## THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.

always are so! Come !"

nam?" asked Yasmini.

dia to Aden?"

friend?"

time.

King nodded.

"East Africa," said King.

tunnels to the throne room, where she

made him sit at her feet again. The

there were pens and ink and paper.

CHAPTER XVII.

"You know where is Dar es Sa-

dive under water, in these waters?"

"I think not. I'm not sure, but I

"The grenades you have seen, and

suppress a rising of African natives.

Does it begin to grow clear to you, my

He smiled as well as nodded this

wolves comb the valleys."

stipulations did they make?"

The 'Hills' are the 'Hills !' "

all come from?"

"With the tribes? None! They

"Tell me about your lamp oll, then,"



## CHAPTER XVI-Continued. -10-

"Listen, while I tell you all from the beginning! The sirkar sent me to discover what may be this 'Heart of the men, whom he trusts because he must, Hills' men talk about. I found these hid it all in a cave I showed them, that enves and this! I told the sirkar a they think, and he thinks, has only one little about the caves, and nothing at entrance to it. Muharacaad Anim sealed that they only believed the third of the ammunition! what I said. And I-back in Delhi I is a Roman and the 'Heart of the mills' a Grecian maid. She is like me. to make an empire, choosing for a bedreams. And because I was all alone, I now that I would need skill and much the East and the world is ours!" patience. So I began to learn.

"Times I would go to Delhi and fance there a little, and a little in other places-once indeed before a viceroy, and once for the king of Enghand. And all the while I kept looking for the man-the man who should be like the sleeper, even as I am like her whom he loved ! There was none like the sleeper until you came. And when the world war broke-for it is a world war, a world war, I tell you !--I thought at last that I must manage all alone. And then you came!

"But there were many I tried-many -especially after I abandoned the thought that the man must resemble the Sleeper. There was a prince of Germany who came to India on a hunting trip. You remember?"

many hundred other men who had been lieutenants at the time, he would to know the truth of that affair. The grin transforced his whole appearance, until Yasmini beamed on him.

"I'm listening, princess !" he reminded her.

"Well-he came-the prince of Germany. I offered him India first, then Asin, then the world-even as I now offer them to you. The sirkar sent him to see me dance, and he stayed to hear me talk. When I saw at last that he has the head and heart of a hyenn I upat in his face and threw food at him.

"He complained to the sirkar against me, so I told the sirkar some-not much, indeed, but enough-of the things he and his officers had told me. rkar sold at once that there

these three years! Bombs and rifles floor for the use of archers. and cartridges! Muhammad Anim's

"There was another way out of that bought books. When I had read enough cave, although there is none now, for I came back here to think. I knew I have blocked it. My men, whom I enough now to be sure that the sleeper trust because I know them, carried everything out by the back way, and I have it all. We, my warrior, when Mu-That is why I know she drove him hammad Anim gets the word from Germany and gives the sign, and the 'Hills' ginning these 'Hills' where Rome had are afire, and the whole East roars in merer penetrated. I have seen it all in the flame of the jibad-we will put ourselves at the head of that fihad, and King smiled at her.

"The East isn't very well armed," he objected. "Mere numbers-"

"Numbers?" She laughed at him. "The West has the West by the throat i It is tearing itself! They will drag in piles. America ! There will be no armed nation with its hands free-and while those wolves fight, other wolves shall come and steal the meat! The old gods, who built these caves in the 'Hills,' are laughing! They are getting ready! Thou and I-'

As she coupled him and herself together in one plan she read the changed expression of his face-the very quickly passing cloud that even the best-trained man cannot control.

"I know!" she asserted, sitting upright and coming out of her dream to King pricked his ears and allowed face facts as their master. She looked himself to grin, for in common with more lovely now than ever, although twice as dangerous. "You are thinking of your brother-of his head! That I suce have given an ear and an eye am a murderess who can never be your friend! Is that not so?

He did not answer, but his eyes may have betrayed something, for she looked as if he had struck her.

"Oh, I have needed you so much, these many years! And now that you have come you want to hate me because you think I killed your brother! Listen !

"Without my leave, Muhammad Anim sent five hundred men on a foray toward the Khyber. Bull-with-a-beard needed an Englishman's head, for proof for a spy of his who could not enter Khinjan caves. They trapped your brother outside All Masjid with fifty of his men. They took his head after a long fight, leaving more than

bombs! Dynamite bombs have been a long passage, holding his hand all coming into Khinjan month by month the way, to show him slots cut in the

> "You entered Khinjan caves by a tunnel under this floor, well-beloved. There is no other entrance !"

