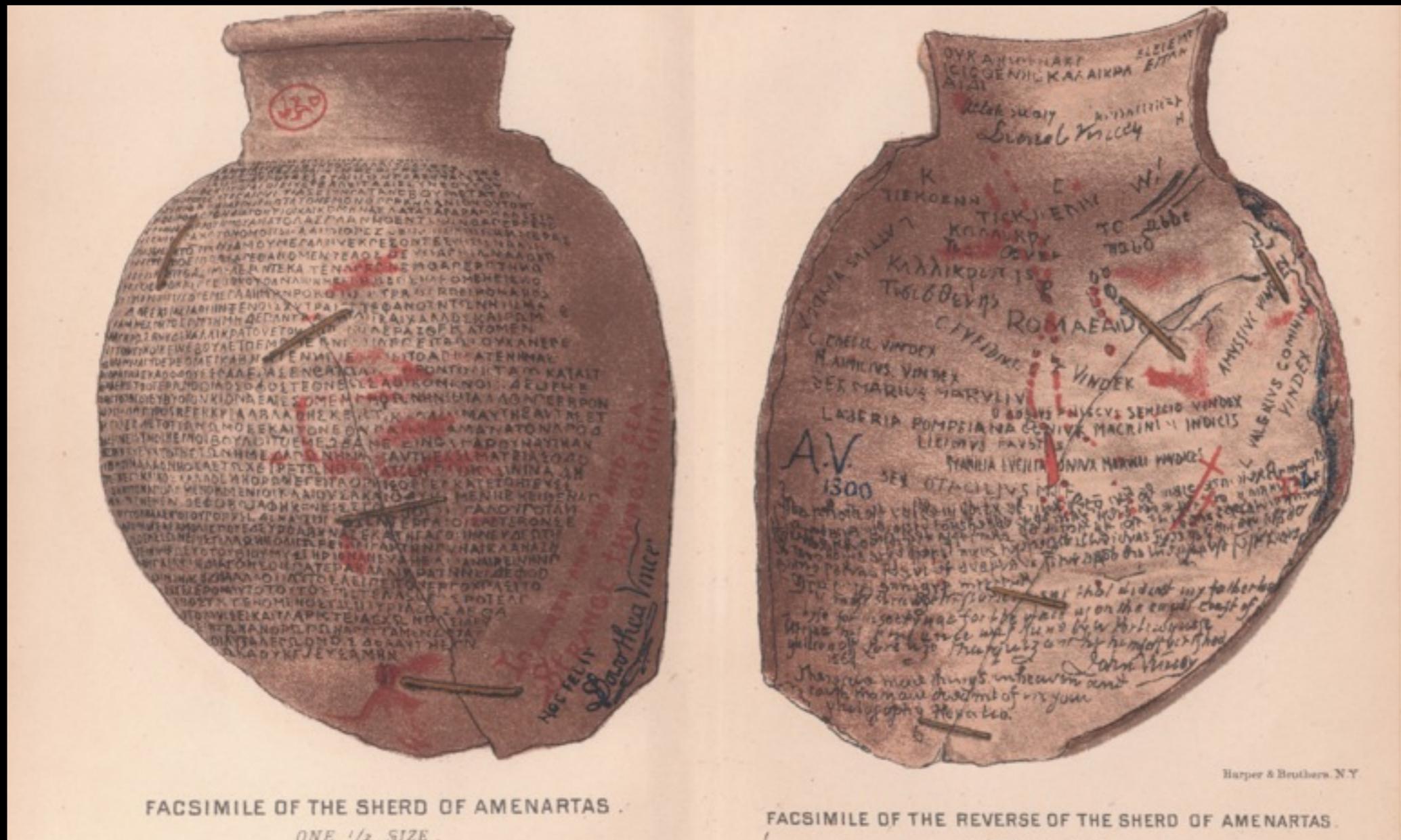




“There's Nothing
Against
My Character”:
Humor and Masculinity
in
H. Rider Haggard's *She*

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The Past as Catalyst

“At first I was inclined to believe that this history of a woman on whom, clothed in the majesty of her almost endless years, the shadow of Eternity itself lay like the dark wing of Night, was some gigantic allegory of which I could not catch the meaning.”



HOLLY EXPLORES THE SILVER CASSET.

Exploring Masculinity

“...a contest between definitions of masculinity that incidentally involves a ‘discredited’ woman...In this variation, several men, representing different shades of masculinity, stand in contrast to one another and thereby shape for the reader a figure of true manliness.”



A Lee-Bradford Production.

HOLLY AND LEO RECEIVE A WARNING OF DANGER.

