

ingly awkward luxurious vermilion tents

might prove in case of a surprise or a night

ires to study the starry sky and await

what further evils fate might bring. The soldiers lay armed by their harnessed

beasts, gnawing at mutton bones like a

colony of dogs, while Abou Kuram, vigi-

lant, active and more than a trifle angry,

moved about giving rapid instructions and

speaking words of stern encouragement.
Slowly the silent night wore on. The

big bright stars twinkled fitfully, the moon

full of vagne dread and awesome suspi-

bones from them, sat up with a quivering

their weapons. Mentally they were count

of blackness when a surprise would be most

An Arab attack sometimes comes with

the roar of thunder; sometimes with the stealth and hush of death. When the

troops were beginning to remark with

bated breath that there was to be no mo-

lestation from the enemy, suddenly the outposts broke into wild yells, and there

was the spluttering fire of promiscuous

shooting. In half a second more a ring of

were doing their work. We leaped upon

den as had been the tumult, for the enemy,

Abou Kuram and Amood Sinn held an

"Let us take to the mountains," piped

"The cause is thine, not mine," he said

give not instant orders that every coward

who seeks to fly be cut down, I and my

thou and thy possessious can go to eternal

shall have death for his portion. Proclaim

it abroad. Isn ael Namar. If there be any man afraid to fight, buln, him here that I

may cleave the dog in two! I decree that all who are afraid shall die the most miser-

able death mind of man can devise. I

revenge for the pasture lands of Njed and all the flocks that have ever fed on them.

See thou to it, Ismael Numar, that every

coward shall be put ingloriously to death."

ed Ismael Numar, with alacrity.

taste of Amood Sinn.

"My lord's will shall be obeyed," answer-

As the enemy did not return scouts were

motion to give him battle.

adroit maneuver he contrived to get his

ness and a profusion of honeyed words to

beg his "great brother" to accept the post of honor in the van. But the great broth-er's modesty would not suffer him to as

sume a glory that properly belonged to another. By all the right of war, all the pre-

rogatives of fame and achievement, the dis-

tinction of leading to victory should fall to

the lion hearted Amood Sinn, whose deeds

of valor were a theme of inspiration to poet

and how mean and worthless each made

Abou Kuram protested he was but as the

dust under the hoof of Amood Sinn's charger, and Amood Sinn swore a solemn

oath he was not fit to bind the spur upon Abou Kuram's heel. Abou said that Amood

was a second Sikander el Rumi, and Amood

that Abou was in strength and courage as

ments and subtle self depreciations went

was Gabriel himself. So the soft blandish-

had to make the best of his unwelcome

honors. Having regained possession of himself by this time he accepted the be-

hests of fate without a ruffle in his sleek

hypocrisy, though I thought there was

mouth as he turned to ride to the post of

danger. No sooner was he gone than the manner and look of Abou Kuram changed. His eyes glowed, his brows lowered, and his

lips were compressed to an ominous thiu-

"Our brother lieth with a rare persuasion today," he remarked dryly to Koor Ali, as they watched the retreating figure, adding.

with a sudden truculency: "By my blade point, I will drive him into it. I tell thee he shall fight, or if he fly he shall find a

worse foe in front than behind. Should

the eagle prove a barn fowl, by faith, instead

of saving we will help to pluck it." He paused, looking over the assembled army. "Doth it not seem to thee there is victory

And such indeed was the martial and imposing array that it might well have made a poltroon into a hero, for the spirit of battle was once more animating the

plumed and bannered host that covered

the plain like a sea, its colors aflame and its arms flashing like thickets of steel in the early sun. The allies had fled to the

mountains like sheep before the wolves. They had been found broken, dejected, ut-

terly demoralized, because they were without a leader, and it was with difficulty they

had been brought back. But now, side by side with an army that was fresh and sworn

to conquer, they were renewed in heart

and savage for revenge and plunder. So

they danced about on caracoling horses or straddling camels, tossing spears and

whirling swords and matchiceks to the

maddening incentive of pipe and drum

and cymbal and a tumult of whoops and

Kuram. "Ride forward, Koor Ali, and

help our brother to make haste in getting

into battle array. Tell him we must pos-sess that height," pointing upward. "It

will be worth a thousand men."

Eager for action, Keor Ali galloped to

the front with the message, to find Amood

fires to roast some sheep and goats that had been taken in the mountains. Koor

Ali instantly wheeled his horse and rode

back to Abou Kuram to report, Amood following distracted at his heels.

