

The Prince bowed and rose to his feet.

"I made sure that you would not disappoint me," he said. "Indeed, I went so far as to ask General and Miss Kavanagh to join us; I left a note for Lord Eynsham, inviting him to meet us here, but I have not heard whether he can come. Mr. Markham, the General and his daughter are in their car outside; I am sure, if Captain Osborne does not mind, that they would find it warmer and more comfortable to wait here."

The Kitten started to the door, then hesitated with a wry face, and went on again.

"The General is in the best of humour," said the Prince, with a reassuring smile.

"I'm glad to hear it, sir. I rather let fly about the Staff yesterday at lunch."

"So I understood. The General says it was true about the others, and you had the rare tact not to criticize his own branch."

The Kitten darted through the door and reappeared a few moments later in the wake of General Kavanagh and Pat. The Prince effected the necessary introductions and turned to the General.

"I understand that you and your daughter entertained Prince Christoforo to luncheon yesterday. Will you let him entertain you to-night?"

"We are honoured, sir."

"Then, as four of us are staying at the Semiramis, can we find a better place than that?"