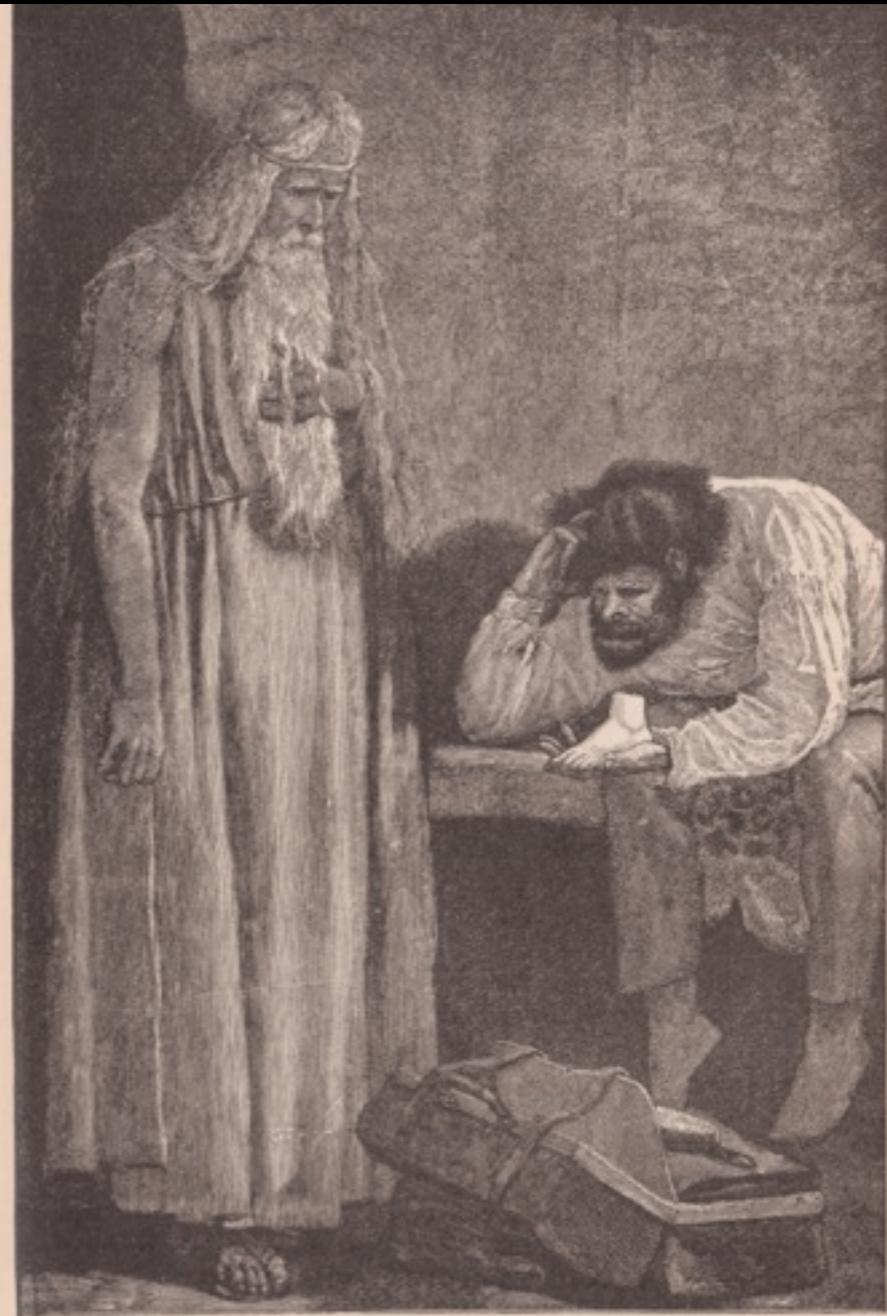
She.

The Function of Wit

“The wit is used in place of force, mainly because it’s used between people of approximately equal status....wit works through persuasion...it is actually future oriented. By ridiculing what someone has done...the creators discourage other people from doing something similar” (Pace 446).

