A Child of Tonking.

TRANGE SACRIFICE OF LIFE FOB LOYR OF A CHILD.

CHAPTER III.

能为中心的情况

ALC: NOT

strength, and she would be as dead as An existence more peculiar than that upon which the baby then entered, one the burnt-up grass upon which he was now standing. He controlled himself, would have had to go a long way to discover. Indeed, a student of human however, with an effort, and reiterated his former decision, "The child is not nature would have found ample material for study in the fact of his being for sale." "The price is not high enough, you in the fort at all. The effects of his presence were generally felt in the regmean?" she cried, and struck a silver ment, though they differed widely in bell upon the table at her side. When their natures. The idea of Black Rat it was answered by her maid, Celeste, and Long Jean turning wet-nurses was she hade her find her purse in a certain drawer and bring it to her. This reat first considered in the light of a stuceled, she took from it a quantity of pendous joke, which called for proper goad, which she spread out upon her and peculiar treatment. But this riououle died an early death, when the two hand, saying as she did so: Toster-fathers had thrashed at least a quarter of the regiment for their gibes, it and bring the child to me." and showed that they were prepared "I regret to have to refuse you, madto begin upon the balance, as soon as ame," said the other; "but 1 must re-It was necessary. In my mind it is peat my former assertion: the child is open to doubt whether the child would not for sale." really have taken such a hold upon the two men had they not been called upon foot angrily upon the floor, "you shall to do battle on his behalf. On the prinmart for this behavior. Listen to me. cipie that what is worth fighting for le If you do not let me have the baby worth cherishing, they soon found within half an hour you will make an themselves becoming devotedly attachenemy of me and then you were better the same mess kit with them, shared dead. Be off, and think twice before their bads, and their idle hours. To evening to decide." see Black Rat seated in the shadow of Black Rat saluted respectfully, and the barrack wall hard at work with departed to describe what had occurred needle and thread upon a second garto his comrades in the barrack-room. ment for the child, his face puckered Many were the imprecations hurled at with anxious thought, was to understand something of his feelings. His the head of the Colonel's wife, while whole care was centred upon the work the child's foster fathers vowed more in hand, though he had still a watch. vebemently than ever that under no ful eye for the spot hard by, where provocation whatever would they con-Long Jean, with a face whose gravity, sent to let the infant go. That this resolve would involve them in serious would also have become a Juge d'instruction, was engaged in teaching the trouble not one of them doubted. But child to walk. By the time he had been such was the importance of the stake in their care a month, he was able to at issue that they were prepared to risk gr. anywhere alone, and there were few anything rather than to give in it places in the whole circle of the fort was a semi-mutinous regiment that into which he had not penetrated. It went upon parade that evening. is even said that on one occasion he The Colonel's wife was of a vindicmarched boldly into the orderly room tive nature, and when she discovered itself, and seeing, seated in a chair be- that the men did not intend to comply fore the table, a tall, gray-moustached with her demand she was not slow to individual wearing a uniform, took retailate. Through one of the comhim for one of his own comrades, and pany officers, who was her own special demanded to be lifted on to his knee, protege, she managed to make Black quite regardless of the fact that Hat's life a burden to him. Whenever he wore no clothing save a caricature there was a dangerous bit of work to of a shirt. The Colonel, for he it was,' be executed, an unpleasant duty to be was a childless man; and Little Pierre, pe med, or an opportunity for perwho was standing sentry at the door,' sont 'enjoyment to be stopped, he was afterwards affirmed that, when he put iv . ably made the victim. His charthe child down from his lap, it was acce, was sufficiently had in itself to the party, not because he had any apwith a heavy sigh. From that day for- allow of endless chances being found, prehension as to the danger of the exward Tata was free of the whole fort-' and in every case they were made the ress; and there was scarcely a man of most of. In the meantime little Tata anything should happen to the child all the rascals the walls contained who revolved in his humble orbit, made during his absence. However, he had sufficient for the time being that they would not have given his life to save dust ples in the barrack square, criti- not long to wait before his fate was desired to reach the river and to find the little one from harm. Black Rat cised the troops on parade from the known. Within half an hour of the a boat. and Long Jean, however, came first in vantage 1 oint of the canteen counter, receipt of the letter it was announced his affections, as was only fit and prop- and by his thousand and one manner-