Wherefore not light fires and cook our

Abou Kuram replied that the men had

dates and water ready to their hand and

"That is the thirst for blood," said Abou

mething of a wry twist in his feigning

men with me will return as we came and

the latter in a falsetto of shivering fear.

Abou Kuram laid an iron hand on Amood's

disappeared into the earth.

trembling arm.

improvised council of war.

rank that Abou Kuram was forced to point Whereupon I stood on a rock and spoke out in undiplomatic language how exceedto them and told them how my lord had come to help them, and hearing this they took heart and shouted with a mighty voice attack. So, murmuring bitterly about the that they yearned for vengeance and were unprincely discomforts of a campaign, Amood moodily ate his supper, said his prayers and lay down beside the smothered ready to do battle with Yumen Yusel and the man on the black horse. And I, thinking it well to take them while the spirit was strong upon them, bade them come down to join my lord, whereat Amood Sinn, trembling greatly, said, 'Nay, it is better for us to remain here until all things are ready.' 'Thou art more afraid than thy men,' I said. 'They are but common soldiers ' he answered. 'The enemy seeketh not cheir life, but mine. Peradventure if we go down with thee he will fall upon us by the way and slay me.' Whereupon I sailed majestically out into the empyrean spaces for a little and then went her imanswering, said that forasmuch as no battle could be fought among rocks and gorges they must come down to the plain. If they did not, then would my lord return to Marabel, and Amood Sinn's possessions cions. The men, casting their mutton would go from him and his posterity forever. And being again sore ashamed he consented to come down and now lieth ing the minutes till the light should apyonder close by the foot of the mountain pear, for this was the terrorizing interval

awaiting my lord's behest."
"Thou hast done the part of a brave man, Koor Ali," said Abou Kuram, when the recital was at an end. "I was wroth at the delay, and now my anger is kindled against Amood Sinn. Thou hast done right well in taking the cowardly dog by the ear and dragging him to the foot of the mountain. We have been surprised here, and a battle is at hand. Get thou things ready, Koor Ali. We will move to meet Amood Sinn. And now I must go to Mohammed ben Eldad Hassam. He lieth ill at ease in my teut, full of excuses for his brave master and

peradventure for himself." "Yes, it is likely," returned Koor Ali. "My opinion is that he cometh to spy my lord's strength. He will return if thou let him to report to Amood Sinn, and if my lord's army be not enough in their eyes they will betake themselves to the rocks

"Two can play at every game," said Abou Kuram significantly, pointing toward his

tent.

The warning which Koor Ali had given was well timed, for sure enough, when Mohammed ben Eldad Hassam had washed and eaten and rested and paid Abou Kuram the regulation number of compliments, he proposed that he should get an escort and pre-cede the troops in order that Amood Sinn might be prepared to receive their illustrious general in a fashion becoming his rank. But Abou Kuram had not studied diplomacy for nothing.
"My lord troubleth himself too much,"

he replied, with an insinuating grace that was wonderful to behold. "We are soldiers and will be satisfied with a soldier's wel-come. We are not come hither for feasting and ceremonies, but to destroy Yumen Yusel and his evil ally on the black horse, of whom we have heard so much." Mohammed ben Eldad turned his eyes to heaven at this, mentally invoking its protection. "Thinkest thou steel or lead will avail upon him?" he asked. "Tis hard to

"If he come in our way, we can but try our weapons upon him," answered Abou

"Thou speakest like the valiant man thou art," said the envoy sweetly. "Wherefore I would again crave my lord's permission to return in advance of the troops. My royal master will be sore displeased if

he be denied the opportunity of preparing "The good Amood Sinn knoweth we are

coming," said Abou Kuram suavely, "and thou needst not fear for his princely beneficence. We do not look for ceremonies with the foe in sight. Besides, see the own contingent in the rear. The arrangetroops are even now ready to march. It | ment, as may be guessed, was little to the were folly for thee, therefore, to hurry fighting promised to be hottest, he came to Abou Kuram with a fine air of gracious

After that Mohammed ben Eldad could not further persist, but his disappointment and chagrin were evident to all. He and his master were committed to the chances

CHAPTER XVIII.

