

FOREWORD

TWELVE years had passed since I had

laid the body of Captain John Carter, of

Virginia, away from the eight of men in

that strange mausoleum in the old cemetery

of the vault's huge door be accessible only from the inside.

Twelve years had passed since his body had been found upon the bluff before his cottage overlooking the Hudson. Oft-times during the long years I had wondered if John Carter were really dead, or if he again roumed the dead sea-bottoms of that dying planet. Had he returned to Barsoom to find that he had opened the frowning portals of the mighty atmosphere plant in time to save the countless millions who were dying of amphysiation.

millions who were dying of asphyxiation on that far-gone day that had seen him hurtled ruthlessly through 48,000,000 miles of space back to Earth once more?

I had wondered if he had found his black-haired princess and the slender son he had dreamed was with her in the royal gardens of Tardos Mors, awaiting his re-

I have never seen Captain John Carter

CHAPTER 1 The Plant Men A I stood upon the bird before my cottings on that olear gold night in the

uly part of March, 1888, the noble Mudaon to like a situal spectra of a dead river tow me. I felt heath the strange, com-

beg influence of the enighty God of War, believed Mara which for tell knownes

of I had combered with outstratehed

Twelve years had passed since I had

## HE GODS OF MAR

BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, AUTHOR OF TARZAN, THE MOONS OF MARS, ETC.

ay wrapped in the similitude of earthly leath, had I felt the irresistible attraction of the god of my profession.

With arms outstretched toward the red eye of the great star, I stood praying for a return of that strange power which twice had drawn me through the immensity of space; praying as I had prayed on a thousand nights before during the years that I had waited and hoped.

Suddenly a qualm of nausea swept over me, my senses swam, my knees gave be-nearth me and I pitched headlong to the ground upon the very edge of the dizzy

Instantly my brain cleared, and there wepf back across the threshold of my memory the vivid picture of the horrors o that ghostly Arizona cave; again as on that that ghostly Arizona cave; again as on that fargone night my muscles refused to respond to my will, and again as though even here upon the banks of the placid Hudson I could hear the awful moans and rustling of the fearsome thing which had jurked and threatened me from the dark recesses of the cave.

Often had I pondered on the odd instruc-tions he had left me governing the con-struction of his mighty tomb, and especially those parts wherein he directed that he be laid in an open casket, and that the ponder-ous mechanism which controlled the bolts I made the same mighty and superhuman effort to break the bonds of the strange anesthesia which held me, and again came the sharp click as of the sudden parting of a taut wire, and I stood naked and free beside the staring, lifeless thing that had so recently pulsed with the warm lifeblood of John Carter.

With scarcely a parting glance, I turned my eyes again toward Mars, litted my hands toward his lurid rays, and waited.

Twelve years had passed sincs I had read the remarkable manuscript of this remarkable manuscript of this remarkable man; this man who remembered no childhood and who could not even offer a vague guess as to his ago; who was always young, and yet who had—so he claimed—dandled my grandfather's great-grandfather upon his knee; this man who had spent ten years upon the planet Mars; who had fought for the green men of Barsoom and fought against them; who had fought for and against them; who had fought for and against the red men, and who won the ever-beautiful Dejah Thoris, Princess of Helium, for his wife, and for nearly ten years had been a prince of the house of Tardos Mors, Jeddak of Helium. Nor did I have long to wait; for scarce had I turned ere I shot with the rapidity of thought into the awful void before me. There was the same instant of unthinkable cold and utter darkness that I had experienced 20 years before—and then I opened my eyes in another world, beneath the burning rays of a hot sun, which beat through a tiny opening in the dome of the mighty forest in which I lay.

The scene that met my eyes was so un-martian that my heart sprang to my throat as the sudden fear swept through me that I had been aimlessly tossed upon some strange planet by a cruel fate.

Why not?

What guide had I through the trackless waste of interplanetary space? What as-surance that I might not as well be hurtled to some far-distant star of another solar system as to Mars?

I lay upon a close-cropped sward of red grasslike vegetation, and about me stretched a grove of strange and beautiful trees, covered with huge and gorgeous blossoms and filled with brilliant, voiceless birds. I call them birds since they were winged, but mortal eye never rested on such unearthly shapes.

