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## The Diamond From the Sky

By ROY L. McCARDELL

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"Don't forget that I am fond of Esther too," murmured Blair. "But if she is dead or if she is unconscious, if she lives she will have no thought of you and me," added Blair. "It is she who has the proof we seek to make our fortune, the proof Arthur Stanley will give all the millions he has made as John Powell to keep suppressed. Esther has the key document," and as he said this Blair stooped over the seemingly unconscious girl.

"Don't you touch her! Don't you lay a hand on her!" cried Luke. "I will carry her. She isn't dead, thank God!" Esther stirred and sat up and gazed resolutely at them both. Luke picked her up as though she were a child. "You bring her baggage," he said roughly to Blair, and he nodded his head indicating the dress suit case that had fallen from the crushed and shattered coach.

In this way Esther was borne to the blacksmith shop. She knew the document was safe from these evil hands, under the rock by the coach, and bad as she knew Luke Lovell was, she felt no great harm would befall her while he was by.

This proved to be the case, for when Esther declared to them that the Stanley document—and she possessed to know nothing of such a document—was not upon her person, Luke believed her, and Blair Stanley was constrained to do likewise.

"Look in her suit case, then," said Luke, and Blair, picking up a chisel, forced the lock. As desperate as was the situation, Esther could hardly restrain a smile when Blair, with an expression of disgust, brought forth from the suit case a pair of striped pajamas, a flask, some shirts and collars and other male belongings, more than evident by the property of the prize. English lawyer, Marmaduke Smythe.

"We have got the wrong baggage," snarled Blair to Luke. "You go back to the coach and find hers, and I will guard her here."

"I would as soon trust her with a wolf," growled Luke, and he turned to Esther and held his arms out to her. "You say the word, Esther," he said, "and I will kill this blackguard for you!"

But Esther shrank from the fierce, passionate gypsy. "I hate you as I hate him!" she said. "You will get no document, you will get nothing, and I do not fear either or both of you. Arthur Stanley will repay you well and sittingly for even daring to lay a hand upon me!"

"Well tie you up then, missy," said Luke, shrugging his shoulders. "If I can't have the lady, I will take the gold. Matt Harding, your dead father, if he was your father, made his fortune out of the Stanley secret, and I will make mine. As for Arthur Stanley, he can't help you! We know enough to disgrace him if we expose him in California, and she is not John Powell, the millionaire, but Arthur Stanley, wanted for murder in Virginia!"

Esther scorned to answer. The two worthies, neither trusting the other, tied her, securely, and went together back to the wrecked coach to find her suit case and, as they laid the Stanley document. But at the coach, in their absence, Marmaduke Smythe had revived before the driver had secured his horses and, bruised and dazed, had recovered sufficiently to revive his comrades and then seek for his passenger. When Luke and Blair arrived upon the scene they told the driver, who the young lady passenger was safe at the blacksmith shop and they had come for her belongings. None could be found, however, and Luke and Blair returned revelling each other.

Darkness was falling at the time the accident occurred. It was dark in the blacksmith shop, but Esther felt the braver at the absence of the two men. She struggled and freed herself from the ropes that had bound her and beat upon the great heavy door of the shop, crying for help.

Quabba, mourning his young mistress and bewailing his fate that he had so strangely found and so strangely lost the diamond from the sky again, had set out on foot for the mines to find Arthur, but especially to find Esther, his young mistress. It was just at nightfall that he reached the forge, some three miles yet from the mines. It was locked, gloomy and deserted in the darkness. But from within he heard a voice he recognized, the voice of his young mistress appealingly crying for help. A sledge stood by the door. Quabba seized it and shattered down the door and soon he was shedding tears of joy as he clasped the hands of Esther.

There was no time for explanation now. A look from Esther and the two sped off through the darkness, to be followed a few moments later by Blair and Luke returning to find their fair prisoner had been freed and was gone. Over the mountains, through the darkness went pursuers and pursued, while by a log near a marsh lawyer Marmaduke Smythe gathered up some dry trash and lit his fire to camp for the night. He had lost his way, but philosophically he accepted the situation.

"I am a lucky beggar that I thought to bring a tin of biscuit and a flask of brandy in my luggage," he remarked half aloud. And he opened the suit case he had borne so far together with his other impedimenta of gun and deer head. "My word, the wrong portmanteau!" he exclaimed as in the fire light he brought forth a woman's dainty nightgown and bodice cap. "Well, no matter how such a reprobate as I will protect me from the drafts in this jungle. Now, if I only had a night light in case my fire goes out. I am used to having a night light, and if I had that and my portable bathtub I could stand the wilderness. But if the late Lord Cecil Stanley could only see me now!" he added fervently as he surveyed himself in his strange night attire. "By Jove, this is roughing it with a vengeance!"

The moon came up, and as if waiting for it as a signal the harsh, discordant chorus of croaking marsh frogs sounded on all sides.