AMOOD SINN'S BRAVERY. When early in the afternoon the two armies effected a juncture, the aspect of the allies was such as might well have made Abou Kuram pause ere joining them in battle against so formidable an opponent and warrior throughout the length and as Yumen Yusel. The rest had given our breadth of the land. It was a lesson in men back their spirits. The toils of the guile that would have benefited any courdesert were forgotten, and every heart beat | tier in Europe to note how those two exeagerly for the chance of spoil and glory | pert dissemblers wheedled and palavered, that was at hand. Amood Sinn's troops, on the contrary, though they made a great show of valor and enthusiasm at our approach, were as miserably draggled and dust under the hoof of Amood Si downcast as if they had just crept out of the mire after a trampling by the enemy, and all their shouting and brandishing of arms could not hide the deathly fear that was upon them. To put trust in the intrepidity of such deplorable losels was like relying on the valor of a company of scare-

Amood Sinn himself rode out to meet us, gallantly mounted on a richly caparisoned charger and attended by a suite in magnificent draperies and a blaze of variegated colors. Nature had given him a soldierly figure, and being very gorgeously and im-posingly dressed he would, in looks at least, have been the beau ideal of a military leader but for the irresolution of the restless eye and a general air of despondency that pomp appeared powerless to lift.

The meeting of the two princes, however, was extremely cordial, both dismounting and embracing in the presence of the assembled host. But when the preliminary civilities were over and Abou Kuram showed a disposition to come to business, Amood hesitated, made excuses and then all at once became excited and hysterical. Launching into a distracted tale of the supernatural, which any old wife in Scotland would have been ashamed of, he declared he had had the clearest ocular proof that the man on the black horse was none other than satan himself.
"As for Yumen Yusel," he cried, flour-

ishing his sword, "he is but a child in war! Were he here now I would shear off his in the looks of these armed men?" he cowardly head as a swift reaper taketh the asked. ripe barley. But can man prevail against the devil?" And he cast a doleful look at Abou Kuram as if to say, "It's really useless, you know, risking our lives."

"Perchance he is not satan himself, but a little devil," replied Abou Kuram, who, while not without his touch of superstition, held Amood's fancies in contempt. "I long to set eyes on him; if he be satan, that I may know his looks; if he be aught else, that I make his body a sheath for this

"Ismy brother mad?" asked Amood, with

deep concern.

"Yea, mad with a thirst for battle," answered Abou Kuram. "Will my brother

give orders to have his men made ready?" But Amood had still a multitude of pre-texts for delay. For one thing Abou Kuram and his gallant army must be feasted ere fighting could be so much as thought of. The march hither had been long and arduous, and ill befall him if it should ever be said he had forgotten how to be hospit-

able to his friends. Abou Kuram, however, was too familiar with guile to be inveigled. With a manner that was the pink of courtliness, yet had in it more than a suggestion of imperiousness and austerity, he declined festivities, saying that feasting would be sweeter after | Sinn giving instructions about lighting victory, and that he would joyously ent the carcasses of 100 sheep when Yumen Yusel and his satanic lieutenant were crushed. He was aided and abetted in his policy of aggression by Ismael Numar, Amood's sec-ond in command, a brave and capable officer had he been free from the trammels of a pusillanimous superior. Amood yielded a reluctant consent, the kettledrums and cymbals broke out in noisy rivalry, and the troops marched out to bivouac on the

sired to have a vermilion tent with luxur-lone state appointments set up, insisting so

and satisfaction," he added, with a grim politeness that admitted of no dispute. Ill pleased, for he had resolved to hearten himself with some handfuls of good mutton. Amood Sinn once more returned to his place, and the men without dismounting hurriedly washed down a bunch of dry dates apiece with a draft of lukewarm water. The meager meal was hardly swallowed when Koor Ali was careering to the front again with instructions to Amood to form and make for the height without further delay.

The swelling in the plain behind which

perceive they could eat with more leisure

lay the forces of Yumen Yusel had the appearance of an enormous billow thrown up in some upheaval or convulsion of nature and solidified and fixed as it rose. It was the only elevation in the plain, and, es above indicated, we were to possess it. Once upon the crest or ridge we could make our own arrangements for annihilating the enemy. We would make our preparations at our ease and at the first opportunity spring upon him, crush him, mangle him, sweep him off the face of the earth and leave him neither name nor inheritance among the sons of men. The plan was excellent; all that remained was the execution.

Scouts were thrown out in front to prevent surprise, while the whole force was pushed vigorously on to be ready for any advantage that might fall in the way of brave men. Abou Kuram hurried up the rear and tried to bridle his impatience. "It galleth me to be behind," he re-marked, "when I fain would be measuring swords with this champion on the black

horse. Perchance I may have an opportuerial way, leaving a darkness that was | nity.' Perchance he might, and in case he had we all felt it would be well for the lieutenant of Yumen Yusel to have his prayers

tension of nerve and muscle and looked to said in advance. A second detachment of horsemen was thrown out and went spurring up the slope as if determined to reap all the glory of victory itself. Seeing it coming, the scouts, who were now well on, struck spurs to their horses, and a fierce thrill of ex-pectation vibrated through the main body as it, too, quickened its pace. It was going to be exceedingly awkward for the foe lying unconscious on the other side of the billow. That was as clear as the sun that flamed in the heavens.