the canteen." Rough and hard as Black Rat was, and inured to every sort of treatment. the insolence and cruelty of this speech

only have to put forth a flea-bite of his

"There is twice the amount. Take

"Cochon." she cried, stamping her

not treat me so. Think of the little one himself; remember his future. If of his life. This he did to his complete you are as fond of him as they say, satisfaction, and then went off to make surely you would like to give him a further inquiries. That the Colonel's stung him like the lash of a whip. He good chance in life." could have found it in his heart to have "It is impossible that I can let you sprung into the veranda, and have tak-

in that white slim throat between his have him." grizzled fingers. That done, he would "Major Pellay, who will be your com-

friend of mine, and they tell me there is a vacancy for a corporal. Give me sinke with him earnestly for the space the child, and I will undertake that you get the position.

The temptation was a great one, particularly to a man who had always been kept down at the bottom of the ladder. But he was not to be bribed. "You do not understand," he said. "I cannot let you have the little one." She could not keep her temper under gerous for any liberty to be taken with control a moment longer. So turning them. They were allowed to go their upon bim a face of fury, she cried:

"Then you shall regret it to the last hour you live. So far your life has not been honey; in the future, if you refuse me, I'll take care that it shall be vinegar. Will you let me have the they ruse and dressed themselves. Then child ?'

"l cannot." "Then go."

She pointed with her finger in the direction of the barracks, her face almost fived with rage. He left her and returned to his quarters, fully convinced in his own mind that she would ter than anything.

CHAPTER IV.

Just before sunset that afternoon a native messenger put in an appearance at the fort. He hatled from a village some twenty miles up the river, and brought a letter from a French mis- the danger, to avoid the sharpened sionary, in which it was stated that bamboos on the other side without atthe Chinese had crossed the boundary and were threatening the place. Any assistance which could be rendered must be sent at once, otherwise it would be too late. Within five minutes of the commandant's breaking the seal the contents of the letter were known all over the fort, and the regiment was half mad with excitement. The prospect of seeing a little active service was most grateful to men long since tired to death of the monotonous barrack life

The buildings resounded with expressions of delight, conjectures as to when a start would be made, and whether the enemy would stand their that they might be fired upon by their ground, were to be heard on all sides. Only Black Rat held aloof. He feared lest he might be chosen to accompany pedition, but because he feared lest that B Company were to have the honer, the Colenel next, his cook fourth, isms and loving little ways, had en- or of chastising the invaders. Now painful crawl, hiding behind every bush

"Come, come," she said, "you must Black Rat informed him that he intended to thrash him within an inch. whe had taken the opportunity of his being out of the way to abduct the child he felt as positive as he was of his own identity. But he would be manding officer after to-morrow, is a even with her yet! When night had fullen he called Long Jean aside, and of half an hour. At the end of that time they spearated-Black Rat in the direction of the kitchen, his companion to return to Lis own room.

> At the usual hour they retired to rest, wearied out with their anxiety. During the evening scarcely a man had spoken to them. They were too danown way unmolested, and as they had put their veto on conversation. within an hour of the lights being put out every man was fast asleep. When they had allowed sufficient time to elapse carrying their boots in their hands, and treading softly lest they should wake the others, they made their way towards the door, stopping at the arm rack to withdraw their rifles and as been discovered. Pausing at an arranged spot to pick up a small sack of there earlier in the evening, they push- closed by undergrowth. ed on to the wall itself. To surmount the stockade was a matter of no small danger and difficulty. The spikes were tracting the attention of the sentries was the difficulty. When a large portion of the fence gave way under the Auvergnat's great weight, Black Rat

felt (ertain that they could not fail to he discovered. But either the noise made was not so great as they imagined or the sentries were not as watchful as they might have been, at any rate, nothing came of it. Having satisfied themselves upon this point, they placed the two boards they had brought with them for that purpose upon the spikes, and thus made their way gingerly across. Once on terra firma, they off as fast as they could crawl in 80t the direction of the river. The fact own garrison, that they might be captured by the Chinese, scarcely entered their heads: while what they intended to do beyond recapturing the child in the event of their catching up with the party who had started so long ahead of them was equally uncertain. It was

