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P. S.—The more I think the more des- cried Professor Summerice triumphantperate does our position seem. I see no possible hope of our return. tuore were a high tree near the edge of the plateau we might drop a return bridge across, but there is none within ally yards. Our united strength could not carry a trunk which would serve our purpose. The rope, of course, is fur too short that, we could descend by it. No, our position is hopeless-

CHAPTER XII. Penetrating Maple White Land. ND now we had to decide upor our immediate movements. We shifted our position from among the tick laden bushes until we come to a small clearing thickly surcounded by trees upon all sides. There were some flat slabs of rock in the cen ter, with an excellent well close by and there we sat in cleanty comfort while we made our first plans for the invesion of this new country. Birds were calling among the foliage, espe-

czy which was new to us, but beyond these sounds there were no signs of Our first care was to make some sort

cially one with a peculiar whooping

of list of own own stores, so that we might know what we had to rely upon. What with the things we had our Zambo had sent across on the rope we | marks. were fairly well supplied. Most important of all, in view of the dangers which might surround us, we had our four rifles and 1,300 rounds; also a shotgun, but not more than 150 mgdium pellet cartridges. In the matter of provisions we had enough to last for aeveral weeks, with a sufficiency of tobacco and a few acientific imple ments, including a large telescope and a good fieldglass. All these things we collected together in the clearing, and as a first precaution we cut down with sar hatchet and knives a number of thorny bushes, which we piled round in a circle some fifteen yards in diam elec. This was to be our headquarters for the time-our place of refuge against sudden danger and the guard house for our stores. Fort Chatlenger we called it.

The peaceful penetration of Maple White Land, which we called the new country, was the pressing subject be fore us. We had the evidence of our own eves that the place was inhabited he some unknown creatures, and there was that of Maple White's skerchbool to show that more dreadful and dan gerons monsters might still appear That there might also prove to be haman occupants and that they were of a malevolent character was sug gested by the skeleton impaled upon the bamboos, which could not have got there had it not been dropped from out possibility of escape in such land, was clearly full of danger, and our reasons indorsed every measure of caution which Lord John's experi code could suggest. Yet it was surely impossible that we should halt on the silge of this world of mystery when our very souls were tingling with imparlence to push forward and to pluck the heart from it.

We therefore blocked the entrance to our zareba by filling it up with sevcoul thorny bushes and left our camp with the stores entirely surrounded by this protecting hedge. We then slowly and cautiously set forth into the un known, following the course of the Ilistream which flowed from our encing, as it should always serve us as a guide on our return.

Hardly had we started when we came across signs that there were indead wonders awalling us. After a fow hundred yards of thick forest conraining many trees which were quite onknown to me, but which Summerles, who was the botanist of the partr, recognized as forms of conffera and of excudeceous plants which have long passed away to the world below, entered a region where the stream eldened out and formed a considerable leng. Studdenly Lord John, who was walking first, balted with uplifted

"Look at this?" said he. "By George, tion must be the trail of the father of all birds!"

An enormous three toed track was imprinted in the soft mud before us. The creature, whatever it was, had crossed the awang and had passed on Into the forest. We all stopped to examine that monstrous apoor. If it were indeed a bird-and what animal could leave such a mark?-its foot was so much larger than an ostrich's that his height upon the same scale must be earrhous. Lord John tooked eager by round him and allped two car-Leidgen into his elephant gun.

I'll stake my good name as a antharres," said he, "that the track is a fresh one. The creature has not passed ten minutes. Look how the water he still oozing into that deeper print! By Jove! See, here is the mark of a | your rag."

Birls one! since enough, smaller tracks of the mame general form were running par John, "Things look a bit differenmind to the large gops.

"But what do you make of this?"



We Observed Them at Our Leisure. ly, pointing to what looked like the

ruge print of a five fingered human acives brought up and those which hand appearing among the three toed

"Wealden!" cried Challenger in an estasy, "I've seen them in the Wealden clay. It is a creature walking erect upon three tood feet and occadonally putting one of its five fingered forepaws upon the ground. Not a bird, my dear Roxton-not a bird"

"A beast?" "No; a reptile-a dinosaur. Nothing dise could have left such a track They puzzled a worthy Sussex doctor some ninety years ago. But who in he world could have hoped-hopedo have seen a sight like that?"

