

## 20. Seats Of The Haughty

### 【二十】馬鞍尋人啓事<sup>1</sup>

Golden by day and silver by night, a new trail now leads to us across the Indian Ocean. Dusky kings and princes have found our Bombay of the West; and few be their trails that do not lead down to Broadway on their journey for to admire and for to see.

白天與黃金相似，夜晚如銀月一般，一路新旅來自印度洋那端。風塵撲撲的國王與王子來到新大陸的孟買；在邊看邊欣賞的旅途最終，極少不是到達百老匯的。

If chance should ever lead you near a hotel that transiently shelters some one of these splendid touring grandees, I counsel you to seek Lucullus Polk among the republican tuft-hunters that besiege its entrances. He will be there. You will know him by his red, alert, Wellington-nosed face, by his manner of nervous caution mingled with determination, by his assumed promoter's or broker's air of busy impatience, and by his bright-red necktie, gallantly redressing the wrongs of his maltreated blue serge suit, like a battle standard still waving above a lost cause. I found him profitable; and so may you. When you do look for him, look among the light-horse troop of Bedouins that besiege the picket-line of the travelling potentate's guards and secretaries—among the wild-eyed genii of Arabian Afternoons that gather to make astounding and egregious demands upon the prince's coffers.

假如機運的安排，把你帶到這些皇親貴戚暫時歇腳的旅館之一，我建議你去包圍這家旅館的共和黨蓄意和這些顯貴們結交的嘈雜人群之中去尋找勃魯庫。他一定在那裏。你看到一個紅臉關公似的，機警，長著威靈頓鼻子的臉的，那就是他，可以看到他氣度小心謹慎而且意志堅決，他擺出的一副推薦者或者仲介者忙得團團轉有點不耐煩的態度，鮮紅的領帶正爲了他被虧待的斜紋嗶嘰藍西裝打抱不平，好比戰敗了，旗幟還繼續飄揚一樣。我看他還賺錢；你也可能看到他這麼。你去找他的時候，去那些正在攻擊保護皇家的侍衛與秘書們所組成防護綫的貝多因輕騎兵隊裏去找他—去那些聚集來張開大口無理要求與王子們的庫房分一杯羹的大眼睛的阿拉伯晌午由神燈蹦出來的精靈小鬼隊伍裏面去找尋。

I first saw Mr. Polk coming down the steps of the hotel at which sojourned His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, most enlightened of the Mahratta princes, who, of late, ate bread and salt in our Metropolis of the Occident.

我首次看到勃君，是他從巴偌達噶沃大人下榻的旅館階梯下來的時候，巴某是馬哈他諸王子之中最文明的一位，他最近在我們的西方世界大都會裏吃麵包和鹽巴。

Lucullus moved rapidly, as though propelled by some potent moral force that imminently threatened to become physical. Behind him closely followed the impetus—a hotel detective, if ever white Alpine hat, hawk's nose, implacable watch chain, and loud refinement of manner spoke the truth. A brace of

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<sup>1</sup> 我現在這種翻譯法，可以說是鬼扯開平方的翻譯法。因爲原作者本來就有點胡言亂蓋，我翻譯的時候，有時候也必須跟著鬼扯淡。說真的，不是這麼的話，有時候還翻不出來呢。建議讀者在閱讀之中，假如覺得有點怪怪的，請稍停，把原文和譯文對照一下，就可以瞭解我在說什麼。翻譯最高的境界是把原語文的原意，加上後語文的味道表達出來。這不是遵照科學的原理，事實上是遵循烹調的原理。當然，我還在練習之中，請多指教。

uniformed porters at his heels preserved the smooth decorum of the hotel, repudiating by their air of disengagement any suspicion that they formed a reserve squad of ejection.

魯庫走的很快，好似有什麼強力的道德力量在驅動他，迫在眉睫地就要威脅變成真實的力量一般。緊隨他後面的是這股力量的原動力－旅館的偵探，假如高高的白帽，鷹準鼻，冷酷的錶帶，態度斯文到囂張的地步會說實話的話。跟著他的兩位穿制服的門房保持了旅館的平靜禮儀，他們擺出一副若無其事的樣子，好讓人不能懷疑他們其實是甩人小組的成員。

Safe on the sidewalk, Lucullus Polk turned and shook a freckled fist at the caravansary. And, to my joy, he began to breathe deep invective in strange words:

安全抵達人行道之後，勃魯庫回身舉起一隻太陽曬出斑點的拳頭朝著駱駝商隊歇腳旅館的方向揮動。而且，令我高興的，他開始奇怪地臭罵：

"Rides in howdahs, does he?" he cried loudly and sneeringly. "Rides on elephants in howdahs and calls himself a prince! Kings—yah! Comes over here and talks horse till you would think he was a president; and then goes home and rides in a private dining-room strapped onto an elephant. Well, well, well!"

