

THE AMBUSH

moment's thought the explanation occurred to me. He was keeping an eye on his reserves. The doctor's instructions had, no doubt, been that a second man should follow us to give aid to my companion, or to run and spread the alarm, as circumstances might indicate, in case I should prove obstreperous.

The conclusion did not seriously disturb me. In my present state of exalted confidence, two men were hardly more seriously to be feared than one. What was essential to my plan was that the reserves should be drawn in. The second man must run to his comrade's aid, and not to headquarters, to give the alarm. It would take a little maneuvering, but I felt sure that I could do it.

Walking briskly, and not attempting to disguise the fact that I was evidently going somewhere, with a purpose, I entered the woods which grew alongside the wall. Then, instead of proceeding straight toward the wall itself, I deflected the course to a long diagonal.

I saw my guard give a little, almost imperceptible jerk of his head. He was signaling to the man behind to pass us on the outside and to close in a little ahead. I slackened my pace, as was natural, among the timber.

My guard was very alert and quite unable to disguise his suspicion that I was about to make an