The vegetation was similar to that which covers the lawns of the red Martians of the great waterways, but the trees and birds were unlike anything that I had ever seen upon Mars, and then through the farther trees I could see that mest unmartian of all sights—an open sea, its blue waters shimmering beneath the brazen sun. As I rose to Investigate further I ex-perienced the same ridiculous catastrophe

Or had he found that he had been too late, and thus gone back to living death upon a dead word? Or was he really dead after all, never to return either to his mother Earth or his loved Mars?

Thus was I lost in useless speculation one sultry August evening when old Ben, my body servant banded was a telegraph. that had met my first attempt to walk under Martian conditions.

my body servant, handed me a telegram.

Tearing it open, I read:

Meet me tomorrow hetel—Richmond. The lesser attraction of this smaller planet and the reduced air pressure of its greatly rarified atmosphere afforded so little resistance to my earthly muscles that the ordinary exertion of the mere act of rising sent me several feet into the air and precipitated me upon my face in the soft and brilliant grass of this strange world. Early the next morning I took the first train for Richmond, and within two hours was being ushered into the room occupied by John Carter.

As I entered, he rose to greet me, his old-time smile of welcome lighting his habdsome face. Apparently he had not aged a minute, but was still the straight. clean-limbed fighting man of 20.

This experience, however, gave me some slightly increased assurance that, after all. I might indeed be in some, to me, unknown corner of Mars, and this was very possible, since during my ten years' residence upon the planet I had explored but a comparatively tiny area of its vast expanse.

"Well, nephew," he greeted me, "do you feel as though you were seeing a ghost, or suffering from the effects of too many of

the art of attuning my earthly sinews to these changed conditions.

As I walked slowly down the impercep-tible slope toward the sea I could not help but note the parkilke appearance of the Uncle Ben's juleps?"
"Juleps, I reckon," I replied, "for I certainly feel mighty good. But maybe it's Just the sight of your again that altered me.
You have been back to Mars? Tell me.
And Dejah Thoris? You found her well the sight of your again that affects me. sward and trees.

sward and trees.

The grass was as close-cropped and carpetilike as some old English lawn, and the trees themselves showed evidence of careful pruning to a uniform height of about 15 feet, so that as one turned his glance in any direction the forest had the appearance at a little distance of a vast, high-ceiled chamber. and awaiting you?"
"Yes, I have been to Barsoom again. res. I have been to Barsoom again, and—but it's a long story, too long to tell in the limited time I have before I must return. I have learned the secret, nephew, and I may traverse the trackless void at my

ance at a little distance of a vast, light celled chamber.

All these evidences of careful and systematic cultivation convinced me that I had been fortunate enough to make my enter the savent occasion. will, coming and going between the count-less planets as I wish. But my heart is always in Barsoom, and I doubt that I shall ever again leave the dying world that holds

had been fortunate enough to make my en-try into Mars on this second occasion through the domain of a civilized people, and that when I should flod them I would be accorded the gourtesy and protection that my rank as a prince of the house of Tardos Mors entitled me to. The trees of the forest attracted my deep admiration as I proceeded toward the sea Their great trunks, some of them fully 100 feet in diameter, attracted their predictions my dearest memories
"I have come now because my affection
for you prompted me to see you once more
before you pass over forever into that other
life that I shall never know, and which,
though I have died thrice and shall die
again tonight, as you know death, I am as
unable to fathom as are you.
"Even the wise and mysterious therms Their great trunks, some or them rules feet in diameter, attested their prodigious feet in diameter, attested their prodigious

"Even the wise and mysterious therns of Barsoom, that ancient cult which for countless ages has been credited with holding the secret of life and deash in their impregnable fastness upon the hither slopes of the mountains of Otz, are as ignorant as we. height, which I could only guess at since at no point could I penetrate their dense foliage above me to more than 50 or 89 feet. pregnable fastness upon the hither alopes of the mountains of Otz, are as ignorant as we.

