By JOHN A. STEUART.

[Copyright, 1803, by John Alexander Steuart.] He wrung his hands and would have wept but that the point of a dagger made

him leap in the air. "Thou hast forgotten that we are in a hurry," said Suleiman. "Go on." He made another effort and failed as be-

"The thing cannot be done, my lord," he gibbered in despair. "We will see," replied Suleiman.

The dagger pricked and Baruk screamed. Like a plunging horse, he sprang at the solid mass and came back like water from

"Thou art of no avail in thy own house," said Suleimen. "Do thou guide and I will

make a way for thee." Keeping his dagger on a level with the small of a man's back, Suleiman drove ahead, the other cowering close behind him for protection, and we resolutely supporting. Progress, however, was slow, for the light was bad, the block exceedingly great and the fallen were troublesome under foot. But Suleiman's dagger was very busyquietly busy, dealing blows that were unfailingly effective, and we made steady way. Baruk wept hysterically at intervals, de-claring his master would have him beheaded, and leaped like a roe at every prod from

Back, far back, we went along such a course as I hope never to travel again. At last Baruk, writhing as if the death agony were upon him, touched with the tip of his finger what seemed to be a panel in the wall. The next instant there was a crash of splintering wood and rending iron, and through the broken door came a gush of warm perfume. "The houris, my dove," said Suleiman. "The houris." The men at his back, shouting, wildly strained for paradise, all except the guide, who groaned dis-mally as if he were on the brink of the pit.

Surging forward, we entered a narrow passage heavy with incense and darkened by massy curtains. Then, bursting auother door, we came to a tapestried chamber. Suleiman growled at finding it empty and was turning to have satisfaction out of Baruk when a chorus of screams came ringing out of the remote darkness beyond. Baruk was let alone. There was fun ahead

that prohibited dallying.

"The inner chamber!" screeched the guide. "The inner chamber, my lord! May God and the holy prophet protect me!" he added to himself tragically. "Surely I shall be burned alive for this and never taste the bliss of the faithful. Never were the sanctities of the harem and our holy religion so profaned before!" Suleiman, in another mood, was using

unhallowed language in front, because we were again in a maze of deep darkness, from which there appeared to be no outlet.
"Perdition seize thee, where art thou now, thou variet of the bedchamber?" he called angrily to Baruk. "By the prophet's sword, this dagger quivereth for a fleshy

sheath. Thou shalt never escape alive if there is more trouble or delay."
"Surely, my lord, I know these passages as a blind man knoweth the way to hi. mouth," answered Baruk promptly. "The press is lessened. I will lead."

Let me take hold of thy skirt then, for I have not the eyes of a cat," said Suleiman. "Thou feelest that point—yea, that shrinking answereth for thee. Now, my gazelle, get us on if thou wouldst not be in the hall of Eblis this night."

We passed on through suffocating waves of perfume, past rustling curtains of ines-timable value, over Persian rugs that were like deep beds of moss under foot-up stairs and down stairs and around more corners than Christian architect ever dreamed of. Another door flew into splinters, and we found overselves in a gorgeously decorated apartment illumined by swinging lamps that emitted a delectable odor and full of struggling men and women. Crumpled, disheveled embroideries, torn fans, broken musical instruments and various articles of toilet were strewn about the floor, for the ladies and their attendants, not suspecting the fate of their lord, taken by surprise in the midst of music, gossip and needlework.

A few of the women were negro slaves, in coarse, scanty raiment, but the majority were delicately clothed ladies of the harem whose manifold charms were an eloquent testimony to Amood's appreciation of diverse kinds of female loveliness. Fair Circassians there were, and tawny Egyptians, and thick lipped Ethiopians, and black eyed Arabs, with other belies of indefinite hue and varying attraction. Most of them were young, indeed some were mere girls, and all were plump and fragrant as a

musk ox. They were in sad plight and disorder, poor things, their veils being rudely torn from their faces, their gauzy robes made into ribbons by men who respected not the sacredness of Amood's domestic circle. Oc- prizes he had taken. casionally the elder ones fought with their captors, displaying no small skill in the use of their claws, but the younger ones, to whom the mere sight of strangers was pol-lution, shrank into alcoves and corners, panting like captured does, and were easier

To an unoccupied spectator the details of the scrimmage would have been comical enough. Sometimes two men strove for one woman, and sometimes one man tried desperately to secure two ladies. Generally speaking, however, one lady was as much as the boldest could well manage, and, in the case of the older vixens, at times more. Suleiman cast a swift appraising glance

about the room. "The queen-which is the queen?" he demanded of Baruk.

