body, and, glancing down, caught sight of

Good's eyeglass. He had been beaten to his

knee. Over him was a great fellow, swing-

ing a heavy sword. Somehow I managed to

run the man through with the sime I had

ing beamingly.
our go that," he shouted, "but all's well

I ... ented, but I could not help feeling that

Just then we saw the smaller bodies of cav-

and which were now re-enforced by the 3,000

sabers which we had held in reserve, flash

out like arrows from their posts and fall

and that charge decided the issue of the battle.

In another minute or two the enemy was in

where they once more reformed. Then came

another lull, during which I managed to get

my sound horse and received my orders to

heree, deep throated roar, with a waving of

banners and a wide flashing of steel, the re-

mains of our army took the offensive and

began to sweep down, slowly indeed, but ir-

On we moved, over the piled up masses of

dead and dying, and were approaching the

stream when suddenly I perceived an ex-

tracellnary sight. Gailoping wildly toward

us, his arms tightly clasped around his

horse's neck, against which his blanched

cheek was tightly pressed, was a man

arrayed in the full costume of a Zu-Vendi

recognized none other than our lost Al-

phones. It was impossible even then to mis-

take those curling black mustaches. In a

minute he was tearing through our ranks

he was brought to me just as a momentary

halt occurred in our advance to allow what

posts and the priests are going to kill her.

At last it was our turn to attack.

the disordered flanks of Sorais' forces,

and sullen retreat across the little stream,

ce from Sir Henry, and then, with one

bly, from the positions they had so gal-

nds well."

lantiv held all day.

By H. RIDER HAGGARD.

AUTHOR OF "KING SOLOMON'S MINES," "SHE,"

"JIMES," "THE WITCH'S HEAD," ETC. were attached by about as many of Sorais' horsemen, and a very smart little cavalry fight ensued, with a loss to us of about thirty men killed. On the advance of our supports, however, Sorais' force drew off, carrying

their dead and wounded with them, The main body of the army reached the neck about dinner time, and I must say that Nyleptha's judgment had not failed her; it was an admirable place to give battle in, especially to a superior force.

The road ran down a mile or more, through ground too broken to admit of the handling of any considerable force, till it reached the crest of a great green wave of land that rolled down a gentle slope to the banks of a little stream, and then rolled away again up a still gentler slope to the plain beyond, the distance from the crest of the land wave down to the stream being a little over half a mile, and from the stream up to the plain beyond a trifle less. The length of this wave of land at its highest point, which corresponded exactly with the width of the neck of land between the wooded hills, was about two miles and a quarter, and it was protected on either side by dense, rocky, bush clad ground that afforded a most valuable cover to the flanks of the army, and rendered it almost impossible for them to be turned.

It was on the higher slope of this neck of land that Curtis encamped his army in the same formation that he had, after consultation with the various generals, Good and myself, determined that they should occupy in the great pitched battle which now appeared

to be imminent. Our force of 60,000 men was, roughly speaking, divided as follows: In the center was a dense body of 20,000 foot soldiers, armed with spears, swords and hippopotamus hide shields, breast and back plates. These formed the chest of the army, and were supported by 5,000 foot and 3,000 horse in reserve. On either side of this chest were stationed 7,000 horse, arranged in deep, majestic squadrons; and beyond, and on either side, but slightly in front of them, again were two bodies, numbering about 7,500 spearmen each, forming the right and left wings of the army, and each supported by a contingent of some 1,500

cavalry. This makes in all 60,000 men. Curtis commanded in chief, I was in command of the 7,000 horse between the chest and right wing, which was commanded by Good, passed. and the other battalions and squadrons were

intrusted to Zu-Vendi generals. Scarcely had we taken up our positions before Sorais' vast army began to swarm on the opposite slope about a mile in front of us, till the whole place seemed alive with the multitude of her spear points, and the ground shook with the tramp of her battalions. It was evident that the spies had not exag- in my stirrups and looked down to my left; gerated; we were outnumbered by at least a so far as the eye could see there was a long third. At first we expected that Sorais was dazzling shimmer of steel as the sun glanced going to attack us at once, as the clouds of cavalry which hung upon her flanks executed some threatening demonstrations, but she thought better of it, and there was no fight gaining a little in the mad yet ordered confuthat day. As for the formation of her great | sion of attack and defense. But it was as forces I cannot now describe it with accuracy, and it would only serve to bewilder if I did, but I may say, generally, that in its leading features it resembled our own, only her reserve was much greater.

