A Tale of Three Lions H. RIDER HAGGARD

CHAPTER I .- (CONTINUED.) "At last the crisis came. One Saturday I had paid the men as usual, and bought a muid of mealie meal at sixty shillings for them to fill themselves with, and then I went with my boy Harry and sat on the edge of the thundering great hole that we had dug in the hill-side, and which we had in bitter mockery named Eldorado. There we sat in the moonlight with our feet hanging over the edge of the claim, and were melancholy enough for anything. Presently I pulled out my purse and emptied its contents into my hand. There was a half sovereign, two florins, nine pence in silver, no coppers, for copper practically does not circulate in South Africa, which is one of the things that makes living so dear there, in all exactly fourteen and nine pence.

'There, Harry, my boy!' I said, 'that is the sum-total of our worldly wealth; the infernal hole has swallowed all the rest.'

"'Gracious!" said Master Harry. 'I say, you and I shall have to let ourselves out to work with the Kafirs and live on mealie pap,' and he giggled at his unpleasant little joke.

"But I was in no mood for joking, for it is not a merry thing to dig like mad for months and be completely ruined in the process, especially if you happen to hate digging like poison, and consequently I resented Harry's light-heartedness

'Shut up!' I said, raising my hand as though to give him a cuff, with the result that the half sovereign slipped out of it and fell in the gulf below. "'Oh, confound it all,' said I, 'it's

"'There, dad,' said Harry; 'that's what comes of letting your angry passions rise; now we are down to four

"I made no answer to these words of wisdom, but scrambled down the steep sides of the claim followed by Harry, to hunt for my little all. Well. we hunted and hunted, but the moonlight is an uncertain thing to look for half sovereigns by, and there was some loose soil about, for the Kafirs had knocked off working at the very spot a couple of hours before. I took a pick and raked away the clods of earth with it, in the hope of finding the coin; but all in vain. At last in sheer annoyance I struck the sharp end of the pick-ax down into the soil, which was of a very hard nature. To my astonishment it sunk in right up

"'Why, Harry,' I said, 'this ground must have been disturbed!'

"'I don't think so, father,' he answered, 'but we will soon see,' and he began to shovel out the soil with his hands. 'Oh,' he said, presently, 'it's only some old stones; the pick has gone down between them, look;' and he began to pull at one of the stones.

"'I say, dad,' he said, presently, almost in a whisper, 'it's precious heavy, feel it,' and he rose and gave me a round brownish lump about the size of a very large apple, which he was holding in both his hands. I took it curiously and held it up to the light. It was precious heavy. The moonlight fell face, and as I looked curious little thrills of excitement began to pass through me. But I could not be sure.

'Give me your knife, Harry,' I said. "He did so, and resting the brown stone on my knee I scratched at its surface. Great heavens, it was soft!

"Another secret and the secret was out; we had found a great nugget of pure gold, four pounds of it or more. 'It's gold, lad,' I said, 'it's gold, or I'm a Dutchman.'

"Harry, with his eyes starting out of his head, glared down at the long gleaming yellow scratch that I had made upon the virgin metal, and then burst out into yell upon yell of exultation, that went ringing away across the silent claims like the shrieks of somebody being murdered.

"'Shut up, shut up!' I said, 'do you want every thief on the fields after

"Scarcely were the words out of my mouth when I heard a stealthy footstep approaching. I promptly put the hig nugget down and sat on it, as though it had been an egg, and uncommonly hard it was, and as I did so I saw a lean dark face poked over the edge of the claim and a pair of beady eyes searching us out. I knew the face, it belonged to a man of very bad character known as Handspike Tom, having I understood been so named at the Diamond Fields because he had murdered his mate with a handspike. He was now no doubt prowling about like a human hyena to see what he could steal.

"'Is that you, 'unter Quatermain?"

"'Yes, that's me, Mr. Tom.'

answered, politely. what might all that there yelling be?' he asked. 'I was walking along, a-taking of the evening air and

a-thinking about my soul, when I 'ears 'owl after 'owl.'

ly, taking no notice of my interpretation, 'and I stops and smacks my lips and says, "That's murder," and I lisgummy yeller pot, I'll swear, and gone off 'is 'ead in the sucking of them.

