

THE AMBUSH

to rights, crawled back into it and pretended to fall asleep.

Almost immediately I heard the catlike footfalls receding down the corridor, only to return again frankly and noisily. Dr. Berry entered without waiting for my invitation; indeed, I gave none. He was radiating benign good humor from every pore.

"What," he said, "in bed at this time of day? It is much too fine for that. You ought to be up and stirring, walking about the grounds."

I replied sulkily that I didn't want to. His eye lighted up a little at that, and I knew I had him fairly hooked.

"Come," he said brusquely, "no nonsense now."

And then he called an order to the guard who stood in the corridor, that he should bring my clothes. When he came with them—and I noticed with joy that they were the same clothes that I had worn yesterday—I sulkily acquiesced in the doctor's orders, and began to dress myself.

I protested against his staying in the room while I did it, however. I said I didn't need any help, and would let them know when I was ready. He sent the guard away with some whispered instructions, whose purport I was to understand later, but himself remained in the room.