At last, after nearly half on hour's and after that the balance of the regi- deared himself to the hearts of all who both Black Rat and Long Jean were and taking advantage of every inequality in the ground, they found whom he thought he could trust. Hav- have to follow, and they were also

his tale into his cars. From what he

The Chinese had surrounded them on his feelings were as he pressed that litevery side, but that of a creek which the form to his breast and kissed the led into the river, and it was evident tiny face for the last time on earth no that unless assistance came to them one will ever know. The Colonel could within the next few hours, which they scarcely believe that this was the same must consider unlikely, they could not man whom he had once looked upon hope for anything but to be cut to as the blackest of his black sheep.

tomed to obey, did not contradict him. need be die with you." There was one way in which it could "You are mad, my Colonel," cried the

one. Accordingly, as the moon rose above do nothing here. Besides, who is to the jungle on the other side of the protect the women? Go; this delay river, they resumed their places in the may ruin everything." many rounds of ammunition as they ; they could do to make any progress at were to be saved, they must endeavor could discover. This done, they crept, all, so shallow was the water and so to hold the gate and distract the enalong in the shadow of the veranda to- | closed in was it and overhung by the emy's attention as long as possible. wards the eastern wall. Fortunately jungle. At last, however, their faces It was a very different "Black Rat" carry out her threat. But still Tata the night was dark, and thick clouds and hands cut by the sharp grasses, and who approached the gate a minute or covered the face of the sky, otherwise dead tired by reason of their cramped so later He seemed to have gone mad they could scarcely have failed to have positions, they reached the spot for with excitement. He slapped Long which Black Rat was aiming. This was Jean upon the shoulder and bade him a low beetling cliff, gising sheer from prepare himself for the fete that was provisions which Black Rat had placed the water's edge, and completely en- about to begin. He sang, he jested,

Bringing the boat up to the mouth and fell against the wall. of a small cave which could only be "Come, you snipe," he cried to the seen when the bushes were parted, he astonished remnant of the Colonel's sprang out and assisted his comrade guard a she recovered himself. "This is to do the same. Then, having taken going to be the warmest time we have boat, Black Rat made a torch of dry was for this we were born into the grass, lit it, and led the way into the world. Pardieu! the odds are great cavern. It was an uncanny place, made against us, but ma foi, if we cannot more so by the reverberation of the beat them, we'll at least show them bring above; the walls were wet, and how soldiers of France can die." hung with stalactites. The Auvergnat

once been a member of the fort's garrison, was quite aware of its existence. At the end of the cavern was a small lives. passage, plainly the work of human hands, which conducted them by a number of steps to the centre of the barrack square above. To lift the stone that covered it, and to spring up into

the open air, was the work of a moment. Then they looked about them. A sorrowful scene it was that they had presented to them. Scattered

Celeste stood, grim and despairing, be- with his dying breath.

had seen he had discovered that, with bade his wite pull herself together if out a doub. It was the Colonel's party she desired to save her life, and took that had taken refuge in the old fort, the child from Celeste's arms. What cape, c. cape, cape,

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pieces. In the face of this calamity On reaching the entrance to the subindividual hatred was forgotten. The terranean passage, the latter surrenwoman had treacherously stolen what dered the infant to Celeste's care, and they valued most in the world, but the upheld the stone for them to make Colonel and their comrades were inno- their way below. The Colonel came cent and in danger. At any cost it was last. "Mon Dieu, I will not go," he their duty to attempt to save them, said, and attempted to move back. Black Rat asserted this with consider- "My brave fellows, my children, you able emphasis, and Long Jean, accus-' who are so noble, I shall stay and if

be done, the former knew, and only tother in an ecstasy of impatience. "You are wounded and useless. You could

boat and paddled slowly down stream. But the Colonel still held back until keeping in the shadow of the bank as Black Rat took him by the shoulders much as possible in order that their and thrust him down the pasage by presence might not be detected. They main force, dropping the stone over the were making for the entrance of the aperture behind him. Then, with a last creek which led up to the fort in ques- look round, he went forward to the tion. Once in it, it was as much as gate If the lives of those in the boat

and then he reeled as if he were drunk

their rifles and ammunition from the ever known. Cheer up, mon ami; it

As he finished speaking there was had never heard of or seen the place the sound of rustling feet outside, then Letore, but his companion, who had the worm eaten gate was broken down, and a second afterwards the three men were fighting like wild cats for their

