

who, with his left hand, tightly held the reins, and with his right the shield which was to protect his sovereign in the fight. the king stood like a storm proof oak, and mena by his side like a sapling ash. the eastern horizon was rosy with the approaching sun rise when they quitted the precincts of the camp; at this moment the pioneer paaker advanced to meet the king, threw himself on the ground before him, kissed the earth, and, in answer to the king's question as to why he had come without his brother, told him that horus was taken suddenly ill. the shades of dawn concealed from the king the guilty color, which changed to sallow paleness, on the face of the pioneer unaccustomed hitherto to lying and treason. how is it with the enemy asked rameses. he is aware, replied paaker, that a fight is impending, and is collecting numberless hosts in the camps to the south and east of the city. if thou couldst succeed in falling on the rear from the north of kadesh, while the foot soldiers seize the camp of the asiatics from the south, the fortress will be thine before night. the mountain path that thou must follow, so as not to be discovered, is not a bad one. are you ill as well as your brother, man asked the king. your voice trembles. i was never better, answered the mohar. lead the way, commanded the king, and paaker obeyed. they went on in silence, followed by the vast troop of chariots through the dewy morning air, first across the plain, and then into the mountain range. the corps of ra, armed with bows and arrows, preceeded them to clear the way; they crossed the narrow bed of a dry torrent, and then a broad valley opened before them, extending to the right and left and enclosed by ranges of it already, said griggs, as about twenty of the indians rode round the curve into sight, and their quick eyes grasped the fact at once that something had happened at the gap since they passed by. look out ware arrows, said griggs, in a low, deep growl. tell em, doctor, that they neednt mind those plaything toys so long as they keep well under cover. we can hear what you say, said bourne, and an anxious half minute passed, before there was a sudden yell, sounding wild and harsh, to echo and re echo from the mighty walls on either side, while as it went reverberating on from side to side, to die away in the distance, there was another shout, and close upon it the whizz of a flight of arrows, and then a tinkling, splintering sound as they struck against the stones, to snap or glance off, the air just about the barrier seeming for a moment full of the glistening barbed wands. fire said the doctor loudly, and crack crack crack with measured slowness the rifles of all three rang out, to raise a fresh set of echoes, and as these were still repeating themselves another and a fiercer yell rang out, for three of the mounted men had gone down and their horses had dashed forward, charging right at the barrier, snorting and tossing their manes, but only to turn back, startled by the heap of rocks piled up before them, and returned at a fierce gallop, to confuse the crowd they had left, when the rifles from the other side flashed out fire and white puffs of smoke, and three more of the enemy went down, to free their startled and plunging ponies from their riders reins. a yell more fierce than ever arose from the little crowd of indians, whose mounts began to partake of the excitement imparted by the ponies that had begun to tear to and fro in the narrow gulch, while after discharging another innocuous flight of voyages in distant lands. the Nile voyage came to an end at thebes of the hundred gates, and here nothing that could attract the roman travellers remained unvisited. the tombs of the pharaohs extending into the very heart of the rocky hills, and the grand temples that stood to the west of the city of the dead, shorn though they were of their ancient glory, filled the emperor with admiration. the imperial travellers and their companion's listened to the famous colossus of memnon, of which the upper portion had been overthrown by an earthquake, and three times in the dawn they heard it sound. balbilla described the incident in several long poems which sabina caused to be engraved on the stone of the colossus. the poetess imagined herself as hearing the voice of memnon singing to his mother eos while her tears, the fresh morning dew, fell upon the image of her son, fallen before the walls of troy. these verses she composed in the aeolian dialect, named herself as their writer and informed the readers among whom she included pontius that she was descended from a house no less noble than that of king antiochus. the gigantic structures on each bank of the Nile fully equalled hadrians expectations,