BY ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE.

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CHAPTER XIII. [Continued.]

The two boats seem to be about flask from one of his pockets. But equal in point of speed, as they continue to keep the same relative distance apart. Perhaps, in a genuine race, with a wind like this, their craft could gain the advantage by "blanketing" the other and cutting off her supply of wind, but this will not pay under present conditions.

Although Joe has made the conditions of the duel, being the challenged party he really leaves the selection of the ground to his rival, having only stipulated that it shall be among the hills that lie above Cairo.

Sandy and Mr. Grimes stand together near the bow of the vessel, listening to the music of the water as her prow cuts through the tide of the Nile like a knife, curling the foamy suds on either side and hurling them

back in rolls. Both of them are duly impressed with all their romantic surroundings, and the war correspondent is jotting down ideas in his mind that will be called upon to supply space in some forthcoming article. At the same time it is evident he has something worry-

ing him. Mr. Grimes is quick to notice such things, as he has made a business of reading faces.

"What's wrong, Sandy?" he asks abruptly, as he removes his cigar to flip the ashes from the end with his dexterous little finger.

"Who said so? How did you know? Hang it, Mr. Grimes, you read men as I would books. You may have buried yourself out in Colorado-you took good care to study human nature."

"Then you confess you are bothered, my boy?" continued the other, stead-

"Well, yes, I've been wondering, You see, we know this baron is a sly schemer?

"Admitted."

"And not to be trusted out of sight." "Ordinarily I should not dare to put my life in his charge. You're right, Sandy."

"Well, we've let him select the spot for the affair. How can we tell but what he may spring some shrewd game on us. Can you promise that yonder dahabeah has not half a dozen hired assassins on board, ready to annihilate us in case the baron feels the necessity?"

Mr. Grimes laughs, and there is a reassurance in his manner that speaks for itself.

"Sandy give over worrying. I believe the strongest proof we can have that the baron means no treachery is lieves himself invincible. Hence it seems a picnic, a walk-over to him." Very true, very true, sir, but yo

must admit there is a chance that-"

take care of the baron, surely we will the sandal trailing behind sunk. be able to look after his friends, be they two in number or a dozen."

with flying colors. My trouble has ground. vanished even as the smoke of this cigar fades into space."

means a cheery friend, a faithful comnot better were he to search the globe

As the daylight grows stronger the moon wanes in power; it is no longer a strife between the two as to which must win, for Luna is already out of the battle.

Cairo is left far behind upon the east bank and, looking back, they can from her numerous domes, although shown his smiling face to those upon the River Nile.

It is a strange spectacle, and one that appeals to the artistic in their me in mind of it. Where could you natures, but all of them are very fa- find a better place to dispose of the miliar with the scene, so that the desert, the pyramids, the city of the four those empty rock tombs? Capital hundred mosques, its queer people and idea! Jove; I'll improve on this subthe storied Nile itself-all these things | ject when I write it up, see if I don't!" do not appear so strange to their eyes as would be the case were they newcomers to the land of Egypt.

Besides, their mission is of such a nature that their thoughts are bound treading on dangerous ground. Mynto stray to it from time to time-when heer Joe, however, does not seem at men are bent on an errand of a deadly all affected, but treats the matter as a character they are not expected to huge joke. laugh and joke as if going to a wed-

"Come back to the cabin, Sandy. I our firearms. Nothing like making der. These hyenas and jackals of the desert strike with amazing quickness when they do show up. Come!"

His words are significant, and his companion has no difficulty in understanding. Together they pass the sailors squatted about on the forward deck, after their usual manner when not at work. These fellows are Arabs, and not the best-looking chaps | can uphold the honor of his flag even Mr. Grimes has set eyes on. He gives at the sword's point." Sandy a nudge, but this wideawake newspaper man has already noted the

"Fine collection of buzzards, eh? Most say the captain has looked far and wide to find a game set. They'd fight, too, I reckon," he whispers.

They find Mynheer Joe lying upon the roof of the cabin, a pillow under his head, which the captain of the boat has brought out, and to all appearances enjoying his eigar.