The scouts were riding their hardest, and in another minute would be on the top. As they neared the ridge we held our breath, flame engirdled us. By its light we saw a swarm of rushing demons with leveled swarm of rushing demons with leveled spears charging in among us, and the nal. The scouts lay flatter and flatter on their horse's necks, and the dust rose in a denser line behind them. Presently they halted, as it appeared, very abruptly. Had screams of pain told how effectually they our beasts; we charged hither and thither they discovered the lurking foe? The solid in the pitchy blackness mistaking friend mass below gave a great united gasp that was as the sough of the wind in a forest for foe; and then there fell a silence as sudslipping from our fingers, seemed to have and waited with palpitating hearts.

The stoppage, however, was a mere pre-caution, for two or three of the scouts, slipping from their saddles and flinging their reins to their comrades, hurried for ward on foot, bending low as they ran. The army below looked up panting like hounds on the leash. A deep murmur rumbled on the air, swelled into a hoarse with a quick but fearful emphasis. "Do what seemeth to thee good. Only if thou growl, sank and died away-the cry of vengeful men for blood. The commanders, nervously gripping their hilts, moistened their dry mouths to give the order for a rush, the trumpeters hung with trem-bling trump to lip ready to blow the deadly blast, the men listened and looked in bodeful silence. It was the thrilling stillness "It is well: it is well!" laughed Amood Sian hysterically. "I did but jest. By this right hand, the man who flieth a foot that preludes the storm. Next minute the thunders and lightnings of a curbed vengeance would be let loose, and heaven help the vanquished!

The scouts, now crouching like tigers in sight of their pray, crept nearer and nearer to the crest. The enemy must be lying in fancied security, as he had been seen at the dawn. He would rue his supine inwould not go to the mountains without activity when he woke up amid disaster and death. He could not be on the alert, for our scouts were within a few yards of

From the front Koor Ali was waving his sword as he looked back for a sign. Abou Kuram, tingling with excitement, waved his own in return, and in an instant sent out to discover his whereabouts. They a cloud of dust rose as another body of came back in the early morning with the intelligence that he lay beyond a swelling cavalry flew up the slope. He did not inin the plain, about a league and a half to tend that mad burst, yet it was inspiring the north, and the army was immediately to see how it acted on the army. A savage roar went up from every man in the force, Keeping his counsels to himself, Abou and Abou Kuram tingled as Kuram quietly laid his plans about the disposition of the troops, and by a swift and "Forward! forward!"

"Forward! forward!" he shouted, making circles of light with his sword. Trumpet and kettledrum blared and rattled, officers scurried about yelling orders no one heard, and the men, howling like an es-Finding himself unexpectedly where the caped menagerie, goaded their plunging beasts. And then when all were so intent on rushing to victory and spoil that there were no eyes for what was going on above all at once there was a crackling of mus-ketry on the ridge, and looking up, the very beating of our pulses suspended, we saw it dark with warriors as if dragons' teeth had sprung up armed men. A line of white smoke ran zigzag along the top; ere verscould realize what had happened another spurted out with vicious points of fire in the midst. The scouts on foot fell to a man, and many were brought out of their saddles. A few shots were fired wildly in return, and the scouts wheeling about dashed back at twice the speed with which

they had ascended.

In half a minute they were among the first body of horse that had gone out after them and turned it. In half a minute more the second detachment was met and turned in dire confusion, and the whole, with a rushing pavilion of dust, came sweeping on our own advancing lines, though the enemy

refrained from pursuing.

Amood Sinn did not wait for the shock. Raising his arms to heaven with the despairing gesture of a fatalist, he went about and fled as fast as a fleet horse could carry him; his men, too, urged by a vivid rememon as fervently as if each man were convinced he spoke gospel truth. But in the end Abou Kuram was not to be moved out brance of the past, promptly followed their of his humility, so Amood Sinn, after a useless expenditure of breath and time, general's example, and came pellmell upon our contingent in the rear, trampling and battering with more than the madness and fury of a foe. I saw then for the first time that of all terrible spectacles on earth the most terrible is the first explosive burst of panic stricken troops.

