## THE YELLOW GOD

By H. RIDER HAGGARD

Author of "King Solomon's Mines," "The Brethren," "Benite," "She," Etc., Etc.

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Sahara, Limited. CHAPTER I.

est that could be found within half a mile of the Mansion House. Its exterior was built of Aberdeen granite, a material calculated to impress the color. They shine uncommonly to-day, prospective investor with a comfort- I never remember them so bright. I able sense of security.

"There is so much in externals," Mr. 'We are all of us influenced by them,

was straight and rather Perhaps the mouth was certain shiftiness about it, also the lips were thick and slightly sensuous. Sir Robert knew this, and therefore he to have the supply that the says that he were the says that eral impression given by this face was such as is left by the sudden sight of A faint smile a waxen mask. "How strong! How face. lifelike!" he would have said, "but of "D "Does he, indeed?" he asked. Well, course it isn't real. There may be a man behind, or there may be wood, but that's only a mask." Many people of perception had felt like this about Sir perception had felt like this about Sir about such a trifle?"

"Does he, indeed?" he asked. Well, we don't want to quarrel with them especially of late, Sir Robert," answered Alan Vernon slowly.

His partner threw a searching glance on him, for he felt that there was about such a trifle?"

"Does he, indeed?" he asked. Well, especially of late, Sir Robert," answered Alan Vernon slowly.

His partner threw a searching glance on him, for he felt that there was about such a trifle?" mask of his pale countenance dwelt a different being, whom they did not

now or appreciate.

If these had seen him at this moment of the opening of our story they might have held that Wisdom was justified of her children. For now in the solitude of his splendid office of a sud-den Sir Robert's mask seemed to fall from him. His face broke up like ice beneath a thaw. He rose from his table, and began to walk up and down the room. He talked to himself aloud. 'Great Heavens!" he muttered, "what a game to have played; and it will go through. I believe that it will

He stopped at the table, switched on an electric light, and made a rapid calculation on the back of a letter with

he said, "that's my share, a million and seventeen thousand in cash, and two million in ordinary shares, which can be worked off at a -let us say another seven hundred and fifty thousand net. Two mil- lessly as he had entered. ions in all, which, of course may, or may not, be added to—probably not, unless the ordinaries' boom—for I don't the end of twenty years' work, Robert

at it, then stretched out his hand and switched on another lamp, in the hard brilliance of which the thing upon the pedestal suddenly declared itself, leaping out of the darkness into light. It was a terrible object, a monstrosity of indeterminate sex and nature but surmounted by a woman's head and of the manufacture of the manufactur

above or earth below, except the abys- limbs, measuring a trifle under six feet ritory, isn't it? The putting aside

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BROODERS, SCALES,

mal folly of the British public, I am bothered if I don't believe in you. At any rate from the day when Vernon Sir Robert Aylward, Bart., M. P., sat brought you into my office my luck in his office in the city. It was a very turned, and to judge from the smile on magnificent office, quite one of the finyour sweet countenance I don't think as you said, I think it isn't quite my judge from the smile on as you said, I think it isn't quite my judge from the smile on as you said, I think it isn't quite my judge from the smile on turned, and to judge from the smile on as you said, I think it isn't quite my judge from the smile on turned, and to judge from the smile on turned, and the smile on

Champers-Haswell, Sir Robert's part-door. Sir Robert turned off the lamp with some asperity. One can't divide and walked back to the fireplace. "Come in," he said, and as he spoke once more his pale face grew impashowever theoresiously. Impress the public, my dear Aylward. Let solemnity without suggest opulence within."

Sir Robert was seated at his ebony

"I don't think I rang, Jeffreys."

desk playing with a pencil, and the light from a cheerful fire fell upon his bowing as though he spoke to a Royface. In its own way it was a realty, "but there is a little matter markable face as he appeared then in about that article in "The Cynic." We his four and fortieth year; very pale, are paying this paper thirty guineas his four and fortieth year; very pale, but with a natural pallor, very well cut to insert an article about Sahara, Lim-

"Because, Sir Robert-I will tell you

"Does he, indeed?" he asked. "Well, "I think that I do bear it in mind,

article whatsoever, but refuses our advertisement, and states that it means them to telephone that you are coming,
"It is neither, answered Alan stern-

another. It seemed to give him an idea, for he looked over his shoulder locality.

and said: "That will do, Jeffreys. When Major ernon comes in, give him my complication of an hour at your service in the profit in sight; generally speaking, a very sound principle."