Together they enter the cabin. Upon the table is seen a quaint flagon and a glass. Mynheer Joe moves toward dahabeah makes a graceful sweep it but he finds the hand of Mr. Grimes and comes about at the point, landing before him.

"Not allowed, my friend. Heaven ed for such cusiness. knows what sort of drug there might | Now it is their turn; the old reis

be in this. If you must steady your nerves-" And he produces a small

Joe shakes his head. "That isn't in my line, sir, though I thank you all the same. I've seldom found a time when my nerves needed strengthening by such artificial means, though I confess that my life was once saved by a small amount of liquor. The fellow drank it who was left to execute me, and got into such a maudlin condition that I easily overpowered him and made my escape. Except as medicine I have no use for the stuff."

A minute later all of them are busily engaged in examining their revolvers, which are found to be in good condi-

"Take charge of mine, Mr. Grimes," remarks Joe, who, of course, cannot be thus burdened when about to enter upon an engagement that will require all his agility.

"With pleasure, sir, and should the occasion arise for using it, I trust you will find that I can make each shot count almost as well as yourself. By the way, Joe, you didn't forget to bring the rubber footholds I borrowed from the professor?"

"Never fear; I have them. The baron will not get his work in through a slip on my part, if I can help it," returns Joe, touching a pocket of his blouse, where a small package of some sort is hidden.

Presently they pass outside again, to find that the sun has arisen and a new day begun. They keep a short distance from the shore in order to catch the full benefit cf the breeze, but every palm stands out in bold relief.

The scene is such as can be gazed upon any day along the lower Nile, and yet one never tires of looking upon it. Numerous sails dot the broad river, some beating down, while many fly before the breeze. A string of camels forming a caravan can be noticed above the bank, doubtless bound for the far-off cities, between which and Cairo quite a trade is carried on in this way.

Here some travelers on donkeys can be seen, making an early start for the pyramids. Now and then slaves are discovered at work with the poles and buckets known as a shedoof, and which primitive method of engineering in the way of lifting water from a lower level is still practiced in the land where they carry on agriculture just as their forefathers did two thousand years back.

An occasional windmill is seen where some house nestles on the bank, his astonishing confidence in himself. but this is generally the property of He has fought duels before and be- foreigners. Upon the river freight cangias are met with, heading to or from Cairo. Those boats which have the fair wind are supposed to keep out of the way of others, but the reis in "Always 'that,' my boy, but you also command of their craft seems to be forget something of interest - our- in something of a daredevel spirit this selves: 'What are we here for?' as a morning. He swings the dahabeah in member from the South asked in a so close to one of the heavier craft Republican convention. If Joe can that he comes within an ace of having

The sun is now almost half an hour high. When will the boats come to "Well spoken, Mr. Grimes. My mind land? Surely there is no need of travis already clear on that point. I be- eling a great distance from old Cairo lieve we will come out of this thing in order to discover a good dueling

Perhaps the baron has a particular spot in view. He may even have been Sandy is himself again, and that a principal in some affair of honor that has culminated in a meeting up rade, one whom Mynheer Joe could the Nile, and his success at that time inspires him to select the same rendezvous again.

Our friends show no impatience, whatever they may feel. Sandy, looking ahead, directs the attention of his comrades to a point.

"Like as not we're aiming for that. I can see rows of tombs in the rocks back of it. Such a place would make see the first shafts of sunlight glinting an admirable spot for the duello. Remember the old stories I've read of the mighty god of day has not yet steamers on the Mississippi stopping to let a couple of passengers fight on some sand-bar, and the spectators burying one of 'em there. This puts unfortunate victim than in one of

Sandy gets no further, as he feels a grip on his arm, and, turning, sees Mr. Grimes making expressive grimaces intended to warn h m that he is

"I think, for my part, I prefer being buried in a modern cemetery, and I authorize you, my friends, in case the think we would be wise to examine worst comes, to see that my poor remains are taken care of. In my pocksure that everything is in working or- et will be found a letter addressed to you, Mr. Grimes, concerning the little matter we were speaking about last night. You can let the person most interested see it. There-I am done. I have made my peace, but I want both of you to understand that it is not Mynheer Joe's intention to drop before the sword of the Russian. I hope to snow him how an American

> Confident words, these, but they express the feelings of the man. It is partly this assurance concerning his own powers that has brought Mynheer Joe safely through numerous deadly perils in the past.