Holly: Scholarly Charon

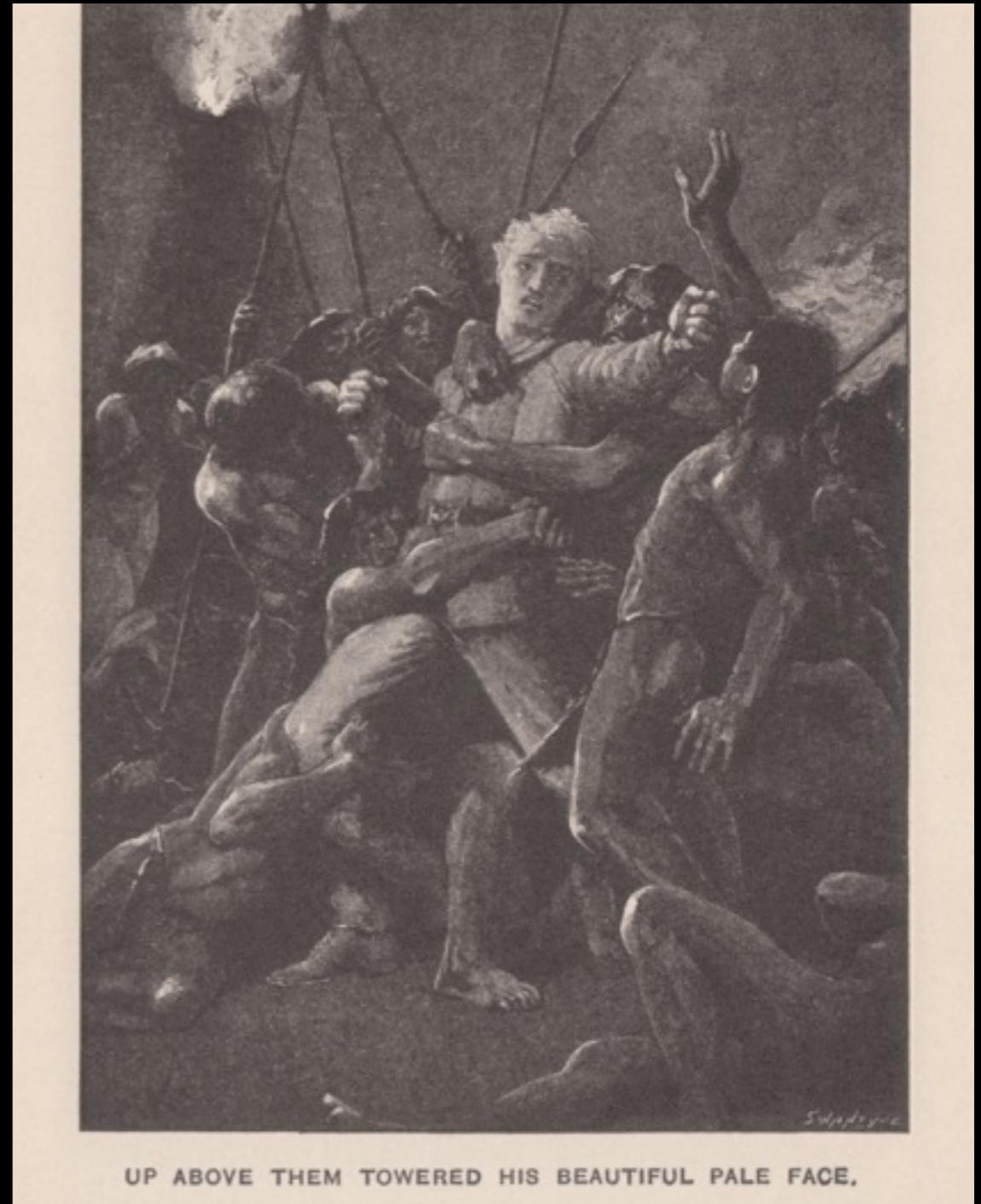
“...**as ugly as his companion was handsome**. To begin with, he was shortish, rather bow-legged, very deep-chested, and with unusually long arms. He had dark hair and small eyes, and the hair grew right down on his forehead, and his whiskers grew right up to his hair, so that there was uncommonly little of his countenance to be seen. Altogether **he reminded me forcibly of a gorilla**, and yet there was something very pleasing and genial about the man’s eye. I remember saying that **I should like to know him.**”

