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By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN

"I very nearly wasted powder and hot," replied Jack, significantly indishot," replied J cating his rifle,

"I saw you twice and raised my rife. Your breeches are just the color, of a young doe. Are you Meredith? My name is Oscard." "Ah! Yes, I am Meredith. I am

They shook hands. There was a winkle in Jack Meredith's eyes, but Iscard was quite grave. His sense of umor was not very keen, and he was efore all things a sportsman. "I left the canoes a mile below

Isala and landed to shoot a deer we aw drinking, but I never saw him afterward. Then I heard you, and I "But I never expected you so soon.
You were not due till-look!" Jack

whispered suddenly.
Oscard turned on his beel, and the next instant their two rifles rang out through the forest stillness in our sharp crack. Across the stream, ten yards behind the spot where Oscard had emerged from the brush, a leopard sprang into the air five feet from the ground, with head thrown back and paws clawing at the thinness of space with grand free sweeps. The beast

fell with a thud and lay still, dend.

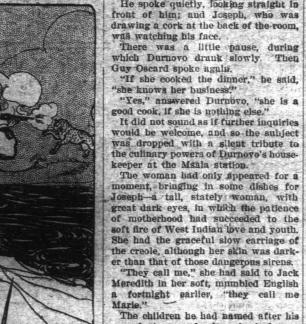
The two men clambered across the rocks again, side by side. While they stood over the prostrate form of the teopard, beautiful, incomparably grace-ful and sleek even in death, Guy Oscard stole a sidelong giance at his companion. He was a modest man, and yet he knew that he was reckoned

ge. This man bad fired as quickly as himself, and there were two small trickling holes in the animal's head. While he was being quietly scruti-nized Jack Aleredith stooped down and, raking the leopard beneath the shoul-"Pity to spoil the skin," he explained

scard nodded in an approving way. Ie knew the weight of a full grown le know the weight of a full grown leopard, all muscle and bone, and he was one of those old fashioned persons mentioned in the Scriptures as taking a delight in a man's legs—or his arms, so long at they were strong.

"I suppose" he said quietly, "we had letter skin him bore."

etter skin him here." They laid the skin out on the tram-



Two rifles rang out through the forest

with silent satisfaction. In the course of their inspection they both arrived at the head at the same moment. The two holes in the hide, just above the eyes, came under their notice at the same moment, and they turned and smiled gravely at each other, thinking the same thought, the sort of thought the same thought—the sort of thought that Englishmen rarely put into intelli-

"I'm glad we did that," said Guy Oscard at length; suddenly, "Whatever comes of this expedition of ours-if we ight, as we probably shall, before it is finished—if we hate each other ever afterward, that skin ought to remind us that we are much of a much By 9 o'clock they reached the camp at Msala. Victor Durnovo was still at work superintending the discharge of the baggage and stores from the large trading canoes. They heard the shout-ing and chattering before coming in sight of the same and one volce when sight of the camp, and one voice raised angrily above the others.

"Is that Durnovo's voice?" asked "Yes," answered his companion curt-

If was a new voice, which Meredith

so much stronger and hea thier in pearance. Durno 70 shook hands heart

"No need to introduce you two," he said, looking from one to the other. "No; after one mistake we discovered each other's identity in the forest," auswered Meredith. Durnovo smiled, but there was s

thing behind the smile. He did not seem to approve of their meeting with-out his intervention.

The three men walked up toward the house together. It was a fair sized house, with a heavy thatched roof that overhung the walls like the crown of a ishroom. The walls were only mud, and the thatching was nothing else than banana leaves, but there was evidence of European taste in the garden ounding the structure and in the glazed windows and wooden door. As they approached the open door-way three little children, clad in very little more than their native modesty looking upon him as a mere public conveyance. They took hardly any notice of him, but chattered and quar-

unknown to Oscard and Meredith. "These," said the latter, when they were seated and clinging with their little dusky arms round his legs, "are the very rummest little kids I ever

in baby English, sometimes in dialec-

Durnovo gave an impatient laugh and went on toward the house. But Guy Oscard stopped and walked more lowly beside Meredith as he labore

along heavy footed. "They are the jolliest little sonts in uginable," continued Jack Meredith "There," he sald to them when the had reached the doorstep, "rna awa" to you mother-very fine ride-no, no more tonight! I'm aweary, you understand, aweary!"

"Aweary, awe e-e-ary!" repeated the little things, standing before him in infantile nude retundity, looking up with bright eyes. "Aweary, that is it. Good night, Epaminondas; good night, Xantippel Give ye good hap, most stout Nesto-

He stooped and gravely shook hands with each one in turn, and, after foreing a like ceremonial upon Guy Oscard, they reluctantly withdrew,

"They have not joined us, I sup-ose?" said Oscard as he followed his mpanion into the house. Not yet. They live in this place. storious, I understand, takes care of his mother, who in her turn takes care of this house. He is one and a

Guy Oscard seemed to have inherited the mind inquisitive from his learned father. He asked another question "Who is that woman?" he said during dinner, with a little dod toward the

doorway through which the object of his curiosity had passed with some

"That is the mother of the stont Nestorius," answered Jack—Durnovo's pause while Guy Oscard lighted a sectorius in the schools was working well.

drawing a cork at the back of the room, was watching his face.