His words died away into a whisper, and we all stood in motionless amazement. Following the tracks, we had eft the mornes and passed through a creen of brushwood and trees. Beand was an open glade, and in this were five of the most extraordinary reatures that I have ever seen. Crouching down among the bushes, we observed them at our leisure.

There were, as I say, five of them, wo being adults and three young enes. in size they were enormous. Even he bubles were as big as elephants, while the two large ones were far beond all creatures I have ever seen. they had state colored skin, which was scaled like a lizard's and shimfeet, while with their small five fin. horrible males, absolutely motionless aying that they looked like monstrous with skins like binck erocodiles.

and their heads undulating high above small, not less than a thousand of the brushwood. Then they vanished these fifthy creatures by in the bollow. from our slight.

I looked at my comrades. Lord John was standing at gaze with his finger on the trigger of his elephant gun, his eager bunter's sont shining from his flerce eyes. What would be not give for one such head to place between the two crossed oars above the mantelplece in his sauggery at the Albany! unknown land depended upon our presence being concealed from its in- ed up into the a'r. habitants. The two professors were in slient ecstasy. In their excitement they had unconsciously setzed each other by the hand and stood like two little children in the presence of a marvel, Challenger's cheeks bunched up into a secaphic smile and Summer ee's sardonic face softening for the

mement into wonder and reverence. "Nune dimittial" he oried at lest. "What will they say in England of

"My dear Summerlee, I will tell you with great confidence exactly what they will say in England," said Challonger. "They will say that you are an informal liar and a sejentific charlatan, exactly as you and others said of

"In the face of photographs?" "Faked, Summerlee! Clumsily fak

"In the face of specimens?" "Ah, there we may have them! Ma may be all yelping our praises yet August the 28th-the day we saw five tive iguanodons in a glade of Maple White Land. Put it down in your diary, my young friend, and send it to

"And be ready to get the toe end of the editorial boot in return," said Lord from the latitude of London, young

who never tells his adventures, for he dame them? For this will seem a bit of a dream to ourselves in a month or two. What did you say they were?"

the south of England was alive with hem when there was plenty of good hish green stuff to keep them going. onditions have changed, and the onditions have not changed, and the souths have lived."

"If ever we get out of this slive I must have a head with me," said Lord "Lord, how some of that Soma-Band-Uganda crowd would turn senutiful pea green if they saw it! I ion't know what you chaps think, but strikes me that we are on mighty hin fee all this time."

It was destined that on this very norning-our first in the new country we were to find out what strange bazards lay around us. It was a loath some adventure and one of which I sate to think. If, as Lord John said, he glade of the iguanodous will re main with us as a dream, then surely the swamp of the pterodactyla will for ver be our nightmare. Let me set own exactly what occurred,

We passed very alowly through the woods, partly because Lord Roxton seted as scout before he would let us advance and partly because at every second step one or other of our profesors would full, with a cry of wonder sefore some flower or insect, which presented him with a new type. We may have traveled two or three miles in all, keeping to the right of the line of the stream, when we came upon a considruble opening in the trees. A belt of brushwood led up to a tangle of rocks. The whole plateau was strewn with bowlders. We were walking slowly toward these rocks, among bushes which reached over our waists, when we be ame aware of a strange, low gabbling and whistling sound, which filled the ilr with a constant clamor and apseared to come from some snot imme flarely before us. Lord John held up his hand as a signal for us to stop, and he made his way swiftly, stooping and mining, to the line of rocks. We saw im peep over them and give a gesture of amazement. Then he stood staring as if forgetting us, so utterly entranced was he by what he saw. Finally he waved us to come on, holding up his hand as a signal for caution. His whole bearing made me feel that something very wonderful, but dangerous, lay be