"You are mistaken, Sir Robert," rements and say that I should be obliged a quarter of an hour at your ser-plied Alan flushing. by a word or two with him."

"Let's see," added Sir Robert to himself. "Old Jackson, the editor of The Judge, was a great friend of Vernon's father, the late Sir William Vernon, G. C. B. I believe that he was engaged to be married to his sister years ago.

Mr. Jackson," he began, rather doubt-face value of fil which I paid for them."

"The old editor's massive face dark-face value of fil which I paid for them."

"The old editor's massive face dark-face value of fil which I paid for them."

What is called an awkward pause have you of all people in the world, got to do with it? Oh! I remember. Some-form the pause of them of the pause of them of the pause of them."

What is called an awkward pause to do with it? Oh! I remember. Some-form the pause of them of the pause of the pause of them."

What is called an awkward pause of fil which I paid for them."

What is called an awkward pause of the pause of them."

Appearance of the pause of the pause of the pause of the pause of them."

What is called an awkward pause of the pa less the ordinaries boom to that's father, the late Sir William Vernon, G. the end of twenty years' work, Robert Aylward. And to think of it, eighteen to be married to his sister years ago, only she died or something. So the I was on the very verge of bankruptcy and pounds. Now, what did the trick?

C. B. I believe that he was engaged to do with it? Oh! I remember. Sometone told me you had gone into partner—ship with Alyward, the company promoter, and that little beast, Champers—Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well, set it out.

The was on the very verge of bankruptcy and pounds. Now, what did the trick?

The was on the very verge of bankruptcy of it is I don't altogether trust that young gentleman. It suited us to give to do with it? Oh! I remember. Sometone told me you had gone into partner—ship with Alyward, the company promoter, and that little beast, Champers—Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well, set it out.

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The was engaged to do with it? Oh! I remember. Sometone told me you had gone into partner—ship with Alyward, the company promoter, and that little beast, Champers—Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well, set it out.

Well, see it out.

The was engaged to do with it? Oh! I remember. Sometone told me you had gone into partner—ship with Alyward, the company promoter, and that little beast, Champers—Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well, set it out.

Well, see it out.

The was engaged to be married to his sister years ago, only the worst was very cold for April, and Alan are luck, so let's do a deal. Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well, set it out.

Well, see well to do with it? Oh! I remember. Sometone to be able to get round him if anybody can. Only the worst was very cold for April, and Alan are luck, so let's do a deal. Haswell, who really is the clever one. Well any or a

inches or a foot high, but in that place and resumed his calculations upon a on earth can, while I sit in this chair, Haswell. "Sunday is a day of rest, was left on his mind a determination on earth can, while I sit in this chair, while nothing more could be seen of it, except that it was yellow and had the general appearance of a toad. For some reason it seemed to attract Sir fice. Then came the sound of a strong,

was a terrible object, a monstrosity of indeterminate sex and nature but surmounted by a woman's head and face of extraordinary, if devillish love-liness, sunk back between high but grotesquely small shoulders. Ilke to those of a lizard, so that it glared upwards. The workmanship of the thing was rule yet strangely powerful. Whatever there is cruel, whatever there is and left if much sallower, if more in a way there was interest about the face; also a certain charm. It was a good and honest face with a rather out of the jewelled eyes which were ager, rather puzzled look, that of a section of the face of the world. Shome out of the jewelled eyes which were ager, rather puzzled look, that of a mouth of the face of the world. Shome out to find a box of the world. Shome out of the jewelled eyes which were ager, rather puzzled look, that of a man who has imagination and ideas and who searches for the truth because its substance was of gold, a face which seemed not to belong to the embryonic legs beneath, for body there was none, but to float above them. A hollow, life-sized mask with two tiny frog-like legs, that was the fashion of it.

