MIRAMICHI ADVANCE, CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, JANUARY 5, 1888.

[Continued from 3rd page.] A TALE OF THREE LIONS.

[BY H. RIDER HAGCARD.]

"Harry, who as I have said was an eminently practicel boy, suggested to Pharaoh that he should go and sit outside the skerm in the moonlight as a sort of bait, assuring him that he would have nothing to fear, as we should certainly kill the lioness before she killed him. Pharaoh however, strangely enough, did not seem to take to this

"It gave me an idea, however. "Well!' I said, 'there is that ox. He must die sooner or later, so we may laoh gave me a shove. well utilize him.

"Now, about thirty yards to the left of our skerm, if one stood facing down from it.

"Here was the very place to tie the ox; and accordingly a little before sun-set the poor animal was led forth by said, 'where is she? where is she? and his huge mouth, gave the ghost of a Pharaoh and made fast there, little began to point his rifle about in a fash- roar, quivored, and was dead. knowing, poor brute, for what purpose; and we commenced our long vigil, this time without a fire, for our object was to attract the lioness and not to scare

"For hour after hour we waited, keeping ourselves awake by pinching each other—it is, by the way, remark-able what a difference in the force of sleep, and then at last we took such rest as we could get.

too depressed and tired, but because we had no more meat. For three hours or more we wandered about in a broil- more often than he hits.

was swaying to and fro with its head ing thing it is to see two la ge dogs hanging down. So we tied him up to | fighting with abandonment. Well, a the stump of the tree as on the previous | whole hundred of dogs could not have night, knowing that if the lioness did looked half so terrible as those two not kill him he would be dead by morn- great brutes as they rolled and roared ing. Indeed I was afraid that he would and rent in their rage. It was an awbe of little use as bait, for a lion is a ful and a wonderful thing to see the sportsmanlike animal, and unless he is great cats tearing at each other with very hungry generally prefers to kill all the fierce energy of their savage his own dinner, though when once kill- strength, and making the night hideous ed he will come back to it again and with their heart-shaking noise. And the fight was a grand one, too. For again

"Then we repeated our experience of some minutes it was impossible to say the previous night, sitting there hour which was getting the best of it, but at suggestion. Indeed, he walked away, much put out with Harry for having asleep, and even I, though I am accus-though he was slightly the bigger, was tomed to this sort of thing, could scarce- failing. I am inclined to think that y keep my eyes open. Indeed I was the wound in his flank crippled him. just dropping off, when suddenly Phar- Anyway he began to get the worst of it. which served him right as he was the

,Listen!' he whispered.

aggressor. Still I could not help feel-"I was all awake in a second, and ing sorry for bim, for he had fought a of our skerm, if one stood facing down the hill towards the river, was the clump of bush to the right of the light- finally got him by the throat, and, stump of a tree that had been destroy- ning-shattered stump to which the ox struggle and strike out as he would, ed by lightning many years before, standing equidistantly between, but a little in front of, two clumps of bush, enough, but still moving perceptibly, boy would not loose his hold, and at for in the interse stillness of the night length poor black-mane grew faint, his

ion that was more dangerous to us and "When he was quite sure that the the oxen than to any possible lioness. "'Hush up?'I whispered savagely; and as I did so, with a low and hideous fallen foe. Then he licked the dead growl a flash of yellow light sped out of lion's eye, and next, with his fore-feet the clump upon the other side. The resting on the carcass, sent up his own poor sick brute gave a sort of groan, chant of victory, that went rolling and and staggered round and then began to peaking down the dark ways of the pinches requisite to the occasion exists in the mind of pincher and pinchee, but no lionees came. The moon waxed the moonlight, which was now very bright, and I felt a brute for having exposed the unfortunate animal his body, in order to give the largest exposed the unfortunate animal his body, in order to give the largest and the moon waned, and then at last the moon went down, and darkness swallowed up the world, but no lion came to swallow us up. We waited till dawn, because we did not dare to go to sleep, and then at last we took such

absolutely useless to attempt to shoot performances, we slept peaceably 111 unless the object is very close and stand- dawn, leaving Pharaoh to keep watch That morning we went out shooting, not because we wanted to, for we were to deceptive and it is so difficult to see into their heads to come our way. she foresight that the best shot will miss "When the sun was fairly up we arose, and very cautiously proceeded-

"She will be back again presently,' at least Pharaoh and I did, for I would ing sun looking for something to kill, I said; 'look out, but for Heaven's sake not allow Harry to come-to see if we



but with absolutely no results. For some unknown reason the game had grown very scarce about the spot, though when I was there two years before every sort of large game except rhinoceros and elephant was particular-ly abundant. The lions, of whom there were many, alone remained, and I fancy that it was the fact of the game they live on having temporarily migrat-ed that made them so daring and ferocious. As a general rule a lion is an amuable animal enough if he is left alone, but a hungry lion is almost as dangerous as a hungry man. One hears a great many different opinions ex-pressed as to whether or no the lion is remarkable for his courage, but the result of my experience is that very much depends upon the state of his stomach. A hungry lion will not stick at a trifle, whereas a full one will flee at a very small rebuke.