By this time "well-beloved" was her name for him, although there was no all about the sleepers. But even at it, and he has the key. But I have air of finality about it. It was as if she paved the way for use of Athelstan and that was a sacred name. It was

amazing how she conveyed that imthink not." pression without using words. "The Sleeper cut these slots for his

archers. Then he had another thought and set these cauldrons in place, to boil oil to pour down. Could any army force a way through by the route by which you entered?"

"No," he said, marveling at the tonweight copper cauldrons, one to each hole.

"And I have more than a thousand Mauser rifles here, and more than a million rounds of ammunition !" She showed him a cave in which boxes were stacked in high, square

"Dynamite bombs!" she boasted. 'How many boxes? I forget! Too



and Govern."

Yasmini shouted in his ear; for the stool of the throne, and even pitted minutes, gazing at the Sleeper and his din, mingling with the river's voice, her.

made a volcano chord. "They will lay | She felt the pity. As she tossed the waste India! They will butcher and hair back over her shoulder her eyes plunder and burn! It will be what glowed with another meaning-dangerthey leave of India that we shall build ous-like a tiger's glare. anew and govern, for India herself will

"You plty me? You think because rise to help them lay her own cities I love you, you can feed my love on You think my love is a weapon to use She tugged at him and led him back against me? Your love for me may so wise as I thought you, Atheistan !" But he knew he had won. His heart food had been cleared away in their was singing down inside him as it had absence. Instead, on the ebony table not sung since he left India behind. But he stood quite humbly before her, for had he not kissed her? He knew

never could have told. "If you were to go back to India except as its conqueror, they would strip ready, this man and I. We will obey,

"And English warships watch the the buttons from your uniform and ye gods-ye old gods!" Persian guif and all the seas from In- tear your metals off and shoot you in the back against a wall ! My signature is known in India and I am of mystic reverence, giving and re-"Have the English any ships that known. What I write will be believed. ceiving blessings. Rewa Gunga shall take a letter. He shall take two-four-witnesses. He shall see them on their way and shall give them the letter when they reach the rifles and cartridges were sent by the Khyber and shall send them into the Germans to Dar es Salaam, to India with it. Have no fear, Bullwith-a-beard shall not intercept them, as I have intercepted his men. When Rewa Gunga shall return and tell me he saw my letter on its way down the Khyber, then we shall talk again-

"Muhammad Anim used to wait with you and I! Come!" a hundred women at a certain place She took his arm, as if her threats on the seashore. What he found on had been caresses. Triumph shone the beach there he made the women from her eyes. She tossed her brave carry on their heads to Khinjan. So chin and laughed at him, only enthey worked, he and the Germans, for couraged to greater daring by his atti-I know not how long-with the Engtude, and by the time they reached the lish watching the sens as on land lean ebony table and she had taken the pen and dipped it in the ink, she was in its grip, and her natural courage "What were the terms of the Gerchuckling to herself as if the one good man bargain?" King asked her, "What

joke had grown into a hundred. She wrote in Urdu, with an easy, flowing hand, and in two minutes she were too wise. A jihad was decided had thrown sand on the letter and had fail, yet knew that she must, and pitied on in Germany's good time; and when given it to King to read. It was not her. that time should come ten rifles in the like a woman's letter. It did not waste 'Hills' and a thousand cartridges would a word.

mean not only a hundred dead English-Your Captain King has been too much men, but ten times that number busily engaged. Why bargain when there Jermans. called himself Kurram Khan. He slew his own brother at night in the Khyber was no need? A rifle is what it is. is true, for I, Yasmini, sa. He used the head for a passport, to obta... admittance. he said. "You burn enough oil in Khinjan caves to light Bombay! That He proclaims a jihad! He urges invasion does not come in by submarine. The before five thousand men and boasted of the murder. The next you shall hear of sirkar knows how much of everything goes up the Khyber. I have seen the your Captain King of the Khyber rifles, printed lists myself-a few hundred he will be leading a jihad into India. You would have better trusted me. YASMINI. cans of kerosene-a few score gallons of vegetable oil, and all bound for far-

ther north. There isn't enough oil He read it and passed it back to her. pressed among the 'Hills' to keep these "They will not disbelieve me," she caves going for a day. Where does it She laughed, as a mother laughs at be sure you are mad, and they will no need. I will love you better than a child's questions, finding delicious believe the witnesses !"

