CHAPTER VII.

FORE night closed their third day on the island Jenks managed to construct a roomy tent house, with a framework of sturdy trees selected on account of their location. To these he nailed or tied crossbeams of felled sanlings, and the tarpaulins dragged from the beach supplied roof and walls. It required the united strength of Iris and himself to baul into position the heavy sheet that topped the structure, while he was compelled to desist from active building operations in order to fashion n rough ladder. Without some such contrivance he could not get the topmost supports adjusted at a sufficient

Although the edifice required at least two more days of hard work before it would be fit for habitation Iris wished to take up her quarters there immediately. This the sailor would not hear

"In the cave," he said, "you are absolutely sheltered from all the winds that blow or rain that falls. Our villa, however, is painfully leaky and drafty at present. When asleep, the whole body is relaxed, and you are then most open to the attacks of cold or fever in which case, Miss Deane, I shall be reluctantly obliged to dose you with a concoction of that tree there."

He pointed to a neighboring cincho

na, and Iris naturally asked why he selected that particular brand.

"Because it is quinine, not made up in nice little tabloids, but au naturel, It will not be a bad plan if we prepare a strong infusion and take a small quantity every morning on the excellent principle that prove ion is better than cure."

The girl laughed. Curiously enough, the lifting of the veil upon the man's earlier history made these two much better friends. With more complete acquaintance there was far less tendency toward cerpassages which under ordinary conditions could be construed as nothing else than downright flirtation. Thenceforth for ten days they labored unceasingly, starting work at daybreak and stopping only when the light failed

finding the long hours of sunshine all too short for the manifold tasks demanded of them, yet thankful that the night brought rest. The sailor made out a programme to which he rigidly adhered. In the first place, he completed the house, which had two compartments-an inner room, in which Iris slept, and an outer, which served as a shelter for their meals and provided a bedroom for the man.

Then he constructed a gigantic sky sign on Summit rock, the small cluster of bowlders on top of the cliff. His chief difficulty was to hoist into place the tall poles be needed, and for this purpose he had to again visit Palm Tree rock in order to secure the pulley By exercising much incenuity in devising shear-legs he at last succeeded in lifting the masts into their allotted receptacles, where they were firmly secured. Finally he was able to swing neighboring trees, the loftiest of which his irritation.

all sides, the name of the ship Sirdar,

The name of the ship.

fashioned in six foot letters nailed and spliced together in sections and made from the timbers of that ill fated ves-

Meanwhile he taught Iris how to weave a net out of the strands of un-raveled cordage. With this, weighted by bullets, he contrived a casting net and caught a lot of small fish in the lagoon. Among the fish caught they hit upon two species which most resembled whiting and haddock, and these turned out to be very palatable

and wholesome. Jenks knew a good deal of botany and enough about birds to differentiate by cable. By selling my ponies and my for nearly a week, had veered round to between carpivorous species and those other belongings I was able to walk the northeast during the night. Did she staggered blindly. After a few de fords

nt for numan food, while the sait in their most fortunate supply of hams rendered their meals almost epicurean.

From the rusty rifles on the reef Jenks brought away the bayonets and secured all the screws, bolts and other small odds and ends which might be serviceable. From the barrels he built a handy grate to facilitate Iris' cooking operations, and a careful search each morning amid the ashes of any burned wreckage accumulated a store of most useful nails.

The pressing need for a safe yet accessible bathing place led him and the girl to devote one afternoon to a complete survey of the coast line. By this time they had given names to all the chief iscalities. The northerly promontory was naturally christened North cane; the western, Europa point; the portion of the reef between their habitation and Palm Tree rock became Filey Brig; the other section Northwest reef. The flat sandy passage across the island, containing the cave, house and well, was named Prospect park, and the extensive stretch of sand on the

southeast, with its guard of broken reefs, was at once dubbed Turtle beach when Jenks discovered that an immense number of green turtles were paying their spring visit to the island to bury their eggs in the sand.

The two began their tour of inspecdesperate struggle to escape from the clutch of the typhoon. Iris would not be content until the sailor showed her the rock behind which he placed her for shelter while he searched for water. For a moment the recollection of their unfortunate companions on board ship brought a lur p into her throat and dimmed her eyes.

"I remember them in my prayers every night," she confided to him. "It seems so unutterably sad that they should be lost while we are alive and happy."

The man distracted her attention by pointing out the embers of their first fire. It was the only way to choke back the tumultuous feelings that suddealy stormed his heart. Happy! Yes, he had never before known such happiness. How long would it last? High up on the cliff swung the signal to anxions searchers of the sea that here would be found the survivors of the Sirdar. And then when rescue came, when Miss Deane became once more the daughter of a wealthy baronet and he a disgraced and nameless outcast! He set his teeth and savagely struck at a full cup of the pitcher plant which had so providentially relieved their killing thirst.