"You are an ugly brute," said \$\frac{1}{1}\$ in the mass of the mention of the him to be theying, and Alan thought that there was a kind of challenge in his dividual that the would induce him to spend a Sunday with his late partners at the Court. Now, acting upon some instinct or important the partner of the world. The bears with the very promoted and been connected with and who has imagination and ideas and who searches for the truth by the partners of the world. The hame of Barburnary in the devil, and the truth th "You are an ugly brute," said Sir Robert, contemplating this effigy; "but thin the man was bigly built, with although I believe in nothing in heaven broad shoulders and well-developed to the point at once. It's Turkish ter-

> Such was the outward appearance of Alan Vernon. As for his mind, it was able enough in certain fashions, for instance, those of engineering, and the soldier-like faculties to which it had been trained, frank and kindly also, but in other respects not quick, perhaps from its unsuspiciousness. Alan Vernon was a man slow to discover ill, and slower still to believe in it even when lower still to believe in it, even when t seemed to be discovered, a weakness looking up. t may have gone far to account for | "I mean, Alan, that I like not the his presence in the office of those emi-nent and brilliant financiers, Messrs. Aylward and Champers-Haswell. Just The Judge has certain sources of innow he looked a little worried, like a formation. It may be that no protest shout of water, or rather a fish which will be made at once, for baksheesh can

you to do something, if you kindly will, my advice, and perhaps you won't; although it is not quite in your line. but there it is for what it's worth,

Old Jackson, the editor of The Judge, that of a man of the world and an old is a friend of yours, isn't he?"
"He was a friend of my father's, and

used to know him slightly." "Well, that's near enough. As I dare-say you have heard, he is an unreasonable old beggar, and has taken a dislike to our Sahara scheme. Someone down the lead-covered stairs, hustled has set him against it, and he refuses by eager gentlemen hurrying up to see to receive advertisements, threatens the great editor whose bell was already to receive advert/sements, threatens criticism, etc. Now, the opposition of The Judge, or any other paper, won't kill us, and if necessary we can fight kill us, and if necessary we can fight with always him, but at the same time it is always was an electric lamp in this motor, was an electric lamp in the way and, in short—would he is in the way, and, in short—would he is in the way, and, in short—would he is in the way. his mistake to him?"

Before answering Major Vernon walked to the window leisurely and looked out.

"I don't like asking favors from famiit is done with yet. I wonder what line. Though of course, if it has anythose stones are in your eyes. Opals thing to do with the engineering posthose stones are in your eyes. Opals thing to do with the engineering pos-ir suppose, from the way they change sibilities I shall be most happy to see his office. Alan descended from the him," he added, brightening.
"I don't know what it has to do with;

that is what I shall be obliged if you At this moment a knock came on the | will find out," answered Sir Robert, a matter of this sort into watertight compartments. It is true that in so important a concern each of us has charge of his own division, but the fact remains that we are jointly and sever-ally responsible for the whole. I am not sure that you bear this sufficiently in mind, my dear Vernon," he added

with slow emphasis.

His partner moved quickly; it might and on the whole impressive. His eyes were dark, matching his black hair and pointed beard, and his business they must have twenty more. It is to put in the 'national and imperial' business they must have twenty more. business they must have twenty more. familiarity of the "my dear Vernon,"
"Indeed, Jeffreys? Why?" remains uncertain. Perhaps it was the remains uncertain. Perhaps it was the latter, since although the elder man paused. his weakest feature, for there was a as you always like to hear the truth— was a baronet and the younger only a retired Major of Engineers, the gulf between them, as any one of discernment could see, was as wide as that which grew a moustache to veil them some- that he won't drag the nation and the separates Dives and Lazarus in the voice of the utmost unconcern. what. To a careful observer the gen- empire into it in an editorial under parable. They were born, and lived and moved in different spheres un-A faint smile flickered on Sir Robert's bridged by the common element of im-

"Not altogether, Sir Robert. There is meaning in the words, but only said: for one moment against your will. Only,

refuse."

Major Vernon through its rather grimy doorway. Within, a small boy in a Sir Robert walked to the corner of Sir room where the yellow object when he heard his name, said that the squatted on its pedestal, and contemplated it a while as a man often stud.