> Fear will never paralyze his arm when face to face with danger, nor ean an antagonist expect to reap any benefit from such a source.

By this time they see that Sandy was not far out of the way when he marked this point as the scene of their expected debarkation. The leading at a rock that seems especially adapt-

himself has charge of the tiller, and gives his order in a foud, shrill voice that strikes the tympanum in a painful way, as though some boy is indulging in the agonizing delirium of beating upon empty pans. The Arab sailors can no longer be termed lazy; they jump around in the liveliest possible manner and carry out the commands of the captain.

Not an inch out of the way, they shade the wind out of the sails, and the boat brings up gently alongside the other, to which it i- at once se-

cured. The baron and his party can already be seen upon the shore. Under his arm the Frenchman carries a long, slender package, without doubt the swords which are destined to occupy so prominent a place in the coming event. There is a third member of the party, the man known as Colonel Taylor, and also a short individual who carries a surgeon's case in his hand.

When our friends join them words are passed between. The principals bow in a perfunctory way, but Mynheer Joe smiles in a careless manner that must set the Russian duelist to thinking.

They do not need to go far away; the ground is right there among the rock tombs, but it is advisable to move on a little for several reasons. It is not their intention to have the sailors on board the boats witness the affair, and just beyond the rocks they are apt to find a spot where the sun will not throw his fierce rays into the eyes of either, causing a momentary blindness that may prove fatal. So they walk along two and two, Mr. Grimes bringing up the rear.

In five minutes they come to a pause, and the French officer sweeps his arm around with a dramatic gesture, say-

"Behold, gentlemen! The ground selected for the duello!"

CHAPTER XIV. A LITTLE AEFAIR AMONG THE MORKATAN

HILLS. No one can reasonably offer any objection to the selection of the ground, since it is level enough for all practical purposes, and certainly so isolated that there does not seem to be any danger of interruption. The association with the strange tombs hewn in solid rock ages ago, by the Egyptians, might make some men nervous,

but it does not appear to have any

such effect upon either of the two who

have met here to face each other ir a combat for honor. Mr. Grimes, in company with the French officer, goes over the ground step by step and announces that he is perfectly satisfied with the location chosen. It certainly cannot be improved upon, and might not be equaled,

so they are well content as it is. "Now for the weapons," says the American, whose business-like methods cause the other to suppose he has figured in duels before.

The French officer has heard of desperate affrays happening in the South and the West. How is he to know that the participators in these scrimmages are, as a general thing, the very lowest scum of society, and that Southern gentlemen, as a rule, have given up their former allgiance to the code as a settler for all difficulties?

Picking up the package, he unrolls Within, wrapped in chamois skin, lie two handsomely made swords, of delicate but magnificent appearance. These he draws from their separate scabbards and holds toward the American.

"Select which one you please," he says, quietly.

Mr. Grimes crooks his finger, and when Joe, who is watching, sees this, he comes at once to the side of his

friend. "Try these blades," says his second,

curtly. The explorer takes one up, makes a few movements with it. "Careful, the baron's looking at you." whispers his mentor just then, and Joe sweeps the air no more with

the blade. He bends it double over his knee. allowing it to fly back again. Then the second sword is also put through its paces. Mynheer Joe's face is a study, for he finds it a pleasure to handle such weapons as these.

"How does monsieur find them?" asks the Frenchman, eagerly. "Superb-beyond comparison!"

plies Joe. "Which do you choose, monsieur?" [To be Continued.]

The Bud and the FullGrown Rose.