"I have proved it, though I nearly lost my life in the doing of it. But you shall read it all in the notes I have been making during the last three months that I have been bask upon earth."

He patted a swelling portfolio that lay on the table at his elbow.
"I know that you are interested and that you believe, and I know that the world, too, is interested, though they will not believe for many years; yes, for many ages, since they cannot understand. Earth men have not yet progressed to a point where they can comprehend the things that I have written in these notes.
"Give them what you wish of it, what you think will not harm them; but do not feel saurieved if they laugh at you."

That night I walked down to the cemetery with him. At the door of his vault he turned and pressed my hand.
"Good-by, nephew," he said. "I may never see you again."

He entered the vault. The great door swung aloudy to. The ponderous beliz grated into place. The look elicked.

I have mover seen Captain John Carter, of Virginia. So far aloft as I could see, the sten and branches and twigs were as smooth and as highly polished as the newest of Ameri-can-made planos. The wood of some of the

trees was as black as ebony, while their nearest neighbors might perhaps gleam in the subdued light of the forest as clear and white as the finest china, or, again, they were axure, scarlet, yellow, or deepest purpie.

And in the same way was the foliage as gay and variegated as the trunks, while the blossoms that clustered thick upon them may not be described in any earthly tongue.

and indeed might challenge the language of

and indeed might challenge the language of the gods.

As I neared the confines of the forest I beheld before me and between the grove and the open sea a broad expanse of meadow land, and as I was about to emerge from the shadows of the trees a sight met my eyes that banished all romantic and postic reflection.

I have nover seen Captain John Carter, of Virginia, since.

But have in the story of his return to stare on that other occasion, as I have jouned it from the great mass of notes which his left for me upon the table of his room in the hotel at Richmond.

There is much which I have left out; much which I have not dared to tell; but you will find the story of his second search for Liejah Thoris, Princess of Halium, even more remurkable than was his first manuscript, which I gave to an unbelieving world a short time since, and through which we followed the fighting Virginian under the mostle of Mare.

from the shadows of the trees a sight met my eyes that banished all romantic and poetic reflection.

To my left the sea extended as far as the eye could reach, before me only a vague, dim line indicated its farther shore; while at my right a mighty river, broad placid and malestic, flowed between scarlet banks to empty into the quiet sea before me.

At a little distance up the river rose mighty, perpendicular bluffs, from the very base of which the great river seemed to rise. But it was not the grandeur that took my immediate attention from the beauties of the forest. It was the sight of a score of figures moving slowly about the meadow near the bank of the mighty river. Odd, grotesque shapes they were unlike anything that I had ever seen upon Mara, and yet, at a distance, most manlike in appearance. The larger specimens appeared to be about 10 or 12 feet in height when they stood erect, and to be proportioned as is earthly man.

to forse and lower extremities precisely as is earthly man. Their arms, however, were very short, and from where I stood seemed as though fashloned much after the manner of an elophant's trunk, in that they moved in since and smakelike undulations, as though entirely without bony structure, or if there were bones, they must be vertebral in

knew whether to fear them or not, for they did not seem to be particularly well equipped for fighting.

As I watched them from behind the trunk of a huge tree, one of the quatures moved signify in my direction, sugaged in the occupation that seemed to be the principal business of each of than, and which consisted in running their oddly shaped hands over the zerface of the sward for what purpose I could not descrute.

As he approached quite these to me, I officient an approached quite them of him, and though I was interested to be the and though I was interested an excitent view of him, and though I was interested to be him, and though I was interested to be the series of the sward for series and reserved as I was my end through I was interested to be the series and horising well be to be particularly well equipped for fighting.

I was in fact, on the point of stepping from my hiding place and vevaling myself to like it is now that it is now in the control of the series of the sward for the point of the p





"In that instant the green warrior rose to the occasion, and springing to my side lay to the right and left of him."

sufficient to my desires had I been a free agent.

The fastest flier of the Heliumetic navy could not quickly enough have carried me far from this hideous creature.