“乘象轎，是嗎？”他大聲而且譏諷地說。“乘象轎騎在象身上，稱呼自己為王子！國王－呀！來到這裏，動不動就是談什麼馬東馬西的，你還以為他是位總統呢；然後回家在私人的飯廳裏面綁在象背上騎。好，好，好！”

The ejecting committee quietly retired. The scorner of princes turned to me and snapped his fingers.

甩人委員會靜悄悄地走回去。那位嘲笑王子的轉向我，向我打響手指頭。

"What do you think of that?" he shouted derisively. "The Gaekwar of Baroda rides in an elephant in a howdah! And there's old Bikram Shamsheer Jang scorching up and down the pig-paths of Khatmandu on a motor-cycle. Wouldn't that maharajah you? And the Shah of Persia, that ought to have been Muley-on-the-spot for at least three, he's got the palanquin habit. And that funny-hat prince from Korea—wouldn't you think he could afford to amble around on a milk-white palfrey once in a dynasty or two? Nothing doing! His idea of a Balaklava charge is to tuck his skirts under him and do his mile in six days over the hog-wallows of Seoul in a bull-cart. That's the kind of visiting potentates that come to this country now. It's a hard deal, friend."

“你認為怎麼樣？”他諷刺地大叫。“巴偌達噶沃騎象騎在象轎裏！還有那個老博坎杉社九在加德滿都豬走出來的路騎摩托車來回亂闖。怎麼樣？是不是會把你的腦袋瓜子癩哈拉雜一番？還有那個波斯酋長，該當至少三頭小牛的母牛的，偏是個慣坐肩轎的。那個帽子怪模怪樣朝鮮來的王子－你不是要認為他能在一兩個朝代的時間裏面，留點餘裕騎匹奶白小馬溜達溜達嗎？甭想！根據他的克里米亞苦行僧參悟的靈性，他的責任是把襯衫下擺塞到褲子裏面，然後在釜山豬哥滾出來的泥巴裏面，駕他的牛車，每六天走一哩路。目前來到這裏拜訪的大官顯貴們是這些材料。生意真難做，朋友。”

I murmured a few words of sympathy. But it was uncomprehending, for I did not know his grievance against the rulers who flash, meteor-like, now and then upon our shores.

我吱吱唔唔了一兩句同情話。可是呢，我不明白他到底在說什麼，因為我真的不明白到底他爲了什麼對這些流星一般地一閃一爍到達我們這岸的統治者們，有這麼一肚子的牢騷。

"The last one I sold," continued the displeased one, "was to that three-horse-tailed Turkish pasha that came over a year ago. Five hundred dollars he paid for it, easy. I says to his executioner or secretary—he was a kind of a Jew or a Chinaman—'His Turkey Gibbets is fond of horses, then?'"

“我最後賣的一副，”這位滿腹牢騷的老兄繼續說，“是賣給一年前來的纏著三條馬尾巴的土耳其酋長。五百美金，就這麼付了，酷手。我跟他的秘書，或者是他的劊子手我也不知道—是位猶太人或老中—說，‘這麼看起來，貴土耳其梟首臺大人必定喜歡他的馬？’

"'Him?'" says the secretary. "Well, no. He's got a big, fat wife in the harem named Bad Dora that he don't like. I believe he intends to saddle her up and ride her up and down the board-walk in the Bulbul Gardens a few times every day. You haven't got a pair of extra-long spurs you could throw in on the deal, have you?" Yes, sir; there's mighty few real rough-riders among the royal sports these days."

“‘他？’秘書說。‘這個，不是的。那是因爲他的後宮有一位大胖子的太太叫壞杜拉的他不喜歡，我相信他一天要把她按上馬鞍在步步花園裏的走道來回的騎幾次。你有沒有一對特長的馬刺能夠附送給我們的？’是的，先生；最近呢，皇家遊戲之中，極少粗獷騎士出現。”

As soon as Lucullus Polk got cool enough I picked him up, and with no greater effort than you would employ in persuading a drowning man to clutch a straw, I inveigled him into accompanying me to a cool corner in a dim cafe.

勃魯庫一平靜得可以下來，我把自己介紹給他，跟他相識，之後連鼓勵溺水者去抓稻草的力量都不用花，我誘使他跟我來到一家微暗小吃店的清涼角落裏。

And it came to pass that man-servants set before us brewage; and Lucullus Polk spake unto me, relating the wherefores of his beleaguering the antechambers of the princes of the earth.