"She is not here, my lord," answered the quaking Baruk. "Not here, thou dog! And wherefore are we here? Wouldst thou have thy blood spilled ere thou art a minute older? By this red blade, I will have none of thy tar-

rying and wavering. Baruk took a step forward in quivering trepidation. Nor did he tremble without cause, for some of the women spying him were at him like tigresses, screeching that

he had betrayed them. "This is unseemly," said Suleiman, intervening. "Ye do your loveliness wrong." "The wretch is a traitor," they clamored.
"He hath betrayed us. We will have his

eyes out for the dishonor." Nay, nay, my charming ones," said Suleiman, with the most gallant air imagin-

able. "Ye do him injustice. Never was keeper of beauty so faithful to his trust. He hath conducted us hither, O lights of our souls, on the sharp compulsion of steel. Unreasonable man, to deny us entrance to such a paradise! I protest I nearly slew him at the thought of what he would withhold from us. Far and fast have we ridden on unmatchable ones for the heavenly joy of looking upon you, and now we prostrate ourselves at your feet." In spite of their rage, the ladies could not help smiling at the insinuating sweetness

of Suleiman. "Be comforted, ye who are as the stars in glery and brightness," he went on. "This guardian of your angelic slumbers hath not been false. But the times are strange, O peerless princesses! Men are not masters in their own houses. Even the mighty Amood Sinn hath tasted defeat and is no

longer able to rule his palace." A Such of the ladies as were disengaged clasped their hands, turned their eyes to heaven, and with one accord screamed. "Slay me for causing you pain, ye adorable ones," pleaded Suleiman. "I vow we Is the beauteous flower, the queen, within?

deserve death for thus disturbing your meditations. Yet must I ask one question. Business brooketh no delay, else would we tarry to sip honey off your lips, O ye enchantresses. Jealousy is an ever active fire in the harem. There was probably not one among them who would not have rejoiced in her

heart to see the reigning beauty cast from the window, but deceit knows how to be discreet. Never would they permit unhal lowed strangers to pollute their beautiful queen by looking upon her, not so long as they had breath to defend her. Intimating this, as many as were free bolted through an inner door, slamming and fastening it behind them.

"Make haste," said Suleiman. "We must

not lose them. They will guide us to the

Easily forcing the door, we dashed in pur suit. Along the dark tripping ways we flew, guided by cries and vanishing skirt tails, round innumerable angles, through countless doors, till we carry upon a long

through a dim vista of muslic, we got a glimpse of two women, whom we had not hitherto seen, disappearing at their utmost speed with flying tresses that told of dis-

"'Tis she! 'tis she!" cried Baruk excitedly. Then to himself, though loud enough o be audible to all: "Glory be to heaven, he will escape! She can bide!" But suddenly remembering the position of affairs, he called again: "My lord, make haste. She is thine; so also is her companion, the Indian princess of fabulous wealth. That is tale of wonder. I would tell it to my lord, but there is no time. The holy prophet preserve me!" And he groaned as f taken with a sudden pain.
Suleiman bounded past the shrieking

bevy we had first met, the rest of us fol-lowing as best we could. Sudden cries of terror rose in front and echoed shrilly in many recesses.

"She is captured," said Suleiman, leaping faster. "She must be ours. Close up, my men."

In an instant we were round the corner, to find our prizes in the arms of three men who were already setting about binding

"Varlets, let go," shouted Suleiman, drawing his crooked sword and rushing upon the group. Two of the men turning quickly drew a pair of long, thin daggers and put themselves in a posture of defense; the third catching the women by the wrists dragged them screaming into an adjacent

We crowded to Suleiman's aid, and the business would have been over in a jiffy had not the women who were behind come up and flung themselves blindly among our weapons. Suleiman growled at the interruption of the sport; his resentment being the flercer possibly that his adversaries, profiting by the diversion, took to their heels without so much as a cut upon them. The fellow who tugged at the queen and her companion, seeing battle was hopeless, dropped his hold and fled after his

comrades. Thus released, the two women fled on afresh in a worse agony of fright than ever, and we, getting unceremoniously rid of the others, went in hot pursuit. We gained on them, and they separated, leaping out of sight on either side of a passage, as I have seen hunted rabbits disappear among whins and ferns. Suleiman, with half the company, darted after the one, I, with the rest, going on the track of the other, who proved to be the Indian princess.