There was a little pause, during which Durnovo drank slowly. Then Guy Oscard spoke agalia.

The secret of the whereabouts of the sacret, which secret in the sacret which secret in the sacret which secret which secret which secret in two suggested that the chief of solice be asked to assume the dutameter of the other two mittee.

"Yes," answered Durnovo, "she is a

great dark eyes, in which the patience swear to hold to that agreement." er than that of those dangerous sirens.
"They call me," she had said to Jack Meredith in her soft, mumbled English

The children be had named after his own fantasy, and when she had once rested on him with a sort of wondering sir," attention, and when she cooked his meals or touched anything that was his ing toward his firearms. there was something in her attitude

sort of friendliness in his voice which It's spreadin' too." never rose to badinage nor descended

hearted and unsatisfactory. It was in- off their heads, too, mostly." possible to arouse any enthusiasm in him, to make him take it seriously. Guy Oscard was gravely indifferent. I came in."
He wanted to get rid of a certain space
In a few of time, and the African forest, con- novo and Oscard, who were talking totaining as it did the only excitement

"I," answered Meredith, "intend, at all events, to take the profits very seriously. When they begin to come in, J. Meredith will be at the above addressed to be humorous long before the end of that time.

"Oh, it's nothing," Durnovo was saying, with a singular eagerness. "I know these chaps. They have been your kind patronage."

had not heard before. When they shouted to announce their arrival it was suddenly hushed, and presently half caste in a lower voice. "You chance of deserting." Durnovo came forward to greet them. | have not so much at stake. It is likely

A curious smile passed across Jack Meredith's face. Without turning his

head he glanced sideways into Dur-novo's face through the gloom. But he said nothing, and it was Oscard who broke the silence by saying simply "The same may possibly apply to

which he lighted his pipe. It did not seem to occur to any of authorizing the chairman and treas them that the only person whose indi-viduality was still veiled happened to till such times as the taxes can be be Jack Meredith. He alone had said nothing. He it was who spoke first, after a proper period of silence.

"It seems fo me," he said, "that we have all the technicalities arranged now So far as the work are the proper period of silence.

"It seems fo me," he said, "that we have all the technicalities arranged now So far as the working of the secretary stated that he had een Mr. James on the matter.

"It seems to me," Jack went on, B. F. Souch "that before we leave here we should Gas-Montreal St. draw up and sign a sort of deed of Gas-Toronto St partnership. Of course we trust each other perfectly—there is no question of that But life is an uncertain thing that But life is an uncertain thing that But life is an uncertain thing that But life is an uncertain the loan of a room in the base me, and one never knows what might montreal Street school for the loan of a room in the base of Montreal Street school for the loan of a rolling of religious services. happen. I have drawn up a paper in holding of religious services.

oscard produced a match and, strik to the second annual confe ing it on his boot, sheltered it with school trustees to be held in Calgar the hollow of his hand while Jack

"We, the undersigned, hereby enter into partnership to search for and sell to our mutual profit the herb known timiacine, the profits to be divided into three equal portions, after the defluction of one-hundredth part, to be handed to the servant, Joseph Atkinshanded to the servant Josep son. Any further expenses that may sale. Mr. Hay said that all the se incurred to be borne in the same because of brill Instructor Reid reported or bronortion as the original expense of atting out the expedition-namely, two-fifths to be paid by Guy Cravener Os-ard, two-fifths by John Meredith, one-fifth by Victor Durnovo.

sum of £50 per month to the Montreal Street be paid to Victor Durnevo, where with he may pay the thirty special men taken from his estate and head-quarters at Msain to cultivate the siminacine, and such corn and vegeta-bles as may be required for the susenance of the expedition; these men

"The opinion of two of the three leaders against one to be accepted unconditionally in all questions where controversy may arise. In case of learn each of us undertakes hereby to hand over to the executor of the dead partner or partners such moneys as shall belong to him or them."

He spoke quietly, fooking straight in front of him; and Joseph, who was drawing a cork at the back of the room,

partners." artners."

The breaking of flasks
"There," concluded Jack Meredith, but the breaking of forth "I am rather pleased with that literary

of motherhood had succeeded to the soft fire of West Indian love and youth.

Victor Durnovo took off his hat with red in this way. Mr. Kennedy was a sweep and a flourish, and, raising his appointed to attend to the matter of She had the graceful slow earriage of bared brow to the stars, he said: "I the creole, although her skin was dark- swear to hold to that agreement. If I which according to the report is fail, may God strike me dead!"

fortnight earlier, "they call me HE next morning Jack Meredith was awakened by his servant Joseph before it was fully light "Woke you before yer time, seen him with them there was a not-sir," he said. "There's something able change in her manner. Her eyes wrong among these 'ere darky fellers,

"Not rebellion?" he said curtly, look-"No, sir, not that. It's some mortual sickness. I don't know what it is. that denoted special care, sickness. I don't know what it is.

Joseph called her "missis," with a l've been up half the night with them.

