H. Rider Hassard

of a baron of that name.

I had heard a good deal about Lord Rag-nail, who, according to all accounts, seemed a kind of Admirable Crichton. He was said to be wonderfully handsome, a great acheiar to be wonderfully handsome, a great scholar —he had taken a double first at college; a great athlete—he had been captain of the Oxford beat in the university race; a very promising speaker, who had already made his mark in the House of Lords; a sportsman, who had shot tigers and other large game in India; a poet who had published a successful volume of verse under a pseudonym; a good soldier until he left the arreice; and lastly, a man of enormous pseudonym; a good satty, a man of enormous service; and, lastly, a man of enormous wealth, owning, in addition to his estates, several coal mines and an entire town in the

morth of England.
"Dear me!" I said when the list was finished. "he seems to have been born with a
whole case of gold spoons in his mouth. I
hope one of them will not choke him," adding, "Perhaps he will be unlucky in love."

ing, "Perhaps he will be untucky in love."
"That's just where he is most lucky of sil," answered the young lady to whom I was talking—it was Scroope's fiance. Miss Manners—"for he is engaged to a lady that,

might be.
"That, sir," he replied with a kind of haughty reserve, "is the portrait of her future ladyship, which his lordship keeps for his private heye."

Mass Manners salignered, and I said:
"On thank you. What an ill-omened kind of thing to do!"

Then, observing through an open door the half in which my hat had been taken from Then, observing through an open door the hall in which my hat had been taken from me, I lingered, and as the others vanished in the little gallery, slipped into it, recovered my belongings, and reased out to the green, purposing to walk there till I was warm again and Scroope reaspeared. While I marrebed up and down a terrace, on which I remember, several very cold-looking peacerix were seated, like conscioulous birght that knew it was their duly to be ornamental, nowever low the temperature, I beard some slate fired, apparently in a clump of liex caks which grew about five hundred yards away, and reflected to myself that they managed to be those of a mill life not of a shotgun.

My curiosity being excited as to what was to me an almost professional matter. I walked toward the grove, making a circuit through a shrubbery, at length I found myself near to glas edge of a giade and perceived, standing behind the shelter of a passificent liex, two men. One of these is a young keeper, and the abelier of a passificent liex, two men. One of these is a young keeper, and the abelier of the seculations of full supermous he can be a seculation of the standard beautiful.

Beginnia though a stronger of the more pigeons come, and Mr. Charles will make some that be loads to its simple to undeceive you."

At this moment, however, a loud shout from Scroope, whe was looking for me refused by a shrill cry uttered by Miss Manners, busined every pigeon within half Manners, busined every pigeon within half and the refused to my a shrill cry uttered by Miss wards.

"I think my friends are calling me, so I will be you good murning." I said only in the contraction of the standard of a first ask your name? Miss is Ragonille of the province of the standard of the standard

Author of "Marle," "Kine Salomon's Mines," "Sho," etc.

CHAPTER I

Allan Gives a Shooling Lesson

Now I, Allan Quatermain, come to the story of what was, perhaps, one of the strangest of all the adventures which have befallen me in the course of a life that so far can scarcely be called tain of hundrum.

Among mary other threat t tells of the decident of the decid

off my greatcoat.

off my greatecat.

He handed it to me with a bow.

"Mind what you are about," growled Charles. "That there thing is full cooked and 'air-triggered."

I withered, or, rather, tried to wither him with a glance, but this unowlecking keeper only stared back at the with insolence in his round and birdlike even. Never before had I felt quite so angry with a menial. Then a harrible dusts struck me. Supposing I should miss! I know very little of the manner of dight of linglish wood regeons, which are not difficult to miss with a bullet, and nothing at all of these particular rifles, though a glance showed me that they were exquisite weatons of their sort and by a great maker, if I muffed the thing now, how should I seems to have been born with a of gold species in his mouth. I of them will not choke him, "adding the will be unlucky in love."