We had almost overtaken her, when, sudden as a tiger from her native jungles, a man sprang out of ambush, seized her, and before she could so much as cry had her into a curtained recess. There were two men trying to gag and bind her, but castle. they never accomplished the operation. One went down, wreaking his vengeance on the spear that pierced him, and the other shot out of sight, leaving the rope twisted about his victim's arms. Faint with fatigue and fear the lady gave a little peculiar cry. staggered and fell back, as it happened.



The lady gave a little peculiar cry, stag gered and fell back. right into my arms. Cutting her fetter with my sword, I led her quietly to a diva that chanced to be near, the Bedouin crowding close about, but chivalrousl keeping hands off her.

"Be not afraid," I said as gently as could when she had recovered a little. "W ill do thee no harm.

She answered something in broken Ar abic, which I did not understand, and pre ently, professing herself quite restored, sh was escorted back the way we had come The Bedouins, whispering among them selves, appraised the value of her rich a: tire of silk and gold and jewels, but as for me I was speculating what the trembling reature was and how she could have drift ed there. Meanwhile Suleiman had captured the queen, who, as he privately in-formed me, was worth more than all the rest put together.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE INDIAN PRINCESS. There was still much to be done and need of haste in doing it, but Suleiman's first duty was to provide for the safety of the

"Ye shall come with us, ye lovely ones, he said, addressing the ladies with the grand air of a born cavalier, "and we will make you secure from the fury of man. Far have we come to deliver you from ruth less hands and ignoble bondage."

"And who instructed thee in our condition?" demanded the Circassian, flashing with queenly rage. "Thy deliverance, methinks, will be slavery-thy care a perpetual

"Sweet rose of the garden," replied Sulei man, "it becometh not thy beauty to be in a tempest. Thy lord is far from hence, my beauteous one, and his return to thy lovely bosom is uncertain. Wherefore shouldst thou tarry here to be abased?"

"There can be no worse abasement than going with thee," she snapped. "Leave us to such chances as fate may bring and get ye gone, for ye are but portionless Bedouins of the desert."

"Nay," answered Suleiman, more insinuatingly than ever. "We cannot leave what has enraptured our eyes. Make thyself old and ugly, my charmer, and we will fly from thy presence. But while thou puttest the rose and lily to shame thou must blame heaven, not us, if we refuse to go from thy side. And now, my adorable, there is business going on in which I must bear a hand. Will my queen therefore deign to accompany us to a place of safety, where she may be guarded from harm?"

The lady would have broken out again,

but Suleiman had no more time to waste on words. "Conduct thy mistress, the queen, and her fair companion, the gem of India, whither we lead," he said, turning sharply upon Baruk. "Is there a spot of safety about this nether pit?"

"It is as my lord seeth," answered Baruk. Suleiman considered for a moment, then turned again to the ladies.

"Have the lights of Amood's eyes any oossessions they would fain carry with them?" he inquired, with a courtly smile. "Trinkets, jewels, costly robes? Methinks they must have. And we will ourselves help them to collect their riches. Ye stay here while we search."

Accordingly, although the queen declared vociferously she had no wish but to see the last of us, the ladies were consigned to the care of a strong guard, of which I was one, while the rest, under the guidance of Baruk, went in search of valuables. They re turned after a little with many sparkling caskets full of precious gems, loads of various stuffs of richness unsurpassed-cam el's hair cloaks elaborately inwrought with gold, Indian silks of manifold dyes and patterns, Khorassan brocades, bundles of ugs and shawls and sashes enough to fur nish 10 regiments of sheiks, and, more im portant than all, two more of the princi

pal ladies of the harem. "Just one thing more ere wedepart," said Suleiman gleefully. "There is enough of the wine of Shiraz to float a thousand ships, and, by the prophet's beard, we go not without a share of it."

They went off again, presently coming back laden till they grouned with skin bot tles of many sizes full to the brim of wine. The burdens were set down, and Suleiman looked with joy at the pile, and from the pile to the ladies, and from the ladies back at the pile. "It is good," he remarked, "Said I not

that Amood was a mighty benefactor of his kind? There is enough here to make the black tents merry for a year." But it was a hard question how to get all this plunder away. We had wen it by force, and by force might lose it, for in such adventures as looting castles proper changes hands with unreckonable qui

Suleiman stepped to the latticed window at it into shivers, and looked down. We

passage. At the farther end, | were on the outer wall of the castle, and our beasts could not be far off. Suleiman's brow cleared. "There be ropes where riches so abound. my gazelle," he said, turning to Baruk.

