

having disentangled themselves, stood for a second looking blankly in each other's faces: Karl, the picture of inexpressible chagrin and confusion; Margaret, scarlet with excitement. But her strong sense of the ludicrous soon conquered every other feeling, and, with laughing eyes, she said, "Never mind, Mr. Karl, I will give them all to Annette as soon as she comes home, and I am very glad to see you back, indeed I am," she added, stretching out both her hands to him: "we did not look for you for weeks yet."

As she took his hands in hers she felt that they were cold as ice, and saw that his face was turning white. His strength of a moment before was only the passing strength of a great excitement. He had set out against the advice of his physicians and nurses, had journeyed day and night, and now the false strength given by the desire to be at home was fast ebbing away.

"Oh, pray lie down, Mr. Reutner, you

look very ill," exclaimed Margaret, and she led him like a little child, to the lounge. Like a little child he lay down upon it, and looked up in her face, while with the servant's help, she took off his heavy wrappings. Then he shut his eyes, and murmured, "The four leaf of clover."

Margaret was terrified. She thought he was delirious; she dared not be left alone with him, and yet she felt that she ought to send for a physician. She bathed his forehead;—she chafed his hands; she looked helplessly into the servant's face, saying, "Oh Mary, what shall we do?" At the sound of her voice Karl opened his eyes, and said, feebly, "Do not have fear. I will rest. That is all, and if there is wine, it will make me strong." Then he looked long into Margaret's face with a strange, unseeing gaze, and murmured again, as he shut his eyes:

"The four leaf of clover. It have come true."

(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE JULY NUMBER.)

AN ELEPHANT HUNT IN SIAM.

by Sanier d'Abain

I RECEIVED an order on the 25th of April to accompany the Regent Chow-Phya-Sury-Wongse-Somdetch to Ajuthia, the ancient capital, where an elephant hunt was to take place. I was very much gratified at receiving the order, for not only is an elephant hunt one of the rarest and most curious sports in the world, but on this occasion orders had been given three months beforehand to find out the largest herd and entice them into the traps. The elephants of Siam have, moreover, a great reputation in India, and I knew that especial pains would be taken to make the hunt as splendid as possible, and thus give a mark of recognition to the numerous Nais-Daps-Falangs (European officers) who had come to attend the cremation ceremonies of the old king Somdetch-Phra-Paramendri-Mâhâ-Mongkut, supreme king of Siam, who died Oct. 1st, 1868, and was burned March 9th, 1870.

The present young king Somdetch-Phra-Paramendri-Mâhâ-Chulalon-Korn, being in mourning, could not attend, and had deputed the Regent to represent him on

the occasion. Among the Europeans who were present at the hunt, I noticed the American Consul, General Partridge, and the legation, the English Consul, Thomas Knox, Esq., accompanied by the naval officers from Singapore, the Vice-Consul of France, with the French naval officers from Saigon, the Spanish embassy, represented by the Chevalier Paxtoy Chaval, the Prussian Consul, with the officers of the *Medusa*, then lying at Bangkok, before pursuing her voyage round the world. There were also present the Portuguese Consul, M. Viallat, who so unfortunately perished in this excursion, the Danish Consul, and several American and English missionaries, both men and women, with some European and American merchants and their families. The Siamese were represented by the second king of Siam, with the Court, the Regent, the principal officers of the crown, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Interior;—the grand mandarin of the elephants and the writer were masters of the ceremonies.

Three steamers of the Royal fleet left

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silently and gravely, and keeping time, as they conducted the four hundred wild ones to the trap. The latter set up a horrible din when they perceived us; nothing could give an idea of the four hundred roars with which they greeted us. They had now reached the river, and their joy at finding the water was expressed by various grunts and snorts. Only their heads and the ends of their trunks were visible as they took their cooling bath.

The drivers had never left their posts for a moment, so that the lines were preserved unbroken. We now left our positions, and crossed over to the other side of the river, and ascended to the platform of the trap, where we found the guests waiting to see the capture. His Majesty Wà-Nhà the Second King, had already arrived with his court. Fine mats had been placed on the top of the structure, and on these the Siamese sat down in Oriental fashion, according to their rank. The Europeans were provided with rich stools of Chinese and Thibetian stuffs, while a large tent of green silk, with flowers worked on it, protected us from the rays of the sun.

The eastern gate, formed of two moveable trees, now opened, and the decoy,—the large elephant,—entered, followed by his wild companions, while the other tame elephants remained between the bank of the river and the alley, so as to prevent any from escaping or falling behind. The branches and shoots were broken off and rooted up and eaten, and it was wonderful to see the care these animals took to clean them from the clay and dirt which adhered to them. If, after striking them together, there still remained any dust, they would place the branch under their feet and clean it with the greatest precision. The gourmands of the herd completely destroyed those splendid lanes which I described above. The keepers did not disturb their enjoyment, so that it was nearly three hours before all the herd had entered the structure. I had gone down in the meantime into the space between the iron-wood stakes and the interior of the wall. I was astonished at the height of these gigantic animals, which, as soon as they had entered, began their horrible din again, turning round and round the immense pit, with their trunks held aloft in the air—in tragic deprecation, I fancied, of the treachery of their domesticated brothers. Five or six, in a fit of

rage, attacked an enormous-sized stake in the middle of the structure, on which was a wooden pagoda, and shook it with such force that the pagoda and the little Buddha of plaster, which was inside, soon tumbled down—to their great satisfaction. The whole night they never ceased their hideous noise, which could be heard for miles around. The Regent had returned to his camp and the guests to their steamers. The next day three of the finest elephants were to be captured, to replace three domesticated ones which had died in the course of the year.

After a few hours' sleep we returned to the trap about ten o'clock in the morning, and found in place of the green and tufty alleys of the preceding day, nothing but a range of black trees, and even five or six of these had been all bent under the tremendous pressure of these enormous creatures. We had not been long on the terrace when the guests arrived, and the capture of the animals was begun.

One of the elephants was three feet taller than any of his companions; he was one of those who showed such rancor against the little pagoda, the preceding evening, and the Regent had designated him as the first one to be caught.

Two of the tame elephants now advanced with two armed drivers on each, the front driver having a strong bent hook in his hand, the other man in a crouching posture and holding a pole about eight yards long; this pole was flattened at the end, and around it was rolled a strong rope forty yards long, made of thongs of rhinoceros and elephant hide.

One animal entered by the eastern, the other by the western gate. The intelligence of these animals was something extraordinary. A word, a sign was enough for them. They had now arrived behind the animal they wanted to catch, and making him walk, the men took advantage of the moment when he lifted his hind feet, to pass a running knot round his hams, by means of their spear. Having done this, the coil of the rope was thrown to the Siamese in the alleys and made fast to one of the trees. When this was accomplished, the western gate was opened once more, and all the elephants went out of the trap to bathe in the pond, and to feed on whatever young plants they could find around it. A circle of their treacherous companions at every ten paces remained as silent and immovable as veritable sphinxes, and