

The King of Arcadia

I

THE CRYPTOGRAM

THE strenuous rush of the day of suddenly changed plans was over, and with Gardiner, the assistant professor of geology, to bid him Godspeed, Ballard had got as far as the track platform gates of the Boston & Albany Station when Lassley's telegram, like a detaining hand stretched forth out of the invisible, brought him to a stand.

He read it, with a little frown of perplexity sobering his strong, enthusiastic face.

"S.S. Carania, New York.

"To BRECKENRIDGE BALLARD, Boston.

"You love life and crave success. Arcadia Irrigation has killed its originator and two chiefs of construction. It will kill you. Let it alone.

"LASSLEY."

He signed the book, tipped the boy for his successful chase, and passed the telegram on to Gardiner.