'Yea, my lord." "Take him and bring a rope, Ali," said Suleiman to a man at his side. "Two, if thou canst find them, and make thy best Ali and Baruk were out of sight in a mo-

ment, and Suleiman went on with his instructions. "And thou, Ibrahim, my trusty right hand, take with you three others, cleave your way down to where we left our horses and tell our fellows to bring them under this window. The matter will be easy. Get camels, too, if thou canst lay hands on them, and our fair ones would ride the easier in litters. I will swing a lamp in the window as a signal to thee, and forget not,

good Ibrahim, to make haste." "I will not forget," said Ibrahim, choosing his companions. In a few minutes Ali and Baruk were back with two stout ropes, which were made fast to two spearheads driven into

the floor. "We will slip down these quicker than the angels came down Jacob's ladder," remarked Suleiman, throwing the loose ends

out of the window. "Now, my good Ibra-him, do not tarry." Ibrahim did not tarry. Even sooner, I think, than was expected by our impatient leader, there was a sound of grunting and

snorting and low voices in the darkness underneath that made him smile.
"Art thou there, Ibrahim?" called Suleiman softly.

"I am here," answered Ibrahim in the same tone. "And four camels, by the memory of the great Saad. [A notorious Arab freebooter.] How didst thou find them, my gay one?" "By taking their keepers unawares and sending them swiftly to the prophet's bos-

om," replied Ibrahim. "Malec will see the thee in fiery brimstone for thy good deeds, Ibrahim," chuckled

Chattels and ladies were lowered, the latter not without difficulty, for three were timid and the fourth rebellious, but Suleiman, who was experienced and expeditious in such matters, had soon the whole four, as he expressed it, in Ibrahim's bosom below. Then slipping down ourselves and hurriedly forming a circle about our spoils we thrust and cut a way to the comparative quiet of an orchard, where the goods were loaded and the ladies provided with litters. This care was taken that they might depreciate as little as possible in value.

We had not finished when dense volumes of smoke were seen ascending from the "What the Bedouin leaves the flames will have," remarked one of the men a minute later as a great blaze lit up the

sky. "Idiots!" growled Sulemman, who intended to go back for more plunder, and in the next breath, "Mother of the prophet, listen to the roaring and the rushing! kindred will be about us like clouds of hornets. It is time to be away."

If we wished to hold our own, it was time. So, mounting in the light of the burning pile, we made off with all speed. It was not easy to escape from that whirlpool of destruction and keep our olunder intact. At the start we had to fight our way step by step, and at times the handling was so rough and the odds so heavy that it seemed we must lose all we had captured. But we kept well together, and partly by strategy, partly by a free and active use of stee!, we got out at last with no more serious mishap than the loss of a little blood. To that we were by this time accustomed, and it did not hurt our spirits. though one man, evidently a recent addition to the band, made much ado about a couple of broken ribs till he was laughed and bullied out of his complaints.

We made straight for the desert as our safest retreat, never drawing rein till the alone. Then we halted to refresh ourselves of the good things provided by the winds?"

There is a sweet savor already in my nos-

trils. Here are rivers of the wine of Shiraz,

and bread baked in the ovens of Amood.

The company applauded and fell merrily to eating and drinking; the men squatted

on the ground beside their horses, the wom-

en chastely withdrawn in their litters and

The meal was not over when Suleiman

and Ibrahim were discussing our next movement. Much was said in a low voice

about pilgrims and caravans and the pecu-

niary value of ladies such as we happened

to possess, and, though I did not hear all,

get by putting two and two together I un-

derstood that more robberies were in the

wind. In short, the pious of the Moslem

world were then making the annual pil-

grimage, and we were bent on relieving

them of some of their superfluous wealth.

The caravan on which we were anxious

to bestow our attentions was the one that,

starting from Yumen, proceeds by the mountain course to Taif. As we knew al-

most to a day the date at which it would

appear, we could post ourselves satisfactori-

v and await its coming with composure.

The place of reception was in the heart of

the mountains in a deep and ugly defile

where two camels could scarcely walk

abreast and a caravan could be harried with

impunity. We rode hard, gained our posi-

tion in good time, hid like foxes among the

rocks and prayed that the hadjis would not

tarry. While waiting their arrival I had

an experience that would be worth a for-

tune to a story 'eller.