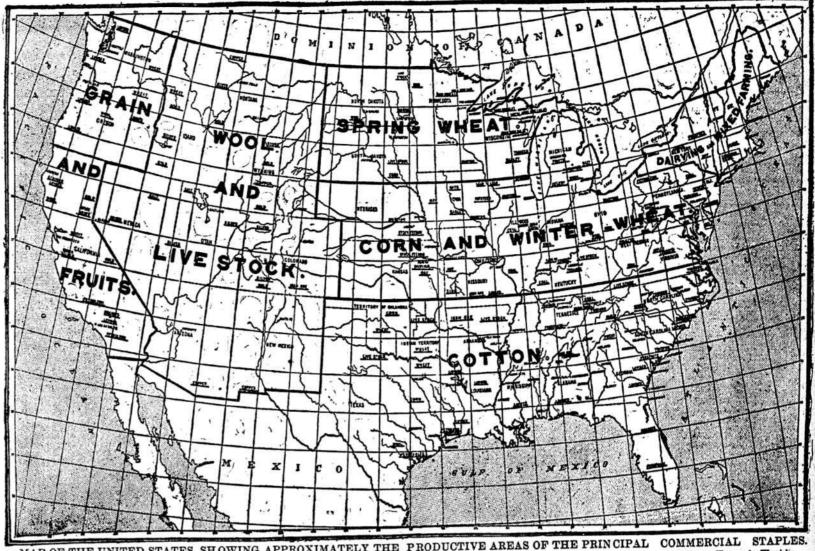
Shortly before the Duchess of Teck's death she and her daughter were attending a charity bazaar opening, when the provincial chairman took the floor and commenced to eulogize the merits of their distinguished patroness. After he had exhausted his eloquence on "the great charity and large and liberal views" of the Duchess his attention was directed to the slender lady at her side, and Princess May had a turn. Remembering the Duchess of Teck's substantial proportions, the ludicrousness of his remark is apparent, when he wound up a flowery sentence by hoping that the Duchess of York would "develop on the same broad lines as her mother." The Duchess of Teck, wo never failed to see a joke, was immensely amused, and joined the audience in a hearty laugh.-New York Telegram.

Electroplating After Embalming Dr. Variot, of Paris, has discovered a process for embalming bodies which it is thought will prove a great success. He not only embalms, but metallizes the bodies by the Ruolt process. just as it is done with a fork or a spoon. In this manner they can be preserved indefinitely, and in such perfection that the most imperceptible wrinkles and lines are reproduced. and the embalmed body has the appearance of a metal statue.

Rate Can Swim.

Rats are fine swimmers. They are nearly as much at home in a swollen stream as in the placid cellar of a well' stocked mansion. In fact, the whole rodent family, including squirrels and other species, learn to make themselves at home in the water when necessity requires it.

Big Coal Fields. There are 5400 square miles of coal fields in Great Britain.



MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, SHOWING APPROXIMATELY THE PRODUCTIVE AREAS OF THE PRINCIPAL -From Harper's Weekly. were most needed they were not at

Shall We Have a Floating Exposition?

The twentieth century will undoubtedly be prolific of marvelous enterprises, and among them may possibly figure the gigantic scheme suggested by Mr. O. P. Austin, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, in a recent number of the Geographic Magazine. This is nothing less than a floating exposition, to carry samples of our merchandise around the world, bringing buyer and seller in personal contact, and establishing that mutual understanding of wants and conditions which would be an enormous factor in promoting trade. Happy in the knowledge of our superlative excellence as agriculturists, as handicraftsmen, as producers of everything the world requires, both for its sustenance and for its tools of trade, we have hitherto neglected to display to the world at large the tangible evidence of our skill.

Expositions held at great cities are of necessity limited in scope. Time and money are required to visit them, and however great may be the number of travelers to a given point to see an exhibition of the products of the world's workers, those who remain at home are of greater number. These are the buyers whose trade might be secured by the ingenious plan imagined by Mr. Austin, whose wealth of statistics enables him to disburse facts with a liberal hand. From the naturalist reckons it, that the scorthese we learn that the imports of pion has taken to dry land. In the Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Amer- current journal of Microscopical Sciican countries south of the United States amount to over two billion dol- species, which he names in honor of its lars a year. No Monroe doctrine can prevent our South-American friends Hunteri. Thus we find one of the very from bestowing their patronage where they will; but if we "hustled" to show our misguided fellow-Americans that it would be vastly to their interest to trade with us, a goodly part of this colossal sum might reach the pockets of our traders. Nearly all of the importations referred to are of the very class of goods which our people want to sell-foodstuffs, textiles, mineral merce, 1900, only amounted to about \$200,000,000, or about ten per cent. of their purchases. Most of the cities through which these two billion dollars' worth of goods are distributed knowledge of our producers as to local trade requirements.

