MOONDYNE.

"He never said a word; but he laid his finger on his lips, like this, and waved his hand as if he warned me to go back to the camp. I turned to go; then looked back once, and he was standing just as I left him, but he was looking up at the sky, as if there was some at in the moon that pleased him."

The convicts worked silently, each thinking on what he had heard.

"He migrin' ha' been afraid, though," said low browed Dave; "I'd let them cut."

"I'll break that look," said the sergeant

looked up from their work, and beheld a strange procession approaching from the direction of the swamp. It consisted of about a dozen or fifteen persons, most of whom were savages. In front rode two officers of the Convict Service, a sergeant, and a private trooper, side by side, with drawn swords; and between their horses, manacled by the wrists to their stirrup-irons, walked a white man. "Here they come," hissed Terrell, with a bitter malediction, his low brow wholly disappearing into a terrible ridge above his eyes. "They haven't killed him, after all. O mates, what a pity it is to see a man like Moondyne in that plight"

see a man like Moondyne in that plight."

"He's done for two or three of 'em," muttered another, in a tone of grim gratification. "Look at the loads behind. I knew he wouldn't be taken this time likels cornered cur."

Following the prisoner came a troop of "natives," as the aboriginal bushmen are called, bearing three spearwood litters with the bodies of wounded men A villianous-looking savage, mounted on a troop-horse, \$200 they are also and a troop-horse, \$200 they are also a

There was a taint in the tone, even beneath the broughtly of his words.

"Carry your pail to those litters," growled the sinister-looking sergeant, "and keep your mouth closed if you value your hide. There?" he said in suppressed voice, flinging the tew drops he had left in the face of the manacled man, "that's water enough for you, till you reach Bunbury prison to morrow."

The legical the pirsoner hardly changed, He gave one straight look into the sergeant's eyes, then turned away, and seemed to look far away through the bush. He was a remarkable being as he stood there. In strength and proportion of body the man was magnificent—a model for a gladiator. He was of middle height, young, but so stern and massive by fastured and be beaten by exposure, it was hard to determine his age. His clothing was only a few torn and bloody rags; but he looked as if his natural garb were utter nakedness or the bushnan's cloak, so loosely and care lessly hung the shreds of cloth on his bronned body. A large, finely shaped head, with orisp, black hair and beard, a broad, square forehead, and an air of power and self-command,—this was the prisoner, this was Moondyne loc.

Prisoner, this was Mondyne Joe.

Who or what was the man? An escaped objvict. What had he been? Perhaps a robber or a mutineer, or maybe he had killed a man in the white heat

be he had killed a man in the white heat of passion; no one knew—no one cared to know.

That question is never asked in the penal colony. No caste there. They have found bottom, where all stand equal. No envy there, no rivalry, no greed nor ambition, and no escape from companionship. They constitute the purest democracy on earth. The only distinction to be won—that of being trustworthy, or selfish and false. The

strata of society that abound the strong, true natures, the men that may be depended upon, the primitive rocks of humainty. The complexities of social life cholera morbus, cholera and
manity. The complexities of social life cholera morbus, cholera and
the strong was paint, colic, cholera morbus, cholera and
the strong was paint, colic, cholera morbus, cholera and
the strong was paint was paint, colic, cholera morbus, cholera and
the strong was paint was pain

beget cunning and artificiality. Amon nvy, ambition, or emulation; nothing

THE GOLD MINE OF THE VASS.

"But what did he answer?" asked the ager crowd.

"He never said a word; but he laid his preyen his line like this and waved expected to hear hum white for heat.

"He mighth" ha' been afraid, though," said low browed Dave; "I'd let them cut my tongue out before I'd sell the Moondyne."

"That's true," said several of the gang, and many kind looks were given to Terel. A strong bond of sympathy, it was evident, existed between these men and the person of whom they spoke.

A sound from the thick bush interrupted the conversation. The convicts looked up from their work, and beheld atrange procession approaching from the living the street of the street

A villianous-looking savage, mounted on a troop-horse, tabught up the rear. His dress was like that of his pedestrian fellows, upon whom, however, he looked in diadah,—a short boka, or cloak of kangaroeskin, and a belt of twisted fur cords round his naked body. In addition he had a police-trooper's old cap, and a heavy "regulation" revolver stuck in his belt. "This was the tracker, the human blood hound, used by the troopers to follow the trail of absconding prisoners. When the troopers neared the convict when the state of the prison is the prison of the prison in the save of the prison. He asked no favors. He performed all his own work, and often helped another who grumbled at his heavy task.

He was simply known to his fellow-may task. He was simply known to his fellow-may task.

hound, used by the troopers to follow the trail of absonding prisoners.

When the troopers neared the convict-party, the sergeant, a man whose natural expression, whatever it might have been was wholly obliterated by a frightful scaracross his face, asked for water. The natives halted, and squatted silently in a group. The wounded men moaned as the litters were lowered.

Dave Terrell brought the water. He handed a panakin to the sergeant, and another to the private trooper, and filled a third.

"Who's that for?" harshly demanded the sergeant.

"Woo known "said the convict as the contained, full of jibe and derision, satisfied with his own depravity, and convinced that every one was secretly just as vile as he.

the sergeant.

"For Moondyne," said the convict, ap"From the first, this fellow had disliked
From the first, this fellow had disliked observed the man's cur like character had at last adopted a system of conduc-toward him that saved himself anapy ance, but secretly intensified the mal the fellow; but he never looked at him saw him, spoke to him,-not even answe

power and self-command,—this was the seized and ironed, protesting his inno

trustworthy, or selfish and false. The good man is he who is kin I and true; the bad man is he who is capable of betaying a confederate.

It may be the absence of the competitive elements of social life that accounts for the number of manly characters to be met among these outcasts.

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