Opposite our right wing, and forming Sorais' left wing, was a great army of dark, wild looking men, armed with sword and shield only, which, I was informed, was composed of Nasta's 25,000 savage hillsmen.

"My word, Good," said I, when I saw them,
"you will catch it to-morrow when those gentlemen charge!" whereat Good not unnaturally looked rather anxious.

All day we watched and waited, but nothing happened, and at last night fell, and a thousand watch fires twinkled brightly on the slopes, to wane and die one by one like the stars they resembled, as the hours were on and the silence gradually gathered more deeply over the opposing hosts.

It was a very wearying night, for in addition to the endless things that had been seen to, there was our gnawing suspense to reckon with. The fray which to-morrow would witness would be so vast, and the slaughter so awful, that stout, indeed, must the heart have been that was not overwhelmed at the prospect.

The time were away till everything was ready for the coming slaughter; and I lay down and thought, and tried to get a

And at last up came the red sun, and the huge camps awoke with a clash and a roar, and gathered themselves together for battle. It was a beautiful and awe inspiring scene, and old Umslopogaas, leaning on his ax, contemplated it with grim delight. "Never have I seen the like, Macumazahn,

never," he said. "The battles of my people are as the play of children to what this will be. Thinkest thou that they will fight it

"Ay," I answered sadly, "to the death. Content thyself, 'Woodpecker,' for once shalt thou find thy fill."

Time went on, and still there was no sign of an attack. A force of cavalry crossed the brook, indeed, and rode slowly along our to interfere, as our decision was to stand strictly on the defensive, and not to waste a turning point and for a minute or two stood single man. The men breakfasted and stood | still. to their arms, and the hours wore on. About midday, when the men were eating their dinner, for we thought they would fight better on full stomachs, a shout of "SCrais, Sorais," arose like thunder from the enemy's extreme right, and taking the glass, I was able to clearly distinguish the Lady of the Night herself, surrounded by a glittering staff, and riding slowly down the lines of her battalions. And as she went, that mighty, thundering shout rolled along before her like the rolling of 10,000 chariots, or the roaring of the ocean when the gale turns suddenly and carries the noise of it to the listeners' ears, till the earth shook, and the air was full of the majesty of sound.

Guessing that this was a prelude to the beginning of the battle, we remained still and

We had not long to wait. Suddenly, like flame from a cannon's mouth, out shot two great tongue like forces of cavalry, and came charging down the slope towards the little stream, slowly at first, but gathering speed as they came. Before they got to the stream, orders reached me from Sir Henry, who evidently feared that the shock of such a charge, if allowed to fall unbroken upon our infantry, would be too much for them, to send posite to me, at the moment when it began to men. Seeing me coming and being warned not won yet. The soldiers would think you five thousand sabers to meet the force opmount the stiffest of the rise about four by the thunder of my horses' hoofs, the ma- were making a bolt of it. Quick now."

starting at a manugamop for the first 200 yards, he rode straight at the tip of the tongue shaped mass of cavalry which, numbering, so far as I could judge, about eight them almost into pieces. My horse main? he said, in a broken voice.

**Surple swords into our horses or severing wing to take over the command and explain that change of horses! Anybody who has ever ridden against time will know what it main? he said, in a broken voice.