For a little Abou Kuram looked on the demoralized mob speechless with horror and anger, then hastily ordering Koor Ali, who had galloped back, to stop the rabble or slay them, he dashed in pursuit of Amood Sinn, I following to the best of my ability.

"What meaneth this?" he yelled, coming

up to the scudding general. But Amood Sinn could not stay for answer, so Abou Kuram throwing etiquette to the winds clutched at the bridle and brought the flyng steed on its haunches with a might erk. For a moment his passion denied him utterance, and he only glared on his surprised and quaking captive.
"This is a seemly thing to do in sight of
the whole army!" he roared at length, and

I thought he would have slain the other on the spot. "This is an example to set! Are our names to be branded with shame, as if we were sick women? Get thy men about or, by this right hand, I will have them speared like swine as they fly!" Amood Sinn, answering something in a quick, shrill voice about the futility of

encountering satan, tried to justify the "How knowest thou he is satan?" demanded Abou Kuram scornfully. "Me-

thinks thou wert in too much haste in getting away to know what he is or even if he be with Yumen Yusal." "My brother is wroth," answered Amood insinuatingly, "but he knoweth not what it

is to come face to face with the devil.' Abou Kuram shook himself in a spasm o

"I knew not," he said curtly, "that I came to fight with one whose spirit left him at the thought of battle. This is not a time for words. While we talk Yumen Yusel maketh his opportunity out of thy fears and delays. Make thy choice quickly. If thou choosest to fly, from this moment reckon me thine enemy. Thou hast fair warning. I will join myself in slaughter to him whom thou callest satan, and there will not so much as a man of thine army escape to tell the tale of thy dis-

"My brother jesteth," returned Amood Sinn, with a sickly smile.
"Fly, and thou shalt see," answered Abou Kuram, and there was a look on his darkened face that was not to be misunder

"My brother is impatient," cried Amood, when he came up. "The men need strength for the toil and heat that are before them.

With a double fear now upon him, Amood turned with what heart a hunted coward might have to rally his scattered." forces. Already they had been checked in their headlong flight by our men, who stood with a fierce loyalty by their leader's order to stop or slay, and Koor Ali, enerplain.

The chosen spot reached, Amood Sinn dewould be all the nimbler for not dining too would be fore the engagement.

Would be fore the engagement.

It took a great deal of exertion and a lavish use of many kinds of language more profane than pious to induce the cowering retches to accept the definite idea of fighting again. But partly by vigorous mauling, partly by threats and coaxings and reproofs, some sort of order was at last evolved out of the reeling chaos. As it would be courting disaster to charge up the hill, it was decided to retire a little distance, marshal ourselves and await the overtures of the enemy.

Yumen Yusel's men were now swarming like a cloud of locusts over the billow, and with every symptom of leisure and self confidence completing their arrangements for battle. We were to have occupied that neight, but by the chances of war the position fell to the other side, so, as the Scotch say, we stood there and grinned at them till they were ready to come down.

I looked intently, as you may suppose, for the man on the black horse. At first he was not visible, but presently appearing at one side he rode along the lines at a hand gallop. A conspicuous object, all eyes were instantly upon him, and many tongues began to gabble excitedly.

"There goeth satan," cried Amood Sinn in the screeching tones of fright, and he fell to cursing the man on the black horse with all the curses known to the Moslem eligion, supplemented by many of his own invention. The warrior above, however, in no wise affected by the maledictions poured upon his unconscious head, continued to ride to and fro, altering formations and dispositions and otherwise completing his preparations for the tussle that

was at hand. Abou Kuram watched his movements with the intentness of an active rival. "Methinks," he remarked siguincantly. that satan showeth marvelous skill in narshaling an army."

"He hath the fallen angel's skill," piped Amood. Then all at once and with intende excitement he screamed: "See, see! They are coming! They shall destroy us utterly! Not a man of us shall escape!" and he cast a look to the rear-I think in spite of himself see if the coast were clear for flight. Abou Kuram shot a glance of contempt and disgust upon him, but said not a word. A body of the enemy's cavalry, consist-

ing of perhaps 200 lances, had detached it-self and was coming down the slope at an easy trot. When they had traveled a short distance, the camelmen also began to move toward us, slowly and without noise or excitement. Under the directions of Abou Kuram, who now assumed supreme com-

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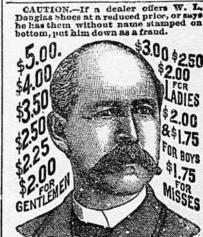
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