"Oh, why did you do that?" pouted Iris. "Poor thing; it was a true friend in need. I wish I could do something for it to make it the best and leafiest plant of its kind on the island."

"Very well," he answered, "you can gratify your wish. A tinful of fresh water from the well applied daily to its roots will quickly achieve that end."

The moroseness of his tone and manner surprised her. For once her quick into air, high above the tops of the intuition falled to divine the source of

"You give your advice ungraciously," he felled in order to clear the view on she said, "but I will adopt it neverthe-

> A harmless incident, a kindly and quite feminine resolve, yet big with

> fate for both of them. Jenks' unwonted ill humor-for the passage of days had driven from his face all its harshness and from his tongue all its assumed bitternesscreated a passing cloud until the phys-

> ical exertion of scrambling over the

rocks to round the North cape restored

their normal relations At last they reached the south side, and here they at once found themselves in a delightfully secluded and the position." tiny bay samey, tree lined, sheltered on three dides by cliffs and rocks.

"Oh," of I I is excitedly, "what a lovely state perfect Smugglers' cove!" the answering comment, "but open to the sea. It you look at the smooth riband of w ter out there you will perceive a p sage through the reef. great place or sharks, Miss Deane, but lations the growing accept as to the no place f bathers.'

They proved on. While traversing the coral rewn south beach, with its | Hongkong or Sin apore of a special patches f white soft sand baking in the direct rays of the sun, Jenks perceived in ces of the turtle which keep a close lookout for any traces of swarmed in the neighboring sea.

"Delic ous eggs and turtle soup!" he sea tortoise during their nocturnal visits to the breeding ground.

"If they are green turtle," he continued, "we are in the lap of luxury. They lard the alderman and inspire to freight the vessel with them and sweet voiced greeting, and he knew,

make my fortune." "I suppose, under the circumstances, you were not a rich man, Mr. Jenks," said Iris timidly.

"I possess a wealthy bachelor uncle pected relief reached them. who made me his heir and allowed me four hundred a year, so I was a sort of and dived into the wood, giving a pass-Croesus among staff corps officers. ing thought to the fact that the wind, When the smash came he disowned me after blowing steadily from the south

from debt." "And all through a deceitful wo-

"Yes." She ventured a further step.

"Was she very bad to you, Mr. Jenks? He stopped and laughed-actually

roared-at the suggestion. 'Bad to me!" he repeated. "I had nothing to do with her. She was humburging her husband, not me. Fool that I was, I could not mind my own business."

Mrs. Costobell was not flirting with the man who suffered on her account. It is a regrettable but true statement that, Iris would willingly have hugged Mrs. Costobell at that moment.

Rounding Europa point, the sailor's eyes were fixed on their immediate surroundings, but Iris gazed dreamily ahead. Hence it was that she was the first to cry in amazement:

"A boat! See, there! On the rocks!" There was no mistake. A ship's boat was perched high and dry on the north side of the cape. Even as they scrambled toward it Jenks understood how it had come there.

When the Sirdar parted amidships the after section fell back into the depths beyond the reef, and this bont must have broken loose from its davits and been driven ashore here by the force of the western current.

Was it intact? Could they escape? Was this ark stranded on the island for their benefit? If it were seaworthy, whither should they steer-to those is lands whose blue outlines were visible on the horizon?

These and a hundred other questions coursed through his brain during the

race over the rocks, but all such wild speculations were promptly settled when they reached the craft, for the keel and the whole of the lower timbers were smashed into match wood.

But there were stores on board. Jenks remembered that Captain Ross' tion by passing the scene of the first foresight had secured the provisioning of all the ship's boats soon after the first wild rush to steady the vessel after the propeller was lost. Masts. sails, oars, seats-all save two water easks-had gone, but Jenks, with eager hands, unfastened the lockers, and here he found a good supply of tinned meats and biscuits. They had barely recovered from the excitement of this find when the saflor noticed that behind the rocks on which the craft was firmly lodged lay a small natural basin full of sait water, replenished and freshened by the spray of every gale and completely shut off from all seaward necess.

It was not more than four feet deep, beautifully carpeted with sand and secluded by rocks on all sides. Not the tinjest crab or fish was to be seen. It provided an ideal bath.

Iris was overjoyed. She pointed toward their habitation.

"Mr. Jenks," she said, "I will be with you at teatime."

He gathered all the tins he was able to carry and strode off, enjoining her to fire her revolver if for the slightest reason she wanted assistance, and giving a parting warning that if she delayed too long he would come and shout to her.