Just where he is most lucky of ered the young lady to whom I grid the young lady to whom I grid the young lady to whom I grid the seems of his notice menter? Almost I prayed that no mace pigeons would put in appearance, and thus that the issue of my supposed skill might be left in doubt.

But this was not to be. These birds is the loveliest, sweetest, cloverall England, and they absolutely to other."

The second of their favorite food, and the fact that others had been scared away did not cause them in cesses from coming. Precently I

I am told, is the loveliest, sweetest, cloverest girl in all England, and they absolutely adore each other."

"Dear mo!" I repeated. "I wonder what Fate has you up its sleave for Lord Ragnall and his perfect lady love."

I was doomed to find out one day.

I was doomed to find out one day.

So it came about that when, on the following morning. I was asked if I would like the year to love a Lord Ragnall castle, I amount to have a look at Lord Ragnall himself, if possible, for the account of his many perfections had impressed the imagination of a poor colonist like myself, who had never feetions had impressed the imagination of a poor colonist like myself, who had never found an opportunity of acting his year upon a kind of human angel. Human devils I had not lin plenty, but never a single single state of the still more angelic liedy to whom he was engaged, whose name. I make a gillmess of the still more angelic liedy to whom he was engaged, whose name. I make a gillmess of the still more angelic liedy to whom he was engaged, whose name. I make devise the nearest, gut on to it, allowing that tothing would please me into that took that Lord Ragnall, whom he knew for sea the castle.

Thither we drove accordingly through the first footsy air, for the month was the sense. So we went in the park, but the castle Mr. Scroope was to be married very shortly, lind driven he over in her poory carriage. The porter at the gateway towers took us to the man door of the castle and handled he was his lordship's personal attendant.

He conducted us round the castle, and handled he man door of the castle and handled had to handled the man door of the castle and handled had to have the castle and handled handled to what the conducted us round the assist, or the man door of the castle and handled handled handled to the man door of the castle and handled handled to the man door of the castle and handled handle

his lordship's personal attendant.

He conducted us round the mastle, or, rather, its more public rooms, showing us many trensures and, I should think, at least two hundred pletures by eminent and departed artists, which are personal that which gave him an opportunity of exhibiting a peculiar, if somewhat erratic, knowledge of history.

At length we took a short cut from the large to the light gallery through a warmed and confertable room, which I understood was Lord Hagnail's study. Halting for a moment by one of the first. I observed a picture on the wall, over which a curtain was drawn, and asked Mr. Savage what it might be.

"Young man," I should than it me open-mouthed, "you should learn to be careful with pilles, which as showed it is into included, it shows that you are capable of anything.

"Then I turned, and addressing Lord Ragnail added!" I must apolegize for that third shot of mine, which was infamous, for I committed a similar fault to that against which it warned you, are, and did not fire far enough absed. However, it may serve to show your attendant the difference between the tail of a pigeon and an oak leaf, and I pointed to one of the feathers of the poor bird, which was still drifting to the enough ahead. However, it may serve to show your attendant the difference between the tail of a pigeon and an oak leaf, and I pointed to one of the feathers of the poor bird, which was still drifting to the

the devil in boots!" exclaimed Charles to

was very sane, indeed.

While in this country I stayed for a few days with Scroope, or, rather, with his confounded little rifles. But if you could demonstrate in practice what you so kindly set and her people, at a fine house in Essex. During my visit I was taken to Essex. During my visit I was taken to Essex a much finer place, a spiendid old set out in precept, the value of your set out in precept, the value of your active with brick gateway towers that cantle with brick gateway towers that turned into a most luxurious modern dwell-ing house. Let us call it Ragnall, the seat ing house, the usual propose.

This he spoke, minnisting, I have no doubt (for he had a sense of homor), the manner of my address, which nervousness had made zonewhat pompous, an ample, sed to my mind, rather awain looking person clad in black sain sile was destined to be the leader.

