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FIVE HUNDRED CARATS.

By GEORGE GRIFFITH.

[Copyright, 1898, by the Auth v.] It was several months after the brilliant if somewhat mysterious recovery of the £15,000 parcel from the notorious but now vanished Seth Salter that I had the pleasure, and I think I may fairly add the privilege, of making the acquaintance of Inspector Lipinzki.

I can say without hesitation that in the course of wanderings which have led me over a considerable portion of the lands and seas of the world I have never met a more interesting man than he was. I say "was," poor fellow, for he is now no longer anything bu a memory of bitterness to the I. D. B., but that must be told in another place.

There is no need of further explanation of the all too brief intimacy which followed our introduction than the statement of the fact that the greatest South African detective of his day was after all a man as well as a detective, and hence not only justifiably proud of the many brilliant achievements which illustrated his career, but also by no means loath that some day the story of them should, with all due and proper precautions and reservations, be told to a wider and possibly less prejudiced andience than the motley and migratory population of the camp as it was in his

I had not been five minutes in the cozy tastily furnished sanctum of his low, broad roofed bungalow in New De Beers road before I saw it was a mu-



"I took a long draw at my weed." seum as well as a study. Specimens of all sorts of queer apparatus employed by the I. D. B.'s for smuggling diamonds were scattered over the tables and mantelpiece.

There were massive, handsomely arved brier and meerschaum pipes, which seemed to hold wonderfully little the 800 foot level of the Kimberley tobacco for their size; rough sticks of firewood ingeniously hollowed out, which must have been worth a good round sum in their time; hollow handles of traveling trunks; ladies' boot heels of the fashion affected on a memorable occasion by Mrs. Michael Muratti, and novels, hymnbooks, church services and Bibles, with cavities cut out of the center of their leaves which had once held thousands of pounds' worth of illieit stones on their unsuspected passage through the book post.

But none of these interested or indeed puzzled me so much as did a couple of curiously assorted articles which lay under a little glass case on a corner bracket. One was an ordinary piece of heavy lead tubing about three inches long and an inch in diameter, sealed by fusing at both ends, and having a little brass tap fused into one end. The other was a little ragged piece of dirty red sheet india rubber, very thin-in fact, almost transparent-and, roughly speaking, four or five inches square.

I was looking at these things, wondering what on earth could be the connection between them and what manner of strange story might be connected with them, when the inspector came in.

"Good evening. Glad to see you," he said in his quiet and almost gentle voice and without a trace of foreign accent as we shook hands. "Well, what do you think of my museum? I dare say you've guessed already that if some of these things could speak they could keep your readers entertained for some little time, eh?"

"Well, there is no reason why their owner shouldn't speak for them," I said, making the obvious reply, "provided always, of course, that it wouldn't be giving away too many secrets of

"My dear sir," he said, with a smile which curled up the ends of his little black carefully trimmed mustache ever so slightly. "I should not have made you the promise I did at the club the other night if I had not been prepared to rely absolutely on your discretionand my own. Now, there's whisky and soda or brandy. Which do you prefer? You smoke, of course, and I think you'll find these pretty good, and that chair I can recommend. I have unraveled many a knotty problem in it, I can

"And now," he went on when we were at last comfortably settled, "may I ask which of my relics has most aroused your professional curiosity?"

It was already on the tip of my tongue to ask for the story of the gas pipe and piece of india rubber, but the inspector forestalled me by saying:

"But perhaps that is hardly a fair question, as they will all probably seem pretty strange to you. Now, for in-

curios when I came in. You would hardly expect them to be associated, and very intimately, too, with about the most daring and skillfully planned diamond robbery that ever took place on the fields, or off them, for the matter of that, would you?"

"Hardly," I said, "and yet I think I have learned enough of the devious ways of the I. D. B. to be prepared for a perfectly logical explanation of the

"As logical as I think I may fairly say romantic," replied the inspector as he set his glass down. "In one sense it was the most ticklish problem that I've ever had to tackle. Of course you've heard some version or other of the disappearance of the great De Beers diamond?"

"I should rather think I had." I said, with a decided thrill of pleasurable anever, I was going to get to the bottom of the great mystery. "Everybody in camp seems to have a different version of it, and of course every one seems to think that if he had only had the manhave been solved long ago.'

"It is invariably the case," said the inspector, with another of his quiet, pleasant smiles, "that every one can do work better than those whose reputation depends upon the doing of it. We are not altogether fools at the department, and yet I have to confess that I myself was in ignorance as to just how that diamond disappeared or where it got to until within 12 hours ago.