"Well, we hunted all about, and nothing could we see, not even a duck or a bush buck; and at last thoroughly tired and out of temper we started on tired and out of temper we started on our way back to camp, passing over the brow of a steepish hill to do so. Just as we got over the ridge I froze up like a pointer dog, for there about six hun-dred yards to my left, his beautiful curved horns outlined against the soft blue of the sky, I saw a noble koodoo bull (Strepsiceros kudu.) Even at that distance, for as you know my eyes are very keen, I could distinctly see the white stripes upon its side when the white stripes upon its side when the light fell upon it, and its large and pointed ears twitch as the flies worried

"So far so good; bat how were we to get at it? It was ridiculous to risk a shot at that great distance, and yet both the ground and the wind lay very ill for stalking. It seemed to me that the only chance would be to make a detour of at least a mile or more, and come up on the other side of the koodoo. I called Harry to my side, and explain-eo to him what I thought would be our best course, when suddenly, withour best course, when suddenly, with-out any delay, the koodoo saved us any further trouble by suddenly starting off down the hill like a leaping rocket. I don't know what had frightened it, cer-tainly we had not. Perhaps a byena or a leopard—a tiger as we call it there— had suddenly appeared; at any rate, off it went, running slightly towards us, and I never saw a buck go faster. As for Harry, he stood watching the beaufor Harry, he stood watching the beau-tiful animal's course. Presently it vanished behind a patch of bush, to emerge a few seconds later about five hundred paces from us, on a stretch of comparatively level ground that was strewn with bowlders. On it went, taking the bowlders in its path in a succession of great bounds that were beautiful to behold. As it did so, I happened to look round at Harry, and happened to look round at Harry, and

don't fire unless I tell you to. could see anything of the wounded "Hardly were the words out of my lioness. She had ceased roaring immouth when back she came, and again passed the ox without striking him.

"What on earth is she doing?' whispered Harry. "Playing with it as a cat does a mouse, I suppose. She will kill it pres-mouse, I suppose. She will kill it pres-hands a rifle was indeed a dangerous

ently.

weapon-to his companions-had an

"As I spoke, the lioness once more axe. On our way we stopped to look flashed out of the bush, and this time at the two dead lions. They were sprang right over the doomed ox. It was an exciting sight to see her clear him in the bright moonlight, as though it were a trick that she had been taught. "'I believe that she has escaped from

"In another minute we were follow a circus,' whispered Harry; 'its jolly to ing the blood spoor of the wounded lioness into the bush, where she had

but no lioness could we see.

'she has certainly gone away.'

was well done, and none too soop.'

see her jump. "I said nothing, but I thought to myself that if it was, Master Harry did we did with the utmost caution; indee ! not quite appreciate the performance, I for one did not at all like the job, and and small blame to him. At any rate, was only consoled by the reflection

his teeth were chattering a bit. "Then came a longish pause, and I began to think that she must have gone away, when suddenly she appeared again, and with one mighty bound landed right on to the ox, and struck it a frightful blow with her paw.

"Down it went, and lay on the ground. She put down her wicked-looking head, with a fierce growl of contentment. When she lifted her muzzle again and stood facing us obliquely, I whisperod, 'Now's our time, fire when I do.'

"I got on to her as well as I could, but Harry, instead of waiting for me as I told him, fired before I did, and that of course hurried me. When the smoke cleared, however, I was delighted to

see that the lioness was rolling about on the ground behind the body of the ox, which covered her in such a fashion, however, that we could not shoot again to make an end of her.

"'She's gone for! she's dead!' yelled Pharaoh in exultation; and at that very moment the lioness with a sort of convulsive rush, half rolled, half sprang, into the patch of thick bush to the right. I fired after her as she went, but so far as I could see without result; indeed the probability is that I missed her clean. At any rate she got to the bush in safety, and once there, began to make such a diabolical noise as 1 never heard before. She would whine and shriek, then burst out into perfect

volleys of roaring that shook the whole "Well, I said, 'we must just let her roar; to go into that bush after her at night would be madness.'

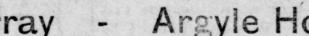
"At that moment, to my astonishment and alarm, there came an answering roar from the direction of the river, and then another from behind the swell of bush. Evidently there were more lions about. The wounded lioness | put one's fist into.