Presently the large door at the rounded little rifles, but if you could demonstrate in practice what you so kindly set out in precept, the value of your set out in precept, the value of y

a blemish, is her perfect person, and that was a curious white mark upon her breast, which in its shale, exactly resembled the creecept modu.

The face, however, impressed me with other than its physical qualities, it was bright, intelligent, sympathetic and, just now, happy. But I thought it move, flowinght it mystlest. Something that her mother said to her, probably about her dress closed her smile to vanish for a moment, and then, from beneath it as it were, appeared this shadow of innate mystlesim. It a second it was possessed in a transitional in a second to was present the said were appeared this country. But I who am accustomed to observe, had caught it, perhaps alone of all that company. Moreover, it reminded me of something.

What was it? All I knew. A hook that simethines I had seen upon the face of a certain Zain lady named Mameena, especially at the moment of her wounderful and tragic death. The thought made me shiver a little? I could not tell why, for certainty, I reflected this high-placed and fortunate Engines girl had myshing in common with that farts driven thail of Sterm whose dirk and imperial spirit dwell in the woman called Maneena. They were as far apart is Zubiland is from Essex. Yet I was gille ware that both of them had touch with hidden things.

Lard Hagmall, looking more like a sillend Vardyke than ever in the evening dress, stopped forward to greet his fastere and remains with a courtly how. Freenilly

compost forward to greet his finance and or matter with a courtly how. Presently was pware of a soft value a tory juck out thrilling tolde asking quite close to

-Which is he? till, you need not answer, "Which is he?" (the you need not allower, dear! I know him from the description."

"Yes," replied Lord Hagmai to Miss Holmes—for it was abse—you are quite eight. I will introduce you to him hreatly But hive whom do you wish to take you in to disner? I can't—your mother, you know; and as there are no titles here mingle, you may make your choice. Would you like aid lioctor Jeffreys, the clergy-

Ton' she replied with quiet firmness, now him; he took me in once before. I I Mr. Alian Quatermain to take me in te is interesting, and I want to hear about

more interesting than all the rest put to-gether. But, Laim, why are you always thinking and talking about Africa" one might imagine that you were going to live No I may one day." she answered dream-

. Who knows where one has lived, or here one will live! And again I naw, at mouth hote come into her face. I heard he mure of that conversation it is improbable that any one whose which it is improbable that any one whose ears had not been sharpened by a lifetime of listantog in great allences would have caught at all. To test the truth, I made my-self exarcs slipping off to the other and one sky and see nothing. Mr. Quatermain work in the hig room in the hope of evading the kind intentions of Miss Holmes. I have a great dislike of being put out of my place, and I felt that among all these local culebrities it was not fitting that I should be selected to take it the future bride on an eccasion of this sort. But it was of no use, for presently Lord Itaguall hunted ms up bringing the young lady with him.

"Let me introduce you to Miss Holmes, Quatermain." he said. "She is anxious thin, you should take her in to dinner, if you will be so kind. She is very interested into the control of the greatest hunters in Africa." I suggested.

"Africa." I suggested.

I bowed not how in wat to say Lord larged and veniched leaving us grave to fine an evenic and the played and veniched leaving us grave to fine an evenic and the played with the guiden satisficial in the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guiden satisfied as into of the played with the guident satisfied and even here and the hour players of a four and fifteering proceeding across the central ball for the bandward of the broad vibration of the played the played to the bandward of the broad vibration of the played to the played the played to the pl

The the door in the cold-finationed matter, in verticated and asked me if I played cards, or whether I preferred intelle. I was assuring him that I hated the night of a card when Mr. Savage appeared in his wifert was and respectfully inquired of his lord-city whether any gentieman was staying in the noise whose Christian name was Hole-compositionary Lord Eagmail looked at him with a searching eye as though he respected him of heing armik, and then are all the properties of the present he such a ridiculous

me. The message may be meant issuent I can't conceive who sent My nutive name is Macsimazana, which orderly "that i go to see these ment or wouldn't do that in this cold. Quater-Lord Enginell answered. "Did they

any more. Savine, no and tell your friends that he would be and tell your friends that Mr. Here-come-u-ziny is our for account the drawing room, and the columns, would like to see nome are release.

avalo lawed and departed like a hero

"No doubt ther are festion luggiers," said there Hagmail "shot will want a place to great their mange tree, as I remember see-ing them do in Kasharit."