"Rewa Gunga shall start with this "There are three villages, not two today !" she said, with more amusedays' march from Khabul, where men ment than malice. After that she was Will Butcher and Plunder and Burn! have lived for centuries by pressing still for a moment, watching his eyes, It Will Be What They Leave of oil for Khinjan caves," she said. "The at a loss to understand his careless-India That We Shall Build Anew Sleeper fetched his oil thence. The ness. He seemed strangely unabased. sex - mesmerism - beauty - flattery Sleeper left gold in here. Those who His folded arms were not defiant, but (her eyes could flatter as a dumb dog's

queen. And from the new angle from which King saw him the Sleeper's likeness to himself was actually startling. Startling-weird-like an incantation were Yasmini's words when at last she spoke.

"Muhammad lied! He lied in his waste! It is always so! Conquests a plate to the Indian government? teeth! His sons have multiplied his lie! Siddhattha, whom men have called Gotama, the Buddha, was before Mualong the tunnel and through other wait for a better time? You are not hammad and he knew more! He tale of the wheel of things, and there is a wheel! Yet, what knew the Buddha of the wheel? He who spoke of Dharma (the customs of the law) not knowing Dharma! This is true-of old there was a wish of the gods-of the old he had won. Yet if anyone had asked gods. And so these two were. There him how he knew that he had won, he is a wish again now of the old gods. So, are we two not as they two were? It is the same wish, and lo! We are

> She raised her arms and, going closer to the bed, stood there in an attitude

> "Dear gods !" she prayed. "Dear old gods-older than these 'Hills'-show me in a vision what their fault waswhy these two were ended before the end!

> "I know all the other things ye have shown me. I know the world's silly creeds have made it mad, and it must rend itself, and this man and I shall reap where the nations sowed-if only we obey! Wherein, ye old dear gods, who love me, dld these two disobey? I pray you, tell me in a vision !"

> She shook her head and sighed. Sadness seemed to have crept over her, like a cold mist from the night. It was as if she could dimly see her plans foredoomed, and yet hoped on in spite of it. The fatalism that she scorned as Muhammad's lle held her fought with it. Womanlike, she turned to King in that minute and confided to him her very inmost thoughts. And he, without an inkling as to how she must

"Have you seen that breast under the armor?" she asked suddenly. "Come nearer! Come and look! Did rouble. He has taken money from the she kill him? Was that a dagger-stab He adopted native dress. He in his breast? I found perfume in these caves-great jars of it, and I use pass. These men will say that he car- it always. I think that scent is the ied the head to Khinjan, and their word preservative. Athelstan-listen! think he would have failed her! A think she stabbed him rather than see of India! He held up his brother's head him fail, and then swallowed poison! Afterward their servants laid them there. She smiles in death because she knew the wheel will turn and that death dies too! He looks grim because he knew less than she. It is always woman who understands and man who fails! I think she stabbed said, triumphant as the very devil over hlm. She should have loved him beta brandered soul all hot. "They will ter, and then there would have been she loved him !"

She turned and devoured him with her eyes, so that it needed all his manhood to hold him back from being her slave that minute. For in that minute she left no charm unexercised-

was both cholera and bubonic plague, and he must go home! His officers haughed behind his back. Ever since that time there have always been Germans in communication with me, and I have not once been in the dark about Germany's plans-although they have always thought I am in the dark.

"I went on looking for my man. There came that old Bull-with-a-beard, Muhammad Anim. He thinks he is the



"The Old Gods Who Built These Caves in the 'Hills' Are Laughing! They Are Getting Ready! Thou and I-

man, having more strength to hope and more will to will wrongly than any man I ever met, except a German. I now I am not sure.

"From all the men I met and watched I have learned all they knew ! and I have never neglected to tell the sirkar sufficient of what men have told me, to keep the sirkar pleased with me! It was fortunate that I knew of a German plot that I could spoil at the hast minute, A million dynamite My offer to go to Khinjan and keep the "Hills' quiet was accepted that same duy !

"But what are a million dynamite her well-belowed and took him down cism, frenzy, lust!

a hundred of their own in payment. "Bull-with-a-beard was pleased. But

he was careless, and I sent my men to -I swear to you by my gods who have brought us two together-that I first say when he misses his precious dynaknew it was your brother's head when mite!" you held it up in the Cavern of Earth's

Drink! Then I knew it could not be nnybody else's head !" "Why bid me throw it to them,

then?" he asked her, and he was aware of her scorn before the words had left his lins.

