

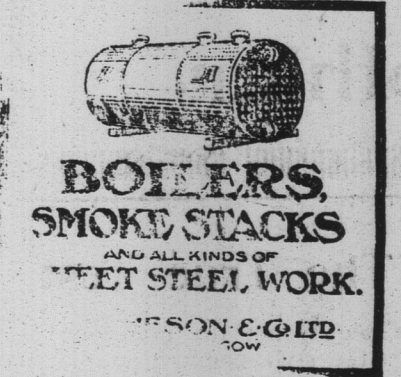
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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Newport Point, New Port, Gascons, L'Anse a la Barbe, Port Daniel East, Port Daniel Centre and at the office of the Post Office Inspector at Quebec.
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With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Sowers," "Roderic's Corner," "From One Generation to Another," Etc.
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The fish called Joseph grinned. Nature had given him liberality of the wherewithal for indulgence in that relaxation, and Durnovo smiled rather constrainedly. Joseph was grabbing at the long reedy grass, bringing the canoe to a standstill, and it was some moments before his extensive mouth submitted to control.

"I presume you are Mr. Durnovo?" said the man in the stern of the boat, rising leisurely from his recumbent position and speaking with a courteous savor faire which seemed slightly out of place in the wilds of central Africa.

He was a tall man with a small aristocratic head and a refined face, which somehow suggested an aristocrat of old France.

"Yes," answered Durnovo. This tall man stepped ashore and held out his hand.

"I am glad we have met you," he said. "I have a letter of introduction to you from Maurice Gordon of Loango."

Victor Durnovo's dark face changed slightly. His eyes—billous, fever shot, unhealthy—took a new light.

"Ah!" he answered. "Are you a friend of Maurice Gordon's?"

There was another question in this unasked one, and Victor Durnovo was watching for the answer. But the face he watched was like a delicately carved piece of brown marble, with a courteous, impenetrable smile.

"I got him again the other day at Loango. He is an old Roman, like myself."

This conveyed nothing to Durnovo, who belonged to a different world, whose education was, like other things about him, an unknown quantity.

"My name," continued the tall man, "is Meredith—John Meredith—sometimes called Jack."

But for making money, for hard work and steady work, I am afraid, Mr. Durnovo, that I am distinctly the wrong sort."

There was a little pause. Durnovo looked round as if to make sure that Joseph and the boatman were out of ear shot.

"Can you keep a secret?" he asked suddenly.

Jack Meredith turned and looked at the questioner with a smile. His hat had slipped to the back of his head, the light of the great yellow moon fell full upon his clean cut sphinxlike face. The eyes alone seemed living.

"Yes! I can do that."

"I can see you're a gentleman," Durnovo said. "I'll trust you. I want a man to join me in making a fortune. I have got a share in it at last. But I'm afraid of this country. I'm getting shaky; look at that hand. I've been looking for it too long. I take you into my confidence, the first come, you'll think, but there are not many men like you in this country, and I'm beastly afraid of dying. I want to get out of this for a bit, but I dare not leave until I set things going."

"Take your time," said Meredith, quietly and soothingly. "Light that cigar again and lie down. There is no hurry."

Durnovo obeyed him meekly.

"Tell me," he said, "have you ever heard of simiacine?"

"I cannot say that I have," replied Jack. "What is it for, brown boots or spurs?"

"It is a drug, the most expensive drug in the market. And they must have it, they cannot do without it, and they cannot find a substitute. It is the leaf of a shrub, and your hatful is worth a thousand pounds."

"Where is it to be found?" asked Jack Meredith. "I should like some in a sack."

"Ah, you may laugh now, but you won't when you hear all about it. The scientific chaps called it simiacine, because of an old African legend which, like all those things, has a grain of truth in it. The legend is that the monkeys first found out the properties of the leaf, and it is because they live on it that they are so strong. Do you know that a gorilla's arm is not half so thick as yours, and yet he would take you and snap your backbone across his knee? He would bend a gun barrel as you would bend a cane, merely by the turn of his wrist. There is simiacine. He can hang on to a tree with one leg and tackle a leopard with his bare hands—that's simiacine."

"So," said Durnovo, returning to the subject which had never really left his thoughts, "you have come over here for pleasure?"



"Yes," said the Englishman, "yes, go for Christmas, but for humanitarian reasons. A dollar, the relief committee reports, will save one life until the harvest, June 25, and \$10,000,000 are needed. The whole amount cannot be raised in China. The situation is desperate and Americans are urged to give \$3,000,000 in the next few weeks, not for Christmas, but for humanitarian work. It is suggested that it would be best to cable money to the American consul here, James Linn Rodgers, as supplies can be purchased in Shanghai."

(To be continued.)

Shanghai, April 12.—Ten million people are reported starving in China. The Chinese government has contributed \$4,000,000, and \$500,000 has been received from foreign sources. A dollar, the relief committee reports, will save one life until the harvest, June 25, and \$10,000,000 are needed. The whole amount cannot be raised in China. The situation is desperate and Americans are urged to give \$3,000,000 in the next few weeks, not for Christmas, but for humanitarian work. It is suggested that it would be best to cable money to the American consul here, James Linn Rodgers, as supplies can be purchased in Shanghai."

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