

of treasures, they did not find, and, indeed, they were never discovered. And so the days wore slowly on and nearly a week had passed, and the condition of the five in the treasure chamber was becoming more and more desperate. All along they had been on the shortest of short commons, and now their provisions showed signs of soon giving out, while there was but one great carafe of water left.

'Tell 'ee what 'tes, sir,' said Burch, as he and Standen were gloomily smoking together on the fifth evening of their imprisonment; 'I can't stand this no longer. I don't keer for mezul, but 'tes they tew pore leddies,' and he pointed back to the recess where, after a somewhat silent and melancholy evening—for the confinement and semi-starvation were telling upon them—Lois and her aunt had retired. 'Naygurs or no naygurs, I means to get out and vind out what's going on: 'tes likely as us be boxed up yere when us might be safe and sound outside arter all. Trewth is, us don't knaw naught about it.'

'I've thought of that, Jan,' said Standen anxiously; 'but it's a great risk, man, not only for us, mark you, but for the President and the women folk. There's enough water for another day, but when that's gone, we must——'

'Hooroar! hooroar!' shouted Burch, jump-