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japanned box, which he had previously dragged out into the open.

"An old traveller's trick," he remarked with a sardonic grin as he saw that he was observed, "it is not necessary for the Custom House officials to know the contents of that little box."

For rejoinder Ted contented himself with an interrogative, "Oh, indeed!" but he felt a creepy sensation in the roots of his hair as if it were slowly rising. How was it, he asked himself that neither Dick nor he had thought of the difficulty of the Custom House?"

"How many cigars do you think it would hold?" asked Kalfian, carelessly. "Some hundreds, I should say, if closely packed," answered the other. "Do you really think," he added hurriedly, "that you will get through without inspection?" The question had, as may be imagined, considerable interest for him.

"I am certain I shall," was the confident reply; "I have done the trick often before; it's as easy as lying! You pass into the Customs holding the chalked side towards you, circle round at the back of the crowd, apparently looking over their heads for your larger luggage; you waste time thus until several pieces have been marked by the officials, then twist your box round and pass out by the opposite door, ostentatiously displaying the cabalistic signs."

"Good wrinkle, that," remarked Ted. "I will remember it. But what about your other luggage?"

"Oh, I leave my man to look after that," said Kalfian carelessly. "Here he comes."

Drawing his bunch of keys from his pocket, he put them into the hands of a short, dark, shabby-looking individual, who had passed along the corridor to their compartment; and also piled into the latter's arms all his small impedimenta with the exception of the precious black box, which he took in his own hand.

With something of trepidation, and more of devout thankfulness at having succeeded so far in out-manoeuvring the enemy, Ted stood for a second watching his late companion push his way through the crowd side by side with the little dark man, who was talking and gesticulating eagerly—then, as they passed out of sight, turned back to look for Dick.

His heart swelled high with pity and with triumph as he saw the latter's white, lined face, and met his glance of agonized inquiry.

Young Emberson reeled like a drunken man as a muttered "Thank God!" fell from his pallid lips. The relief, coming after so many hours of tortured suspense—of forced inaction—was almost too much for him.

Quickly recovering himself, however, he said hurriedly:

"We must return by different routes. Unfortunately I came face to face with his servant just now; he will report my presence to his master. There is a train starts from here at 10.10. Take a ticket to Munich, but get out at Salzburg, and wait there for the express. When you arrive in London, put up at Charing Cross Hotel. I will follow as soon as possible."

He cast an anxious glance along the platform, and a smothered groan fell from his lips. "By heaven, he's coming back!" he ejaculated.

"What, the master?" asked Ted, with evident trepidation.

"No, the man; he has evidently reported my presence, and has been sent back to shadow me. Fall back, I will draw him off."

"But, Dick!" expostulated young Alston, to whom the idea of leaving his friend in such dangerous proximity was eminently distasteful.

"For God's sake, don't argue, but do as I say!" was the fierce command, which the other had no alternative but to obey.

Hanging back and turning a deaf ear to passing porters (who, seeing in him, as they thought, a specimen of the inexperienced and helpless traveller, plied him with questions and admonitions); he watched with wistful eyes his impetuous friend stride forward in the direction of the rapidly advancing servant: the latter was looking about on all sides in evident search. The two men came to a sudden halt, face to face; they stood for a few seconds conversing; and then, to Ted's amazement and alarm, they walked off side by side.

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