The sun had set, and the night had closed

in rather dark. I had been attending to

my mare and was returning to my com

panions, when Baruk, sidling up with an

air of profound mystery, whispered that the Indian princess wished to have speech

with me.
"But beware how thou goest," he said.
"A score of lances would be sheathed in

thy body if thou wert caught talking to

her in secret."
"What does she want with me, Baruk?"

swered, gliding into the darkness.

"She will tell thee. Follow me," he an-

The danger and the mystery were of

course an irresistible incentive, and I turn-

ed after him instantly. We found the In-dian crouching behind a big stone, having

by some pretense managed to get away from the other women. Saluting her qui-

etly, I told her I was at her service, but in-

stead of answering meshe turned to Baruk.

"Good, good Earuk," she said in the sweetest of voices and in broken Arabic.

'Gracious Baruk, go back to the litters.

Say I am praying to the night. It is a cus-

tom with my people. It is a rite, say a rite, my Baruk. Fear not, I will return to

thee. He," indicating me, "will keep me

Baruk looked a little dubious, but he

went.
"Thou art a stranger in this land," she

said to me quickly when we were alone,

"In India we see thy people, but this is not

India. Thy face made my heart leap in

the palace. Art one of the robbers? What do people call them? Bedouins—yea, that

A man must not trust himself unreserv

edly to the first minx he meets, so I an

swered warily. But her eager intelligence

"See, I take thy hand and kiss it-so,

seizing my hand and putting it to her lips.
"It is sin in our religion. But I have

"It is sin in our religion. But I have been taught. Ab, hat I have been taught.

am a daughter of the holy prophet, but

there is more than one road to heaven. Is

I had to admit it was fairly good truth

"Yes, yes, ! know," she went on quickly,

and her voice was thrilling with sup-

pressed emotion. "I have been taught

-more than one road to heaven-that is

what thy people say. Now listen. Dost

know we are guilty of a great big sin? Ah,

the big knife would cut off thy head if eyes

discovered us. But thy people are brave.

Art afraid?" she asked, coming so close I could hear the quick beating of her heart.

There was a rustle behind and she turned,

"It is only Baruk," she said, much re-

lieved. "Good Baruk, just a little space

found all she wanted in my reply.

and excellent Christian doctrine.

is it. Art one of them?"

that not good truth?"

holding her breath.

I inquired softly.

Hearen protect him in his adversity!"

attended by the obsequious Baruk.

Ten them if they ask thee that am safe. Thou comest from far across the sea-people call it England," she continred, turning back to me. More and more puzzled, I admitted she

was right. which pleasure and pain were mingled, "Thy face proclaimeth thy country. I know thy people. Yea, one is-but never mind, that is too fast. Listen! Art thou going to remain with the robbers, the Bed-

"I knew," she said, with an eagerness in

Baruk came creeping back again, declaring she would be missed and he slain. "Thou shalt go straight to paradise, Baruk," she replied soothingly. "Just one little space more," and he went away again. "Now art thou going to stay?"
"Not if I can help it," I blurted, almost

without knowing what I said.
"That is good," she said with a little rocking motion of delight. "There is not time to tell everything now. If thou goest take me with thee. Let them not keep me to do their will. Pollution—that is it. Thou wilt save me, and I will love thee forever. Listen. I was performing the pilgrimage, they captured the caravan and slew my father. There was one-but there is no time to tell it. It was Amood Sinn that was wicked, and now I know he has been punished because his palace is in ashes. A battle perchance. Wert thou in it?" I answered in the affirmative, getting

ever deeper involved in the mysteries surrounding this strange woman. "And didst thou see one there like thyself? Hush, hush!" Baruk came again, saying he would risk

his life for us no longer. "Good Baruk, thou wilt not die," said my companion. "One turn more-one little turn. That is it. The night is cool. Thy mind will be at ease."

"Thou wilt have me speared like a goat," he demurred. Nevertheless he left us once

more.
"There is another caravan coming," pursued my companion breathlessly. "I heard it from Baruk. Let us join it. Trust Baruk for his love of gold. I will trust thee in honor of thy people." And she was lost in the darkness like a shadow.

I returned to my place and presently got a word with Baruk.