"Indians! Savage Iroquois!" cried the alarmed lawyer, seizing his gun. "But no," he added to himself; "I will not shoot. Their warwhoops on every side show they surround me. I will scout off in the darkness like one of those bally astute western American prairie loopers, such as the subtle Arizona Alfred previous English travelers to these wilds have written about. But just won't I write a book that will thrill Piccadilly when I get back unscathed—if I ever do!"

And softly dropping the marshmallows which he was toasting, a box of which he had found among Esther's effects, the frightened barrister stole softly away, but he was not so frightened as to leave his baggage behind. He hurriedly slipped on the door head, the suit case and the gun, and on higher land, out of earshot of the savage warcries of the greenskins, he camped quite uncomfortably, thank you, in the crotch of a large live oak tree.

(To be continued.)

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### SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

Several kinds of dyes are obtained from trees. In some parts the brown juice of "butter-nut" bark is used for staining cloth.

There is an electric railway, ten miles long, in the South Tyrol, which is operated entirely by adhesion, though the maximum gradient is 6.2 per one hundred.

A new lightning rod, with two milligrammes of radium bromide inserted in its top, has been invented in France. The result of this is said to be that the conductivity of the "cap" or sheath of air is enormously increased.

The floors of a building recently erected in Pennsylvania, where heavy material is to be stored, form an experiment. On a five-inch covering of red cement has been placed a half inch covering of sawdust. The process was discovered in, and the materials are imported from Greece. It deadens sound and is easier for those who do their work standing.

The Longest Rope Railway—A rope railway, seventy-five miles in length, is to be put in operation in India. It will connect the rich country in the state of Kashmir with the plains of the Punjab over the Himalayas. The line, it is claimed, will be the longest in the world, the present longest being twenty-two miles and situated in Argentina. Sections will be five miles long, and most of the spans will be two thousand four hundred feet. The steel towers, some of which will be one hundred feet high, will be braced, and double one inch and a half cables, nine feet apart, will carry the steel cars. The carrying capacity of these cars will be about four hundred pounds.

A Novel Way of Making Cement.

## Violent Attacks of Dyspepsia

Suffered Tortures Until She Tried "Fruit-a-lives"

St. JEAN DE MATRA, Jan. 27th, 1914. "After suffering for a long time with Dyspepsia, I have been made well by 'Fruit-a-lives.' I suffered so much that at last I would not dare to eat for I was afraid of dying. Five years ago, I received samples of 'Fruit-a-lives' and after taking them I felt relief. Then I sent for three boxes and I kept improving until I was well. I quickly regained my lost weight—and now I eat, sleep and digest well—in a word, I am fully recovered, thanks to 'Fruit-a-lives.' MME. CHARBONNEAU. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.

It is stated that a firm in France is producing cement from the scum formed by boiling beet for sugar manufacture. The scum consists chiefly of carbonate of lime and water. Out of seventy thousand tons of beet four thousand tons of carbonate of lime is obtained; to this one thousand one hundred tons of clay is added, the resulting product being three thousand one hundred and sixty-two tons of excellent cement. The scum is pumped into large tanks, where it is allowed to dry partially; finely divided clay is then mixed with it; the mixture is thoroughly amalgamated by beaters for an hour and burned in a rotary kiln, much in the same way as Portland cement. The clinker is then removed and pulverized into cement.

"Frozen yet Alive."—Professor Raoul Pictet has been continuing the researches which he described in 1911, and it is now possible to freeze live fish in cakes of ice and revive them in their original state after a few months' "cooling." He recently placed twenty-eight fish in a box containing water rich in oxygen, in which several pieces of ice were floating, and then very slowly reduced the temperature. At the end of about two months the resultant cake of ice was gradually thawed, and the fish were found to be alive. It is essential that the water should be very gradually frozen, and that it should contain pieces of ice for from fifteen to eighteen hours before the whole mass is frozen. The thawing must also be very slow.

It is hoped that Alaskan salmon and Siberian sturgeon may thus be shipped alive to other countries.

WITH THE FAMOUS

Maximilian Harden, the distinguished German publicist, has had his paper suppressed and has been forbidden to speak or write until the end of the war. He is editor of the weekly paper Die Zukunft, which he founded some 20 odd years ago. He was born in Berlin in 1861 and educated in his native city. He is one of the most forceful and best writers and speakers in Germany. The fact that he has been severely criticizing the German authorities for their tactics and for their atrocities, and telling in his paper the real truth about the economic and military status of Germany, accounts for the suppression of his publication by the authorities. Harden has written a number of books, several of which have been translated into English.

There is a flutter, says the Manchester Guardian, in the legal docket at the prospect of Sir John Simon's return to practice at the Bar. The impression is general that he will resume his legal career, and the Bar, as a whole, is not altogether pleased, for it realizes that Sir John will at once command an enormous practice. When he became a law officer of the Crown he had by far the most profitable practice at the Bar, and his acceptance of office meant the division of his work among a number of K.C.'s. Many of the briefs will go back to Sir John, and the men who will be affected are naturally not particularly pleased.

### Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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