"Now, I am going to tell you the facts exactly as they are, but under the condition that you will alter all the names except, if you choose, my own and that you will not publish the story for at least 12 months to come. There are personal and private reasons for this which you will probably understand without my stating them. Of course it will in time leak out into the papers, although there has been and will be no prosecution, but anything in the newspapers will of necessity be garbled and incorrect, and—well, I may as well confess that I am sufficiently vain to wish that my share in the transaction shall not be left altogether to the tender mercies of the imaginative penny-aliner.

I acknowledged the compliment with a bow as graceful as the easiness of the inspector's chair would allow me to make, but I said nothing, as I wanted to get to the story.

"I had better begin at the beginning," the inspector went on as he meditatively snipped the end of a fresh cigar. "As I suppose you already know, the largest and most valuable diamond ever found on these fields was a really magnificent stone, a perfect octahedron, pure white, without a flaw and weighing close on 500 carats. There's a photograph of it there on the mantelpiece. I've got another one by me. I'll give it you before you leave Kimberley.

"Well, this stone was found about thorough one. six months ago in one of the drives on mine. It was taken by the overseer straight to the De Beers' offices and placed on the secretary's desk-you know where he sits, on the right hand side as you go into the boardroom through the green baize doors. There were several of the directors present at the time, and, as you may imagine, they were pretty well pleased at the find, for the stone, without any exaggeration, was worth a prince's ransom.

"Of course I needn't tell you that the value per carat of a diamond which is perfect and of a good color increases in a sort of geometrical progression with the size. I dare say that stone was worth anywhere between £1,000,000 and £2 000 000, according to the depth of the purchaser's purse. It was worthy world instead of-but there, you'll and some bits of cardboard, became to adorn the proudest crown in the think me a very poor story teller if I evident the next morning. The Hodanticipate.

"Well, the diamond, after being duly admired, was taken up stairs to the diamond room by the secretary himself, accompanied by two of the directors. Of course you have been through the new offices of De Beers, but still perground, as the locality is rather important.

"You know that when you get up stairs and turn to the right on the land- Kepe Yur Gooses Home." The Hoding from the top of the staircase there kins water-fowl are now reconcenis a door with a little grille in it. You trade upon the Hodkins home ranch. knock, a trapdoor is raised, and if you are recognized and your business warrants it yos are admitted. Then you go along a little passage, out of which a room opens on the left, and in front of you is another door, leading into the

diamond rooms themselves. "You know, too, that in the main room fronting Stockdale street and Jones street the diamond tables run round the two sides under the windows and are railed off from the rest of the room by a single light wooden rail. There is a table in the middle of the room, and on your right hand as you go in there is a big safe standing against the wall. You will remember, too, that in the corner exactly facing the door stands the glass case containing the diamond scales. I want you particularly to recall the fact that these scales stand diagonally across the corner by the window. The secondary room, as you know, opens out on to the left, but that is not of much conse-

quence." I signified my remembrance of these

details, and the inspector went on: ployee of De Beers, whom you may call instead of three if all the returns were is the same as an Indian police in the India and simply gone wild in the rich taxes on poor land taxes himself un-Philip Marsden when you come to write in .- News and Courier.

stance, I saw you looking at two of my the sfory. The weight, as I told you, in round figures was 500 carats. The stone was then photographed, partly for purposes of identification and partly as a reminder of the biggest stone ever found in Kimberley in its rough state.

"The gem was then handed over to Mr. Marsden's care pending the departure of the diamond post to Vryeburg on the following Monday-this was a Tuesday. The secretary saw it locked up in the big safe by Mr. Marsden, who, as usual, was accompanied by another official, a younger man than himself, whom you can call Henry Lomas, a connection of his, and also one of the most trusted members of the staff.

"Every day, and sometimes two or three times a day, either the secretary or one or other of the directors came up and had a look at the big stone, either for their own satisfaction or to show it to some of their more intimate friends. ticipation, for I felt sure that now, if I ought perhaps to have told you before that the whole diamond room staff were practically sworn to secrecy on the subect. because, as you will readily understand, it was not considered desirable for such an exceedingly valuable agement of the case the mystery would find to be made public property in a place like this. When Saturday came, it was decided not to send it down to Cape Town, for some reasons connected with the state of the market. When the safe was opened on Monday morning, the stone was gone.

"I needn't attempt to describe the absolute panic which followed. It had been seen two or three times in the safe on the Saturday, and the secretary himself was positive that it was there at closing time, because he saw it just as the safe was being locked for the night. In fact, he actually saw it put in, for it had been taken out to show to a friend of his a few minutes before.

"The safe had not been tampered with, nor could it have been unlocked, because when it is closed for the night it cannot be opened again unless either the secretary or the managing director s present, as they have each a master rey, without which the key used during the day is of no use.