Its hairless body was of a strange and ghoulish blue, except for a broad band of white which encircled its protruding, single eye; an eye that was all dead white

pupil, iris and ball. Its nose was a ragged, inflamed, circular

hole in the centre of its blank face; a hole that resembled more closely nothing that I could think of other than a fresh bullet wound which has not yet commenced to bleed. Below this repulsive orifice the face was

quite blank to the chin, for the thing had no mouth that I could discover.

The head, with the exception of the face, was covered by a tangled mass of jet black hair some 8 or 10 inches in length. Each hair was about the bigness of a targe angleworm, and as the thing moved the muscles of its scalp this awful head-covering seemed to writhe and wriggle and crawl about the fearsome face. and crawl about the fearsome face as though indeed each separate hair was en-dowed with independent life.

The body and legs were as symmetrically them, and the feet, too, were human in shape, but of monstrous proportions. From heel to toe they were fully three feet long, and very flat and very broad.

As it came quite close to me I discovered

that its strange movements, running its odd hands over the surface of the turf, were the result of its peculiar method of feeding, which consists in cropping off the tender vegetation with its razorlike talons and sucking it up from its two mouths, which lie one in the palm of each hand, through its armlike throats. In addition to the features which I have

already described, the beast was equipped with a massive tall about six feet in length, quite round where it joined the body, but tapering to a fat, thin blade toward the, end, which trailed at right angles to the

ground.

By far the most remarkable feature of this most remarkable creature, however, were the two tiny replicas of it, each about six inches in length, which dangled, one on either side, from its armpits. They were suspended by a small stem, which seemed to grow from the exact tops of their heads to where it connected them with the body

of the adult.

Whather they were the young, or merely portions of a composite creature, I did not

Whather they were the young, or merely portions of a composite creature. I did not know.

As I had been scrutinising this weird the monstrosity the balance of the herd had treed quite close to me, and I now saw that while many had the smaller specimens with the construction of the mittle cones varied in size from what appeared it to be but tiny, unopened buds an inch in the distriction of the full-fields and perfectly he formed creature of 10 to 12 inches in length.

Feeding with the herd were many of the little fellows not much larger than those which remained attached to their parents, and from the young of that size the herd graded up to the immense adults.

Fearsoms looking as they were. I did not know whether to fear them or not, for they did not seem to be particularly well equipped for fighting.

I was in fact, on the point of stepning from my hiding place and revealing myself to incm to not the effect upon them of the aight of a man, when my rash resolve was, fortunately for me, nipped in the bluffs as my right.

Next and marketing wall which assumed to come from the direction of the bluffs as my right.

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of the herd turned in the direction of the effective, and by sound, and at the same instant every par-ticular snakelike hair upon their heads rose atiffly perpendicular, as if each had been a sentient organism looking or listening for the source or meaning of the wail.

And indeed the latter proved to be the truth, for this strange growth upon the craniums of the plant-men of Barsoom regressents the thousand ears of these hideous creatures, the last remnant of the strange race which sprung from the original Tree

Instantly every eye turned toward one member of the herd, a large fellow who evidently was the leader. A strange pur-ring sound issued from the mouth in the paim of one of his hands, and at the same ne he started rapidly toward the bluff, llowed by the entire herd.

Their speed and method of locomotion were both remarkable, springing as they did in great leaps of 20 or 30 feet, much after the manner of a kangaroo.

They were rapidly disappearing when it curred to me to follow them, and so, hurl ing caution to the winds, I sprang across the meadow in their wake with leaps and bounds even more prodigious than their own, for the muscles of an athletic earthman produce remarkable results when pitted against the lesser gravity and air pressure

Their way led directly toward the apparent source of the river at the base of the cliffs, and as I neared this point I found the meadow dotted with huge boulders disjudged from the towering crass above.

For this reason I came quite close to the cause of the disturbance before the scene

broke upon my horrified gaze.

As I topped a great boulder I caw the herd of plant-men surrounding a little group of perhaps five or six green men and women of Barsoom.

That I was indeed upon Mars I now had no doubt, for here were members of the wild herdes that people the dead seabottoms and deserted cities of that dying

planet.

