

together with cordage in the same manner as prehistoric man secured the helms to his stone axes.

The most common source of native fiber for cordage has been the barks of trees or shrubs, which have been made to yield a range of products from filaments as fine as flax threads to cables two inches in diameter and strong enough to hold a ship. In the writer's private collection are several examples of such rough bark rope taken from coils many fathoms in length. The aborigines of our own country are adept rope makers, and the National Museum contains many fine examples of their handicraft in this direction. Northwestern tribes use the reddish inner bark of the gigantic cedar not only for cordage of every description, but for parts of their dress, such as kilts or skirts, and for beds, door hangings, and mats for floors, and for their canoes. Other tribes use in the same manner the Apocynum, Indian hemp, milkweed fiber, and various native plants that are well known.

Regarding rope making in ancient times, there are few records; but Herodotus tells us that Xerxes secured flax from the Phenicians with which to construct a rope bridge across the Hellespont. There are also Bible references to flax ropes, as such cordage was used by the Hebrews and neighboring nations.

Ropes of greater strength were probably made from strips of camel hide, the same as used to-day by the Bedouins. The North American Indians also use thongs from animal hides for certain forms of cordage.

The Egyptians employed the famed papyrus plant, a species of bulrush, as material for cordage, matting, curtains, and sails, although they must have employed flax also, as it was grown extensively. Before the ancient Greeks and Romans learned to use hemp they employed in their rope and twine manufacture a species of broom known as the *spartium* (derived from *sparton*, which means cordage). The Italian peasants of modern times employ the same fiber in the manufacture of the coarse fabric known as *Parmo Genesire*; but not for cordage. Italy now produces the finest hemp in the world; but it is too valuable for rope making. In oriental lands the bamboo is a source of material for the manufacture of different kinds of cordage, particularly by the natives or country people, although, doubtless, Japan now manufactures as good standard commercial cordage as any country.

In the writer's enumeration of the fiber plants of the world over a thousand species might be named as having been used in one form or another in the manufacture of cordage.

The Thirteenth Trump

Continued from page 11

I was afraid that every minute would bring him nearer to death.

"But so dishonestly, old man, so dishonestly!" he said culpably. "And of course I can't call it a win. Now, can I?"

"Just as you say," I replied. "Anything you say, if you'll only come—"

SOON! And as I didn't win, of course you must take the stakes." I held up my hand protestingly; but he was unfastening his overcoat, as though to reach into his pocket. I could not believe what my eyes saw as the overcoat was opened. The man had on his pajamas, beneath his coat!

"Pounderby," I cried, jumping to my feet. "Pounderby! For God's sake, man, did you come out like that?"

"Why, yes," said he calmly. "It's all right, I tell you. You don't understand at all. It's all right. Nothing can happen; nothing can make any difference. I'm afraid," he added apologetically, "I didn't put any money in my pockets. But you can get it of Robbins, of course. I left it with Robbins—yes."

"Pounderby," I said, "I won't stand another moment of this! You're coming home with me now! Now! Do you hear?" I was nearly out of the booth, when he said:

"Stop!" I do not know why I obeyed. I could not help it. There was positive command in his voice.

"You may do whatever you please," he said, "after one more thing."

"What is that?"

"You are to sit down," said he, "and we are to play that hand over."

"You are mad!" I cried. "I won't do it!"

"Yes, you will," said he quietly, looking full in my face.

I sat down slowly.

"The first part of the hand doesn't make so much difference," he went on, looking at the pencil marks on the tablecloth. "You see, I played that—on the level. So we'll just play these last four rounds. It's your lead, Rawling, I believe."

YOU may think it mad on my part to have obeyed him. Perhaps it was; but I could not disobey,—the way the man looked at me, the tone of his voice, soft yet compelling. Pounderby handed the lead pencil to me, and I made a second mark through my ace of trumps. My hand trembled so that I poked the pencil point through the tablecloth. Pounderby laughed.

"Don't be so excited," said he. "This hand must be played very carefully." He took the pencil and played the spade five from his dummy; then I took it and played the seven of hearts from mine. Pounderby played the trump deuce.

"That's your trick," said he. "Lead!" The second round went as it had gone originally, until it came Pounderby's turn. He held the pencil point above the nine of clubs, and said:

"The temptation came strongest at this

moment. It grew and grew. I knew that if I played the four of hearts, as your lead called, it was all over. My only chance was to discard the club nine, and if possible make you forget the play, so I could sneak in my trump on the next trick. That was when I coughed, if you will remember. I myself remember only too well!"

"Go on!" said I, anxious to see what he would do next.

"It was contemptible of me," he said. "Wasn't it?" I didn't make any reply. "It was," said he. "I'm sorry I did it. But I sha'n't again. I play the four of hearts—the thirteenth trump!"

His pencil marked a heavy line through the figure four, and his hand dropped on the table. Then he leaned back against the partition, closed his eyes, and said softly:

"The other tricks are yours. Robbins has the money. Goodby, Rawling!"

MY natural impulse was to place my arms about Pounderby's limp form and try to resuscitate him; for I had no doubt that his exertions had brought on a fainting collapse. Commonsense, however, told me that I must get him home if I would save his life. So I gave a glance at him, lying so still, and dashed out of the booth to the telephone, which was only a few feet distant. Calling up the taxicab company, I ordered a machine to be sent to the café at once. Then I rang up Pounderby's apartment, to tell Robbins to send for the sick man's immediate arrival.

The nurse answered. "Robbins!" I shouted. "Robbins, is this you?"

"Oh, Mr. Rawling!" came his reply, in an excited cry. "I have been trying to find you everywhere. Mr. Pounderby—"

"Yes, yes, I know!" said I. "He is with me! I am bringing him home at once?"

"With you! Mr. Pounderby with you?" The nurse's exclamation startled me. "Yes," said I.

"Good God!" came Robbins' voice. "Mr. Pounderby died ten minutes after you'd gone, calling for you!"

I dropped the receiver and staggered to the booth where I had left Pounderby. It was empty!

ELEPHANT CEMETERIES

THE great bulk of the supply of ivory tusks hoarded by native chiefs in Africa, and shrewdly dealt out by them to traders in such a manner as not to glut the market, come, according to the best authority, from "elephant cemeteries," places to which elephants are said to resort when about to die. These spots are occasionally met with in the jungle, and they bear evidence of having been frequented by moribund elephants for centuries. Not more than fifteen per cent. of the ivory now obtained in Africa comes from animals killed by hunters.



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