She leaned back again and looked at him through lowered eyes, as if she must study him all anew. She seemed ing. to find it hard to believe that he really thought so in the commonplace.

"What is a head to me, or to youa head with no life in it-carrion !-compared to what shall be? Would you have known it was his head if you had thrown it to them when I ordered you?"

He understood. Some of her blood was Russian, some Indian. She stood up, and of course he stood up, too. So, she on the footstool of the throne, her eyes and his were on a level. She laid hands on his shoulders and looked into his eyes until he could see his own twin portraits in hers, that were glowing sunset pools. Heart of the Hills? The heart of all the East seemed to burn in her, rebellious!

"Are you believing me?" she asked him.

He nodded, for no man could have helped believing her. As she knew the truth, she was telling it to him, as surely as she was doing her skillful best to mesmerize him. But the secret service is made up of men trained against that.

"Come !" she said, and stepping down she took his arm.

She led him past the thrones to other leather curtains in a wall, and through them into long hewn passages from cavern to cavern, until even the Rock of Gibraltar seemed like a doll's house in comparison. She showed him a cave containing great forges, where the bronze had been worked, with

have even been sure sometimes that charcoal still piled up against the wall Mahammad Anim is a German; yet at one end. There were copper and tin ingots in there of a shape he had never seen.

"I know where they came from," she told him. "I made it my business to know all the 'Hills.' I know things the hillmen's great-great-great-grandfathers forgot! I know old workings that would make a modern nation rich ! We shall have money when we need bombs was a big haul for the sirkar! It, never fear! We shall conquer india while the English backs are turned and the best troops are overseas."

kept the Sleeper's secret pald for the

many to count! Women brought them oll in gold. No Afghan troubled why all the way from the sea, for even oil was needed, so long as gold paid steal the head from his men. I needed Muhammad Anim could not make for it. And I know where the Sleeper evidence for you. And I swear to you Afridi riflemen carry loads. I have dug his gold !" wondered what Bull-with-a-beard will

> "You've enough in there to blow the mountain up!" King advised her. one knee; for it is wiser to think than "If somebody fired a pistol in here, to talk, even when a woman is near the least would be the collapse of this who can read thoughts that are not floor into the tunnel below with a hun- guarded.

dred thousand tons of rock on top of it. There is no other way out?"

"Earth's Drink !" she said, and he made a grimace that set her to laugh-

But she looked at him darkly after that and he got the impression that the thought was not new to her, and that she did not thank him for the advice. He began to wonder whether there was anything she had not thought ofany loophole she had left him for escape-any issue she had not fore-

seen. She showed him where eleven hun-

another cave, with boxes of ammunition piled beside them-each rifle and cartridge worth its weight in silver coin-a very rajah's ransom!

"The Germans are generous in some things-only in some things-very pressed in a movement. Her eyes meltmean in others !" she told him. "They sent no medical stores, and no blankets!"

Past caves where provisions of every imaginable kind were stored, sufficient for an army, she led him to where her guards slept together with the And if any man has felt on his lips thirty special men whom King had the kiss of all the scented glamour of brought with him up the Khyber.

"I have five hundred others whom I dare trust to come in here," she said, kissed by Cleopatra, come to life and "but they shall stay outside until I talk of it ! want them. A mystery is a good thing!

It is good for them all to wonder what sanctuary; it makes for power!"

Pressing very close to him, she guided him down another dark tunnel swelled to bursting, so must hers have until he and she stood together in the jaws of the round hole above the river, looking down into the Cavern of Earth's Drink.

Nobody looked up at them. The thousands were too busy working up a

frenzy for the great jihad that was to come.

Stacks of wood had been plied up, Round and round that holocaust the right arm was like a stanchion. Be- innocence. Her perfume was like inthousands did their sword-dance, yell- cause he knew that he, not she, was

They sat in silence for a long while

enjoyment in Instructing him.

after that, she looking at the table, with its ink and pens and paper, and he thinking, with hands clasped round

"Athelstan !" she said at last. "It sounds like a king's name! What was a name in Rome?"

"No." he said.

him.

"Slow of resolution !"

She clapped her hands.

"Another sign !" she laughed. "The gods love me! There always is a sign when I need one! Slow of resolution. art thou? I will speed thy resolution.

dred Mauser rifles stood in racks in regiment, to Kurram Khan. Change Come!" now into my warrior-my dear lordmy King again !"