"Of course I was sent for immediatey, and I admit that I was fairly staggered. If the secretary had not been so positive that the stone was locked up when he saw the safe closed on the Saturday, I should have worked upon the theory-the only possible one, as it seemed-that the stone had been abstracted from the safe during the day. concealed in the room and somehow or other smuggled out, although even that would have been almost impossible in consequence of the strictness of the searching system and the almost certain discovery which must have followed an attempt to get it out of town.

"Both the rooms were searched in every nook and cranny. The whole staff, naturally feeling that every one of them must be suspected, immediately volunteered to submit to any process of search that I might think satisfactory, and I can assure you the search was a very

TO BE CONTINUED.

WELL DONE .- How the Hodkins reese were kept off the Podkins premses is an interesting story related by he Philadelphia Record, and condensed below:

The geese strayed for forage, as geese will, and sometimes invaded the Podkins front lawn.

Mrs. Podkins, kindly soul, said she 'didn't want ter git th' men folks scrappin' and a-mixin' things up over a passel o' geese." So she organized a board of strategy, consisting of herself, her daughter "Sis" and her boy "Joe."

The result of their deliberations and certain preparations, wherein figured needle and thread, some grains of corn kins geese appeared as usual, but returned home quickly, squawking so noisly as to bring the Hodkiuses in a body to the front door. What they saw astonished them.

Depending from each fowl's bill was a bit of thread, the inner end anchorhaps I had better just run over the ed to a grain of corn in the bird's interior department, while to the other end of the string was attached a card bearing this inscription: "Plese

> LIABILITY FOR PENSIONS .- "There is another important consideration," says the Norfolk Landmark, "when an enlisted man is mustered out of the For years I fought the white men, ered with rich and glossy foliage finer system, the future fate of the soldier is not regarded by the able statistiefficiency of our war department. ing discharged. As bearing upon this the country in which the white man of the most delicious juicy pulp. The directly and indirectly from the service law. of the United States army.' Every

Miscellaneous Beading.

INFORMATION WE DON'T GIVE AWAY. How We Train Our Naval Gunners. New York Sun.

WASHINGTON, October 10.—Ever and then it goes down, sinking out of since the battle of Manila bay foreign sight, and is lost. So it will be with governments have made efforts to the Indian. When I was a boy my obtain from the United States the old father told me the Indians were as secret of the wonderful proficiency many as the leaves on the trees, and edly large sum on this account. in firing which the gunners of the that 'way off in the north they had American navy have attained. Naval many horses and furs. I never saw attaches in Washington have been them, but I know that if they were particularly active in seeking infor- there they have gone now and the host was a wideawake Connecticut mation about the method of training white man has taken all they had. the men behind the guns, the cost It will be only a few years more when of such training measured by the amount of money expended for target except in the books that the white practice, the character of the gunners, man writes. They are not the people among other supplies for our delectanow long it took to attain efficiency that the Great Father loves, for if they tion on the road, was a basket of and all other data bearing on the sub- were he would protect and care for ect. After the naval battle of San-them. They have tried to please him tiago the inquiries of the attaches but they do not know how. Schools the border in Italy. We were prompt-became more numerous, and since are good things for the Indian, but it ly assailed by a levyer of duties, who active hostilities ended the navy takes many years to change his nature. pounced upon the grapes, and department has been importuned with If an Indian boy goes to school and manded a good sum for them as important the property of the prop

ence to other material wanted by brush and cactus? foreign governments that need not "I am an old m that of an attache of a great European agencies." country, who asked a few days ago for some naval gunnery drill books. The naval attache of the United States at the capital of the foreign government Cubans Called the Fruit General Mango had been endeavoring vainly to secure some data which the navy department was complied with.

OLD GERONIMO'S WISDOM.

Interesting Talk With the Once Famou Enemy of the Whites.

Geronimo, the notorious Apache Indian war, said :

in going on the warpath."

try. He is now probably 70 years die. Now, I give you this positive orthe territory. When about 21 years order." old he conceived the idea that he had been wronged by the whites, and from regulars generally let the mangoes his interpreter:

tales are told by the old men.

