry, my boy!' I said, a human jackall, to see what he could

wealth; the infernal hole has swallowed "Thank heaven!" I said, as I slipped off the lump of gold, which left a "Gracious!' said Master Harry. 'I dint upon my person that did not wear I greatly doubt if anybody will ever say, father, you and I shall have to let out for a week or more. 'Now then, hear of him again. I fear that the ourselves out to work with the Kafirs just you slip up, Harry, and see if that wilderness, that has for so many years been a mother to him, will now also reve been a mother to him, will now also the mouther to him, will now also the mouther to him also





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to the wilderness now, as these old hun- claim and that he was only giving it up yelling be?' he asked. 'I was walking

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of those who accompanied him, for the for it is not a merry thing to dig like we set to work, and very carefully, but mad for months and be completely trembling with excitment, with our quest upon which he and they have ruined in the process, especially if you hands hollowed out all the space of started is a wild one indeed.

happen to hate digging like poison, ground into which I had struck the But while he was in England for those three years or so between his return from the successful discovery of known him years before in Africa, and after he came home, whenever I had nothing better to do. I used to run up

to Yorkshire and stay with him, and in this way I at one time and another heard many of the incidents of his past life, and most curious some of them and nine. were. No man can pass all those years and another old Quartermain has certainly seen his share. Well, the story that I am going to tell you in the fol-

1 can in the words in which hunter ment it sunk in right up to the haft. Quartermain told it to me one night in the old oak-panelled vestibule of his

"Gold-mining!" he broke in; ah! yes, hands. 'Oh,' he said presently, 'it's I once went gold-n ining at Pilgrims' Rest in the Transvaal, and it was after only some old stones; the pick has gone with the fear of Handspike Tom before that that we had the turn up about Jim- down between them, look, look; and my eyes I did not dare to go to aleep, Jim and the lions. Do you know it? he began to pull at one of the stones. "' 'I say, dad,' he said presently, al-Well, it is, or was, one of the queerest little places you ever saw. The town itself was pitched in a sort of stony valley, with mountains all about it, and in the middle of such scenery, as one a very large apple, which he was holddoes not often get the chance of seeing. ing in both his hands. I took it cur-ior from mountain-top to mountain-top. "Well, for some months I dug away gaily at my claim, but at length the was precious heavy. The moonlight very sight of a pick or of a washing fell upon its rough and dirt-encrusted that I had not felt before, that I had trough became hateful to me. A hunpounds, which was about all that I was worth at the time, in this gold-mining. But like other better people before me now had to take the consequences. I

vender-"it is a magnificent property,

dred times a day I cursed my own folly thrills of excitement began to pass the rest of my natural life, and I then and for having invested eight hundred through me. But I could not be sure. there wade up my mind to clear out of I had been bitten by the gold bug, and face. Great heavens, it was soft! sand pounds at least-as I thought,

very cheap; that is, I had given him a Dutchman. five hundred pounds down for it. It

"Another second and the secret was Harry and set to work to see if there had bought a claim out of which a man out; we had found a great nugget of were ahy more nuggets handy. As I had made a fortune-five or six thou- pure gold, four pounds of it or more. expected, there were none. What we 'It's gold, lad,' I said, 'it's gold or I m had got had lain together in a little "Harry, with his eyes stating out of d.fferent from the stiff stuff round and

was all that I had made by a very rough his head, glared down at the long gleam- outside the pocket. There was not a

year's elephant hui ting beyond the Zam- ing yellow scratch that I had made up- trace of gold. Of course it is possible besi, and I sighed deeply and prophet- on the virgin metal, and then burst out that there were other pockets full some ically when I saw my successful friend, into yell upon yell of exultation, that where about, but all I have to say is I who was a Yankee, sweep up the roll of went ringing away across the silent made up my mind that, whoever found

