

CHAPTER 9

MORE INDIANS FROM THE CAVES JOINED US DURING THE night, and, by the following morning, our army consisted of about four or five hundred men. Some of the Indians carried spears, while others carried bows and arrows. Lord John, the two professors and I loaded our rifles with ammunition, and together with the Indians, made our way through the thick, dark forest.

We did not have to wait long for our enemy to appear. We heard a loud roar from the edge of the woods, and, moments later, the apemen were rushing towards us with clubs and stones.

But the slow apes were no match for the quick and agile Indians. The Indians shot their arrows at the group of apes, and the beasts fell to the ground, dead. We knew there were more apes waiting for us in the woods, so we proceeded cautiously. We heard another loud cry, and the apes leaped out of their hiding places among the trees, carrying huge clubs. We opened fire on the apes and the creatures began to scream and howl and run in all directions. The Indians raced after them, shooting their arrows and throwing their spears. Two hours later, the apemen had been defeated.

'It's over,' said Lord John.

'We have just seen one of the greatest battles in history,' said Challenger.

Summerlee sighed. 'I think we've had enough adventures,' he said. 'It's time to go home.'

We returned to the caves with the Indians, and set up camp at the foot of their cliffs. We spent a few days with the tribe, studying their habits and culture. They gave us food, water and gifts, but refused to help us leave the plateau – they believed that we brought them good luck.

During that time, I went to our old camp twice to talk to Zambo and to see if the Indians had returned with rope – they hadn't. When I returned from my second visit, I found Lord John crouching behind a bush near the pterodactyl pit.

'What are you doing?' I asked.

'Watching the pterodactyls,' he whispered.
'But why?'