but I hear that up there and for hun- and that which was unfit. dreds of miles beyond, the white men are as many as the blades of grass. ill of a mango when one looks at it. If this is so, what can a few poor In- The tree itself is a most beautiful and

day, and in nearly every section of the hopelessly defeated I told my people fruit. And imagine the trees which plowed under them than to attempt to country, deaths are reported from fever that we would give up the fight and bear the fruit growing wild every- take a scanty crop from the land. directly traceable to service afield and in camp, and a great many of the men who thus pass away have been mus-The diamond was first put in the service. Their cases years, I feel that I am better off than mountain side, where apparently no to go uncropped until manure can be scale and weighed in the presence of the secretary and the two directors by are not considered in the adjutant gen- most of the Indians of the country. one had ever gathered the abounding given it. Time will be saved, howone of the higher officials, a licensed eral's office." Probably the dead bri- The government has confidence in me fruit. Nor are they a native fruit in ever, by using green manurial crops diamond broker and a most trusted em- gade would number four regiments and has appointed me a scout, which Cuba; they have been introduced from and fertilizers. The farmer who pays northern agencies. I expect to end soil of the islands.

my days in peace and leave my family something of which the members will be proud—a good name."

When asked what he thought would become of the North American Indian, Foreign Governments Want to Find Out Geronimo hesitated a moment and then, pointing to the west, replied:

"The sun rises and shines for a time, greater diplomatic persistency.

Heretofore it has been customary for the United States government to furnish freely such information to furnish freely such information to and be like an Indian again. This is foreign naval and military attaches in Washington, but there has never When it takes our children away and been a reciprocal exchange of data. educates them, it should give them The department has recently decided something to do, not turn them loose to keep to itself much of the informa- to run wild at the agency. Until that tion that it so courteously furnished time comes, educating the Indian is heretofore, while a system of give and take has been inaugurated with refereducated Indian do out in the sage

"I am an old man, and can't live necessarily be kept secret. When many years, so this don't trouble me foreign naval attaches now apply to much; but before I die I should like the navy department for information to see the Indian have the same chance something that you think may hapthat could properly be furnished they as the colored people or the poor are told that the request will be com- whites. There will be no more big tonight, and tomorrow will find you plied with if the governments to which Indian wars. The Indians' fighting beyond the reach of worry. Don't the attaches hold allegiance will give days are over, and there is nothing worry over a thing that happened yesto the United States certain informa- left for them to do but to be begtion in exchange. A case in point is gars and live on charity around the

MANGOES IN CUBA.

For It Slayed the Spaniards.

In the long list of suggestions from believed to be valuable. The foreign the medical department, all of which attache was informed that he could were disregarded, the ripe mango was have the drill books if the request of recommended as a desirable article of the American attache in his country diet. But somebody at headquarters issued an edict against it, and the soldiers were called up by the company commanders and told that if they ate the fruit they would be punished. This is the way the company commanders addressed the men:

"Now, I see that some of you have chief, on last Monday, when asked been eating those mangoes in spite of by Captain Merar, the military man, our advice to the contrary. Do you in charge of the Indian congress, know what the Cubans call this fruit? they say that the mango has killed tempted to a smoking and gambling what he thought of the Minnesota They call it General Mango, because "The Minnesota Indians will see more Spanish soldiers than all their saloon. that they have made a great mistake generals put together. If you eat it the youths.

General Mango will kill you just as it "No. I on the warpath." Old Geronimo is one of the Indians has killed the Spaniards. I am told on now in the camp at the Indian con- good authority that if you eat a mango gress. Geronimo was for years the every day and then get yellow fever most troublesome Indian in the coun- you will swell up frightfully and surely He was born in New Mexico, der that not one of you shall eat any and for years was a herder working of this fruit, and I shall punish sefor Spaniards who owned ranches in verely any man that disobeys the

After such an order the obedient

that time until his final surrender to alone, although they were abundant, General Miles in 1886, was almost tempting and delicious. The voluncontinually on the warpath. Today, af- teers ate them more freely, without ter being informed that the Minnesota any bad results, so far as heard from Indians were fighting the United When the Cuban officers and aides States troops, Geronimo said through were asked their opinion as to the wholesomeness of the fruit they gen-"When I say that the Minnesota In- erally said: "It is perfectly wholesome tricity. It is the destruction of weeds. dians have made a mistake I know if eaten ripe; all these bad things ap- The Illinois Central railroad is the first whereof I speak. From long expe- ply to the unripe mango, which is to employ it for that purpose, in order rience in both war and peace, I know sometimes eaten by the Spaniards." to keep down the weeds along its that it is better to submit to great Most of the army doctors seemed to lines of railroad. Not only has elecwrongs than to fight the United States. think that the only way to prevent the tricity been found servicable for weed Years ago the Indians made up great eating of the unripe mango was to destruction, but the cost is much less nations, but now they have gone never prohibit the fruit altogether. There than when done by hand labor. It to return. We have got to give up were many cases in which even the cost the company in the past about our old ways and take on those of the most obedient regulars were impelled \$40 per mile to destroy weeds. With whites. There are only a few of us by thirst and by hunger for a bit of electricity, five miles of weeds can be left and we are herded in like a lot of fruit to disobey the order; and, as the killed in an hour at a small expense, sheep, so that it is foolish to go to war. clear yellow mango is always ripe, A brush, heavily charged with elec-The young men of the tribes will never while the unripe fruit is green or tricity, runs along about eight inches know anything of war, except as the greenish, it did not take a very high above the ground, and every weed order of intelligence to discriminate with which it comes in contact, how-"I have never been in Minnesota, between the fruit which was fit to eat ever big and strong, is immediately It was certainly hard to believe any