"I wonder," said the girl to herself, watching his retreating figure, "what he is afraid of. Surely by this time we have exhausted the unpleasant surprises of the island. Anyhow, now for a splash"

She was hardly in the water before she began to be afraid on account of Jenks. Suppose anything happened to him while she was thoughtlessly enjoying herself here! So strongly did the thought possess her that she hurrledly dressed again and ran off to find him.

He was engaged in fastening a number of bayonets transversely to a long piece of timber. "What are you doing that for?" she

nsked. "Why did you return so soon? Did

anything alarm you?" "I thought you might get into mis-

chief," she confessed. "No. On the other hand, I am trying

to make trouble for any unwelcome visitors," he replied, "I intend to set this up in front of our cave in case we are compelled to defend ourselves against an attack by savages. With this barring the way they cannot rush

On the nineteenth day of their residence on the island the sailor climbed, as was his invariable habit, to the Summit rock while Iris prepared break-"Char in enough to look at," was fast. At this early hour the horizon was clearly cut as the rim of a sapphire. He examined the whole arc of the sea with his glasses, but not a sail A was in sight. According to his calcufate of the Sirdar post long ere this have culminated in the dispatch from search vessel, while British warships in the China sea would be warned to the steamer, to visit all islands on their route and to question fishermen whom announced when Iris asked him why they encountered. So help might come he was so intently studying certain any day or it might be long deferred. marks on the sand, caused by the great | He could not pierce the future, and it was useless to vex his soul with questionings as to what might happen next week. The great certainty of the hour was Iris-the blue eyed, smiling divinity who had come into his life-waitthe poet. When a ship comes to our ing for him down there beyond the assistance I will persuade the captain trees, waiting to welcome him with a with a fierce devouring joy, that her cheek would not pale nor her lip tremble when he announced that at least another sun must set before the ex-

He replaced the glasses in their case

out of my quarters penniless, but free the change portend a storm? Well, they were now prepared for all such eventualities, and he had not forgotten that they possessed, among other treasures, a box of books for rainy days. And a rainy day with Iris for company! What gale that ever blew could offer such compensation for enforced Idleness?

The morning sped in uneventful work. Iris did not neglect her cherished pitcher plant. After luncheon it was her custom now to carry a dishful of water to its apparently arid roots, and she rose to fulfill ber self imposed task

"Let me help you," said Jenks. "I am not very busy this afternoon."

"No, thank you, I simply won't allow you to touch that shrub. The dear thing looks quite glad to see me. It drinks up the water as greedly as a thirsty animal."

Iris had been gone perhaps five minutes when he heard a distant shrick. twice repeated, and then there came faintly to his ears his own name, not "Jenks," but "Robert," in the girl's voice. Something terrible had happened. It was a cry of supreme distress. Mortal agony or overwhelming terror alone could wring that name from her lips. Precisely in such moments this man acted with the decision, the unerring judgment, the instantaneous acceptance of great risk to accomplish great results, that marked him out as a born soldier

He rushed into the house and snatched from the rack one of the rifles reposing there in apple pie order each with a filled magazine attached and a cartridge already in position.

Then he ran with long strides not through the trees, where he could see nothing, but toward the beach, whence

in forty yards the place where Iris probably was would become visible. At once he saw her struggling in the

grasp of two ferocious looking Dyaks. one by his garments a person of consequence, the other a half naked savage. hideous and repulsive in appearance, Around them seven men armed with guns and parangs were dancing with excitement.

Iris' captors were endeavoring to tie her arms, but she was a strong and ac tive Englishwoman, with muscles well knit by the constant labor of recent busy days and a frame developed by years of horse riding and tennis playing. The pair evidently found her a tough handful, and the inferior Dyak, either to stop her screams-for she was shricking, "Robert, come to me!" with all her might-or to stiffe her into submission, roughly placed, his huge hand over her mouth.

These things the sailor noticed instantly. Some men, brave to rashness, ready as he to give his life to save her. would have raced madly over the intervening ground, scarce a furlong, and attempted a heroic combat of one against nine.

Not so Jenks. With the methodical exactness of the parade ground he settled down on one

knee and leveled the rifle.

None of the Dyaks saw him. All were intent on the sensational prize



In the grasp of two ferocious tooking Dyaks.

they had secured, a young and beautiful white woman so contentedly roaming about the shores of this fetish is land. With the slow speed advised by the Roman philosopher the back sight and fore sight of the rifle came into line with the breast of the coarse brute clutching the girl's face.

Then something bit him above the heart and simultaneously tore half of his back into fragments. He fell, with a queer sob, and the others turned to

face this unexpected danger. Iris, knowing only that she was free from that hateful grasp, wrenched herself free from the chief's hold and ran with all her might along the beach to Jenks and safety.

Again and yet again the rifle gave its short, sharp snarl, and two more Dyaks collapsed on the sand. Six were left, their leader being still unconsciously preserved from death by the figure of the flying girl.

