

Professor Challenger's eyes lit up when he saw the newspaper. 'This must be Maple White's campsite! This proves we're on the right track!'

Lord John glanced at a nearby tree and noticed that a piece of wood had been nailed to it. 'That looks like a signpost,' he said.

Challenger examined the signpost. 'Maple White knew someone would come looking for this place, so he left a clue.'

Further down from the campsite, we came across a thick patch of bamboo. The stems were twenty feet high and extremely sharp, and looked very much like spears. As we passed along the edge of the bamboo, I noticed a white object inside it. I poked my head between the stems and, to my horror, saw a human skull. The skeleton was also there, lying a short distance away. I gasped and my companions crowded around me curiously.

'Let's clear away the bamboo and get a closer look,' said Summerlee.

The skeleton's clothes were torn, but its boots were still on its bony feet. A pen and a gold watch lay near the bones. The initials 'JC' were engraved on the watch.

'Who can he be?' asked Lord John. 'Poor man, every bone in his body seems to be broken.'

'I think I know who he is,' said Challenger. 'Maple White was travelling with an American named James Colver - 'JC'.'

'He either fell into this bamboo patch or someone threw him off the edge of the cliff,' said Lord John. 'How else could all his bones have been broken?'

There was no doubt the man had fallen from above. But was it an accident or not?

We continued our journey in silence. An hour later, we found a chalk-drawn arrow on a rock, pointing westward.

'Another clue from Maple White,' said Challenger.

Five miles later, there was another chalk-drawn arrow which led to a cave. We entered the cave and found a very long and steep tunnel. 'Maple White must have used this tunnel to climb to the top of the cliffs,' said Professor Challenger.

We made our way through the tunnel, but, to our dismay, discovered that part of it had been blocked by a rock fall. We returned

