

## The Devil-Sleep Tree

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

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BY THE time the Matsons had dined at Honolulu, both Harry and Dick Sherman had fallen into love with Valerie King, whose father was taking up residence on the islands.

They shared another bond than love of the same girl. That was their interest in Ju-Jitsu, which each had taken up under Jap instructors whose respective merits they were wont to argue with considerable feeling.

Valerie, amused, would sit listening to them.

Harry was not the newcomer to the islands that Dick and Valerie were. Born in Hilo, he had grown up in the midst of all the Hawaiian traditions.

Therefore, when he called one early morn'g to drive Valerie along the coral-powdered road to the Outrigger's club for a dance, he was heartily welcomed by the girl when he found engaged in distressful conversation with Maana, her native servant.

Maana's youngest, it seemed, had gone with the aunt of his cousin to the plantation of pines. Had run away. Had fallen asleep under the devil-tree. Was all but dead. Awake!

Harry shrugged his shoulders. "Kid will be all right. You've seen the tree, Valerie? Stands at the bend in the Kapa road. Large, white, pear-shaped blossoms. Gives out an odor that makes you drowsy. The natives have a tradition that men have died who smelled the flowers, but, personally, I'd hardly credit that."

Valerie sent Maana away and presently, sure enough, little brown Puka was seen trotting along beside the aunt of his cousin.

The ball at the Outrigger's club set nothing of its charm for having attended with the glare of the California sun. The beat of the surf on the reefs of Waikiki. The music, the place, the presence of the girl he loved went to Harry's head a bit and when he surrendered her after several fox trots, to a young ensign from the Harbison in Pearl Harbor, he went outside to smoke and to meditate.

When he came in, Valerie was not to be seen. Nor, he noticed at once, was Dick, who was staggering it.

When he saw Dick come in from the innal, although he was alone, something snapped in Harry. Stalking over, he demanded, "Where is Miss King?"

Dick smiled. "I don't know that I have to answer," he said.

"Something drove Harry on. 'The devil you say?' I-I tell you what. I'm sick of your interference and your condescending braggadocio. We'll settle this matter of Ju-Jitsu as well as this other matter. Where? At the bend in the Kapa road? Five o'clock tomorrow afternoon."

Harry mentioned neither love nor Ju-Jitsu on the way home with Valerie. So taciturn was he, in fact, that Valerie neglected to explain that two of the three missed dances she had spent in the dressing room with a broken slipper strap.

Leaving Valerie, Harry went straight to Tochtig.

"Boy, you're going to wrestle with Mr. Sherman tomorrow and my Ju-Jitsu has got to beat his. Understand? I'll stop at nothing to beat him. Understand? Nothing!"

The transaction which followed was more or less private.

On the following afternoon, Valerie waited in vain for either Harry or Dick. When Maana came in with a hint of suppressed excitement, Valerie turned to her. "What is it?"

Maana opened wide her eyes. "Didn't the mistress know her men were having a wonderful fight?"

"Fight? My men? Maana, are you crazy?"

Maana shrugged and grinned. "True. Under the very devil-sleep tree. Yes, what a place!"

Valerie flung down the path to the garage, fairly leaped into her roadster and a minute was tearing down the Kapa road.

The devil-sleep tree! That would be Harry's doing. A clever-enough trick. What an advantage a man who knew of its baleful qualities would have. His own nostrils protested—his opponent gradually becoming stupefied.

Yes, there they were, squarely under the snow, pedulous blossoms. Dick was standing there in a dream. Valerie sprang to the ground.

"Dick!" she screamed. "You—you scoundrel, Harry! You knew about this tree even if Dick did not!"

The men had stopped and Dick, dazed, was staring with stupid eyes. Harry turned restlessly away. "It's over," he said.

Perhaps, said Valerie coldly. "This one-sided contest is over, but for Dick and me—why, everything is just beginning! You see, Dick asked me some time ago to marry him, but—well, I wasn't sure which one of you and last night I told him I'd give him my answer this evening. Instead—

—he has it now!" She threw her slender arm across his shoulders.

But Tochtig, who knew much concerning other matters than Ju-Jitsu and who had much influence with Dick's Liko, only smiled when the devil-sleep tree was mentioned. For natives to take stock in it was all right. But when one wanted real sport, there were things to mix in with the coffee worth a dozen devil-trees.

Hadn't this affair proved that?

## Cautious in Choice of Life Companion

Many were the famous characters produced on the dreits of early days—none fearless in danger, unwearying in labor, enduring in privation, powerful in exhortation.

Among the most interesting of them was Lorenzo Dow, a loving preacher whose work was not confined to the mountains or the frontier; for although he labored from the high peaks of North Carolina to the banks of the Mississippi and from Georgia to Canada, he was well known also along the Atlantic coast, and even in England and Ireland. Restless and eager, he continually traveled; "nor would he marry until he had found a young woman who would promise that she would spare him from home twelve months out of thirteen.