The internal traffic of the United States is carried on principally among six geographical divisions. In New England dairying, trucking, and mixed farming have received their fullest development, and the same may be said of New York and parts of other Middle States. The entire Northeast, including New England, New York, and the leading Middle States, is also so largely engaged in manufacturing as to comprise what may be called the in-

dustrial section of our country. The second division may be designated the cotton belt; Kansas and Nebraska the corn and winter-wheat belt; Montana and Wyoming the springwheat belt; the Rocky Mountain States are devoted to the production of wool and live-stock; the Pacific Coast States are still primarily agriculturalwheat, barley, live-stock, timber, and fruits constitute the basis of their prosperity. This geographical grouping of economic activities lies at the basis of the internal commerce of the United States.

A floating exhibition, carrying samples of these varied and marvelous productions of our soil's fecundity and our people's ingenuity, would be a realization of the tales of faerie to the inhabitants of other lands than ours .-Olive Logan, in Harper's Weekly.

"Len Hur's" Close Squeak. Success with a book is something lace told me how narrowly "Ben Hur" it would not be a good seller. Finally Mrs. Harper, a lady of strong religious ing the book. Then there was "Dr. Journal. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde," which ran a somewhat similar gauntlet and was almost rejected .- Booth Tarkington, in Washington Interview

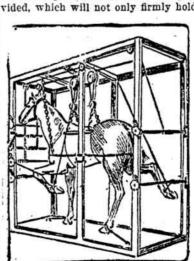
An Ancient Scorpion. In the Silurian rocks of Scotland, which were laid down as calcareous muds when our earth was in its infancy, have been found many interesting fossil remains. In this huge cemetery of millions of years ago, among the many reminders of former

life, is found the earliest remains of

WHICH LIVED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.

SCORPION scorpions. Scorpions of those early days were sea creatures, and it is only in comparatively recent times, as ence, Mr. R. I. Pocock describes a new discoverer, Dr. Hunter, Palaeophonus earliest air breathers possessed of a poison spine, and it will be noticed that they have changed very little in appearance through the millions on millions of years they have been in existence since Silurian times.

Horseshoeing Rack. Shoeing a fractious horse is not a task to be envied by anyone, and there oils, machinery and manufactures of is always danger of accident to the all kinds; yet our sales to these grand | man who performs the work in the divisions in the best year of our com- ordinary manner, as the animal ...ems possessed of the idea that the hoofs were made to defend itself. 'To overcome these difficulties John Cea, of Grundy Centre, Ia., has designed the horseshoeing rack shown in the illuslie on the sea-coast, and could be easi- tration, the inventor claiming that the ly reached by a fleet of vessels loaded mechanism will hold all parts of the with samples of American products animal securely in any desired posiand manufactures. The chief obsta- tion, at the same time relieving the cle to the introduction of American horse of all strain and depriving it of goods in these countries is the lack of the power of injuring itself or the blacksmith. It will be seen that numerous straps and windlasses are provided, which will not only firmly hold



TREVENTS INJURY TO SHOER AND HORSE.

each foot, but will lift the animal bodily from the floor and keep him suspended while the labor is going on. It is also probable that after a few applications of the machine to a fractious horse he could be induced to stand quietly while being shod without the use of the appliances.

Damages For a Misfit Cork Leg. In the District Court at Marion (Kan.) a citizen was sued by a Kansas. City firm for the price of a cork leg like having lightning strike you. Up furnished more than five years ago. at Mackinac last summer General Wal- The citizen set up in defense that the leg didn't fit, and that it made him escaped publication. It was examined | walk like what he called a "step-andby two of Harper's readers, who re- go-fetch-it." The jury must have ported rather adversely on it, thinking thought that step-and-go-fetch-it gait was something awful, for it not only released the citizen from paying the tendencies, read it, and advised her bill, but also gave him damages to the husband to risk the expense of print- amount of \$5.-Kansas City (Mo.)

> The number of deaf mutes in the United States is over 111,000; the number of totally blind is 88,924.