Now, 'unter Quatermain, is I right?

ed his lips audibly—'great big yellow boys—is it them that you have just been and tumbled across?'

"'No,' I said boldly, 'it isn't'-the cruel gleam in his black eyes altogether overcoming my aversion to the lie, for I knew that if once he found out what it was that I was sitting on-and by the way I have heard of rolling in gold being spoken of as a pleasant process but I certainly do not recommend any body who values comfort to try sitting on it-I should run a very good chance of being handspiked before the night was over.

"'If you want to know what it was, Mr. Tom,' I went on with my politest air, although in agony from the augget underneath, for I hold it always best to be polite to a man who is so handy with a handspike, 'my boy and I have had a slight difference of opinion, and I was enforcing my view of the matter upon him; that's all, Mr. Tom. 'Yes, Mr. Tom,' put in Harry, begin-

ning to snivel. Well, all I can say is that a played-out old claim is a wonderful queer sort of a place to come for to argify at ten o'clock of night, and what's more, my sweet youth, if ever I should 'ave the argifying of yer'-and he leered unpleasantly at Harry-'yer won't 'oller in quite such a jolly sort o' way. And now I'll be saying good-night, for I don't like disturbing of a family party. No. I ain't that sort of man. ain't. Good-night to yer, 'unter Quatermain-good-night to yer, my argified young one;' and Mr. Tom turned away disappointed and prowled off elsewhere, like a human jackal, to see what he could thieve or kill.

"'Thank heaven!' I said, as I slipped off the lump of gold which had left a dent upon my person that did not wear out for a week or more. 'Now then, just you slip up, Harry, and see if that consummate villain has gone.' Harry did so, and reported that he had vanished toward Pilgrims' Rest, and then we set to work, and very carefully, but trembling with excitement, with our hands hollowed out all the space of ground into which I had struck the pick. Yes, as I thought, there was a regular nest of nuggets, twelve in all, running from the size of a hazel nut to that of a hen's egg, though of course the first one was much larger than that. How they all came there nobody can say; it was one of those extraordinary freaks, with stories of which at any rate, all people acquainted with alluvial gold-mining will be familiar. It turned out afterward that the Yankee who sold me the claim had in the same way made his pile-a much larger one than ours, by the way-out of a single pocket, and then worked for six months without seeing color, after which he gave it up.

"At any rate, there the nuggets were, to the value as it turned out afterwards, of about twelve hundred and fifty pounds, so that after all I took out of that hole four hundred and fifty pounds more than I put into it. We got them poised on bent and rushing pinions all out and wrapped them up in a handkerchief, and then fearing to carry home so much treasure, especially as of the trees. we knew that Mr. Handspike Tom was on the prowl, made up our minds to pass the night where we were-a necessity which, disagreeable as it was, was wonderfully sweetened by the presence of that handkerchief full of virgin gold, which represented the interest of my lost half sovereign.

"Slowly the night wore away, for my eyes I did not care to go to sleep, to shake the nerves of any lad. and at last the dawn came, blushing like a bride, down the somber ways of night. I got up and watched its perfect growth, till it opened like a vast celestial flower upon the eastern sky, and the sunbeams began to spring in splendor from mountain-top to mountaintop. I watched it, and as I did so it flashed upon me with a complete conviction that I had not felt before that I had had enough gold-mining to last metherest of my natural life, and I then and there made up my mind to clear out of Pilgrims' Rest and go and shoot buffalo toward Delago Bay. Then I turned, took the pick and shovel, and although it was a Sunday morning. woke up Harry and set to work to see if there were any more nuggets handy. As I expected, there were none. What we had got had lain together in a little pocket filled with soil that felt quite different from the stiff stuff round and trace of gold. Of course, it is possible that there were other pockets full somewhere about, but all I have to say is I made up my mind that, whoever found them I should not; and, as a matter of fact. I have since heard that that claim has been the ruin of two or three people, as it was very nearly the ruin of me.

