

cropped mustache as the two halted before a great clump of aloes; "came because this service promised much. It wasn't easy at first, and I had to fight my way up through all sorts of intrigue, without any support and with no friends. I got where I am, and thought to see some reward, and to step out and go back — back there to the Berkeley hills where I was born. But, now, all of a sudden, I find that I must still fight, that the end hasn't come yet, and that I can't go until my work is better done. Do you know, Mr. Marshall," he said, pausing and frowning at the figure of an Arab gardener who was twining a fallen vine against the outer wall, "that there is danger of an insurrection here within the next few weeks, that I can't get details, and that the Sultan is alarmed to such an extent he dares not leave his palace until reassured?"

The American turned abruptly toward the kaid, whose face he studied for a moment before answering. He gave a glance back to where the two girls were standing, and then a sudden fear overspread his eyes.

"And them?" he asked, motioning toward Charlotte and Margaret.

"Are safe, I believe. Otherwise, I should advise that they both leave at once, and you with them."

"My boy," the Honorable Bob replied, "you don't need to worry about me. I'm used to times and countries where a man lives by his own quickness. I know you wouldn't have told me this if you hadn't been worried, and I thank you for sayin' what you have. I ain't askin' no favors, because I know, when it comes to a show-down, you'll say, 'It's time for 'em to go now,'