

THE YELLOW SEVEN. THE PASSING OF ZARA-KHAN

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ILLUSTRATED BY
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This unusual series of stories deals with the exploits of "Chinese" Pennington, a detective sent out by his government to British North Borneo to run to earth The Yellow Seven, a gang of Chinese bandits.

JAMES VARNEY'S bungalow was a landmark. It stood on the summit of a hill at the foot of which the turbid Tembuk River—sweeping from some mysterious point of origin in the Borneo hinterland—swerved abruptly and, leaving in its wake a muddy delta infested with crocodiles, continued its onward course to the sea.

Varney knew that river and had charted it as accurately as it was possible to chart anything in the lesser-known regions of a perplexing Orient. He understood the habits and customs of the Dyak villagers whose dwellings clustered along the palm-girt banks. It was possibly for these reasons that a discriminating syndicate in London—that exploited the coconut from its outer husk to the oil that lurked beneath its hard exterior—had seen fit to entrust him with their interests.



VARNEY HURRIED FORWARD.

Varney was 37. He was short, more over, and stockily built, with a rugged, kindly countenance upon which the tropical sun had set its unmistakable sign and superscription. He had a dog—a shambling, friendly animal of unknown breed—an extensive library of faded, cloth-bound books, and a marked preference for Dutch tobacco. Varney—who despised all other forms of personal adornment—had from time to time solicited the services of the most skilled tattooer on the island—Zara-Khan—and, excepting for a spanner size of dinner plate on his broad chest with a corresponding vacancy between his shoulders, his body was covered with the grim masterpieces of Zara-Khan.

Before the cyclone came, Varney had been working over those two blank spaces. Zara-Khan, a tall, slim brown-skinned scoundrel, with an ingratiating smile, a gaudy turban, and a suit of white ducks—had looked in on one of his periodical visits to Varney's area. He had passed on to a neighboring rubber estate, hoping on the return journey to find his lucrative client less exercised in mind. Coming swiftly on the heels of a perfect tropic afternoon, the storm had spread its cloak over the entire heavens.

It seemed that nothing short of a miracle could have spared Varney's house; but, as luck would have it, the frenzy of the gale had merely lifted the sago-thatch until it stood on end, allowing the ensuing deluge to pour in; had deposited Varney's dog in the river a couple of hundred yards away, and left half the crockery in the bungalow intact. The more sheltered buildings—offices, clerks' quarters, store-houses, and the like, had crumpled like a pack of cards.

Chang—the dog—had crawled back to the veranda and crouched in a corner over a chunk of raw meat pilfered from a ruined store. Varney, returned from a preliminary investigation of damage, was greeting the imminent fall of darkness through a tumbler of amber fluid wherein countless silver bubbles scurried merrily upward. A half-dazed Chinese boy—bare to the waist—endeavored from a complete packet of matches to discover one that would serve to ignite the wick of the oil-lamp. Something sputtered feebly, then leapt into

Chang's mouth. The dog growled again, then dashed into the night, barking. For reasons best known to himself, Varney did not attempt to stop it. He turned in order to gauge more easily what was going on outside—and Chong-Hee was gone.

"Pennington! Peter Pennington! Man alive, I'm mighty glad to see you!"

Chong-Hee still remained at the entrance to the passage-way. There was recognition written clearly in his half-closed eyes.

"I saw your light—miles away," laughed Chinese Pennington, "and made for it like a shot. It missed you then?"

"By the merest stroke of luck. Beyond this, I haven't a building intact. One of my clerks got his leg broken and a couple of coolies'll have to be buried in the morning. Chong-Hee! Take Mr. Pennington's cane and hat and make it bath and dinner for two. Taht?"

Pennington's glance lit upon the square bottle.

"Next to your admirable self," he admitted, "there's nothing on earth I more wanted to see than that! I've had the devil's own time—and the devil's own luck."

"How's that?" demanded the other, pushing forward a chair.

"I haven't seen you for months, Varney, so I expect you're wondering what particular stunt is interesting me at present." He lowered his voice.

"I'm trying to tackle the toughest proposition it's ever been my luck to strike. Hevitt's got me chasing round like a dog with a bone in his mouth."

"Cheerio! This afternoon—to get it off my chest—I was on the verge of bringing off the final coup. I'd had the Commissioner down to see the fun. He got collared by the Chinks! Luckily I had wind of that almost as soon as it happened and laid my plans accordingly. After that everything went well. Dawson was rounding up the bunch. I'd Chai-Hung in the district Officer's bungalow, neatly trapped in the act of venting his spleen upon my fiancee, Mrs. Viney. He had brought a nasty-looking reptile in a Chinese tea-pot and I knocked it into his lap, covering him at the same time with my automatic. Believe me or not, I had the Commissioner down to see the fun. He got collared by the Chinks! Dawson joined us and I packed them all off to Jesselton before going back to the ruins. Three of my agents and myself turned the bungalow inside out. We found what was left

of Dawson's boy, but there wasn't a trace of our friend Chai-Hung—except his red umbrella and a battered metal tea-pot."

"Then you think he succeeded in getting clear?"

(Continued in Our Next Issue.)

MODERN WOODMEN WILL HOLD PICNIC

Twelve Marion County camps of the Modern Woodmen of America will hold their twenty-first annual picnic Sunday at Broad Ripple Park. Approximately 6,000 members and their families are expected to attend.

Special athletic events have been planned for the day. The picnic is in charge of C. A. Osborn, district manager of Marion Camp; Walter Lutz, Park Camp, and Joseph Heath, Capital City Camp.

Those in charge: W. M. Sanders and Frank Faust, baseball; Charles W. Parr, horseshoe pitching; Harry Stump, foot races; Ben J. Schlaeger, Jr., clothespin contest; Walter Michael, nail driving; Henry Halbing, hog-calling contest and greased pig chase; G. H. Jenkins, craft reading; Thomas Perkins, balloon contest.

Edward Gans, Walter Biddlecomb and C. W. Pelly will have charge of the grounds.

If you are suffering from irregular, painful times, nervousness, headache, or a headache on melancholia, you should at once begin to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is excellent to strengthen the system and help to perform its functions with ease and regularity.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a medicine for ailments common to women. It has been used for such troubles for nearly fifty years, and thousands of women have found relief as did Mrs. Gail, by taking this splendid medicine.

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