Then he suddenly swerved to the right and had a fresh one, my own favorite, a coal black | behind. put on the pace, and I saw the great wedge mare Nyleptha had given me being held in surl round, and before the foe could check half way down his length with a crashing, best I could, for I was pretty well lost sight rending sound, like the breaking up of vast sheets of ice. In sank the great wedge into his heart, and as it cut its way hundreds of horsemen were thrown up on either side of it, just as the earth is thrown up by a plowhare, or, more like still, as the foaming water curls over beneath the bows of a rushing hip. In, yet in, vainly does the tongue twist its ends round in agony, like an injured snake, and strive to protect its center; still farther in, by Heaven! right through, and so, amid cheer after cheer from our watching thousands, back again upon the severed ends, beating them down, driving them as a gale drives | taken from the Masai whose hand I had cut spray, till at last, amid the rushing of hun- off; but as I did so he dealt me a frightful dreds of riderless horses, the finshing of blow in the left side and breast with the swords, and the victorious clamor of their sword, and, though my chain shirt saved my pursuers, the great force crumples up like an | life, I felt that I was badly hurt. For a minmpty glove, then turns and gallops pell mell for safety back to its own lines.

I do not think it reached them more than faint. When I came to again I saw that two-thirds as strong as it went out ten min- | Nasta's spearmen, or rather those of them utes before. The lines which were now ad- | that remained, were retreating back across ancing to the attack opened and swallowed them up, and my force returned, having suffered a loss of only about five hundred mennot much, I thought, considering the fiercees of the struggle. I could also see that the sing bodies of cavalry on our left wing it had not ended well for me. I was sorely ere drawing back, but how the fight went | hur with them I do not quite know. It is as much as I can do to describe what took place | alry attioned on our extreme right and left, amediately around me.

By this time the immense masses of the enmy's left, composed almost entirely of Nasta's swordsmen, were across the little stream, and with alternate yells of "Nasta" and "Sorais," with dancing banners and gleaming swords were swarming up toward us like

Again I received orders to try and check this movement, and also the main advance against the chest of our army, by means of cavalry charges, and this I did to the best of my ability by continually sending squadrons of about a thousand sabers out against them. These squadrons did the enemy much damago, and it was a glorious sight to see them flash down the hillside and bury themselves like a living knife in the heart of the foe. But, also, we lost many men, for after the experience of a couple of these charges, which liad drawn a sort of bloody St. Andrew's cross of dead and dying through the center of Nasta's hosts, our foes no longer attempted to offer an unyielding front to their irresistible weight, but opened out to let the rush go through, throwing themselves on the ground, and hamstringing hundreds of horses as they

And so, notwithstanding all that we could do, the enemy drew nearer, till at last he huvled himself upon Good's force of 7,500 regulars, who were drawn up to receive them in three strong squares. About the same time, too, an awful and heart shaking roar told me that the main battle had closed in on the center and extreme left. I raised myself

upon falling and thrusting spear. To and fro swung the contending lines in that dread struggle, now giving way, now ch as I could do to keep count of what was happening to our own wing; and, as for the moment the cavalry had fallen back under cover of Good's three squares, I had a fair

Nasta's wild swordsmen were now breaking in red waves against the sullen rock like squares. Time after time did they yell out their war cries, and hurl themselves furiously ngajust the long triple ridges of spear points, only to be rolled back as billows are when they meet the cliff.

And so for four long hours the battle raged almost without a pause, and at the end of that time, if we had gained nothing we had lost nothing. Two attempts to turn our left flank, by forcing a way through the wood by which it was protected, had been defeated; and as yet Nasta's swordsmen had, notwithstanding their desperate efforts, entirely failed to break Good's three squares, though they had thinned their numbers by quite a

As for the chest of the army, where Sir Henry was with his staff and Umslopogans, it had suffered dreadfully, but it had held its own with honor, and the same may be said of our left battle.