Long Jean was the first to fall, but not before he had done terrible erecution. Little Pierre was the next to go, clutching at the knees of the man who stabled him as he dropped, and driving what remained of his broken bayonet in below the ribs. Black Rat was left alone, but he did not seem to notice it. He continued to fight with the about in all directions were bodies of same cool, desperate courage until he dead men. Out of the escort of six had a heap of dead piles upon he which had accompanied the Colouel ground before him like a wall. His and his wife only one remained alive, strength, however, was failing fast, and and he was leaning against the gate it was not very long before his cueseverely wounded. The Colonel himself mics found the opportunity they wantlay unconscious by the centre hut, his ed. Then he fell forward with a chokhead resting on his wife's lap, and a ing cough, clutching at the body of the pool of blood forming at his side, man upon whom he lay, and muttering

ment taken as a whole. But there was came in contact with him. By the time when he came into her presence.

ed by at least a third of the regiment,' onel scarcely recognized his men. in the barrack rooms, in the cookshops, in the canteen, in the orderly change was imminent. The mail, which room, in the armorer's quarters, and only reached that desolate station once even in the guard-house at the gate, but without success. Not a trace of him could be discovered. It was not him to relinguish his command, and until mid-dry and the whole regiment ; to proceed with all h iste to Haiphong, had become semi-mutinous that Celeste, the maid in the service of the Colonel's wife, put in an appearance in the barrack square leading him by the hand. He had been in the commandant's quarters all the time, where the Colonel's wife had fed him with choco-Iste nougat to repletion. For the remainder of the day he was unwell, as may be easily supposed.

Next morning Black Rat was summoned to the Colonel's residence. Such an honor had never been conferred upon him before, and he was apprehenmive as to what the reason of it might be. That it had something to do with | sir," the other replied. Tata he felt morally certain, but the real truth never for a moment dawned upon him.

He found madame seated in a cane chair in the veranda. She was dressed sligether in white-a costume over which was spread some filmy diaphanous lace that gave her an almost ethereal appearance. Her fingers were literally covered with rings, her complexion was as carefully prepared as if the were setting out for a walk upon the bonlevards. She was small, and had something of a Semitic cast of countenance. As Black Rat approached, her cunning little eyes gleamed maliciously under their delicately-pencilled brows.

Reaching the veranda, the soldier halted and saluted. He waited for her to speak. When she had surveyed him with an expression of disgust she did SOPACIES THE TO

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"You have the charge of the little child who is now in the barracks?" the said. "He was here yesterday."

Black Rat intimated that he was ware of that fact, and, fearing the little one had got into some scrape, hastened to apologize for his intrusion. She cut him short.

"He is a nice child," she said, "and L have taken a fancy to him, and I wish to have him."

"But, madame---"

"I want no 'buis,' she cried quickly. How you obtained possession of him A do not wish to inquire. It is enough that I am sufficiently pleased with him to desire to adopt him."

Black Rat was so overcome with astonishment that for a moment he could not answer. When he did, it was with the utmost deference that he said;

"I regret, madame, that what you propose is impossible."

