

The Buried Treasure of Cobre

Peabody claims any tourist has a right to visit the ruins so long as he does no excavating. Ward accused him of exploring the place by night and taking photographs by flash-light of the hieroglyphs. He's put an armed guard at the ruins, and he told Peabody they are to shoot on sight. So Peabody went to Mendoza and said if anybody took a shot at *him* he'd bring war-ships down here and blow Amapala off the map."

"A militant archæologist," said Everett, "is something new. Peabody is too enthusiastic. He and his hieroglyphs are becoming a bore."

He sent for Peabody and told him unless he curbed his spirit his minister could not promise to keep him out of a very damp and dirty dungeon.

"I *am* too enthusiastic," Peabody admitted "but to me this fellow Ward is like a red flag to the bull. His private graft is holding up the whole scientific world. He won't let us learn the truth, and he's too ignorant to learn it himself. Why, he told me Cobre dated from 1578 when Palacio wrote of it to Philip the Second, *not* knowing that in that very letter Palacio states that he found Cobre in ruins. Is it right a man as ignorant——"

Everett interrupted by levelling his finger.