Boats Made of Weapons.

Floats Easily Thrown Together For Army Use. გიიიიიიიიიიიიიიიიიი

It has always been a special problem to make the cavalry of a great army more mobile by finding means and measures to cross streams and rivers in a quick and efficient manner. Of course, in case of necessity, those hindrances are simply overcome by swimming, but these means are always accompanied with more or less risk and

The German Army administration has lately introduced new boats which are said to be the best and most effective ever made for the purpose. It is a so-called "lance boat," and was invented by Adolf Rey. The boat can be constructed by using twelve to sixteen cavalry lances in less than five minutes' time, and may be readily



FRAME OF LANCES READY FOR COVERING

taken to pieces again in less than two minutes. As soon as the lances are placed in the required position, the frame thus constructed is covered with swim backward with the help of their a water-tight coat of canvas, and the boat is ready for immediate use. Two high and dry on the beach. Every, or four additional lances are in less squirt of his siphon forces his squidthan one minute changed into rudders. The rudder blade consists of a hopelessly grounded, and must perish piece of canvas two feet in length and miserably.—New York Herald. five inches in width; by means of eyelets and hooks the blade and rudder shaft are soon connected; the rudder



blade, when folded together, can easily be carried in the pocket of the rider. The whole boat, including rudders, when ready, weighs sixty-four pounds. One of the accompanying cuts represents a pack horse carrying the entire | laid the lovers cold in death. Gussip outfit for three boats. The strategic has ruined not only men, but emvalue of these boats is said to be im- pires. Gossip is a vice, and the more mense. Up to a short time ago there dangerous because a common vice, and were attached to each German cavalry one that few persons even try to regiment two special wagons, carrying guard, against.—Boston Globe.

and horses required for the purpose of providing a means of transportation across streams, and, therefore, represents a great saving, estimated to represent the total of 550,000 marks. The

The introduction of these boats

greatly cuts down the number of men

entire German Army will be equipped with these boats in the next six months. Catching Squid a New American Industry In this country that modest cephalopod, the squid, or cuttlefish, is not much appreciated, being used exclus-



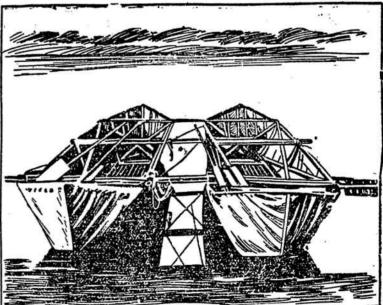
other people, however, are extremely, fond of it, and in the accompanying photograph native Hawaiians may be seen fishing for the squid with extemporized spears in tidewater pools, wherein the luckless mollusks have been left almost high and dry by the retreating sea. In annexing Hawaii we have annexed a race of squid eat-

Squid, which furnish the familiar cuttle bones for canaries to sharpen their bills upon, are the favorite food of numerous fishes. Their "schools" sometimes number millions, and now, and then immense numbers of them are stranded on the New England coast, owing, it is said, to a funny, habit they have of staring at the

moon. On a moonlight night they will fix their eyes upon the lunar orb and siphons, until at length they come up ship higher up on shore, until he is

Only the other day an unhappy man in a New Hampshire city shot and killed his wife and then shot himself. When dying he told his friends that the mania to kill had been born in his heart under the influence of the gossip of neighbors. He knew nothing against his wife, but the whispering of persons he believed to be friends, and doubtless who thought themselves his friends, made him mad, and he killed the woman he loved.

Be wary of the tale-bearer, who approaches you in the guise or triendship to speak ill of another. The person who listens willingly to gossip is as bad as the gossiper. If we cannot speak well of another why speak of him at all? Silence hurts no one. Idle talk often breaks a heart, juins a home, or takes a life. Gossip blighted the romance of Romeo and Juliet, and



LANCE BOATS JUST ADOPTED FOR USE IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

several boats to meet such emergencies, but this means of transportation months in the year than any other presented many difficulties, and in semitropical fruit. many instances the boat-wagons were not able at all to keep pace with the riders and in cases where the boats mit your own weakness.

The guava tree bears fruit more

Half the battle is lost when you ad-