"Well, that is the story of the death I suppose, of summoning the others to of poor Jim-Jim and how we avenged her assistance. At any rate they came, and quickly too, for within five minutes, peeping through the bushes of our skerm fence, we saw a magnificent lion bounding along towards us, through the tall tamboulin grass that in the moonlight looked for all the world like rivenung corn. On he came in great its way one of the most wonderful things I ever remember in my hunting experience. The koodoo was at the moment in the air, clearing a pile of stones with its fore-legs tucked up un-derneath it. All in an instant the legs stretched themselves out in a spasmodic fashion, and it lit on them and they doubled up beneath it. Down went the noble buck, down on its head. For a moment it seemed to be standing on

better now.

mediately on the arrival of the two lions, and had not made a sound since.

from which we concluded that she was





perceived to my astonishment that he had got his rifle to his shoulder.

"You foolish boy!' I ejaculated, "surely you are not going to — and just at that moment the rifle went off.

"And then I think I saw what was in its way one of the most wonderful and then over it went and lay still. "'Great Heavens!' I said, 'why, you've hit him! He's dead. "Well the pair of them

"As for Harry he said nothing, but merely locked scared, as well he might. A man, let alone a boy, might have fir-ed a thousand such shots without ever in the whole three of them began to snarl and gruephe away together there. "Well, the pair of them marched off to the bush, where the wounded lion-ess was now roaring double tides, and the whole three of them began to snarl and gruephe away together there. nail. Well, I made no further remark, the occasion was too solemn for talking,

the occasion was too solemn for talking, but merely led the way to where the koodoo lay. There he was, beautfiul and quite still, and there, high up, about half-way down his neck, was a neat round hole. The bullet had sever-ed the spinal marraw, passing right through the vertebræ and away on the other side. other side.

through the verteene and any of the dest other side. "It was already evening when, hav-ing cut as much of he best meat as we could carry from the bull, and tied a red handkerchief and some tufts of grass to his spiral horns, which, by the way, must have been nearly five feet in length, in the hope of keeping the jack-als and assvogels (vultures) from him, we finally got back to the camp, to find Pharaoh, who was getting rather anxious at our absence, ready to greet us with the pleasing intelligence that another or was sick. But even this dreadful bit of itnelligence could not dash Harry's spirits; the fact of the matter being that, incredible as it may appear, I do verily believe that in his heart of hearts he set down the desth of that koodoo to the credit of his own of that koodoo to the credit of his own | ment of the other lion at this most unof that koodoo to the credit of his own ment of the other hon at this most un-skill. Now though the lad was a tidy shot enough, this of course was ridicul-ous, and I told him so very plainly. "By the time that we had finished our supper of koodoo steaks (which would have been better if the koodoo it was time to the other hon at this most un-provoked assault. Over he rolled with an angry roar, and on to him sprang the black-maned demon, and commenced to worry him. This finally awoke the yellow-maned lion to a sense of the situation, and I am bound

had been a little younger), it was time to get ready for Jim-Jim's murderess again. All the afternoon Pharaoh told us the unfortunate ox had been walking and smarting frightfully, closed

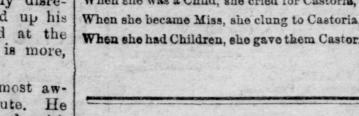
must have nndergone. "''Now, Harry,' I whispered, 'what-ever you do, don't fire, its too risky. If which we pretty well starved." "I notice," I said, "that most of your trips ended in disaster of some sort or

Well, the pair of them marched off to the bush, where the wounded lion-wes was now were the wounded lion-

this lad-taking a snap shot and mere- again, the black-maned one first-to enough at the time. Another thing is. ly allowing for elevation by instinct, for he did not put up his sights—had knocked the bull over as dead as a doorniffed at it. "'Oh, what a shot! whispered Har- of one which was very much the re-verse, for I made four thousand pounds

ry, who was trembling with excitement. | out of it, and saw one of the most ex-

you, never having been able to get a

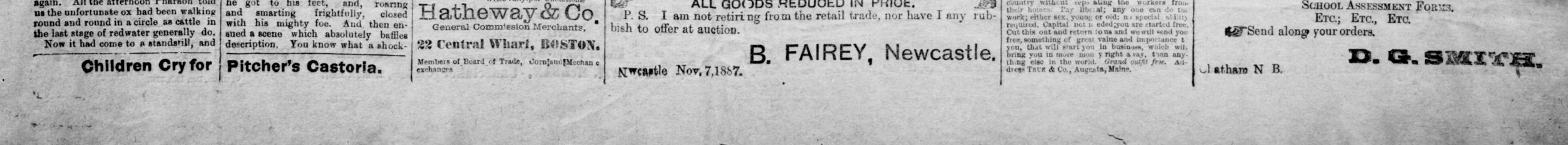


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