Here were the great males towering in all the majests of their imposing height; here were the gleaming white tusks protruding from their massive lower laws to a point near the centre of their foreheads; the laterally placed, protruding eyes with which they could look forward or backward, with a without surface without turning. or to either side, without turning their heads; here the strange antennaelike ears rising from the tops of their foreheads; and the additional pair of arms extending from midway between the shoulders and the hime.

Even without the glossy green hide and the metal ornaments which denoted the tribes to which they belonged I would have known them on the instant for what they were, for where else in all the universe is their like duplimated?

were, for where else in all the universe is their like duplicated?

There were two men and four females in the party, and their ornaments denoted them as members of different hordes.

The fact pussied me, since the various hordes of green men of Baracon are eternally at war with one another, and never had I seen green blartians of different hordes associated in other than mortal combat, save on that historie instance when the great Tark Tarkas of Thark gathered a hundred and fifty thousand green warriors from sevessal hordes to march upon the decemed city of Zodanga and rescue Dejah Thoris. Prinches of Hellum, from the clutches of Than Kosis.

But now thay stood back to back, facing is wide-syed ameisment the erry evidently heatils demonstrations of a common enemy.

Both men and women were armed with longswords and despera, but no firearms were in evidence, clas it had been short shrift for the grassions plant-may of Bar-Presently the leader of the plant-men

quainted with his kind, I may say that that at the hands of these cruel creatures, but charged the little party, and his method springing to my side, lay to the right and the more potent, since in the science of the green warrriors there was no defense for this singular manner of attack.

The plant-man charged to within a dozen

The plant-man charged to within a dozen feet of the party, and then, with a bound, rose as though to pass directly above their heads. His powerful tail was saised high to one side, and as he passed close above them he brought it down in one terrific sweep that crushed a green warrior's skull as though it had been an eggshell.

The remainder of the frightful herd was now circling rapidly and with bewildering speed about the little knot of victims. Their prodigious bounds and the shrill screech-ing pur of their uncanny mouths were well calculated to confuse and terrorize their prey, so that as two of them leaped simultaneously from either side the mighty aweep of those awful tails met with no resistance, and two more green Martians went down to an ignoble death.

There were now but one warrior and two females left, and it seemed that it could be but a matter of seconds are these also lay dead upon the sward.

lay dead upon the sward.

But as two more of the plant-men charged, the warrior, who was now prepared by the experiences of the last few minutes, swung his mighty longsword aloft and met the hurtling bulk with a clean cut that clove one of the plant-men from the chart however, dealt a single blow with his cruel tail that laid both of the

The other, however, dealt a single blow with his cruel tail that laid both of the females crushed corpes upon the ground.

As the green warrier saw the last of his companions go down, and at the same time perceived that the entire herd was charging him in a body, he rushed boldly to meet them, swinging his longsword in the terrifle manner that I had so often seen the men of his kind wield it in their ferocious and almost continual warfare among their own race.

Cutting and hewing to right and left, he

Cutting and hewing to right and left, he cutting and newing to right and left, he haid an open path straight through the advancing plant-men, and then commenced a mad race for the forest, in the shelter of which he evidently hoped he might find

a haven of refuge.

He had turned for that portion of the forest which abutted on the cliffs, and thus the flight was taking the entire party further and further from the boulder where

I lay concealed.

As I had watched the fight which the great warrior had made against such odds, my heart had swelled for him, and acting as I am wont to do, more lines to the lines of th

great warrior had made against such odds, my heart had swelled for him, and acting as I am wont to do, more upon impulse than after maiure deliberation. I sprang from my sheltering rock and bounded quickly toward the bodies of the dead green Martians, a well-defined plan of action already formed.

Half a dozen great leaps brought me to the spot, and another instant saw me again in my stride in rapid pursuit of the hideous monsters that were rapidly gaining on the fleeing warrior.

But this time I granged a mighty long-sword in my hand, and in my heart was the old blood lust of the fighting man.

A red mist swam before my eyes and I felt my lips respond to my heart in the old soulie that has marked me in the midst of the joy of battle.

Though swift, I was none too scon, for the green warrior had been overtaken before he made half the distance to the forest and now he stood with his back to a boulder, while the herd temporarily balked, hissed and screenhed about their prey, they did not note my soundtess approach, so that if was upon them with my great longitured, and fours of them hand and every eye turned upon their prey, they did not note my soundtess approach, so that if was among than.