"'Harry,' I said presently, 'I am going away this week towards Delago to me, or send you down to Durban?'

"'Oh, take me with you, dad,' begged Harry, 'I want to kill a buffalo!' "'And supposing the buffalo kills you instead?' I asked.

"'Oh, never mind,' he says gayly, 'there are lots more where I came

"I rebuked him for his flippancy, but in the end I consented to take him."

CHAPTER II.

"Something over a fortnight had 'Well, Mr. Tom,' I answered, 'that passed since the night when I lost half ted it to a publisher?" "Not yet. I is not to be wondered at, seeing that a sovereign and found twelve hundred like yourself they are nocturnal birds.' and fifty pounds in looking for it, and 'Owl after 'owl,' he repeated, stern- instead of that horrid hole for which, after all, Eldorado was scarcely a misnomer, a very different scene stretched away before us clad in the silver robe tens agin and thinks, "No, it ain't; that of the moonlight. We were camped-'owl is the 'owl of hexhultation; some | Harry and I, two Kafirs, a Scotch cart, one's been and got his fingers into a and six oxen—on the swelling side of a great wave of bush-clad land. Just where we had made our camp, how- of a lady that "she lived fifty years ever, the bush was very sparse, and with her husband and died in confident

and there were single flat-topped mim- | NEW osa trees. To our right a little stream which had cut a deep channel for itself in the bosom of the slope, flowed musically on between banks green with the maiden-hair, wild asparagus, and many beautiful grasses. The bed-rock here was red granite, and in the course of many centuries of patient washing the water had hollowed out some of the huge slabs in its path into great troughs and cups, and these we used for bathing-places. No Roman lady, with her baths of porphyry or alabaster, could have had a more delicious spot to lave herself than we had within fifty yards of our skerm or rough inclosure of mimosa thorn that we had dragged together round the cart to protect us from the attacks of lions, of which there were several about, as I knew from their spoor, though we had neither heard nor seen them.

"It was a little nook where the eddy of the stream had washed away a mass of soil, and on the edge of it there grew a most beautiful old mimosa thorn. Beneath the thorn was a large smooth slab of granite fringed all with maiden-hair, and other ferns, that sloped gently down to a pool of the clearest sparkling water, which lay in a bowl of granite about ten feet wide by five deep in the center. Here to this slab we went every morning to bathe, and that delightful bath is among the most pleasant of my hunting reminiscences, as it is also for reasons that will presently appear, among the most painful.

"It was a lovely night, and Harry and I sat there to the windward of the fire, at which the two Kafirs were busily employed in cooking some impala steaks off a buck which Harry. to his great joy, had shot that morning, and were as perfectly contented with ourselves and the world at large as two people could possibly be. The night was beautiful, and it would require somebody with more words on the tip of his tongue than I have to describe the chastened majesty of the moonlit wilds. Away forever and forever, away to the mysterious north, rolled the great bush ocean over which the silence hung like a heavy cloud. There beneath us a mile or more to the right rolled the wild Oliphant river, and mirror-like flashed back the moon, whose silver spears were shivered on its breast, and then tossed in twisted lines of light far and wide about the mountains and the plain. Down upon its banks grew great timber-trees that through the stilly silence pointed solemnly to heaven, and the beauty of the night lay upon them like a dream. Everywhere was silence- silence in the starred depths, silence in the fair bosom of the sleeping earth. Now, if ever, great thoughts might rise in a man's mind, and for a space he might lose his littleness in the sense that he partook of the pure immensity about him. Almost might he hear the echoes of angelic voices, as the spirits swept onwards from universe to universe; and distinguished the white fingers of the wind playing in the tresses

"Hark! what was that? "From far away down the river there comes a mighty rolling sound, then another, and another. It is the lion seeking his meat.

"I saw Harry shiver and turn a little pale. He was a plucky boy enough, but the roar of a lion for the first time in with the fear of Handspike Tom before | the solemn bush veldt at night is apt

(TO BE CONTINUED.

AN OLD MOSAIC.

Unearthed by a Party of Soldiers in Tunis.

