Earlshaugh

The East Neuk of Fife.

CHAPTER XLII. CHAPTER XLII.

THE ZHEIM OF HIRERIE HOUSE.

At some little distance from the Nile, but what distance, whether one or ten ahou, Stene could not then discover, stood the zeriba to which the Sheikh had lately fallen possessor after Zebehr—who had been lord of thirty exactly similar—in a strip of green, where a few paims, lopins, and beans grew in an amphishaster of small mountains, rocky, isgged, volcanio in outline and aspect. A few camels and donkeys grazed spectral-like in the vicinity amid a silence that was intense, and in a district where there were no flights of birds as in Egypt, and no wide reaches of valley covered with green and golden plenty.

salley covered with green and governments.

Through a gorge in the steep rocky mountains, whose sides were blackened by the sun of unknown ages, and broken into fragments by some great convulsion of nature, the gorite was entered.

It was a group of well sized huts, enclosed by tall hedges, in the centre of which stood the private residence of Sheikh Mouses, having various spartnessis, wherein usually armed sentinels, black or swarthy, half-nude, with glowing syes and bright weapons—swords and spears or Remington rifles—kept guard day and night.

The chambers, or halfs—for such they were—seemed silent—save a strange growling and the rasping of from fetters—and

day and night.

The obambers, or halls—for such they were—seemed silent—save a strange grow-ling and the rasping of iron fotters—and sungty now, though there sometimes, in the painty days of the slave trade, as many as two thousand dealers in djellabs gathered with their chained and wretched victims every year. "The regal aspect of these halls of State," says Dr. Schweinfurth, 'was increased by the introduction of some lions, secured, as may be supposed, by sufficiently strong and massive chains." It was the rattle of the latter and the growling of the lions that Malcolm Shene heard with more bewilderment than curlosity on the subject.

Here in his favorite abode, Zebehr, says the doctor, was long "a picturesque figure—tall, spare, exciteable, with lions guarding his outer chamber, and his court filled with armed slaves—smart, dapper looking fellows, supple as antelopes, flerce, unsparing, and the terror of Contral Africa; while around him gathered in thousands, infernal raiders, whose razzias have depopulated vast territories. Superstitious, too, was Zebehr, Through these, as one who was to be treated, as yet, with hospitality at least, Malcoln Shene was conducted by a couple of handsomely attired slaves (for here the power of the Anglo-Egyptian Convention was nil), who gave him coffee, sherbert, and a tchibouk, all most welcome after the last day's toilsome march; and throwing himself upon a carpet and some soft atms, he strove to collect his thoughts, to think what was to be done now!

Meanwhile the Bedomins were grooming their horses outside, laughing, chatting, smoking, and drinking long draughts of bouse from stone jears—a kind of Nubian beer made from dhurra.

"People alwaye meet again," said "Pictro Griolamo with a savage grin, showing all his sharp, white teeth beneath a long and coal-black mustache. "The world is round, you know, Signor, though the Shekith thinks if flat—flat as my souleste table at Cairo. Ah, Christil we have not forgotten that; sooner or later people alwaye meet again, and so shall

e not forgotten that; sconer or later ple always meet again, and so shall

And with these words, which contained a menace, the Greek withdrew to some And with these words, which contained a mensce, the Greek withdrew to some other part of the zeroba, where he seemed to be somewhat at home, as he was—Skene afterwards discovered—tather of the third and favourite wife of Sheikh Moussa. for in his campaign against Darfour, he melted down two hundred and fifty thousand dollars into bullets, for no charm can stay a silver bullet, and cruel as death itself! A word from him here raised the Sondan in revolt against Gordon in 1878; and it was only after some fiere fighting that Gegsi Pasha succeeded in breaking the back of the revolt. After hunting the lake raiders like wild beasts, he captured and shot eleven of their chiefs, including Suleiman, the son of Zebehr. Hence the blood-feud between Gordon and Zebehr which led the latter to refuse to accompany the former to Khartoum. The ulave dealers were slain in hundreds by natives whom they had plundered. Zebehr's letters were found, proving that he had ordered the revolt; but no action was taken against him, and he continued to live in luxurious detention at Cairo."

When Baker Pasha was organising his forces to relieve Tokar, he asked that Zebehr might go with him at the head of

Zebehr might go with him at the head of a Nubian division. Zebehr and Sheikh Mouses Abu Hagil raised the Blacks, but the Anti-Slavery Scotety protested against the employment of the former as improper and in the highest degree perilous. Sir Evelyn Baring pleaded for Zebehr and Mouses, but Lord Granville was inexorable. He wrote:—"The employment of Zebehr Pasha appears to Her Majesty's Government inexpedient both politically and as regards the slave trade."

Pasha appears to Her majesty is devernent inextendent both politically and as regards the slave trade."

Thus far some of the history of yesterday, which, nevertheless, may be new to the reader.

On his first entering the zeriba Skene had returned the formal welcome or greeting fof Shekh Moussa—bouching his forehead, lips, and broast—a symbolic action signifying that in thought, word, and heart he was his.

Pietro Girolomo, the Greek Islesman from Cerigo, was—we have said—the father-in-law (at least one of them) to Moussa Abu Hagil.

Malcolm Skene came to the knowledge of that connection through a stray copy of the now pretty well known Arabic newspaper, the Mubashir, which he found in the zeriba; and the columns of which contained a memoir of that enterprising Sheikh, and in retailing some startling incidents in his life gave a little light on certain habits of the dwellers in the desert.

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And be informed the reason we adopt the above system of selling is to give our customers a great benefit. Every purchaser will see the difference between our cost and the selling prices, and will be in a better position to judge our transactions in this SALE OF SALES,

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This will make the Ladies smile, when they read about our Kid Gloves. It will be a smile of satisfaction as it is a wall known fact that we sell the best make of glove that can be procured in the try. Just fancy buying them almost for cost, but remember it will only last for 30 says, as it would be impossible for us to sell to make a legislmate return for our money invested as this price, but having a very large stock on hand we are anxious to reduce, consequently we can give the purchaser goods at better value than any other establishment in the city. Why, because our store is filled with the desirable goods the people want, and all 25 per cent. cheaper than advertised by any other establishment who would try and make the public believe that they will sell 30 cent goods for 15c.

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