For an invitant they recoiled before my

mong them.

For all instant they recoiled before my serific enclosight and in that instant the serific encloses rose to the estacion, and

warrior do. With circling strokes that formed a figure eight about him, he did not stop until none stood living to oppose alm, his keen blade passing through flesh im, his keen blade passing through alike and bone as though each had been, alike

thin air. As we bent to the slaughter, far above us rose that shrill, weird cry which I had heard once before, and which had called the herd to the attack upon their victims. Again and again it rose, but we were too much engaged with the fierce, powerful creatures about us to attempt to search out even with our eyes the author of the

harrid notes. Great tails lashed in frenzied anger about us, razerlike talons cut our limbs and bodies, and a green and sticky sirup, such as oozes from a crushed caterpillar, smeared us from head to foot, for every cut and thrust of our longswords brought spurts of this stuff upon us from the sovered arteries of the plant men, through which it courses in its sluggish viscidity in

lieu of blood. Once I felt the great weight of one of the monsters upon my back, and as keen talons sank into my fleah I experienced the frightful sensation of moist lips sucking the blood from the wounds to which the daws still clung.

I was very much engaged with a ferocious fellow who was endeavoring to reach my throat from in front, while two more, one on either side, were lashing viciously at me with their tails.

with their tails.

The green warrior was much put to it to hold his own, and I felt that the unequial struggle could last but a moment fonger when the huge fellow discovered my plight, and tearing himself from those that surrounded him, he raked the assailant from my back with a sweep of his blade, and thus relieved I had little difficulty with the others.

Once together we stood almost back to back against the great boulder, and thusthe creatures were prevented from soaring above us to deliver their deadly blows. As we were easily their match while they remained upon the ground, we were making great headway in dispatching what remained of them when our attention was again attracted by the shrill wail of the caller above our heads.

This time I glanced up, and far above us upon a little natural balcony on the face of the cliff stood a strange figure of a man shricking but his shrill signal, while he waved a hand in the direction of the river's mouth, as though beckening to some one there. With the other he pointed and gestioulated toward us.

A glance in the direction toward which he was locking was sufficient to apprise me of his alms, and at the same time to fill me with the dread of dire apprehension.

Streaming in from all directions across the meadow, from out of the forest and from the far distance of the flat land across the river. I could see converging upon its a hundred different lines of wildly learing creatures such as we were now engaged with and with them some strange neadow, with and with them some strange against the river. Once together we stood almost back to back against the great boulder, and thus the creatures were prevented from soaring above us to deliver their deadly blows. As we were easily their match while they resmained upon the ground, we were making great headway, in dispatching what remained of them when our attention was again attracted by the chrill wall of the caller above our heads.

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Streaming in from all directions across the river. I could see converging upon us a hondred different lities of wildly learning from the far distance of the flat land across the river. I could see converging upon us a hondred different lities of wildly learning creatures such as we were now eliganced with, and with them some strange new ministers which ram with great swiftness, new creet and now upon all fours.

"If will be a great death," I said to my companion "Look"

As he sitot a quick glance in the direction i indicate he smiled.

"We may at least die fighting and as great warriors should, John Carter," he rolled.

"We had just finished the last of our turned as such as were presented as the spoke, and I turned its surprised wondermant at the soules of my name.

And these before my autonished wyns I behold the greatest of the greate distribution of the presented wondermant at the soules of my name.

And the strong of my name.

And the strong of a flat and across the flat is greated of the greated of the greated of the flat is flat to my case it was known of the provision of the greated of the greated of the flat is flat to my companies." It will be a grea

real warriers about the last of our spiled.

We had just flutched the last of our immediate antagonists as he spoke, and furned in surprised wonderment at the sound of my name.

And there before my automisted eyes I beheld the greatest of the great men of Barsson—their abrewdent utatemen. their nightless general—my great and good the great great and good their their spiless of Thick.