Creeping to his side, we looked over the rocks. The place into which we gazed was a pit and may in the early days have been one of the smaller volcamic blowholes of the plateau. It was owl shaped, and at the hottom, some hundreds of yards from where we lay, were pools of green scummed, stagnan water, fringed with bullrushes. It was a weird place in itself, but its oc cupants made it seem like a scene from the "Seven Chyles of Dante. The place was a rookery of pterodac tyls. There were hundreds of them ongregated within view. All the bot om area around the water edge was alive with their young ones and with bideous mothers broading upon their leathery, yellowish eggs. From this crawling, flapping mass of unclean reptillan life came the shocking clamor which filled the air and the mephitic horrible, musty odor which turned us mered where the sun shone upon it, sick. But above, perched each upon All five were sitting up, balancing its own stone, fall, gray and withered, themselves upon their broad, powerful more like dead and dried specimens talls and their huge three toed hind than actual living creatures, sat the gered front feet they pulled down the save for the rolling of their red eyes or branches upon which they browsed. I an occasional snap of the rattrap to not know that I can bring their ap- beaks as a dragon fly went past them. pearance home to you better than by Their linge membranous wings were closed by folding their forearms, so kangaroos, twenty feet in length, and | that they sat like gigantic old women, wrapped in hideous web colored We saw the shimmering slaty gleam shawls, and with their feroclous heads of their skins between the tree trunks protruding above them. Large and before us.

CHAPTER XIII. A Prehistoric Tragedy.

HALLENGER, bent upon prov ing some point which Summerfee had contested, thrust his head over the rock and nearly brought destruction upon us all. In an And yet his reason held him in, for all instant the nearest male gave a shrillour exploration of the wonders of this whistling cry and dapped his twenty foot span of leathery wings as it sour

"Make for the wood and keep togeth er," cried Lord John, clubbing his rifle "The brutes mean mischief."

The moment we attempted to retreat the circle closed to upon us until the



The Circle Clased In Upon Us.

tips of the wings of those nearest to us can't hope to be believed. Who's to nearly touched our faces. We beat at them with the stocks of our guns, but there was nothing solid or vulnerable to strike. Then suddenly out of the "Iguanodons," said Summerice, "You | whizzing, slate colored circle a long will find their footmarks all over the neck shot out and a fierce beak made Hastings sands in Kent and in Sussex, a thrust at us. Another and another followed. Summerice gave a cry and the blood was streaming. I felt a prod | soft but heavy pads placed cautiously at the back of my neck and turned dix seasts died. Here it seems that the zy with the shock. Challenger fell. and as I stooped to pick him up I was on the top of him. At the same instant I heard the crush of Lord John's ele arated us from this horror of the phant gun and, looking up, saw one of the creatures with a broken wing struggling upon the ground, splitting and gurgling at us with a wide opened beat | hedge and bloodshot, goggled eyes, like some devil in a medineval picture. Its com rades had flown higher at the sudden sound and were circling above us.

> "Now," cried Lord John, "now for one lives." We staggered through the brush him up and rushed among the trunks. strength. That hissing pant, as regu-Once there we were safe, for those |ar and full volumed as the exhaust of discomfited, we saw them for a long eyes. There was an uneasy rustling, time flying at a great height against as if it were crawling slowly forward. the deep blue sky above our heads. "I believe it is going to spring!" said souring round and round, no bigger 1, cocking my rife. than wood pigeons, with their eyes no

er woods they gave up the chase, and Keep it as a last card." we saw them no more. "A most interesting and convincing bulted beside the brook and he bathed spoke. swollen knee. "We are exception elly well informed. Summerice as to Summeriee was wiping the blood fellow, I'll chance it, anyhow." from a cut in his forebead, while I was ying up a nusty stab in the muscle of ture's teeth had only grazed the flesh. tinned, "that our young friend has re-

by a bite. In my own case, I was the brute's face. For one moment I beaten about the bead by their wings, had a vision of a horrible mask like a so we have had a remarkable exhibition of their various methods of of-"It has been touch and go for our ives," said Lord John gravely, "and

I could not think of a more rotten sort of death than to be outed by such flithy vermin. I was sorry to fire my title, but, by Jove, there was no great

"We should not be here if you

hadn't." said I, with conviction. "It may do no harm," said he. 'Among these woods there must be many load cracks from splitting or falling trees which would be just like the sound of a gun. But now, if you are of my opinion, we have had thrills enough for one day and had best get back to the surgical box at the camp for some earbolic. Who knows what venom these brasis mmy have in their hideous jaws?"