"Guv-nor" had sent down word that he passed over Sir Robert's impassive and he has been with us ever since. It is were a real woman glaring at him. plated it a while, as a man often stud- was to go up at once—third floor, first les one thing when he is thinking of to the right and second to the left. So

Jackson burst into a hearty laugh

rich." He turned and retraced his steps to the other end of the room, which was veiled in shadow.

Here upon a second marble pedestal stood an object that gleamed dimly through the gloom. It was about ten the gloom. It was about ten through the gloom through the gloom. It was about ten through the gloom through the gloom. It was about ten the gloom through the gloom that the man, sent you to try and work on me because he knew with your family. Well, it is a poor errand, and wish that it should be kept."

Sir Robert seated himself at his desk will have a poor end. You can't—no one the gloom that it is should be kept."

Will have a poor end. You can't—no one the gloom that the man sent you to try and work on me because he knew with your family to try and work on me because he knew with your family to try and work on me because he knew with your after what has happened, you will not saw in the frog-like shoulders. The shimmer to try and work on me because he knew with your family to try and work on me because he knew with your day in the frog-like shoulders. The shimmer was a family to the gloom not even my proprietors."

Alan, who remarked awkwardly:

everything else, the security for the Such was the outward appearance of whole thing is a Firman from the Sul-

"You mean," said Major Vernon,

has begun to suspect the quality of stop it for a while, but sooner or later the water, something in its smell and the protest or repudiation will come, aste.

and perhaps some international bother
"Jeffreys tells me that you want to also much scandal. As to the scheme see me about something, Sir Robert," itself, putting everything else aside, it he said in his low and pleasant voice, looking at the baronet rather anxiousmember. Alan, you will appear as one. "Yes, my dear Vernon, I want to ask Now time's up. Perhaps you will take

friend of your family." THANKS TO "FRUIT-A-TIVES"

The Yellow God.

Alan Vernon walked thoughtfully you mind going down and explaining written document given to him by Mr. Jackson, which he still held in his hand. As it chanced, they were blocked for

a quarter of an hour near the Mansion House, so that he found time, if not to machine which departed silently, and with a firm step walked straight into Sir Robert Aylward's room. "How did you get on with Jackson, Vernon?" Sir Robert asked.

"I did not get on at all. He will not such the thing on any terms, and i deed means to oppose it tooth and "Then he will find himself in a min

ority when the article comes out to-morrow. Of course it is a bore; but we are strong enough to snap our fingers st him Alan felt that the crisis had come. He must speak now or for ever hold his

peace; indeed, Aylward was already ooking round for his hat. "Sir Robert," he broke in rather nervously. "I have something to say to you, something unpleasant," and he

"Then please say it at once, Vernon I want to dress for dinner: I am going to the theatre to-night, and must dine early," replied Alyward, in "It is," went on Alan with a rush

"that I do not like the lines upon which this business is being worked, and wish to give up my interest in it, and retire from the firm, as I have a right to do under our deed of partnership."

something more important. The Daily "That's all right. My motor is outJudge not only declines to put in any side, and will take you to Fleet-street son, hypnotized you, or is it a case of that day stood there contemplating it said, "and now that our relations are at an end, I suppose that you will want

to criticize the prospectus trenchantly." and perhaps you will just look in when "Ah!" said his master after a mo- you get back." ly, for although he might be diffident on matters that he did not thoroughly You never told me." ment's thought, "that is rather serious, since people believe in the Judge even when it is wrong. Offer them the advertisement at treble rates."

The minutes later the splendid, two understand, he was not a man to brook triffing or impertinence. "It is what the offices of the "Judge," and they still refuse."

You never told me."

"Oh! that's a long story," answered them across, but a few in an absent voice. "My uncle, who was a missionary, brought it from the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room in a stiff of the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room in a stiff of the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room in a stiff of the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room in a stiff of the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room in a stiff of the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor of the great room. It came the floor of the great room is the floor

countenance.

cate shares which we have worked up to swim between the shoulders, doesn't ing, golden mask floated in the air.