His proposal of marriage, a letter that is thought unique in the deliberation and caution with which it approaches the subject, ran as follows:

"If I am preserved, about a year and a half from now I am in hopes of seeing this northern coast again, and if during this time you live and remain single, and find no one that you like better than you do me, and would be willing to give me up twelve months out of thirteen, or three years out of four, to travel, and that in foreign lands, and never say, 'Do not go to your appointment,' etc.—for if you should stand in the way I should pray

God to remove you, which, before the would answer—and if I find out one I like better than I do you, pray God to remove further may be said on the subject."

## Bacon's High Praise

of Biblical Writer  
Sir Francis Bacon, one of the world's greatest thinkers, had great admiration for the Book of Job. "That excellent book of Job," he called it. And then he suggested that, if it be carefully studied, it will be found to contain a wonderful knowledge of natural philosophy, writes Bruno Lessing.

The reference to the minerals in the earth, Bacon thought, proved that Job was a great mineralogist. There is really something plausible in this thought. Of course Job could have known nothing of the present theory of geology, namely, that the earth was built up by one layer piling upon another layer. But his familiarity with minerals and metals and his reference to wheat crops and his belief that there was heat underneath the earth's crust, all in so well with what we know today that it must be admitted Job at the very least, was a clear-thinking man.

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## Imagine the Shock to Butler's Dignity!

Little Roy, on the occasion of his eighth birthday, received an invitation to his rich aunt's house. As he would stay a few days and had never been before, his mother carefully picked him before hand.

Special reference was made to his conduct at such times, for in his own home Roy consumed his food in more or less the same way that the lower animals do.

"Now, Roy," said his mother, "be sure you behave nicely; and don't bolt your food. Remember that auntie keeps a butler who will attend to all your wants, but there is no need to be frightened of him."

"Eighty-four," said Roy in the modern child's way, and he departed forthwith. It was at dinner that the tragedy occurred. Seeing the imposing old butler hovering near the table, young Roy picked his fingers and beckoned in a truly imperious manner.

"What do you want, dear?" asked his aunt, from the top of the table, whilst all eyes were centered on the delighted boy.

"I was going to ask the man," said Roy, indicating the butler with his spoon, "to bow my soup for me—it's too hot."

## Trace Term "Mugwump" to Algonquin Indians

The first general use of the term "mugwump," as applied to a deserter from a political party, was during the Presidential campaign of 1884.

On June 15 of that year a newspaper in New York referred to the independent Republicans who had deserted Blaine as "mugwumps," and the word was immediately taken up all over the United States as a synonym for this class of deserters.

The word is supposed to be of Algonquin origin and was used by the Connecticut Indians as a synonym for captain, leader or superior person. In the modern political meaning it is applied satirically to those who consider themselves superior to their former partisan associates.

The word was incorporated into the American language long before it obtained its modern political significance, being often used in New England and the Middle West as a synonym for dude, pharisee, etc.—Chicago Journal.

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## May Be Messengers

### From Other Planets

While the idea of shooting to the moon is often considered by astronomers, the possibility of projectiles ever having been shot to the earth is hardly considered at all. Yet strange carved stones of which there has been no satisfactory explanation have fallen from the sky and been picked up at different times.

In 1857 a small carved stone, covered with ice, fell at Turbes, in France. In 1922 another stone, also carved, dropped in a plantation in Dutch Guiana, while a carved cylinder of stone was reported to have fallen in the United States in 1910.

A possible explanation concerning the stone that fell at Turbes was made at the time by Professor Sudre, who thought that it must have been swept up in a whirlwind in some other part of the world and then dropped at Turbes.

But while such a supposition might be accepted as possible, more convincing evidence is required, for should the scientist's surmise in regard to the whirlwind be correct, it is strange that the stone should have fallen alone—without any of the other things a whirlwind would be bound to collect.

## Great English Queen

### Decidedly No Beauty

The Boston Transcript, in an editorial taking exception to the statement of the director general of the Atlantic City beauty pageant, denies that "most pretty girls have heads as empty as their faces are beautiful," and cites a number of women in history who were brainy as well as lovely to look upon. But it weakens an argument otherwise good by prominently mentioning Queen Elizabeth of England, as one whose "indubitably handsome face was joined with the most extraordinary mental powers."

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other black Fridays. One date known by that name is May 11, 1866, upon which a financial panic in London was precipitated by the suspension of the banking house of Overend, Gurney & Co. A still earlier one was December 6, 1745, the day London received news that the army of the "Young Pretender," Prince Charles, had reached Derby on its march toward the city.

A panic seized London; there was a run on the Bank of England, business houses were closed, and King George II prepared to flee. On the following day the invaders were obliged to retreat, and the panic was ended.

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