At last the attacks slackened and Sorais' army drew back, having, I began to think had enough of it. On this point, however, I was soon undeceived, for, splitting up her envalvy into comparatively small squadrons she charged us furiously with them all along the line and their once more rolled her tens of thousands of sword and spear men down upon our weakened squares and squadrons-Sorais herself directing the movement and, fearless as a lioness, heading the main attack. On they came like an avalanche-I saw her golden helm gleaming in the van-our counter charges of cavalry entirely failing to check their forward sweep. Now they had | There struck us, and our center bent in like a bow beneath the weight of their rush-it parted, and had not the 10,000 men in reserve charged down to its support it must have been destroyed. As for Good's three squares, they were swept backward like boats upon an incoming tide and the foremost one was burst front, evidently taking stock of our position | into and lost half its remaining men. But and numbers. With this we did not attempt | the effort was too flerce and terrible to last.

> Then it began to move toward Sorais' camp. Just then, too, Nasta's flerce and al- who surrounded him. most invincible highlanders, either because they were disheartened by their losses or by way of a ruse, fell back and the remains of Good's gallant squares, leaving the positions they had held for so many hours, cheered wildly and rashly followed them down the quite fresh and uninjured. slope, whereon the swarms of swordsmen turned to envelop them and once more flung themselves upon them with a yell. Taken thus on every side, what remained of the first square was quickly destroyed, and I perceived that the second, in which I could see Good himself on a large horse, was on the point of annihilation. A few minutes more and it dropp was broken, its streaming colors sank, and I lost sight of Good in the confused and hide-

ous slaughter that ensued. Presently, however, a cream colored horse with a snow white mane and tail burst from the ruins of the square and came rushing | horse of yours fresh?" I said. past me riderless and with wide streaming reins, and in it I recognized the charger that my last was killed; and he has been fed." Good had been riding. Then I hesitated no longer, but taking with me half my effective cavalry force, which now amounted to be- Milosis before dawn, or if we are not-well, tween 4,000 and 5,000 men, I commended myself to God, and without waiting for orders, for you to leave now. You would be seen, still more than twenty miles to do by dawn, hundred yards from our lines. This I did, re- jority of them faced round and gave us a maining behind myself with the rest of my right warm welcome. Not an inch would ding Umslopogaas sprang into the empty they yield; in vain did we hack and trample saddle. them down as we plowed a broad red furrow a wedgelike form, and I must say that the through their thousands; they seemed to re- men with remounts after us in an hour if posgeneral in command handled them very ably. arise by hundreds, driving their terrible sible. Stay; dispatch a general to the left

thousand sabers, was advancing to meet us. was speedily killed under me, but luckily I "Ay, that I will. Go en; you are being left

He cast one glance at us, and accompanied by his staff galloped off to join the advance, reserve behind, and on this I afterward simself and turn to meet it, strike him about mounted. Meanwhile I had to get along as which by this time was fording the little brook that now ran red with the blood of the of by my men in the mad confusion of the fallen.

moment. My voice, of course, could not be As for Umslepogans and myself, we left and then flew on again. beard in the midst of the clanging of steel | that dreadful field as arrows leave a bow, and | and the shricks of rage and agony. Pres- in a few minutes had passed right out of the ently I found myself mixed up with the rem- sight of shaghter, the smell of blood, and the follow mail. nants of the square, which had formed round turmoil and shouting, which only came to our its leader, Good, and was fighting desper- ears as a laint, far off roaring, like the sound ately for existence. I stumbled against some- of distant breakers.

CHAPTER XXL.

AWAY! AWAY!

At the top of the rise we halted for a econd to breathe our horses, and turning, glaund at the battle beneath us, united at it was by the fierce

rays of the sinking sun standing the whole hadasi from where we were more like some with titanic picture than an ute I fell on to my hands and knees among actual hand to hand combat. "We win the day, Macumazahn," said old the dead and dying, and turned sick and Umslopo; was, taking in the whole situation with a gl the stream, and that Good was there by me

ce of his practiced eye. "Look, the Lady of the Night's forces give on every ide; there is no stiffness left in them, they bend like hot from they are fighting with but But alms! the battle will in a half a he cava, for the darkness gathers econer b mants will not be alle to follow and he shook his head sadly. But," he sald it, "I do not think that they min; we have fed them with too trong a . at. Ahl it is well to have lived! At last I been teen a fight worth seeing."

