

hillock. The actors ascend and descend a real stairway cut out of the rock, and the only drawback is the painted and wholly unnecessary canvas, representing a fortress.

That day they were playing a piece, taken, I think, from the terrible adventures of two officers sent on a mission to Nigeria who refused to obey an order to retreat, and killed the colonel in command of the retreating column. The scene, however, had been changed from Central Africa to the Sahara, and commencing as it did in the form of an anti-militarist drama, it abruptly changed into a piece that might have been written by Corneille.

The criminal officer, a brute who has ordered all the head-men of a village to be shot, after promising them freedom if they will lay down their arms, a monster maddened by blood and drink who makes light of all the murders he has committed, hearing that he is found out, says to himself:

"So they have declared that the law no longer protects me! Very well, I will remain here and found a kingdom of my own. I have taken this country and I intend to keep it."

Believing he can count on his native