

have told you that³ Michel Ghika had murdered Lady Anna. Sabine, his sister, I would have said, had sent him to England for no other purpose, and all that remained for me to do was to bring it home to these people, and then to communicate with my good friends at Scotland Yard. You know that I did nothing of the kind—the reasons will not be less evident to you.”

“Implying, of course, that there was no evidence against Ghika?”

“There was none at the moment ; but there was something which I valued more than evidence, and that was direction. I sifted the facts anew and added to them the knowledge which my friend Miss Insole imparted. Out of the mists there came to me an image of my suppositions. Various interviews with Tahir Pasha, the words let fall by the young man Allulali, helped me to deck out that image and to clothe it with new ideas. Tahir had been in love with the Lady Anna. His English sympathies were notorious. I perceived that he would give much to go back to Cairo to his home. I asked myself what forbade, and the answer was Madame Sabine and her brother. Their interest in the revolutionary movement went for much ; but Madame’s jealousy, a very natural jealousy of the Englishwoman, went for more. Working backwards, I recalled the House of the Five Green Shutters at Ely, and its witness to the child that had been harboured there. From Aizy-la-Belle, at the same time, came the tidings that the old Count of Fours was much agitated because of an old Frenchwoman who travelled about with a little Egyptian lad. I am mystified, for this lad is too old to be Anna’s child ; but I cling to my faith, and state that a child exists, and that I will discover it. By this argument I get nearer to my motives. If there be a child, if Tahir had clung passionately to the memory of his English wife, if he yet hoped by her influence to win favour with the English authorities, the rest is clear. Madame Sabine and her brother will stand at nothing to oppose that reunion. They will hunt mother and child to the death. The word “hasib,” telegraphed by Ferman to Ely, was justified indeed. A real and vital danger threatened Prevost and her charge ; do you wonder if I believed that Michel