男侍者把飲料放在我們面前；勃某開始對我說到底是爲了什麼他在這些來自世界各個角落的王子們下榻的旅館前廳當游擊隊。

"Did you ever hear of the S.A. & A.P. Railroad in Texas? Well, that don't stand for Samaritan Actor's Aid Philanthropy. I was down that way managing a summer bunch of the gum and syntax-chewers that play the Idlewild Parks in the Western hamlets. Of course, we went to pieces when the soubrette ran away with a prominent barber of Beeville. I don't know what became of the rest of the company. I believe there were some salaries due; and the last I saw of the troupe was when I told them that forty-three cents was all the treasury contained. I say I never saw any of them after that; but I heard them for about twenty minutes. I didn't have time to look back. But after dark I came out of the woods and struck the S.A. & A.P. agent for means of transportation. He at once extended to me the courtesies of the entire railroad, kindly warning me, however, not to get aboard any of the rolling stock.

“你有沒有聽說過德克薩斯州的 S.A. & A.P.鐵路？這個不代表救苦演員救濟慈善委員會。我那個時候在那裏，經理一群咬文嚼字的演員夏天在西部鄉下地方到小鎮公園裏表演的勾當。那個演喜劇聰明伶俐的小妮子跟著一個必維爾的大牌理髮師私奔了，鬧得我們傾家蕩產。團裏其他人怎麼了我不知道。我知道我們欠了一些薪水錢；我告訴他們我們的財政廳只剩下四十三分美金，那是我

最後一次看到他們。我是說我沒再看見他們；其實呢，隨後的二十分鐘我聽見他們聽得清清楚楚的。只是我沒有功夫回頭看就是了。天黑之後，我從林子裏鑽出來然後找 S.A. & A.P. 的辦事員，問他們有什麼交通工具。他呢，兩手一張，把整條鐵路指給我看，隨君尊便，只是呢，他也警告我，只要是滾動的就不要上去。

"About ten the next morning I steps off the ties into a village that calls itself Atascosa City. I bought a thirty-cent breakfast and a ten-cent cigar, and stood on the Main Street jingling the three pennies in my pocket—dead broke. A man in Texas with only three cents in his pocket is no better off than a man that has no money and owes two cents.

“隔天早上，我走離枕木，來到一處叫做阿塔克薩市的地方。我買了一份三毛錢的早餐和一支一毛錢的雪茄，站在大街，玩弄口袋裏僅存的三分錢—破產兮兮的。在德州，口袋裏只有三分錢，就好比沒錢又欠兩分錢一樣。

"One of luck's favourite tricks is to soak a man for his last dollar so quick that he don't have time to look it. There I was in a swell St. Louis tailor-made, blue-and-green plaid suit, and an eighteen- carat sulphate-of-copper scarf-pin, with no hope in sight except the two great Texas industries, the cotton fields and grading new railroads. I never picked cotton, and I never cottoned to a pick, so the outlook had ultramarine edges.

“命運呢，最喜歡動這種手脚，也就是說，它這麼快把一個人的最後一塊錢拿去，讓他連找都沒有時間去找。我在那裏，身上穿著聖路易斯訂做的一套漂亮的藍綠格子西裝，一支十八克拉的硫酸銅領帶夾子，眼前完全絕望，除了兩件德州的大工業之外，棉花田，和鋪在斜坡上的嶄新鐵路工業。我從沒採過棉花，也從來沒種過棉花到能採收的地步，於是呢，前途只有群青色的遠景了。

"All of a sudden, while I was standing on the edge of the wooden sidewalk, down out of the sky falls two fine gold watches in the middle of the street. One hits a chunk of mud and sticks. The other falls hard and flies open, making a fine drizzle of little springs and screws and wheels. I looks up for a balloon or an airship; but not seeing any, I steps off the sidewalk to investigate.

“突然間，我正站在木製走道邊沿，兩支漂亮的手錶從天而降，落到街心。其中一支落到一塊泥巴，給黏住了。另外一支摔在硬邦邦的地上，蹦的腸肚支離破碎，小彈簧，小螺絲，小輪子兩點般落下。我擡頭往上看，是不是有氣球或者飛艇之類的飛過；也沒看到，所以我從人行道走向街心去觀察。

"But I hear a couple of yells and see two men running up the street in leather overalls and high-heeled boots and cartwheel hats. One man is six or eight feet high, with open-plumbed joints and a heartbroken cast of countenance. He picks up the watch that has stuck in the mud. The other man, who is little, with pink hair and white eyes, goes for the empty case, and says, 'I win.' Then the elevated pessimist goes down under his leather leg-holsters and hands a handful of twenty- dollar gold pieces to his albino friend. I don't know how much money it was; it looked as big as an earthquake-relief fund to me.