The clerk bowed and went as noise—
"It is about that Sahara flotation, bessly as he had entered.

"It is about that Sahara flotation, bessly as he had entered.

"It is about that Sahara flotation, bessly as he had entered.

"It is about that Sahara flotation, bessly as he had entered.

"It is about that Sahara flotation, bessly as he had entered.

"It is about that Sahara flotation, object. I shall only ask for mine the object. I shall not shall not shall not shall not shall not shal

There was silence, broken at last by Alan, who remarked awkwardly:

Alan, who remarked awkwardly:

Sugary to talk that not for seventeen or seventy thoubusiness, and if we did, perhaps we sand pounds would he part with his might all change our minds about ownership in this very unique fetish. "If that is so, I must not take up your time any longer."

these matters. Sir Robert is coming, and I am sure that your cousin Bar-

in July.' Then came another pause, seemed to affect even Sir Robert's nerves, for, abandoning the papers, he

KIDNEY DIS

walked down the room till he came to the golden object on the stand that has been described, and for the second time to the hammer. Why had he not acepted Aylward's offer and sold that

old fetish to him for £17,000 There was no question of share-dealing there, and him he could not tell. He had acted on that the thing was unique, or perhaps because old Jeeki, his negro servant, enerated it so much and swore that it was "lucky." At any rate, he had declined, and there was an end. But

voluntary abandonment of the profits

had plunged into the icy waters of re-

ue to him must go to his credit. He

unciation, and come up clean, if

Eli. Manitoba.

I wish to state, for the sake of others

who may be sufferers like I was, that I

suffered from severe indigestion and

constipation for years and that there

was also womb trouble with unpleasant

pains in my back which made me miser-

able, constantly. I tried physicians and

took many remedies but I got no relief.

I was induced to try "Fruit-a-tives" and

can truly say this was the first medicine

me of all symptoms of womb trouble. I

cannot express too strongly my great

gratitude to this medicine as I am as well

now in every way as ever I was, thanks

to "Fruit-a-tives". I can strongly recom-

mend "Fruit-a-tives", it is easy to take

Many women suffer with what the doctors call "Womb Trouble"—

"Diseased Ovaries"—"Female Com-plaints" etc. — when Constipation is

causing all the pain. Cure the liver and

make the bowels move regularly with "Fruit-a-tives" and the "Womb

Trouble" will be cured at the same time.

"Fruit-a-tives" — or "Fruit Liver Tablets" are sold by dealers at 50c a box

-6 for \$2.50-or will be sent on receipt of price. Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

"This thing is yours, Vernon," he

"Yes," said Sir Robert, "and I ad-

and the effect is always mild like fruit.

udigestion and completely cured

(Sgd) Mrs. M. Breiland.

Haswell, who until an hour ago had been his partner. Now she was a great on him, he drove over from Yarleys, heiress, and without fortune he could distance of ten miles, arriving about not marry her, even if she would marry eight o'clock. well, under her father's will, had abso- men," said the head butler, Mr. S another, he was too proud. Therefore, is at half-past eight."
it would seem that in abandoning his. Alan took the note and asked to be business, he had abandoned his chance shown to his room. Once there, a of Barbara also, which was a truly dreadful thought. Well, it was in orminutes, he opened it eagerly, while der that he might see her, that he had agreed to visit the Court on the morw, even though it meant a meeting for dinner or I may not be with his late partners, who were the last people with whom he desired to foregather again so soon. Then and there he made up his mind that before discussions and I can't stand one he bade Barbara farewell, he would tell her the whole story, so that she Yours B. might not misjudge b'a. After that he would go off somewhere—to Africa, Our distinguished guests, to say nothperhaps. Meanwhile, he was quite ing of my uncle, seem to be in a great ired out, as tired as though he had fuss over you. I overheard the lain a week in the grip of fever. He ing when I was pretending to

thereof, yet on the whole he blessed donkey, and another answeredhe name of Jackson, editor of the it was Sir Robert—'No doubt, bu Judge and his father's old friend. when Alan had left the office, Sir Robert turned to Mr. Campers-Haswell carts ere now.' Is the Sahara Sy and asked abruptly, "What the devil cate the applecart? If so, I'll forgive does this mean?" that ever did me any good. "Fruit-a-tives" quickly relieved the constipation

