

ani. bent anat has chosen a worthy husband, my preserver, the poet pentaur. he was said to be a man of humble origin, the son of a gardener of the house of seti; and now what do i learn through ameni he is the true son of the dead mohar, and the foul traitor paaker is the gardeners son. a witch in the necropolis changed the children. that is the best news of all that has reached me on this propitious day, for the mohars widow, the noble setchem, has been brought here, and i should have been obliged to choose between two sentences on her as the mother of the villain who has escaped us. either i must have sent her to the quarries, or have had her beheaded before all the people in the name of the gods, what is that they heard a loud cry in a mans voice, and at the same instant a noise as if some heavy mass had fallen to the ground from a great height. rameses and mena hastened to the window, but started back, for they were met by a cloud of smoke. call the watch cried the king. go, you, exclaimed mena to ani. i will not leave the king again in danger. ani fled away like an escaped prisoner, but he could not get far, for, before he could descend the stairs to the lower story, they fell in before his very eyes; katuti, after she had set fire to the interior of the palace, had made them fall by one blow of a hammer. ani saw her robe as she herself fled, clenched his fist with rage as he shouted her name, and then, not knowing what he did, rushed headlong through the corridor into which the different royal apartments opened. the fearful crash of the falling stairs brought the king and mena also out of the sleeping room. there lie the stairs that is serious said the king coolly; then he went back into his room, and looked out of a window to estimate the danger. bright flames were already bursting from the of a bed of mud. molly had covered the bottom of the glass with gravel which she had steadily washed till water would run clear from it, in spite of the impatient exclamations of francis, that it would do now, and quite regardless of the inconvenience to which i was subjected by being kept in the pickle jar. in this gravel she had embedded the roots of some water crowfoot and other pond plants. the stones in the middle were nicely arranged, and well covered with moss and water weeds. when water had been poured in up to the brim of the bell glass, and we had been emptied out of the jars, the dragon fly larva got into a good hole among the stones and ate most of the may fly grubs, water shrimps, and so forth, as they came into sight. i did not do badly myself, and only the bigger and stronger members of our society and a few skins were there next day, when francis brought a jar full of minnows, a small carp, and a bulls head, and turned them out in our midst. how they dart and swim round and round he exclaimed. splendid, said molly. i am so sorry i am going away just now. you will try and keep the water fresh, wont you of course i will. and let me have the scarlet spider whilst you are away. i couldnt find another. well, if you must; but do take care, francis. and here are the two bits of gutta percha tubing to make into syphons. you must put them into hot water for a minute before you bend them, you know. ill do it to morrow, molly; i have nothing else to do, you know, because edward brown wont be back for three or four days. so we can do nothing about the cricket club. it was on the third day, when both the pieces of gutta percha tubing were in a wash hand basin of hot water, and the dragon eastern wall they were attached to a large shell shaped canopy extending over the throne of the king, which was decorated with pieces of green and blue glass, of mother of pearl, of shining plates of mica, and other sparkling objects. the throne itself had the shape rested on each side of it and formed the arms crouched beneath its weight. thick carpets, which seemed to have transported the sea shore on to the dry land for their pale blue ground was strewn with a variety of shells, fishes, and water plants covered the floor of the banqueting hall, in which three hundred seats were placed by the tables, for the nobles of the kingdom and the officers of the troops. above all this splendor hung a thousand lamps, shaped like lilies and tulips, and in the entrance hall stood a huge basket of roses to be strewn before the king when he should arrive. even the bed rooms for the king and his suite were splendidly decorated; finely embroidered purple stuffs covered the walls, a light cloud of pale blue gauze hung across the ceiling, and giraffe skins were laid instead of carpets on the floors. the barracks intended for the soldiers and bodyguard stood nearer to the city, as well as the stable buildings, which were divided