As he stocke the deer opened and Mr. Saxare offerers through 1s, walking much faster than was its word, I reded also that as graped the possets of his swallow-tall may firstly in his local. "Mr. Eurostrad and Mr. Mare-root," he

"Hars reat and Mare-root!" repeated Lord There and Morat, I expect," I said. "I find I have read somewhere that they were street many came, a mose names these construct many taken." (Since then I have discovered in the case, and they in the case, and they in the

is that they are mentioned in the

reserved that they are mentioned in the reserved later two man political and tourisers later two man political and the again the discrete and the again the discrete and particular and the again the discrete and the again a hasked manath the shorter and tather stool, are much control the had a gental shaded manath touriser the had a gental shading face and the case black even and was cleaned with a mark black even and was cleaned with a later black even and was cleaned with a later black even and was cleaned with the later was about their whole aspect a critical air of power. Instantist I remembered the story that the blacked at her coverity, to see that she had bound daths a later and taken and was frembling a little. I do not think that any one cleaned the strangers. Moreover, as all were staring at the strangers. Moreover, she recovered investif to a manuel, and catching my eye, and her finger on her lip in taken or silence. The men were clothed in thick further county, laid upon the floor, standing reversion in robes of a beautiful whiteness and in large plain turbane, thought I to

and in large plain turbans, also white.
"High-class Somail Araba," thought I to
myself, nailing the while that as they orranged the robes they were taking in every
one of us with their quick eyes. One of
them shut the door, leaving Savage on this one of us with their quick eyes. One of them shift the door, leaving Savage on this side of it us though thosy meant him to be present. They they walked toward us, each of these carrying an ornamental baselet made apparently of split reads, that contained doubtless their conjuring outfit and probably the make which Savage had found in his pecket. To my surprise they came straight to use, and having set down the baselets, lifted their hands above their heads as a person about to dive might do, and bowed till the peints of their fingers founded the fluor. Next they spoke not he Arabic, as I had expected that they would but in Earth, which, of course, I understood perfectly well.

"I. Marsit, a priest and doctor of the Paople of the White Kendah, greet you, O Walcher by Night, whom we have traveled far to find," said the younger man. These legister.

"We both greet you () Lord, who seem amail but are great. O Chief with a troubled past and with a mighty future. O Beloved of Mamosna who has 'gone down' but still speaks from beneath, Mamosna who was and to of our company."

CONTINUED IN MONDAY'S Evening & Ledger



I took the censer and held it under my nose. At first these tumes were unpleasant, but just as I was about to drop the howl they seemed to become agreeable and to penetrate to the inmost recesses of my being.

thing going in real, happy, story-book fashoon beauty, male and female, united by love, high rank, wealth, troops of friends, health of body. a lovely and an accept home in a settled kind where dathers do not come at present respect and attention of its core is shut to most penale everything in short that himan beings who are not penale everything in short that himan beings who are not penale everything in short that himan beings who are not penale everything in short that himan beings who are not penale everything in short that himan beings who are not penaled of acceptance of the could desire of champages of the missay that is in the word which of the missay that is in the word which formed as great a cultival to the sof this striking and brilliant pair.

She istened to me attentively and any striking and brilliant pair.

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She istened to me attentively and any striking and principle and striking and brilliant pair.

