

"This German, Von Strom, took you to see it?"

"Yes."

"To one of the unused tombs of the Pharaohs, where it was buried?"

"To an old and hitherto undiscovered sepulchre—yes. It was completely covered by the sand—deep down under the sands—hewn in the living rock."

"Was it located where the other discoveries have been made—in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings or the Valley of the Queens?—somewhere in the ancient Theban necropolis? Where was it located, Professor?"

"That I cannot tell you, Mr. Malabar. The secret of its location was carefully preserved by the German. I was blindfolded. We travelled for a great distance. But I do not think it was anywhere near other discoveries. It was not as elaborate as a royal tomb, and had been intended for some lesser personage."

"Blindfolded! Hm-hm! Did this bandaging of your eyes take place when you set out from this valley where the wind whispered among the rocks and where you encountered these brigands, or was it later in the journey that such care was taken?"

"From the first, Mr. Malabar, I was blindfolded."

"Then you do not even know where this wonderful valley is to be found, let alone the tomb where the treasure is buried?"

"Alas! That is so, gentlemen. You must accept my statements." He looked appealingly at Addison Kent.

"Of course," nodded Kent.

"And are we to understand that this remarkable scarab you have just shown us——?" Malabar hesi-