

ing and shaved off their eyebrows," volunteered Addison Kent. "I think it was Diodorus——"

"Yes, yes—Diodorus," agreed the Professor. "The same writer records a case where the Egyptians slew a Roman who had accidentally killed a cat—— Now here, gentlemen, is the scarab I mentioned; it was found on the breast of the mummy on the right over there, and this is how the so-called curse reads: '*Who trespasses upon my property the sun god shall punish him. I will leap upon him as a wild beast upon his prey.*'" He chuckled. "Doesn't look as if there was much leap left in him at this late date, eh?"

They examined the large scarab with interest while Professor Caron rattled on: "Nothing was more highly revered by the Egyptians of old than the sacred beetle—*scarabæus sacer*. 'Khepera' (He who turns) they called it in ancient days, symbolizing the return of the sun each day, and representing the everlasting progress of life. The likeness of the beetle was made into amulets and placed upon the mummies to ward off evil. It was made into signet rings and worn by the living, being prepared as a talisman by the priests of the different temples. This sign of immortality was constantly before the people, and was used in the Government offices, bearing the Pharaoh's cartouche—the oval in which his name was inscribed—and was worn by soldiers going into battle and, in fact, by the people at large for good luck.

"That hole you see was where the gold wire passed through—to hang it around the neck of the mummy. I have seen many finer scarabs than this; the colours have faded badly. Scarabs were not in general use before the middle of the twelfth dynasty, but they were quite plentiful by the time of Amemhot III, perhaps