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## *THE FLAW IN THE SAPPHIRE*

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proceeded to unfasten the gag and remove the strips which bound the unfortunate Gratz.

After a lapse of inscrutable regard of the Sepoy, who, despite the embarrassing dénouement, managed to maintain a fair degree of composure, Gratz, addressing the man who had released him, said:

"You will find the key of these handcuffs on the table yonder."

Obedient to the direction of the detective's glance, the man proceeded to the table, found the object of his quest, and inserting it in the handcuffs detached them from the hands of the still impassive Gratz.

"Now," continued the latter calmly, "I will transfer these ornaments to that gentleman. Secure him precisely as you found me, with the exception of the gag."

Presently this was done.

At this, turning to his subordinates, the detective said: "Leave me with this gentleman for a while; I will call you in case of need."

As the pair passed through the doorway, Gratz, with no intimation of triumph or exultation in his manner, addressed the unhappy,