"Impossible," she dried. "You dare to use that word to me? Do you know that I am your foremandant's wife?" Tam sware of that," he answered

yet to make, and an evil day it was had developed into a chubby little god, tom on such occasions, both their bigher up, but fortunately on the same I the color of a dark walnut shell, and hearts were heavyy within them. Lit- side, were a number of small native One morning, when parade was at had come to be considered quite part tie Tata watched their preparations canoes or sampans, one of which they an end, consternation reigned in the and parcel of the regimental life. Once with considerable interest from the made haste to secure. Then, placing fort. Search as they would, the baby when he was taken ill with some juvewas not to be found. Nearly beside nile allment, and was seriously indis- finished, demanded to be carried upon on board a cance, they themselves emthemselves with fear, Black Rat and posed for three days, such a gloom was his chief protector's shoulder according barked, and pushed out into mid-

> Little as any one expected it, a in every two months brought a dewpatch for the commandant, ordering where a new post h d been discovered for him. It was a rise in the world, and filled him with satisfaction, for he had been a comparatively unsuccessful man so far. The evening mea. had just been eaten in the barracks when the news reached them, and the thunderous applause with which it was received reached the Colonel and his wife as they sat in their veranda waiting for dinner.

"What is the matter over yonder?" he asked of his adjutant, who was approaching.

"The men are pleased at your news,

"The good fellows," said the Colonel, who was much touched by the show of sympathy.

Had he known the real state of the case, I doubt if either he or his wife would have felt so much flattered.

The next three days were spent in active preparation for departure. The commanding officer and his lady were to travel by land, the river being considered dangerous at this time of year. An escort of half a dozen men would company them, and for a short time Black Rat and Long Jean went about their duties in fear and trembling lest they might be included in the number. Their fears, however, were soon set at rest.

On the morning preceding the commandant's departure Black Rat was once more summoned to madame's presence. He was giving the child his morning rub at the time, but as soon as he was informed that he was wanted he surrendered him to Long Jean, who as a general rule was considered too clumsy to be entrusted with such a delicate business, and, with the recollection of the child's wet, healthy little body and the pretty picture he had presented in his bath in his mind, departed on his errand. The Colonel's packing. There was a soft purring it was little the man could tell them. gentleness about her this morning that the other felt to be more dangerous than her rage.

"you see how busy I am; to-morrow we he had suddenly and unaccountably I feel sure you have by this time re- was standing sentry. Where he had

the child. My last offer is still open, made in every direction, but to no purand when I tell you that I will do everything in my power to make the lit- tioned, but she denied having seen him tle one happy, to educate him, and to at all. She had something more to do bring him up as if he were my own, I than to be looking after bables, she know you will not say me nay."

change my decision," said Black Rat nothing whatsoever of the case in gravely. "As I have told you before, hand. Since the Colonel's departure

members of that portion of the regione person whose acquaintance he had he had been six months in the fort he ment, and, contrary to their usual cus-Auvergnat's bed, and when they had their rifles, ammunition, and provisions Long Jean hunted high and low, assist- cast over the community that the Col- to custom. Black Rat, however, put stream. They were both conversant him by, and went in search of a man with the track the other party would

> ing found him, he coulded the child to (ware that, if Fate were kind, they bis care, bidding him, under pain of could gain on them con it entity by nized them at once, and gave utterance had madame been permitted the care of death, see that no harm occurred to means of the river him during their absence The man It is doubtful whether of them gave his promise, and, when they had properly appreciated the serious nature bidden the little one an affectionate of their position. To all intenis and farewell, the two men took their places purposes they were deserters from the in the ranks, and presently marched French army, and as such were pun- the men before him. out of the fort. The Colonel's wife ishable with death. That they had apelapse and possibly more, before they sion. On their right was the fort, now you manage to get here in time?" could return, and she congratulated standing out, a clear-cut black mass, "Ma fol because we have deserted. should be the one selected.