Mr. Haswell looked up at the ceiling Mr. Haswell looked up at the transmitted in his own peculiar fashion, then answered, "I cannot say for but come down to breakfast in knickcertain, but I tell you that of late our luck has been too good to last. The boom, the real boom, came in with Vernon, and with Vernon I think it will go."

thing pretty substantial behind it this time, Aylward, my friend. Whatever happens, within a week we shall be

what is life? A bubble that any pin may prick. Oh! I know that you do not like the subject, but it is as well a kettle. Smith the butler is the only to look it in the face sometimes. There, respectable man in this house. et's get out of this before I grow superstitious. Got your hat and coat? this peculiar and outspoken epistle, So have I, come on," and he switched which somehow revived his spirits that ering of the fire.

him. "What the devil's that?"

thought that he saw, something very der-footman, threw it into the fire and strange. From the pillar on which it watched it burn. Jekki coughed to intood, the golden fetish with a woman's timate that it was time for his master face appeared to have floated. The to dress, and Alan turned and looked For one moment a sort of tremor place where they worship these things, hand's breath away, just as though it gers and pink filbert shaped nails, an He uttered a sound, half whistle and

a fetish with magical powers and all the "Perhaps, Vernon, you remember rest of it. I believe they call it the that groan, and fell back, as it chanced that you hold over 1,700 of the Syndi-Swimming Head and other names. If Then it turned very deliberately, rose a little way, and moving sidelong to "Yes," said Sir Robert, and I at where Sir Robert stood, hung in front he said, in his full, melodious voice and artistic, like-like finance. Look of his face.

object. I shall only ask for mine the it is no use mincing matters, only fools switch. He found it at last, and next do that. But in a way you are being them."

"Then let it sound, and be hanged to that. But in a way you are being them."

"Then let it sound, and be hanged to the found it at last, and next do that. But in a way you are being them."

"Then let it sound, and be hanged to the found it at last, and next do that. But in a way you are being them." hardly treated. You could get £20 of light,

CHAPTER III. Jeeki Tells a Tale.

The Court. Mr. Champers-Haswell's place, was a very fine house indeed, of a sort. That is, it contained twentyand pounds. Now, what did the trick? I wonder what did the trick."

He walked down the room, and stopped opposite an ancient marble, starting at it—

"Not Yenus, I think," he said with a laugh, "Yenus never made any man reasons. Now he shows signs of kick," He turned and retraced his room to the other and of the room.

The walked down the room, and steeped opposite an ancient marble, starting at it—

"Not Yenus, I think," he said with a laugh, "Yenus never made any man reasons. Now he shows signs of kick," it seems, Mr. Jackson, that "The bather only our article, but also the advertisement of the comer thing as to seeing him—Alan—at the court in the other and of the room.

The walked down the room, and sleeve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a is seleve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a is an engineer who knows the country, and this Sahara scheme was his notion, and the forward and enture of the come a mount of the comer than the looked of the affair myself, but Sir Robert asked me if I would come round and retraced his ing over the traces, wants to know too make the through a magnifying glass.

The walked down the room, and sleeve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a is seleve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a skindly sort of man who disliked scenes skindly sort of man who disliked scenes and unpleasantness—muttered something as to seeing him—Alan—at the found his hat and brushed it with his sleeve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a is an engineer who knows the country, and this Sahara scheme was his notion, and the forward and effects of man who disliked scenes skindly sort of man who disliked scenes at which is sleeve. Then Mr. Haswell, in desperation—for in minor matters he was a is an engineer who knows the country, and the forward and effects of the with in the other nine bedrooms, each of them with a ing that to Alan's mind set a stamp

wish that it should be kept."

he could never remember. Only when ''Oh! why not, why not?" said Mr. he straightened himself again there that this was old either, for the original take. Sir Robert Aylward, catching house had fallen down or been burnt a sight of him, came across the hall in undred years before. But Sir Robert, eing gifted with artistic perception, nad reared up in place of it a smaller out really beautiful dwelling of soft fixing his piercing eyes upon Alan as grey stone, long and low, and built in though he were trying to read his the Tudor style with many gables. This house, charming as it was, could the city and all that eternal business,