CHAPTER II A Forest Battle

TIARS TARKAS and I found no time for an exchange of experiences as we stold there before the great boulder, surrounded by the corpses of our grotesque assallanta. From all directions down the broad valler was streaming a perfect torrent of terrifying creatures in response to the weird tan of the strange figure far above us.

"Come," cried Tars Tarkas, "we muse make for the cliffs. There lies our only hope of even temporary escape. There we may find a cave or a narrow ledge which two may defend forever against this mosley, unarmed horde."

Together we raced across the scarled sward, I timing my speed that I might not outdistance my slower companion. We hat perhaps, 300 yards to cover between our boulder and the cliffs, and then to search out a suitable shelter for our stand against the territying things that ware nursiles as the terrifying things that were pursuing us

They were rapidly overhauling us when Tars Tarkas cried to me to hasten ahead and discover, if possible, the sanctuary we and discover, if possible, the sanctuary as sought. The suggestion was a good on, for thus many valuable minutes might be saved to us, and, throwing every ounce of my earthly muscles into the effort, I cleared the remaining distance between myself and the cliffs in great leaps that put me at their base in a moment.

The cliffs rose perpendicularly directly from the almost level sward of the valley. There was no accumulation of fallen debria forming a more of less rough ascent to these as is the case with nearly all other cliffs ! have ever seen.

The scattering boulders that had faller from above and lay upon or partly buried in the turf were the only indication that any disintegration of the massive, towering pile of rocks ever had taken place.

My first cursory inspection of the face of the cliffs filled my heart with forebodings, since nowhere could I discern, except where the weird herald stood still shrieking his shrill summons, the faintest indication of even a bare foothold upon the lofty escarpment.

ment.

To my right the bottom of the cliff was lost in the dense foliage of the forest which terminated at its very foot, rearing its gorgeous plumage hundreds of feet against its stern and forbidding neighbor.

To the left the cliff ran, apparently unbroken, across the head of the bread valley, to be lost in the outlines of what appeared to be a range of mighty mountains that skirted and confined the valley in every direction.

Perhaps a thousand feet from me the river broke, as it seemed, directly from the base of the chiffs and as there seemed not

direction, I turned my attention again to ward the forest.

The cliffs towered above me a good for

thousand feet. The sun was not quite upon them and they loomed a dull yellow in ther own shade. Here and there they were broken with streaks and patches of dudy red, green and occasional areas of with

Altogether, they were very beautiful, but I fear that I did not regard them with

first inspection of them.

Just then I was absorbed in them csly as a medium of escape, and so as my rase ran quickly, time and again, over their was expanse in search of some cramy of crevice I came suddenly to loaths then as the prisoner must loathe the walls of his dungeon.

Tars Tarkas was approaching me rapidly, and still more rapidly came the awful ports at his heels.

It seemed the forest now or nothing and I was just on the point of motioning Tars Tarkas to follow me in that direction when the sun passed the cliff's sanith, and as the bright rays touched the dull surface. as the bright rays louched the dull surface it burst out into a million scintillant light of burnished gold, of flaming red, of esf green, and gleaming whites—a more greeous and inspiring spectacle human synhas never rested upon.

The face of the entire cliff was, as later inspection considerable proved as shall yet.

has never rested upon.

The face of the entire cliff was, as later inspection conclusively proved, so shot with veins and patches of solid gold as to five ment the appearance of a solid wall of the metal except where it was broken by other oppings of ruby, emerald and diamond boulders—an alluring indication of the rad and unruessable riches which lay deeply buried behind this magnificant surface.

But what caught my most interested attention at the moment that the sun's ray set the cliff face ashimmer was the several black spots which now appeared quite plainly in evidence high across the gorge wall close to the ferest's top and extending apparently below and behind the branches. Almost immediately I recognized the for what they were, the dark openings of caves entering the solid walls—possible are nues of escape or, temporary shelter could we but reach them.

There was but a single way, and the led through the mighty, towering freey upour right. That I could scale them I know full well, but Tars Tarkak, with his mighty butk and enormous weight, would find a task possibly quite beyond his provess this skill.

Marrians are at best but poor climbers.

(Continued in Monday's Evening Ledger)