time they lost half of their number, and inflicted as pretty a little defeat upon the marauding Chinese as any commanding officer could desire. As of the fort and village from their view. towards the woman they accused. they approached it, and for the first time since he had known it, the grim on with feverish energy, scarcely said. fort standing on its little eminence speaking at all, and then only in a the child, and were bringing it away looked like home to Black Rat. He whisper. After that they settled down with this man's consent." pictured the baby's delight at seeing to their work in a more sober fashion, him, and as soon as they had crossed the bridge and entered the stockade. By the time day dawned they had he began to look about him in the hope made considerable progress; by midthat he might catch a glimpse of Tata's day they were more than half way upface. Long Jean was equally eager, on their journey. It was their intenbut on the other hand he was less de- tion to follow the river to a certain monstrative; but when they were dis- point where the course the others were missed he was not long in accompany- steering would bring them to an old ing his comrade in the search. They fort, long since abandoned, but situated made their way to their own barrackroom, but Tata was not there. Black er's edge. On making for the capital Rat questioned the men he saw, but it from the interior it was customary to. seemed to him they returned him eva- spend the night in this fort, and Black sive answers. He called to the little Rat did not for a moment believe that one in stentorian tones, helped by Long the people he was pursuing would de-Jean, but without success. The child part from the usual routine. was not to be found. With a fear in in whose care they had entrusted their treasure. The fellow would gladly, ened their speed lest by any chance the be there by daylight." have avoided them, but they were not commandant's party should be in the to be balked. Long Jean held him in vicinity, and they might thus reveal his ponderous grasp, while Black Rat, their identity. Suddenly Black Rat, whose voice shook with passion, ques- who was sitting in the bows, stopped tioned him as to his charge. Even paddling, and held up his hand. when he had succeeded in disengaging wife received him in the middle of her his throat from the Auvergnat's grasp The baby had cried a little after his friends' departure, but had soon recovered, and had given no trouble until

"Good morning," she said affably, the middle of the day following, when go away. I have sent for you because disappeared during the time the man considered your decision with regard to gone no one could tell. Search was pose. The Colonel's maid was quessaid, and at the time this was taken as "I regret, madame, that I cannot conclusive evidence that she knew hand. Since the Colonel's departure There be careful that I do not speak to not speak to not speak to not speak to anot let the baby go." Still she maintained her good tem-per. Only there was a nasty look in they had searched the whole fortress from one end to the other, but without reward. Little Tate was as lost as it was possible for a child to be. When the man had fnished his tale.

Presently they turned the corner, and get him back." the high bank shut out the last sign

For the first few hours they paddled ; taking it in turns to paddle and to rest. within a quarter of a mile of the wat-

"Listen." he whispered; and as he upon their astonished ears.

What could it mean? Only one thing, would suspect that there is another infest the neighborhood. He spoke the the river." thoughts that were in his mind, and instantly drove the boat into the bank with a sweep of his paddle. Then bidding his companion conceal it and him-

self among the canes and await his return, he sprang out and disappeared into the jungle. Nearly two hours elapsed before he your hope of Heaven, that as long as

very troubled. "Sacre bleu," he said to himself on

discovering the Auvergnat stretched out fast asleep. "I believe the pig would snore on the Day of Judgment. Wake up! wake up!"

When he had aroused the giant to a

hind her and she was holding in ner themselves on the river bank. A little arms the child whose a bsence had caus- for thes." ed Black Rat to follow them.

> So numbed was the Colonel's wife with terror that when she saw the two post in safety and arrived at Haiphong men whom she had so cruelly deceived. rise, like spirits, from the ground be- true to his promise, and Tata is now a fore her, she was too far gone to ex- well-brought-up child of eight who press even the faintest show of won- goes to school, can read and write, and derment They semed to be part and is quite tarafiar with the heroic tale parcel of the fate which was now pur-of the men who gave their lives to save suing her. The child, however, recog- him. Whet he fate would have been

to a little cry. Indeed, had not Celeste estrained him, he would have leapt from her arms to greet them. Almost it the same instant the Colonel opened his eyes, and a moment later recognized

"Thank God, we are saved," he watched them, a smile hovering found propriated another's person's boat was cried, imagining them to be part of the corners of her mouth. She was a fact of minor significance. All they some rescuing force. "Who is comaware that three days must certainly thought of was the object of their mis- manding you? And how on earth did

herself upon her astuteness in arrang- against the starlit sky. On their left mon commandant," answered Black ing that that particular company the tiled roofs of the Chinese village list, finding a curious delight in his rose in broken confusion, while before audacity. "And it is the fault of your Three days did pass before the com- them and behind was the dark expanse precious wife that we have done so. pany returned to the fort. During that of river merged to the southward in She stole our child, and we have folthe still darker shadow of the hills. lowed you to cut your throats and to

The Colonel turned his white face

"So you lied to me in this also?" he "You told me you had bought

Her audacity having quite deserted her, she did not answer. There was a ittle pause before the Colonel spoke zain.