Standard Bank notes with the lordly claims like the shricks of somebody be- them, I should not; and, as a matter of air of the man who has made his fortune, | ing murdered. fact, I have since heard that that claim "'Shut up, shut up?' I said, 'do you has been the ruin of two or three people, and cram, them into his breeches poc-

kets. 'Well,' I said to him-the happy want every thief on the fields after you? as it very nearly was the ruin of me. "Scarcely were the words out of my "Harry,' I said presently, 'I am going and I only hope that my luck will be mouth when I heard a stealthy footstep away this week towards Delagoa to Ulster Cloths from 55c., double width. as good as yours has been." He smiled; approaching. I promptly put the big shoot buffalo. Shall I take you with to my excited nerves it seemed that he nugget down and sat on it, as though me, or send you down to Durban?' smiled ominously, as he answered me it had been an egg, and uncommonly

"Oh, take me with you, dad,' begged in a pecuilar Yankee drawl. "I guess, hard it was, and as I did so I saw a Harry, 'I want to kill a buffalo! stranger, as I ain't the man to want to lean dark face peked over the edge of "And supposing that the buffalo kills turn a dog's stomach against his dinner, the claim and a pair of beady eyes you instead?' I asked. more especial when there ain't no more searching us out. I knew the face, it

"Oh, never mind,' he says gaily, going of the rounds; as for that there belonged to a man of very bad characthere are lots more where I came from. claim, well, she's been a good nigger to ter known as Handspike Tom, having "I rebuked him for his flippancy, but me; but between you and me, stranger, I understood been so named at the n the end I consented to take him. [To be continued.]

Pitcher's Castoria.

and consequently I resented Harry's pick. Yes, as I thought, there was a regular nest of nuggets, twelve in all, light-heartedness. "Shut up!' I said, raising my hand rnuning from the size of a hazel nut to the death of his only son, I saw ε great as though to give him a cuff, with the that of a hen's egg, though of course deal of old Allan Quartermain. I had result that the half sovereign slipped the first one was larger than that, out of it and fell into the gulf below. How they all came there nobody can "'Oh, confound it all, said I, 'its say; it was one of those extraordinary freaks, with stories of which, at any ". There, dad, said Harry, 'that's rate, all people acquainted with alluvial what comes of letting your angry pas- gold-mining will be familiar. It turnsions rise; now we are down to four ed out afterwards that the Yankee who sold me the claim had in the same way

"I made no answer to these words of made his pile-a much larger one than were. No man can pass all those years following the rough existence of an elephant hunter without meeting with many strange adventures, and one way to hunt for my little all. Well, we out sceing color, after which he gave in hunted and we hunted, but the moon- up.

light is an uncertain thing to look for "At any rate, there the nuggets were, half sovereigns by, and there was some to the value, asit turned out afterwards, lowing pages is one of the later of these lose soil about, for the Kafirs had of about twelve hundred and fifty adventures; indeed, if I remumber knocked off working at the very spot a pounds, so that after all I took out of right, it happened in the year 1875. couple of hours before. I took a pick that hole four hundred and fifty pounds right, it happened in the year 1875. At any rate I know that it was the only one of his trips upon which he took his son Harry (who is since dead) all in vain. At last in sheer annoy- handkerchief, and then fearing to car.y with him, and that Harry was then ance I struck the sharp end of the home so much treasure, esp cially a about fourteen. And now for the pick-axe down into the soil, which was we knew that Mr. Handspike Tom was story, which I will repeat, as nearly as of a very hard nature. To my astonish- on the prowl, made up our minds to pass the night where we were-a neces-"Why, Harry,' I said, 'this ground sity which, disagreeable as it was, was must have been disturbed! wonderfully sweetened by the presence

house in Yorkshire. We were talking swered, 'but we will soon see, and he which represented the interest of my began to shovel out the soil with his lost half-sovereign.

"Slowly the night wore away, fo and at last the dawn came, blushing like a bride, down the sombre ways o most in a whisper, 'it's precious heavy, night. I got up and watched its perfect feel it,' and he rose and gave me a growth, till it opened like a vast celes- county.

iously and held it up to the light. It I watched it, and as I did so it flashed upon me with a complete conviction surface, and as I looked, curious little had enough of gold-mining to last me "'Give me your knife, Harry, I said. Pigruns' Rest and go and shoot buffalo "He did so, and resting the brown towards Delagoa Bay. Then I turned, stone on my knee I scratched at its sur-took the pick and shovel, and although it was a Sunday morning woke up



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