... no were on our way again, and side by mide I told him what and as we cas, and how that, if it failed, our missi all the live that had been loot the aday would have been "Ah!" L. and, "righ on a hundred miles

s but tuese, and be there before -away! cway! man can but il n; and may hap we shall be a to spin that old 'witch finder's' of for him. Once he wanted to to train maker, and her And mirir us. id et a sucre for my mother" ow he w would he! Good! So sure as Nylepthe ny name - the name of the Woodpecker, so surely, be my mother alive or dead, will I split nim to the bard. Ay, by Tookka's head I wene it!" and be shook Inhosi-kans as he galno .. the darkness was closing in, but ortunately there would be a moon later, and

he read was good. On we seed through the twilight; the two plendid heres we bestrode had got their wind by this, and were sweeping along with a wide, stondy steide that neither failed nor general, but in whom, as he came nearer, I varied for mile upon mile. Down the sides of slopes we gafloped, across wide vales that stretched to the foot of far off hills. Nearer and nearer grew the blue hills; now we were traveling up their speeps, and now we were and narrowly escaped being cut down, till at over and passing toward others that sprang last somebody caught his horse's bridle, and up like visions in the far, faint distance be-

We spake not, but bent us forward on the remained of our shattered squares to form | necks of those two glorious horses, and listened to their deep, long drawn breaths as "Ah, monsieur," he gasped out, in a voice they filled their great lungs, and to the that was nearly inarticulate with fright, regular, unfaltering ring of their round "grace to the sky, it is you! Ah, what I have hoofs. Grin and black, indeed, did old endured! But you win, monsieur-you win; Umslopogans look beside me, mounted upon they fly, the laches. But listen, monsieur- the great white horse, like death in the reve-I forgot, it is no good; the queen is to be lation of St. John, as now and again lifting murdered to-morrow at the first light in the his fierce see face he gazed out along the road, of Milosis; her guards will leave their and pointed with his ax toward some distant

> And so on, still on, without break or pause, for hour after hour.

At last I began to feel that even the splenlid animal that I rode was beginning to give out. I looked at my watch; it was nearly midnight, and we were considerably more than half way. On the top of a rise was a little spring, which I remembered because I and slept by it a few nights before, and here I motioned to Unuslopogaas to pull up, having determined to give the horses and ourselves ten minutes to breathe in. He did so, and we dismounted that is to say, Unrelopogaas did, and then helped me off, for what with fatigue, stiffness, and the pain of my wound, I could not do so for myself; and the gallant horses stood panting there, resting first one leg and then another, while the sweat fell drip, drip, from them, and the steam rose and hung in pale clouds in the still night air.