"We are in your hands now; what are you going to do?"

"To save you," answered Black Rat, who had by this time made up his mind. "Listen to what I have to say, and waste no time in asking questions. This place is surrounded. There is no chance of our being able to hold out ill help comes, so whoever remains bere will be a dead man before morning. Remember you have your women to look after. See you this passage?

Throughout the afternoon they pad- | cliff. Our boat is there with provis-It leads down to the stream beyond the their hearts that they had never known died on, keeping their eyes open for any sons. You must get on board her, and before, they went in search of the man possible enemy. But as the sun sank then make your way to the mission at behind the jungle trees, they slack- Songhay. All being well, you should

> "But why do you give these instructions? You will come with us, of course. It is your boat."

"Pardon, mon commandant, there is not room. The boat will hold but three, spoke the sound of heavy firing broke your retreat. If those devils forced at most. Some one must stay to cover their way in and found us flown, they

The Colonel's party were being attack- way out of this place, and then they ' ten metal to some distance, so that preed by the pirates who were known to, would catch you before you could reach

"And you are going to give your lives for us, who have treated you so badly?

"Tut, tut, that is nothing. It is not for your sake or the women's. It is, for the child. If you wish to save, their lives, you must swear to me, on

returned. When he did his face was, you shall live that child shall be your care. Only thus can I let you go."

As he finished speaking, the man leaning against the wall cried: "They are coming! They are coming!"

Bidding Long Jean be off to the gate. Black Rat waited for the promise. That knowledge of the present, he goured given, he assisted the Colonel to rise.

"Tata-little Tata-remember it is

Incredible as it may seem, the Colonel and his party reached the mission in due course. The former has been

his career it is impossible to say. Fortunately, however, she eloped in no very creditable company soon after their arrival at the capital, so that all trouble on that score was obviated. Of the vengeance that the French troops took upon the murderers of their comrades nothing need be said. save that it was complete in every sense of the word. To-day the fort is razed to the ground, and the jungle has grown over the place where it stood; but a large mound by the creek side, kept clear of weeds by every regiment that passes that way, as a sacred duty, still serves to show where lie at rest the men who so nobly gave their lives to save not only their wounded commander and two helpless women, but also what they loved better than all else in the world, A CHILD OF TONKING.-Guy Boothby, in Chambers's Journal.

> THE END. Testing Bailway Wheels. some particulars are given in the

Railway Gazette of methods of testing railway wheels. From a batch of one hundred three are selected. One wheel is placed on an anvil block of not less than seventeen hundred pounds weight. set upon two feet of rubble masonry, and having three supports five inches wide for the flange of the wheel to rest upon. The wheel is struck centrally upon the hub by a weight of one hundred and forty pounds falling twelve feet. The wheel must sustain twelve blows without breaking, otherwise the batch of one hundred is rejected. The other two test wheels are tried in a different manner. The wheel is laid in sand, flange down, and a channel one and one-half inches wide and four inches deep is moulded round the wheel, so as to have the tread of the wheel for one side and the flange for the bottom. Molten cast iron is then poured into the channel, so as to fill it. The time of casting is noted, and two minutes later the wheel is examined. If either of the wheels is broken in pieces or any crack extends through the tread, the batch of one hundred is rejected. Sometimes the wheel bursts in fragments before the cast iron has solidified, scattering the molcautions must be taken during the first minute.

Never pour the water in which greens have been cooked down the kli hen sink, but somewhere cutside. If this is impossible, flush the sink afterward well with cold water to walch some disinfectant has been added.

Be exquisitely neat in serving your dishes and garnishing the same.

Push in the dampers in the kitchen range when but little fire is required. so as to prevent unnecessary waste of fuel.

Where gas stoves are used, lower, or turn out the burners as soon as may be. This will make an enormous difference in the gas bill.