dians do in a fight? They are making attractive thing. Imagine a tree as a great mistake and are very foolish. large as a big Massachusetts oak, covarmy with the germs of disease, ob- thinking that with my few braves I than that of the orange tree, and covtained during military service, in his could kill them all off and that we ered also with golden fruit, nestling would again have the land that our brilliantly among the green leaves. Great Father gave us and which he On such a tree there must be a hundred cians who are trying to establish the covered with game. I thought that barrels of mangoes, fully matured, the Great Spirit would be with us and every one of which is as large as a Nevertheless, anyone will admit that that after we had killed the white men good sized pear. In shape the mango the death of such a man is as certain- the buffalo, the deer and antelope is not unlike a short and thick cucumly attributable to his military career would come back. After I had fought ber, and it has a thin, tough skin, as it would be had he died before be- and lost, and after I had traveled over which, when matured, reveals a mass important point, Dr. Roberts, the san- lived, and saw his cities and the work only trouble about eating the mango is itary superintendent of Greater New that he had done, my old heart was that one needs an ablution afterward. York, reports that in the month of ready to burst. I knew that the race Some say that the ideal way is to get September there were 339 cases of ty- of the Indian was run and that there into a bath tub, take the mango, eat it phoid fever in that city 'emanating was nothing left but to submit to the and then go on with the bath. But one never be improved unless something is is perfectly willing to take the trouble added to it. It is cheaper to allow "When I discovered that we were to seek the ablution for the sake of the time in the effort to grow crops to be

BACK TO FRANCE.—An American lately returned from several years of travel in Europe, tells of an instance of New England thrift which came under his notice.

"In Italy," he said, telling the story to a friend, "the authorities seem to have a wonderful faculty for scenting out dutiable articles, and the traveler over the borders com France often finds himself relieved of an unexpect-

"I was one of a party of Americans who crossed the border in a comfortable carriage one day last year. Our man, generous with his money, but determined not to part with it foolish-

"There were five in the party, and grapes. We started shortly after breakfast, and in an hour were over

firmly, caring little whether what he said was understood by the official, as he intended to make his meaning clear by action; 'no, sir, we'll eat our luncheon in France, sooner than pay for those grapes!'

"And before any one realized what he was doing, back we were in France again, where we sat, eating our grapes in the very faces of the Italians, though without quite as much relish as we might have had an hour or two later."

DON'T WORRY .- Don't worry about pen tomorrow, because you may die terday, because yesterday is a hundred years away. If you don't believe it, just try to reach after it and bring it back. Don't worry anything about that is happening today, because today will last only 15 or 20 minutes. Don't worry about things you can't help, because worry only makes them worse. Don't worry about things you can help, because then there's no need to worry. Don't worry at all. If you want to be penitent now and then it won't hurt you a bit, it will do you good. But worry, worry, worry, fret, fret, fret-why, there's neither sorrow, penitence, strength, penance, reformation, hope nor resolution in it. It's

"I HAVE ORDERS NOT TO GO."-'I have orders-positive orders not to go there; orders that I dare not disobey," said a youth who was being

"Come, don't be so womanish," said

"No, I can't break orders," said

"What special orders have you got? Come, show them to us, if you can." John took a neat walet from his pocket, carefully folded. The lads.

read aloud : "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

"Now," said John, "you see my or-ders forbid my going with you. They are God's orders, and by His help I will not break them."

A WEED DESTROYER.-One more beneficial use has been found for eleckilled, and turns black as if frozen.

TROUBLE WITH WEEVILS .- I was troubled for several years by weevils in the barn and tried everything represented to be good for their extermination, but failure was always the result. I resolved to try my own remedy, or rather one which an old colored woman on the place had recommended as being efficent in the time of her "ol" mastah." Just before hay-making time I cleaned the barn, grain, bins, etc., thoroughly, and then sprinkled slacked lime about there in every niche and corner. I have not been molested by weevils since that time. If I ever am, this remedy will do the work .-Correspondent of Practical Farmer.

FEEDING THE LAND .- Poor land can