That night (our third in Maple White fand) we had an experience which left a fearful impression upon ou minds and made us thankful that Lord John had worked so hard in making our retreat impregnable. We were all sleeping round our dying fire when we were aroused, or, rather, I should mecession of the most frightful cries and screams to which I have ever listened. I know no sound to which could compare (his amuzing fumuli which seemed to come from some spot within a few hundred yards of our camp. It was as ear splitting as any whistle of a rallway engine, but whereus the whistle is a clear, mechanical, sharp edged sound this was far deeper in volume and vibrant with the uttermost strain of agony and horror, We clapped our hands to our cars to shut out that nerve shaking appeal A cold sweat broke out over my body, and my heart turned sick at the miser of it. All the woes of tortured life, all its stupentons indictment of high heaven, its funumerable serrows, seemed to be centered and condensed into that one dreadful, agonized cry. And then under this high pitched, ringing sound there was another, more faterulttent, a low, deep chested laugh, a growths, throaty gurgle of merriment which formed a grotesque accompaniment to the shriek with which it was dended. For three or four minutes on end the fearsome duet continued. while all the foliage rustled with the cising of startled ideds. Then it shut off as suddenly as it began. For a long time we sat in harrifled silence. Then Lard John threw a bundle of twirs upon the fire, and their red glare Its up the intent faces of my companions and Bickered over the great boughs tiove our heads

"What was it?" I whispered. "We shall know in the morning," said Lord John. "It was close to us

not farther than the glade. "We have been privileged to over icar a prehistoric tragedy, the sort of leana which occurred among the eeds upon the border of some Jurassi. lagoon, when the greater dragon pinned the lesser among the slime," said Challenger, with more selemnity than his throwing stick or his arrow avail rifle it would be all odds on the monster."

"I think I should back my little friend," said Lord John, caressing his express. "But the beast would certainly have a good sporting chance." Summertee raised his hand.

"Hush!" he cried. "Surely I hear omething."

From the atter slience there emerged a deep, regular pat, pat. It was the put his hand to his face, from which | trend of some animal-the rbythm of upon the ground. It stole slowly around the camp and then balted near our gateway. There was a low, slblagain struck from behind and dropped lant rise and fall-the breathing of the creature. Only our feeble hedge sepnight. Each of us had seized his rifle. and Lord John had pulled out a small bush to make an embrasure in the

"By George?" he whispered, "I think I can see it."

I stooped and peered over his shoulder through the gap. Yes, I could see It too. In the deep shadow of the tree there was a deeper shadow yet. black, inchoate, vague-a crouching wood and even as we reached the trees form full of savage vigor and menace. he harples were on us again. Sum It was no higher than a horse, but the neriee was knocked down, but we took dim outline suggested vast bulk and ange wings had no space for their an engine, spoke of a monstrous organweep beneath the branches. As we ism, Once as it moved I thought I imped homeward, sadly manied and saw the glint of two terrible greenish

than wood pigeons, with their eyes no "Dou't fire, don't fire!" whispered doubt still following our progress. At Lord John. "The crash of a gan in this last, however, as we reached the thick-silent night would be heard for miles.

"If it gets over the hedge we're done," said Summerice, and his voice experience," said Chattenger as we crackled into a nervous hingh as be

"No, it must not get over," cried Lord John, "but hold your fire to the last, the habits of the enraged pterodactyl." Perhaps I can make semething of the

It was as brave an act as ever I saw a man do. He stooped to the fire, pickhe neck. Lord John had the shoulder ed up a blazing branch and slipped in of his coat forn away, but the crea | an instant through a sallyport which he had made in our gateway. The "It is worth noting," Challenger con | thing moved forward with a dreadful snarl. Lord John never hesitated; but, selved an undoubted stab, while Lord running toward it with a quick, light folin's coat could only have been torn step, he dashed the flaming wood into giant toad's, of a warty, leprous skin and of a loose mouth all beslabbered with fresh blood. The next, there was a crash in the underwood and our dreadful visitor was gone.

"I thought he wouldn't face the fire," sald Lord folin, laughing, as he came back and threw his branch among the fagots.

"You should not have taken such a risk!" we all cried.

"There was nothing else to be done. If he had got among us we should have shot each other in trying to down him. On the other hand, if we had fired through the hedge and wounded him he would soon have been on the top of us, to say nothing of giving ourselves



He Dashed the Flaming Wood Into the Brute's Face.

away. On the whole, I think that we are jolly well out of it. What was he, Our learned men looked at each other

with some hesitation.