> oak-roofed hall which was said to date faults; he can never shake himself free back to the time of King John, a rem- of the thing, never get any real recrenant of a former house. There were no ation." electric light or other modern conven-iences at Yarleys, yet it was a place left, having discovered that he was the that everyone went to see because of its exceeding beauty and its historical flooding scheme, began to address him associations. was surrounded, the grass court within, for it was built on three sides of a French was none of the best, struggled square, the mullioned windows, the towered gateway of red brick, the low ing to answer a question which he did panelled rooms hung with the portraits of departed Vernons, the sloping park the hall opened, and through it appear and the splendid oaks that stood about, ed Barbara Champers, singly or in groups, were all of them It was a large hall, perfect in their way. It was one of the long way off, which caused her to look ost lovely of English homes, and, odd- small, who indeed was only a middle enough, its neglected gardens and the air of decay that pervaded it, added to rather than decreased its charm. But it is with the court that we have

do at present, not with Yarleys. Mr. Champers-Haswell had a week-end He remembered that this step of his party. There were ten guests, all men, meant that, sooner or later, within a mid with the exception of Alan, who, it year or two at most, Yarleys, where his will be remembered, was one of them, everyone a prop of the original Sahara Syndicate, and deeply interested in the forthcoming flotation if a very wealthy man chose to give a them is unnecessary, for they have no fancy price for a curosity, he could part in our story, being only financiers take it without doubt or shame. At least, it would have sufficed to save Yarleys, which after all was only that for the most part would not bear ortgaged for £20,000. For the life of examination. The riches were evident nim he could not tell. He had acted on mpulse, a very curious impulse, and had arrived by ones or twos with their there was an end of it, perhaps be-cause his uncle had told him as a boy chauffeurs and valets. Their fur coats, costly motor cars, attended by smart their jewelled studs and rings, something in their very faces all suggested money, which indeed was the bond that brought and held them together.

Alan did not come until it was time another and a graver matter remained. to dress for dinner for he knew that He had desired wealth to save Yarleys, He had desired wealth to save Yarleys, Barbara would not oppear before that but he desired it still more for a difmeal, and it was her society he sought, ferent purpose. Above everything on not that of his host or fellow guests. earth he loved Barbara, his distant Accompanied by his negro servant,

cousin, and the niece of Mr. Champers- Jeeki, for in a house like this it was

eight. Yet even at tha

f her appearance. A slim

rown hair, cheerful bro

ell-modelled face, a re

nd an excellent complex

Barbara. Ten thousand could be found as good, o

ooking, yet something all erentiated her from the

her sex. There was tion in her step, and

ealth and vigor in her

ment. Her eyes had a tri

not boldly, but with a kin

the usual fringe of

earlessness and enterp

ple often found embarras

and graces, a nymph of

waters, who although

save as companions whe

the rest, she was sweetl

white robe with silver

ornaments save a

earls about her throa

of the valley at her b

ame straight onwards

the right nor the left,

ed her uncle, to whom Then she walked to Alar

"How do you do? Wh

ome over at lunch time

play a round of golf wit

Alan answered someth

ing busy at Yarleys.

"Yarleys!" she repl

money out of speculation one else that I know."

Robert reproachfully

"Why. Miss Champer

play a round of golf befor

"No." she answered,

There was something

sually so soft and ple

ness and deflance, that

feel at once happy and

Apparently also it cause

feel angry, for he flashed Alan over her head of w

ort could not be mistake

pale face remained as

ever. "We are enemies

said that glance. Prob

saw it; at any rate bef

em could speak, she s

"Thank goodness, there

and Alan will you sit on

of me? My uncle will s their places."

The meal was long and the price of each dish of

kept a poor family for on the cost of the equisi

might have lived for a

Also the last were well

everyone except Barbar water, and Alan, who six

fever took nothing but

and soda and a little clar

ward, a temperate perso

good deal of champagne

ed, and under cover of

Robert was arguing with on the left, Barbara ask

can't wait any longer."