Leaving Umsiopognas to hold the horses, I hobbled to the spring and drank deep of its sweet waters. I had had nothing but a single mouthful of wine since midday, when the battle began, and I was parched up, though my fatigue was too great to allow me to fee Then, having laved my fevered head and mands, I returned, and the Zulu went and draink. Next we allowed the horses to take a comple of mouthfule each—no more and oh, what a struggle we had to get the poor beasts away from the water! There were yet tv a minutes, and I employed it in soboling us and down to try and relieve my stiffness, and in inspecting the condition of the horses. My mare, gallant animal though she was, was evidently much descressed; sh hung her bead, and her eye looked sick and ingut, Nyleptim's glorious horse dull; but I -who, if he is served aright, should, like the steeds who saved the great Rameses in his need, feed for the rest of his days out of a golden manner-was still, comparatively speaking, that he had had by far the heavier weight to half a mile off, where I saw the royal carry. He was "tucked up," indeed, and his flying, and where I know that I should legs were weary, but his eye was bright and clear, and he held his simpely head up and reses clearing heaps of dead and dying gazed out into the darkness round him in a men, and splashing through pools of blood; way that so med to say that, whoever failed, on put the long broken lines of spearmen to he was good for those five and forty miles where, mounted on the white stallion Nylep- that yet lay between us and Milosis. Then the had sent to him as a parting gift, I saw Umslopeg as helped me into the saddle and-Sir H ary's form towering above the generals vigorous call savage that he was!-vaulted into his own without touching a stirrup, and Just as we reached him the advance began | we were off once more, slowly at first, till the again. A bloody cloth was bound around his horses got into their stride, and then more head, but I saw that his eye was as bright swiftly. So we passed over another ten and keen as ever. Beside him was old Um- miles, and then came a long, weary rise of slopoguas, his ax red with blood, but looking some six or seven miles, and three times did my poor black mare nearly come to the ground with me. But on the top she seemed "Everything. There is a plot to murder to gather herself together, and rattled down the queen to-morrow at dawn. Alphonse the slope with long, convulsive strides, here, who has just escaped from Sorais, has breathing in gasps. We did that three or overheard it all," and I rapidly repeated to four miles more swiftly than any since we had started on our wild ride, but I felt it to Curtis' face turned deadly pale and his jaw be a last effort, and I was right. Suddenly my poor hurse took the hit between her teeth "At dawn!" he gasped, "and it is now sun- and bolted enriously along a stretch of level set. It dawns before 4, and we are nearly ground for some 300 or 400 yards, and then, 100 miles off-nine hours at the outside. with two or three jerky strides, pulled herself up and (ell with a crash right on to her An idea entered into my head. "Is that head, I rolling myself free as she did so. As I struggled on to my feet the brave beast

bloodshot eyes, and then her head dropped with a groun and she was dead. Her heart Umslopoguas pulled up beside the carcass we cannot help it. No, no; it is impossible and I looked at him in dismay. There were I charged straight down upon Nasta's swords- and it would turn the fate of the battle. It is and how were we to do it with one horse? It seemed hopeless, but I had forgotten the old

Zulu's extraordinary running powers. Without a single word he sprang from the saddle and began to hoist me into it. "What wilt thou do?" I asked. "Run," he answered, seizing my stirrup

Then off we went again, almost as fast as

Daylight sped along at a long stretching hand gallop, giving the gaunt Zulu a lift at every stride. It was a wonderful thing to see old Umslopogana run mile after mile, his lips slightly parted and his nostrils agape like the horse's. Every five miles or so we stopped for a few minutes to let him get his breath,

"Canst thou go farther," I said at the third of these stoppages, "or shall I leave thee to

(To be Continued)

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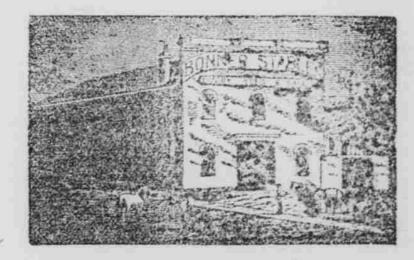
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Nasta, he went last night to settle the affair with the archbishop" (Agon). "The guard will love open the gate leading from the great stair and go away, and Nasta and priests will come in and kill her. lves they would not kill her."

e with me," I said, and shouting to officer next me to take over the comsnatched his bridle and galloped as I could for the spot, between a quarertis if he were still alive. On we tore,

"What's wrong, Quatermain?" he shouted. him what the Frenchman had told me,

What is to be done?"

"Yes, I have only just got on to him-when "So is mine. Get off him, and let Umslopogaas mount; he can ride well. We will be at | was broken.

In a moment he was down, and at my bid-

"Now farewell," I said. "Send 1,000 horse-