Summerice, lighting his pipe from the applaud his resolution.

tion that something of the sort might to it.

exist upon this plateau." In the morning it was not long bethe pools of blood and the enormous rection over the greensward we imagined at first that a number of anithe remains more closely we discovhad been literally torn to pieces by

far more ferocious, than itself. teeth and of enormous claws.

no courage and no mechanism of his as are still found among the breecia ing. I leaned my head round it in orcould have met. What could his sling. of our caverns, but the creature actually seen was undoubtedly of a larger nearly fell out of the tree in my surhim against such forces as have been and more reptillan character. Personloose toulgh? Even with a modern ally I should pronounce for allosaurus.

"Or megalosaurus," said Summerlee.

Among them are to be found all the most terrible types of animal life that have ever cursed the earth or blessed a museum." He laughed sonorously at his own conceit, for, though he had little sense of humor, the crudest pleasantry from his own lips moved him always to rours of apprecia-

"The less noise the better," said Lord Roxton curtly. "We don't know who or what may be near us. If this fellah comes back for his breakfast and catches us here we won't have so much to laugh at."

That morning we mapped out a small portion of the plateau, avoiding the swamp of the pterodactyls and keeping to the east of our brook instead of to the west. In that direction the coun try was still thickly wooded, with so much undergrowth that our progress was very slow.

> CHAPTER XIV. For Once I Was the Hero.

HAVE dwelt up to now upon the terrors of Maple White Land, but there was another side to the subfect, for all that morning we wandered among lovely flowers, mostly, as I observed, white or yellow in color these being, as our professors explained, the primitive flower shades. In, many places the ground was absolutely covered with them, and as we walked aukle deep on that wonderful yield-

ing carpet the scent was almost intexcating in its sweetness and intensity. The homely English bee buzzed everywhere around us. Many of the trees under which we passed had their branches bowed down with fruit, some of which were of familiar sorts, while other varieties were new. By observing which of them were pecked by the birds we avoided all danger of poison and added a delicious variety to our ood reserve. In the jungle which we traversed were numerous hard trodden onths made by the wild beasts, and in he more marshy places we saw a profusion of strange footmarks, including many of the iguanodon. Once in a grove we observed several of these great creatures grazing, and Lord John with his glass was able to report that they also were spotted with asphalt, though in a different place from the one

sould not imagine, We saw many small animals, such as porcupines, a scaly anteater and a wild pig, plebald in color and with ong, curved tusks. Once, through a break in the trees, we saw a clear shoulder of green bill some distance away, and across this a large dun colored animal was traveling at a considerable pace. It passed so swiftly that we were unable to say what it was, but if it were a deer, as was claimed by Lord John, it must have been as large as those monstrous Irish elk which are still dug up from time to

which we had examined in the morn-

ng What this phenomenon meant we

time in the bogs of my native land, Ever since the mysterious visit which had been paid to our camp we always returned to it with some misgivings. However, on this occasion

we found everything in order. It was about this time that I had an inspiration. My eyes chanced to light upon the enormous gnarled trunk of the gingko tree which cast its huge branches over us. Surely if its bole exceeded that of all others its height must do the same. If the rim of the plateau was indeed the highest point, then why should this mighty tree not prove to be a watchtower which commanded the whole country? Now, ever since I ran wild as a lad in Ireber. My comrades might be that I would be supreme among those branches. Could I only get my legs on to the lowest of the glant offshoots then it would be strange indeed if I could not make my way to the top. My comrades were delighted at my

"Our young friend," said Challenger, bunching up the red apples of his cheeks, "Is capable of acrobatic exertions which would be impossible to a "Personally I am unable to classify man of more solid though possibly the creature with any certainty," said of a more commanding appearance. I

"By George, young fellah, you've put "In refusing to commit yourself you your hand on it?" said Lord John, clapare but showing a proper scientific re- ping me on the back. "How we never serve," said Challenger, with massive came to think of it before I can't imondescension. "I am not myself pre- agine. There's not more than an hour pared to go further than to say in gen- of daylight left, but if you take your rel terms that we have almost cer notebook you may be able to get some tainly been in contact tonight with rough sketch of the place. If we put some form of carnivorous dinosaur. I these three ammunition cases under have already expressed my anticipa- the branch I will soon hoist you on