"What is this strange thing that the Indian princess sayeth?" I asked, putting my mouth close to his ear, for there was need of dead secrecy. "Nay, I am not a magician," he an

swered, with the oily evasiveness of the oriental who is chary about committing himself. "Let us have no pretense of ignorance," said, feigning anger. "What do they

mean?"
"My lord frighteneth me." The voice of Suleiman was heard calling for some one, and in the same instant the fires leaped up, shedding a fitful, lurid light on the scene. If we were caught consulting, our lives would not be worth 10

minutes' purchase. "Look here, Baruk," I said, "I am thy friend. What is the state of affairs? Tel it clearly."

"May I never be in such a position again." groaned Baruk. "Hark you, we deal with treachery and cruel lances. What is our blood? Nothing. What is the spoil and the price of these women? Everything. Yet we talk of that which, were it known, would make us dead men on the spot." My thoughts were exactly like his, but a woman had asked my aid, and I could not refuse it.

"Freedom is more than life," I said, with an audacity that was not entirely genuine. "We must not be timorous. Now, look you, I am a stranger. Thinkest thou I came here to rob? We help ourselves, good Baruk, in helping the Indian princess." "She hath untold riches; she can recompense," murmured Baruk. "Yet perchance

when she was safe she would forget us."
"And if thou remainest here, art not thou a bondsman forever? Nay, who is to hinder these fellows from taking thee out into the desert and stripping thee naked and leavsun was well up and we were once more ing thee, so that when the wolves were done with thy bones they would be the sport of

season, and the coffee and tobacco were the

Suleiman, rising presently, went to see that the ladies were being properly attend-

ed and came back praising the wondrous

docility of the Indian princess. I smoked,

looking up at the brightness of Orion, and

said nothing. But in my heart was the

quivering exultation of the schemer who

has important business on hand and knows

My next move was to enlighten Tabal. It

was done in a few words, for now that the

heavens were bright the chance of private

talk was small. But Tabal quickly under-

stood all and fervently swore a vow of

fealty. To Tabal's mind there was but one

"We go with the caravan to Mecca," he

"But thou art not of our religion. Think

"I am a better Mohammedan than thy-

self, good Tabal. There will not be in the

great mosque a more devout hadji than

him whom thou callest Christian. Are we

not brothers? Did not thy father put the

light of the Koran into my soul? Dost

thou think I am careless about getting to

heaven? Tabal, I will do the pilgrimage as

Tabal was convinced, and we parted to

ignore each other very studiously for the

Near the dawn, when the world was

black and men were heavy, Baruk returned

to me. He had got over his wavering and

was ready for the most desperate exploit.

"We will put on the green turban [the

padge or sign of such as have performed

the pilgrimage to Mecca] together, Baruk,'

serious difficulty in our project of escape.

"Assuredly; it will do us all good."

Yea, eat and drink in honor of our victories. | food; wine flowed like water in the rainy

est on earth.

that failure is death.

what that meanetb.'

a follower of the prophet."

"They call her Ranee."

and tolerable accuracy.

rest of the night.

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Testimony from the Mayor of Sequin, Tex. Testimony from the Mayor of Sequin, Tex.

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Augusta,

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF EDGEFIELD. By J. D. Allen, Esq., Probate Judge

CITATION.

MIHEREAS, Jacob Gibson, bath made suit to me, to grant him Letters of Administration of the estate | GEO. W. CROFT. | JAS. H. TILLMAN. and effects of Isaac Riley, deceased. THESE ARE THEREFORE, to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Isaac Riley, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Edgefield C. H., on Saturday, 7th of June next, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration

should not be granted. Given under my hand, this the 21st day of May, Anno

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one, exceeding my expectations, and

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With the first blink of light we were on the lookout for the caravan, but the day had worn well into the afternoon before our scouts brought word it was at the mouth of the defile. At the intelligence that it was coming we settled down in our hiding place as still as dead men, the horses being kept some distance behind lest they should neigh and betray us. Tabal and I had many unsuspected thoughts, but as it would be unwise to express them and it was impossible to communicate with either Rance or Baruk we could only wait

in silent eagerness and faith. The pilgrims sent forward a party of half a dozen horsemen, and we were ordered further back. Suleiman himself, with one companion to act as messenger, remained to observe, their place of vantage being the hollow top of a great rock which projected, causing a curve in the path below. Lying there flat they had an almost uninterrupted view of the pass, and by deft clambering the messenger could reach our ambush without fear of detection. To keep us keen and in touch with what

was going on Suleiman sent frequently to tell us of the movements of the horsemen. We learned that, passing right beneath his hiding place, they rode to the head of the gorge, looked dutifully about among the be swung its huge length into the defile and came trailing on like an endless seras the prospect was glorious beyond his ex-

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