After Italy and Provence there is no country where Rome has left more monuments in every state of preservation of decay than in Tunis, says the London Daily News. The largest. Roman circus after the Coliseum is El-Djem, Arles ranking next and Nimes coming fourth. At a recent sitting of the Academy of Inscriptions in Paris M. Boisier, our correspondent says gave an account of a remarkable Roman discovery at Susa, in Tunis The French, who, unlike the English in Egypt, have settled down in Tunis for good, have got a camp at that seaport which is "a mine of mosaics." where fresh discoveries are made every outside the pocket. There was not a year. The other day a party of soldiers digging foundations unearthed a mosaic with three human figures in a perfect state of preservation, covered with only a few inches of soil. It is only three and one-half feet square, but the subject, "Virgil Writing the Aeneid." will interest all. There is a front view of the poet loosely draped in the folds of a white toga with a blue fringe, sitting with his feet in sandals resting on a step. He holds on his knees a shoot buffalo. Shall I take you with papyrus roll on which is written in cursive letters one of the verses of his poem. With his right hand on his breast, the forefinger pointing upward, his head erect in an inspired attitude. he listens to Clio and Melpomene, who, standing behind, dictate his cantos.

A Good Samaritan.

"There are several things in this book of mire that I think are particularly good," said the young writer. "No doubt; no doubt," replied the man of many experiences. "Have you submitwanted to get your advice." "My candid advice?" "Certainly." "Well, if I were in your place I'd go through the book and pick out what I considered the passages of striking excellence-"Yes?" "And throw them away."-Washington Star.

Poor Soul.

An exchange announces on the death Is it nuggets? Oh, Lor'!' and he smack- only grew about in clumps while here hope of a better life."-Texas Sifter.

TARIFF BILL.

HOW IT AFFECTS THE FARM-ERS OF THE COUNTRY.

A Statement Showing Its Rates of Duty Compared with Those Under the Mc-Kinley and Wilson Laws-Ample Protection for the Farmer.

(Washington Correspondence.) The following statement shows the ates of duty imposed by the new tariff bill just introduced in the house of epresentatives, upon articles in which the farmers are especially interested. This relates both to the articles which they produce and which they want

thoroughly protected and also to the

articles which they use in considerable

quantities and regarding which they

are equally interested as to the rates

of duty fixed by the new bill.

The Republicans in the house of repepresentatives have broken the record n the matter of promptness touching the new tariff bill. Congress met in special session ten days after President McKinley was inaugurated and within three hours the house had organized by the election of officers; rules had been adopted; the ways and means committee had been appointed, the tariff bill had been presented in complete form and had been regularly referred to its proper committee with

the understanding that it would be re-

ported back to the house before the end of the week and passed that body within a fortnight.

The provisions of the new bill are extremely satisfactory to members of congress representing the agricultural districts and agricultural interests. All of them who have had an opportunity to examine it speak in the highest terms in regard to it. No man in congress is better able to judge of the bill and of its prospective work than General Grosvenor, of Ohio, who, as a member of the committee, has studied every article and item carefully, guarded the interests of the farmers closely and consulted with the farmers of his agricultural districts regarding the important features of the bill which affected not only their own interests but those of farmers generally. Speaking of this feature of the bill he

"The farmer will find; first, general protection of his product in the form of tariff duties levide upon articles of importation of every character such as he produces in the United States. Thus, the development of the sheep industry we have taken up and resumed at the point where the Wilson bill destroyed it, with the hope; first, of a profitable industry directly, and second with the hope of diverting a vast amount of agricultural lands of the middle west the west and the northwest from the productions of agricultural grains, vegetables and fruits, to the production of sheep, and secondly in the same directions stands the protection to sugar. So far as the wool features of this bill are concerned, the protection is very much better for the sheep grower than was the McKinley law because of one great feature, the removal of the possibility of fraud by the importation of carpet wools, which at once, on their release from the customs house, became clothing wools."