A fourth Dyak dropped. The survivors, cruel savages, but not cowards, unslung their guns. The sailor, white faced, grim, with an unpleasant gleam in his deep set eyes and a lower jaw protruding, noticed their

preparations.

"To the left!" he shouted. "Run to ward the trees!" Iris heard him and strove to obey but her strength was failing her, and

her faltering footsteps. Jenks was watching her, watching the remaining Dyaks, from whom a spluttering voiley came, picking out his quarry with the murderous ease of a terrier in a rat pit. Something like a bee in a violent hurry hummed past his ear, and a rock near his right foot was struck a tremendous blow by an unseen agency. He liked this. It would be a battle, not a battue.

spairing efforts she jurched feebly to

her knees and tumbled face downward

on the broken coral that had tripped

The fifth Dyak crumpled into the distortion of death, and then their leader took deliberate aim at the kneeling marksman who threatened to wipe him and his band out of existence. But his deliberation, though skillful, was too profound. The sailor fired first and was professionally astonished to see the gaudily attired individual tossed violently backward for many yards, finally pitching headlong to the earth. Had he been charged by a bull in full career he could not have been more utterly discomfited. The incident was sensational, but inexplicable.

Yet another member of the band was prostrated ere the two as yet unscathed thought fit to beat a retreat. This they now did with celerity, but they dragged their chief with them. It was no part of Jenks' programme to allow them to escape. He aimed again at the man nearest the trees. There was a sharp click and nothing more. The cartridge was a misfire. He hastily sought to eject it. and the rifle jammed. Springing to his feet, with a yell, he ran forward. The flying men caught a

glimpse of him and accelerated their movements. Just as he reached Iris they vanished among the trees,

Slinging the rifle over his shoulder.

he picked up the girl in his arms. She was conscious, but breathless. "You are not hurt?" he gasped, his eyes blazing into her face with an in-

tensity that she afterward remembered as appalling. "No," she whispered.

"Listen," he continued in labored jerks. "Try and obey me-exactly. I will carry you-to the cave. Stop there. Shoot any one you see-till I come."

She heard him wonderingly. Was he going to leave her, now that he had her safely clasped to his breast? Impossible! Ah, she understood. Those men must have landed in a boat. He intended to attack them again. He was going to fight them single handed. and she would not know what happened to him until it was all over. Gradually her vitality returned. She almost smiled at the fantastic conceit that she and Liver Tonic for child or would desert him.

Jenks placed her on her feet at the entrance to the cave.

"You understand," he cried, and without waiting for an answer ran to the house for another rifle. This time, to or car-loads, made expressly for her amazement, he darted back through Prospect park toward the south beach. The sailor knew that the Dyaks had tural iron works, ship bottoms, landed at the sandy bay Iris had christened Smugglers' cove. They were acquainted with the passage through the reef and came from the distant islands. Now they would endeavor to escape by the same channel. They must be prevented at all costs

He was right. As they came out into the open he saw three men, not two, them was the chief. Then Jenks understood that his bullet had hit the lock of the Dyak's uplifted weapon. with the result already described. By a miracle he had escaped. He coolly prepared to slay the three

of them with the same calm purpose that distinguished the opening phase of this singularly one sided conflict. The distance was much greater, perhaps 800 yards from the point where the boat came into view. He knelt and fired. He judged that the missile struck the craft between the trio. "I didn't allow for the sun on the

side of the fore sight," he said, "or perhaps I am a bit shaky after the run. In any event they can't go far." A hurrying step on the coral behind

him caught his ear. Instantly he sprang up and faced about-to see Iris. "They are escaping," she said.

"No fear of that," he replied, turning away from her.

'Where are the others?" "Dead!"

all."

"Do you mean that you killed nearly all those men?" "Six of them. There were nine in

He knelt again, lifting the rifle. Iris threw herself on her knees by his side. There was something awful to her in this chill and businesslike declaration of a fixed purpose.
"Mr. Jenks," she said, clasping her

hands in an agony of entreaty, "do not kill more men for my sake!" "For my own sake, then," he growl-

ed, annoyed at the interruption, as the sampan was afloat. "Then I ask you for God's sake not

to take another life. What you have already done was unavoidable, perhaps right. This is murder!" He lowered his weapon and looked at

"If those men get away they will bring back a host to avenge their comrades-and secure you," he added.

"It may be the will of Providence for such a thing to happen. Yet I implore you to spare them."

He placed the rifle on the sand and raised her tenderly, for she had yielded to a paroxysm of tears. Not another word did either of them speak in that hour. The large triangular sail of the sampan was now bellying out in the south wind. A figure stood up in the stern of the boat and shook a menacing arm at the couple on the beach.

It was the Malay chief, cursing them with the rude eloquence of his barbarous tongue. And Jenks well knew what he was saying.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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