She rose, with arms outstretched to him. All her dancer's art, her untamed poetry, her witchery, were exed as they met his. And since he stood up, too, for manner's sake, they were eye to eye again-almost lip to lip. Her sweet breath was in his nostrils. In another moment she was in his arms, clinging to him, kissing him. the East, let him tell what King's sensations were. Let Caesar, who was

King's arm is strong, and he did not stand like an idol. His head might I keep in here! It is good to keep this swim, but she, too, tasted the delirium of human passion loosed and given for a mad, swift minute. If his heart done

> "I have needed you !" she whispered. "I have been all alone! I have needed you !"

Then her lips sought his again, and neither spoke.

Neither knew how long it was before she began to understand that he, not she, was winning. The human answer six-man high in the middle, and then to her appeal was full. He gave her fired. The heat came upward like a all she asked of admiration, kiss for furnace blast, and the smoke was a kiss. And then-her arms did not illusion was of walking behind a goldgreat red cloud among the stalactites. cling so tightly, although his strong en-haired Madonna to some shrine of

ing as the devils yelled at Khinjan's winning, he picked her up in his arms She passed into the cave where the birth. They needed no wine to craze and kissed her as if she were a child. two dead bodies lay like a high priest-Then she called him her warrior and them. They were drunk with fanati- And then, because he knew he had ess performing a rite. won, he set her on her feet on the foot- Walking to the bed, she stood for

neither were they yielding. "I love you, Athelstan!" she said. 'Do you love me?"

"I think you are very beautiful, princess !"

"Beautiful? I know I am beautiful. But is that all?"

"Clever !" he added.

She began to drum with the golden dagger hilt on the table, and to look dangerous, which is not to infer by any means that she looked less lovely.

"Do you love me?" she asked. "Forgive me, princess, but you forget. I was born east of Mecca, but my the Sleeper's name? Was there such folk were from the West. We are slower to love than some other nations. With us love is more often growth, less "What does it mean?" she asked often surrender at first sight. I think you are wonderful !"

She nodded and tucked the sealed letter in her bosom.

"It shall go," she said darkly, "and another letter with it. They looted your brother's body. In his pocket they found the note you wrote him, and that well-beloved! You were quick to you asked him to destroy! That will change from King, of the Khyber Rifle be evidence. That will convince!

> He followed her through leather curtains again and down the dark pas-



flatter a huntsman)-grace unutterable -mystery-she used every art on him she knew. Yet he stood the test.

"Even if you fail me, well-beloved, I will love you! The gods who gave you me will know how to make you love; and lessons are to learn. If you fail me I will forgive, knowing that in the end the gods will never let you fail me! You are mine, and earth is ours, for the old gods intend it so !"

She seemed to expect him to take her in his arms again; but he stood respectfully and made no answer, nor any move. Grim and strong his jowl was, like the Sleeper's, and the dark hair three days old on it softened nothing of its lines. His Roman nose and steady, dark, full eyes suggested no compromise. Yet he was good to look at. She had not lied when she said she loved him, and he understood her and was sorry. But he did not look sorry, nor did he offer any argument to quench her love. He was a servant of the raj; his life and his love had been India's since the day he first buckled on his spurs, and Yasmini would not have understood that.

Nor did she understand that, even supposing he had loved her with all his heart, not on any conditions would he have admitted it until absolutely free, any more than that if she crucified him he would love her the same, supposing that he loved her at all. Nor did she trust the "old gods" too well, or let them work unalded.

"Come with me, Athelstan !" she said, She took his arm-found little jeweled slippers in a closet hewn in the wallput them on and led him to the curtains he had entered by. She led down the steps, and at the foot told him to put on his slippers, as if he vere a child. Then, hurrying as if those opal eye: of hers were indifferent to dark or daylight, she picked her way among bowlders that he could feel but not see, along a floor that was only smooth in places, for a distance that was long enough by two or three times to lose him altogether. When he looked back there was no sign of red lights behind him. And when he looked forward, there was a dim outer light in front and a whiff of the cool fresh air that presages the dawn!

She led him through a gap on to a ledge of rock that hung thousands of feet above the home of thunder, a ledge less than six feet wide, less than twenty long, tilted back toward the cliff. There they sat, watching the stars. And there they saw the dawn

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

'Arking Back.

The Vicar-What a dreadful plague of caterpillars, John !

John-Ah; an' 'oo let loose the first pair of 'em? Noah !- Sketch.



sage into the outer chamber; and the come. cense; her manner perfect reverence.