

Indians. I had visited that village before, and had given the Indians some medicine, so they knew me well. The following morning, the chief woke me up and took me to a hut to help a man who was very ill. Unfortunately, by the time I arrived, the man was already dead. I was surprised to see that the man was white, not Indian. He was dressed in rags and, according to the Indians, had arrived at the village in a terrible state of exhaustion.

'The man's knapsack was lying on the bed and I opened it and looked inside. There was a name written on the tab: Maple White, Lake Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. The knapsack contained pictures of a river, chalk, paint, paintbrushes, a bone, a gun and a few cartridges. The bag also contained this...' Professor Challenger removed a sketchbook from his desk drawer and placed it on the table.

'Open it,' he said.

I opened the sketchbook: on the first page was a picture of a fat man in a green jacket – the name 'Jimmy Colver' was written underneath it. The book contained drawings of Indians, turtles and

other animals, as well as a drawing of a series of red cliffs. On the last page of the book was a sketch of the most extraordinary animal I had ever seen: it had the head of a bird, the body of a lizard and a spiked tail.

'Well, what do you think of that?' asked Challenger.

'I'm not quite sure,' I said. 'It looks like a dinosaur...'

The Professor leaned back in his chair. 'It is a dinosaur.'

'But what makes you think this Maple White fellow actually saw a dinosaur?' I asked. 'Perhaps he imagined it?'

Challenger sighed. 'Then what do you make of this?' He took a bone out of a leather bag and handed it to me. 'This bone was in Maple White's knapsack. Can you identify it?'

I examined the bone carefully. 'Is it a human collarbone?' I asked.

'The human collarbone is curved; this is straight,' said Challenger impatiently.

'Perhaps it belongs to an elephant?' I said.

Challenger shook his head. 'This bone belongs to a dinosaur.'