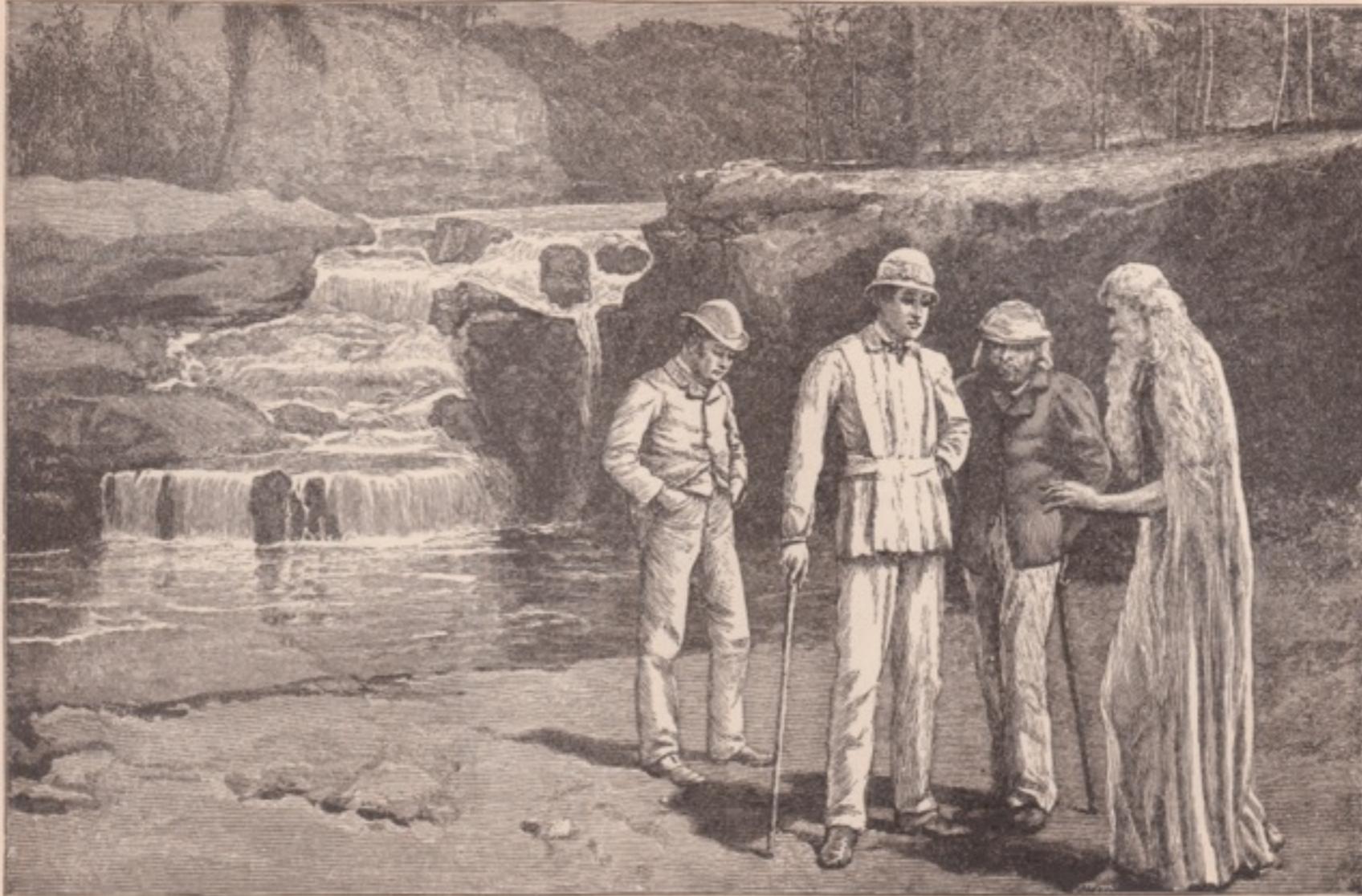


“I TOOK THIS COLD FRAGMENT OF MORTALITY IN MY HANDS AND LOOKED AT IT.”

Leo: Golden Apollo

“Leo at twenty-one might have stood for a statue of Apollo. I never saw anybody to touch him in looks, or anybody so absolutely unconscious of them. As for his mind, he was brilliant and keen-witted, but not a scholar. **He had not the dullness necessary for that result.**”





“AS WE WERE RETURNING, BILLALI MET US.”

Job: The Chorus

“Job came up, looking **very stout and English** in his shooting-suit of brown flannel, and with a **sort of perplexed appearance upon his honest round face** that have been very common with him since he got into these strange waters.”



“ONE AND ALL OF US, SAVE *SHE*, WHO STOOD UP AND STRETCHED HER HANDS TOWARDS THE FIRE, SANK DOWN BEFORE IT, AND HID OUR FACES IN THE SAND.”

Humor and the Unmanly

“Be off with you! Get away, you minx!” he shouted, waving the wooden spoon, with which he was eating his breakfast, up and down before the lady’s face... There’s nothing against my character,” and here he broke off, and ran as hard as he could go down the cave, and for once I saw the Amahagger laugh.”

Masculinity of an Adventurer

"Gone are the quiet college rooms, gone the wind-swayed English elms and cawing rooks, and the familiar volumes on the shelves, and in their place there rises a vision of the great calm ocean gleaming in shaded silver lights beneath the beams of the full African moon."



"THE NEXT INSTANT I FELT LEO SEIZE ME BY THE RIGHT WRIST WITH BOTH HANDS."

Thank You.

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