"Sickness! What does it seem like? Just give me that jacket. Not that The man who had found the simia-cine was eager, restiess, full of suspi-"No, sir. It's not that. Missis Marie

cion. To the others the scheme obvious- was tellin' me about that-awful ly presented liself in a different light scourge that, sir. No, the poor chaps Jack Meredith was dilettante, light are wide awake enough-groanin', and "Call Mr. Durnovo."

"Met Mr. Durnovo, sir, goin' out as

gether on the terrace in front of the that his large heart knew, was as good a place as any. The simiacine was, in his mind, relegated to a distant place to the terrace in the to the base. Guy Oscard was still in his pajamas, which he had tucked into tophoots. He also were a sun helmet, behind weeks of sport and adventure which added a finish to his costume. such as his soul loved.

"You men," said Durnovo eagerly.

"don't seem to take the thing serious never had time to change it, and

dress, and trusts by a careful attention paid in advance. They are probably to business to merit a continuance of shamming, and if they are not they are only suffering from the effects of a Durnovo laughed somewhat nervous- farewell glorification. They want to delay our start. That is their little "It is all very well for you," said the game. It will give them a better

School Board Meets

ook place on Jan. 13, in the cleroffice. Present: The chairman, ienbery, J. C. Colter. Mr. Broths on was elected chairman for 156 k. Roberts was appointed to t secretary-treasurership for the yea.
The new by-law was introduce have all the technicalities arranged now. So far as the working of the expedition is concerned we know our places, and the difficulties will be met as they present themselves. But there is one thing which I think we should set in order now. I have been thinking the set in order now. I have been thinking accounts were reconcerned.

about it while I have been thinking about it while I have been waiting here alone."

The glow of Victor Durnovo's cigar died away as if in his attention he was forgetting to smoke; but he said nothing.

"It seems to me." Inch. went on B. F. Schools.

triplicate. If you have a match I will board could not grant this privilege

Dr. Scott wrote calling attentio oard that the dues for 1907

the drill given during the past year Te said that the first year in su work was necessarily difficult, especially in handling young children. He could not do anything with some co whom he thought should be taker off for the sake of the others. had nothing to go by except pat-ence and good nature. Mr. Reic written Col. Steele with re gard to the formation of a cadet corps and had received the regulat-There was one at Lethbridge which went under canvas for a week creatly enjoyed the year's work. Principal Pentland wrote regarding application for increase of salaries for high school staff. He hoped to

be in Canada shortly. Acting principal Hay's repor shall belong to him or them."

At this juncture there was a little school and nine at Toronto Street showed that fourteen A truant officer was urgently needed. There were children under 12 years of ige not attending school,

the chemical laboratory "Yes," answered Durnovo, "she is a good cook, if she is nothing else."

It did not sound as if further inquiries would be welcome, and so the subject was dropped with a silent tribute to the culinary powers of Durnovo's house-keeper at the Msala station.

The woman had only appeared for a mement, bringing in some dishes for Joseph—a tall, stately woman, with Joseph a tall, stately woman, with the leg of his chair he mumbled, by which the parents or guardians were responsible for any loss incurthe Toronto Street school layatory,

> an unsatisfactory condition. MARSH ISSUING NEW RUNNING CHALLENGE.

John D. Marsh, of St. Norbert who showed his stamina in such worthy fashion last fall in races with Shrubb, now issues a general challenge for a 15-mile foot race. any place and any time within the next two months. He includes, spec-ially, Alfred Shrubb, and is prepared to back himself for any amount reason from \$100 up.

CONSTIPATION.

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Will G.P.R. Supermour Lidents be Changed ?

(Lethbridge Herald.) This morning, on the street, there ere startling rumors of num.rous ad important changes in the U. P. I. staff. It was reported that Supt. Brownlee of Moose Jaw was to be laced in charge of the Cranbrook in charge of Succession, now in charge of Su Aricson; now in charge of Supt. Bricson; that Supt. J. G. Taylor of Souris, was to take the Medicine lat division now directed by Supt. Lawrence, and that Supts. Lawrence and Ericson were to be given Prairies of divisions.

As near as can be ascertained, how-wer, there is nothing in the report, t party of prominent C. P. R. of cials were in the city this morning ith G. J. Bury, of Winnipog, assistant general manager, who is making is regular quarterly tour of inspect-on. Nothing was given out. on. Nothing was given out that vould indicate that the reported hanges were contemplated.

In the party with Mr. Bury were f. E. Switzer, assistant chief enginer: general superintendent A. Price, if Calgary; superintendent J. S. Lawrence of Medicine Hat; superingulant J. Erickson of Cranbrook; t. D. Smith, road locomotive engin-er; A. Hobkirk, Lethbridge, train-paster, and W. E. Woodhouse, Calary, master mechanic. The party it at 10.45, going westward.

This report has been published all ver the west, but there is probably o truth whatever in it. Mr. Law-ence knows nothing of it and does not think it is true.

nember we have always sent The rimes, the paper that publishes ALL, he news, to subscribers outside of tiberta for \$1.00, when ordered b local subscriber

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