She istened to me attentively and any striking and principle and stri She listened to me attentively and an-

erman's you for your kind thoughts and wishes. But does it not arrise you. Mr. Quarermain, that there is something lif-omened in such take? I believe that it does. omered in such taker I believe that if does, that us you finded speaking it occurred to you that after all the future is as much valied from all of us at as the picture which brance beaued its surpain of rescoured with in Lord Braguait's study is from

you."
"How do you know that?" I asked sharply in a tow voice. For by the strangest of coincidences, as I concluded my somewhat old-fashioned little spaceh of compliments, this very infection had entered my mind. and with it the memory of the veiled picture which Mr. Savage had pointed out to me on

the previous morning.
"I can't say. Mr. Quatermain, but I did know it. You were thinking of the picture. were you not?"
And if I was, I said avoiding a direct
reply what of it? Though it is hinden
from everybody else, he has only to draw

"I rather think your maker would be right-about the doctor, I mean." I said. "You say that, but you don't believe it

"You say that, but you don't brileys it on you are very transparent Mr. Quatermain—at least, to me."

So, hurriedly enough, for these subjects seemed to me unconfortable, even daugerous in a sense. I began to taik of the first thing about Africa that I remembered namely, of the logend of the Holy Flower that was guarded by a huge ape, of which I had heard from a white man who was supposed to be rather mad, who went by the hame of Brother John. Also I tool her that there was something in it, as I had with me a specimen of the flower.

"Oh! show it me." she said.

I replied that I feared I could not, as it was locked away in a safe is London, whither I was returning on the morrow. I promised, however, to send her a life-sized

winther I have returned to send her a life-sized water-color drawing of which I had caused several to be made. She asked me if I were going to book for this flower, and I said that I haped so if I could make the

were going to book for this nower, and I said that I hoped so if I could make the necessary arrangements.

Next she asked me if there chanced to be any other African quests upon which I had set my mind. I emilied that there were several. For instance, I had heard vaguely through Brother John, and indirectly from one or two other sources, of the existence of a certain tribe in East Central Africa—Arabs or semi-Arabs—who were reported to worship a child that always remained a child. This child, I took it, was a dwarf; but as I was interested in native religious customs, which were infinite in their variety. I should much like to find out the truth of the matter.

Talking of Arabs, she broke in, "I will tell you a curious story. Once when I was a little girl, eight or nine years of once—it was just before that sind of awaksning of which I have spoken to you—I was playing in Kensington Gardons, for we lived in London at the time. In the charge of my nurse governess. She was

faint again and when I come to myself the two white-robed men had gone. All the way bone my governess availed me for governing sweets from strampers, seying that if my barents came to know of it. should be supplyed and sent to test (if yourse, I begged her not to test them, and at last she consented for you waite. I take you are the first to whom I have ever mentioned the matter, of which I am sufe the governous nexes breathed a word though after that, whenever we walked in

no gardens, her vousin' stways come to sole after us. In the end I think the married him."
"You believe the sweet was drugged?" She nodued "There was sumething very strange in H. It was a night of two after I had tosted it that I had what had now I called my awakening, and began to think about Africa." "Have you ever seen these men again, Mass Holmes?"

At this moreout I heard tady Langdon say, in a severe voice: "My deer Luna, I am notry to interrout your absorbing conversation, but we are all waiting for you."
So they were, for to my harror I saw that every one was standing up racept our-

gives.

Miss Holmes departed in a hurry, while scroope whispered to my our with a suig-

screening was area to my ear with a saigger:

"I say, Alian, if you carry on take that
with his young lady his lardship will be
growing jesious of you.

"Bont be a foo! I said sharply. But
there was something in his remark for
as Lord flagnall parsed on his way to five
as Lord flagnall parsed on his way to five
sties and with rather a forced smile.

"Well, Quatermain, I hope your dimer
has not been as done as mine, atthough your
appetite seemed so poor."

Then I reflected that I could not rememher having caten a thing since the first
entree. So overcome was I that rejecting
all Scroppe's fattennts at conversation. It
sat silent, drinking port and filling up with

eat silent, drinking port and filling up dates until not bing afterward we went into the drawing room, where I sat down us far from Miss Holmas as possible, and looked at a book of views of Jerusalem. While I was thus engaged, Lord Ragnall.