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tain if I could find the way in. I did. It was a very simple contrivance after all — just a big sliding door, weighted so nicely that it was as easy to lift as a window sash, and with a little hand wheel and pulley arrangement to pull it up and down.”

“A door?” I asked in astonishment. “I could have sworn that those cliffs were solid rock.”

“And I’ll no be saying as ye are not right except as to that one place. But I’m not wondering that none of us spotted the sham in the dim light of the pool, for the outer face of the door was faced with slabs of rock, and unless ye knew the exact spot to look, ye would never find out the trick of it.”

He paused for an instant in his narration, and I put the question, “Why did you not attempt to escape by swimming? There were five boats inside the outer pool the greater part of the day, and you would have been picked up at once.”

“Well, it was like this,” replied Sanders. “As I could not see through the door, I could not be certain that I should find you on the other side. Besides, it occurred to me that I might make quite certain that those ruffians could not escape if I could manage to get hold of the *Conqueror* and bring her away with me. So I waited and watched in the hope that I should find a chance of getting on board her unseen. I thought they would be needing sleep the same as ordinary men, but it seems they did not, for every time I crept up to a point at which I could see them, one or the other was on the watch. And so the day