

"Yes, yes, that is so, Mr. Malabar. The King of Ava was said to have a ruby, mounted as an ear-pendant, the size of a hen's egg!"

"The largest ruby found in Burma weighed 1,184 carats. Gustavus III of Sweden had a ruby as big as this one you have just shown us; he presented it to Catherine II of Russia."

"That was in 1777. Yes, I know about that."

"That ruby disappeared, Professor, long ago, and its present whereabouts is unknown. It has never been seen since."

Kent tapped Malabar's arm.

"Is it possible that this scarab stone——?"

"It may be the identical gem. Who knows? But whether it is or not, its discovery by Professor Caron as part of this so-called 'treasure of Osiris' proves that this buried treasure is not the loot of ancient ghouls but of modern thieves! He admits that the papyrus shown him by this German was a fake——"

"I think, Dick, if you will just hold your horses a bit, the Professor can explain everything," remonstrated Kent gently. "Am I right, Professor, in surmising that you merely have been leading up to the things you really wish to confide to us?"

Professor Caron, who had been fidgeting in his chair for some time, nodded and threw a grateful glance. His face was flushed with excitement, and it was evident that he was in an extremely nervous state. He was breathing rapidly. His hands fluttered uncertainly from his knees to the arms of his chair and back again. He dropped his voice so low that they had to lean forward to catch what he said.

"Not a word must you breathe of what I have to