"I have quarrelled wir answered, staring at his

though he were criticizing

more to do with the bu

ed back, "Glad of it. Bes

heard for many a day. H

ask why you are here "I came to see you,' humbly — "thought, p wouldn't mind."

"Now that you are real am going for them," she ly. "I have only restrain your sake," and leaning

chair she stared at the

Then there came one ences which will fall up ties at times, however

plentiful the champagn

in that clear, carrying

"will you, as an expert

formation."

gnorant person? I wa

"Miss Champers," he

not always at your se

lostess desired to be e

"Sir Robert," she v everyone here is, I called a financier, that

self and Major Vernon,

Nature made him sor oldier and-what else

make you, Alan?" As he vouchsafed no

an unc

be and will, I am

luestion, although Sir F

lips which Barbara hear

you is-how is it done?" "Accepting the jremis of argument, Miss Cha

Sir Robert, who felt the refuse the challenge, that it is done by finance

"I am still in the d

Finance, as I have he

loating companies, an

loated to earn money f

rest in them. Now th

was dull, I got hold

he 'Directory of Directory

d up all your names in

npanies that you bout those in anoth

of the gentlemen from

could not make out th

money, a dividend, do Therefore, how do you

and why do people inv Now Sir Robert frow

ed, two or three of the

ed outright, and one

tlemen who underst lad already drunk a

ompanies have eve

"And you are all very cessful, are you not, as much richer and much i next week. Now, what

"Sir Robert Aylward

Barbara's eyes lit up as

Sir Robert, will yo

(To be Continu

waiting for my cousin. matched, Sir Robert."

that you lived in the city

him her hand, said:

and twenty, as yet recked

traight into any other

ossible to mistake

him, which remained in doubt. For one thing, her uncle and guardian, Has-Major, and so have the other genile. lute discretion in this matter, until she "but Miss Champers told me to give reached the age of twenty-five, and for you this note and to say that dinner

"Dear Alan," it ran, "Don't be late

nust eat some food and get to bed. Sufficient unto the day was the evil a sanctimonious prig and stinate donkeys can kick and hav

"At any rate it must leave some- -dress like that I mean-they'll gues

"P.P.P.S.-Don't be careless ich, really rich for life."
"P.P.P.S.—Don't be careless an "Per life, Haswell, yes, for life. But leave this note lying about, for the un

Alan laughed outright as he finished off the light, so that the room was left in darkness except for the faint glima breath of frosty air from an open "Good Lord deliver us," chimed in window blowing clean and cold into r. Haswell in a shaking voice behind scented, over-heated room. He would have liked to keep it, but remember Sir Robert looked round and saw, or ing Barbara's injunctions and the un-

immovable countenance, but set in i beneath a massive brow, two extraordinarily humorous and eloquent black eyes, which expressed every motion passing through the brain behind them -that is, when their owner ch

and speaking the most perfect English. "I expect that the gong will sound in nine and a half minutes.'

must hurry. Jeeki, put that fire ou and open all the windows as soon as I go down. This room is like a hot

"Yes, Major." The guests were gathered in the hall through a magnifying glass.

It was in this matter of taste that it differed from Sir Robert Alyward's them was obvious, and the gentlement of the many concerned evidently resented the mis-

his usual direct fashion, and shook him by the hand. thoughts. "Pleasant change this from not of course, compare with Yarleys, the ancient seat of the Vernons in the same neighborhood. Yarleys was pure Elizabethan, although it contained an "That's one of your cousin Haswell's free city and an inat electrical business, isn't it? Ah! you are thinking that one is not quite clear of business after all," and he glanced round at the company. "That's one of your cousin Haswell's free can payor shalk himself free

> Then a French gentleman on Alan's The moat by which it as "Cher maitre," speaking so rapidly

It was a large hall, and she was a



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good for him, remarke eighbor, "Ah! she is o touch the spot, lik ou give me to-day. I rich, and why do the Mon Dieu! why do th is the great mystery. helle ravissante. Elle a d'es Haswell." Apparently her uncl

ese, setniments, for