He stood on the boxes while I faced the trunk and was gently raising me ore we discovered the source of the when Challenger sprang forward and hideous uproar which had aroused us | gave me such a thrust with his buge in the night. The iguanodou glade was band that he fairly shot me into the the scene of a horrible butchery. From tree. With both arms clasping the branch, I scrambled hard with my feet lumps of flesh scattered in every di- until I had worked, first my body and then my knees, on to it. There were three excellent offshoots, like huge mats had been killed, but on examining rungs of a ladder, above my head and a tangle of convenient branches be ered that all this carnage came from | youd, so that I clambered onward with one of these unwieldy monsters, which such speed that I soon tost sight of the ground and had nothing but follome creature not larger, perhaps, but age beneath me. Now and then I encountered a check, and once I had to Our two professors sat in absorbed shin up a creeper for eight or ten the plateau presented a very different argument, examining piece after piece, feet, but I made excellent progress, napect. There the basalt cliffs of the which showed the marks of savage and the booming of Challenger's voice outside were reproduced upon the inseemed to be a great distance beneath | side, forming an escarpment about 200 "Our judgment must still be in me. The tree was, however, enorabeyance," said Professor Challenger. mons, and, looking upward, I could see neath it. I had ever heard in his voice. "It was with a huge slab of whitish colored no thinning of the leaves above my surely well for man that he came late flesh across his knee. "The indica- head. There was some thick, bushlike in the order of creation. There were tions would be consistent with the clump which seemed to be a parasite powers abroad in earlier days which presence of a saler toothed tiger, such upon a branch up which I was swarmder to see what was beyond, and I

> A face was gazing into mine at the distance of only a foot or two. "Exactly. Any one of the larger creature that owned it had been carnivorous dinosaurs would meet the crouching behind the parasite and had looked round it at the same instant

prise and horror at what I saw.



that I did. It was a human face-or at least it was far more human than any monkey's that I have ever seen. it was long, whitish and blotched with simples, the nose flattened and the ower jaw projecting, with a bristle of oarse whiskers round the chin. The yes, which were under thick and heavy brows, were bestial and feroclous, and as it opened its mouth to snari what sounded like a curse at me I observed that it had curved, durp canine teeth. For an instant I read lastred and menace in the evil eyes. Then, as quick as a flash, came an expression of overpowering fear. There was a crash of broken boughs as it dived wildly down into the tangle of green. I caught a glimpse of a hairy body like that of a reddish pig. and then it was gone amid a swirl of

eaves and branches. "What's the matter?" shouted Roxon from below, "Anything wrong vith you?"

"Did you see it?" I cried, with my rms around the branch and all my erves tingling.

"We heard a row, as if your foot had ipped. What was it?"

I was so shocked at the sudden and strange appearance of this ape men that I hesitated whether I should not climb down again and tell my experience to my companions. But I was already so far up the great tree that seemed a humiliation to return withut having carried out my mission. I 3 did not mean to quit.

After a long pause, therefore, to recover my breath and my courage I continned my ascent until I had topped all the trees of the forest,

The sun was just above the western sky line, and the evening was a particelarly bright and clear one, so that the whole extent of the plateau was visible beneath me. It was, as seen from this height, of an oval contour, with a breadth of about thirty miles and a width of twenty. Its general shape was that of a shallow funnel, all the sides sloping down to a considerable take in the center. This take may have been ten miles in circumference and lay very green and beautiful in the evening light, with a thick fringeof reeds at its edges and with its sur face broken by several yellow sand banks, which gleamed golden in the mellow sunshine. A number of long, land I have been a bold and skilled dark objects, which were too large for alligators and too long for causes, lay my masters on the rocks, but I knew upon the edges of these patches of sand. With my glass I could clearly

see that they were alive. From the side of the plateau on which we were slopes of woodland, with occasional glades, stretched down for five or six miles to the central lake. I could see at my very feet the glade of the iguanodons, and farther off was a round opening in the trees which marked the swamp of the pterodac-



I Could See at My Very Feet the Glade of the Iguanodons

tyls. On the side facing me, however, feet high, with a woody slope be-

(Continued next Saturday)