The following statement, gives in the

first column the rates of duty proposed by the new bill; in the second column, the rates showing the present Wilson tariff law, and in the third column those of the McKinley law. It will be seen that in almost every case the rates are much more advantageous to the farmers than those of the present law and in many cases superior to those of the McKinley law. This is especially true with reference to wool, the explanation of which is found in the remarks of General Grosvenor quoted above. These should be examined carefully. His statement upon that subject is important because without it the reader not skilled in the detail of the tariff matter would not undrstand the advantages given to the farmer by that feature of the bill which prohibits the classification of coarse clothing wools under the carpetwool schedule, by which under the Mc-Kinley law enormous quantities of wool used in clothing came into the country at very low rates. It was this feature of the wool schedule of the McKinley law which proved damaging to the wool producing interests of the United States, but the ways and means committee has taken advantage of the experience thus gained to make their classification such that this will be prevented in the future. Thus, while the tariff rates on wool under the proposed bill appear the same to the unpracticed eye as those of the McKinley law, they are very much more favorable to the wool producer; so much so that no doubt is entertained of the prosperity of the wool producers as well as of the farmers generally under the new bill when it becomes a law and has had

time to adjust itself to conditions. The rates named by the new bill, compared with those of the Wilson and McKinley laws, upon articles in which the farmers are interested are as fol-

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boxes, barrels or other articles containing the foregoing	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.		gar wra and not med If stemmed Flax straw Flax, not he or dressed Flax, hackle Tow of flax retted Tow of flax ted Tow of hem carded Tow of carded Hemp, hack Yarn of jute
boxes, barrels or other articles containing the foregoing	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.	13c. 25c.	gar wra and not med
to upon the boxes, barrels or other articles containing the foregoing cranges, lemons, and limes, in packages	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.		gar wra and not med If stemmed Flax straw Flax, not he or dressed Flax, hackle Tow of flax retted Tow of flax Tow of hem carded Tow of hem carded Hemp, hackl Yarn of jute Bismarch A letter London ner
boxes, barreis or other articles containing the foregoing cranges, lemons, and limes, in packages	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.	2 5c.	gar wra and not med If stemmed Flax straw Flax, not he or dressed Flax, hackle Tow of flax retted Hemp carded Tow of hem carded Hemp, hackl Yarn of jute Bismarch A letter London nev rich Friedj book on "I
to upon the boxes, barrels or other articles containing the foregoing branges, lemons, and limes, in packages and limes in bulk, per thousand and limes or barrels and limes in packages of capacity of 1½ cubic feet or less, per packages exceeding 1½ cubic feet and not exceeding 1½ cubic feet and not exceeding 2½ cubic feet, for each additional cubic foot or fraction in bulk per thou-	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.	25c. 10c.	gar wra and not med If stemmed Flax straw Flax, not he or dressed Flax, hackle Tow of flax retted Tow of flax ted Tow of hem carded Tow of hem carded Hemp, hackl Yarn of jute Bismarch A letter London ner rich Friedj book on "I in German
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to upon the boxes, barrels or other articles containing the foregoing tranges, lemons, and limes, in packages, lemons, and limes in bulk, per thousand the boxes or barrels tranges, lemons, and limes in packages of capacity of 1½ cubic feet or less, per package. In packages exceeding 1½ cubic feet and not exceeding 2½ cubic feet, for each additional cubic foot or fraction in bulk per thousand in addition, upon the boxes or barrels.	30 p. c.	\$1.50 \$0 p. c.	25c. 10c. \$1.50 30 p. c. 2c.	gar wra and not med

's Intrigues with Austria. written from Berlin to spaper says that Dr. Heinung is about to publish a The Struggle for Supremacy y, 1859-1866," in which he ap account of information by Prince Bismarck with he ex-Chancellor's proposals in 1866, before the outbreak a partition of Germany hetria and Prussia. As both re then armed to the teeth. Free. they could have imposed their will upon Europe. The proposal, it is said, was kept secret because it would have involved the political subordination of the Bavarian crown to Austria. Prince Bismarck went even further, and, in his own words, proposed that Prussia and Austria should make a united attack upon France with a view to the cession of Alsace. Austria was to take Strasburg, Prussia Mainz-the calculation being that Napoleon could do nothing, his army having been demoralized by the Mexican expedition.