“我聽到的卻是幾聲大叫，看到兩個人沿著街跑過來，穿著由上到下的皮製工作褲，高跟鞋，車輪帽。其中一個有六呎或八呎高，關節好比下水道的水管接頭，哭喪的面容。他把插在泥巴的那支手錶拾起來。另一位，小個子，粉色頭髮，白睫毛，走向那支空錶殼，然後說，‘我贏了。’那個高

高哭喪臉的伸手到他的皮套褲裏面，拿出一把二十塊錢的金幣往他的小白白矮朋友的手裏放。我不知道有多少錢；在我看來，好比震災之後的救濟款項一般大。

"'I'll have this here case filled up with works,' says Shorty, 'and throw you again for five hundred.'

“我現在必須工作一下，’矮個說，‘再跟你賭一次五百塊的。’

"'I'm your company,' says the high man. 'I'll meet you at the Smoked Dog Saloon an hour from now.'

“奉陪，’那個高杆子說。‘一小時之後，我在燻狗酒館見你。’

The little man hustles away with a kind of Swiss movement toward a jewelry store. The heartbroken person stoops over and takes a telescopic view of my haberdashery.

“那位小矮個以一種瑞士手錶的運動動作快跑向一家珠寶店。那個哭喪臉的高高站著，細細審視我的這身衣服。

"'Them's a mighty slick outfit of habiliments you have got on, Mr. Man,' says he. 'I'll bet a hoss you never acquired the right, title, and interest in and to them clothes in Atascosa City.'

“人先生，你穿在身上的是一套很滑溜的衣裳，’他說。‘我敢賭你一匹馬你不是在阿塔克薩市擁有它們的權力，擡頭，和利益的。’

"'Why, no,' says I, being ready enough to exchange personalities with this moneyed monument of melancholy. 'I had this suit tailored from a special line of coatericks, vestures, and pantings in St. Louis. Would you mind putting me sane,' says I, 'on this watch-throwing contest? I've been used to seeing time-pieces treated with more politeness and esteem—except women's watches, of course, which by nature they abuse by cracking walnuts with 'em and having 'em taken showing in tintype pictures.'

“呀，不是，’我說，一廂情願地要和這個哭喪臉的金錢紀念冢來互相瞭解一下。‘我是在聖路易斯的一家特別的外套商，衣服商，和畫像商訂製的。能不能麻煩跟我解釋，’我說，‘到底爲什麼這麼丟手錶比賽？我曾經看到計時的儀器以比這樣子更禮貌和莊重的方式來對待的——除了女人的手錶之外，她們拿來敲胡桃，或者在光油油的小廣告相片裏面戴著亮相。’

"'Me and George,' he explains, 'are up from the ranch, having a spell of fun. Up to last month we owned four sections of watered grazing down on the San Miguel. But along comes one of these oil prospectors and begins to bore. He strikes a gusher that flows out twenty thousand—or maybe it was twenty million—barrels of oil a day. And me and George gets one hundred and fifty thousand dollars—seventy-five thousand dollars apiece—for the land. So now and then we saddles up and hits the breeze for Atascosa City for a few days of excitement and damage. Here's a little bunch of the dinero that I drew out of the bank this morning,' says he, and shows a roll of twenties and fifties as big around as a sleeping-car pillow. The yellowbacks glowed like a sunset on the gable end of John D.'s barn. My knees got weak, and I sat down on the edge of the board sidewalk.

“我和喬治，’他解釋說，‘從牧場來這裏快活一下。一直到上個月前，我們擁有聖米格那邊河岸的四片水溶溶的牧地。但是，來了一個探油的，開始鑽油。他鑽到一個每天湧出兩萬—或者兩千萬—桶的油井。我和喬治賣了地，拿到十五萬塊錢—每人七萬五。就是這麼，偶爾，我們騎馬來到阿塔克薩市尋點開心，搗搗蛋。這是今天早晨我從銀行提出的一點錢，’他說，一面給我看一

大團二十，五十大鈔，大到像臥車枕頭那麼大。那些穿黃背心的好比日落時分照在老約翰穀倉頂的那支小尖塔的陽光一樣閃閃發光。我的雙膝發軟，一屁股便坐在人行道的邊上。

"You must have knocked around a right smart," goes on this oil Grease-us. "I shouldn't be surprised if you have saw towns more livelier than what Atascosa City is. Sometimes it seems to me that there ought to be some more ways of having a good time than there is here, 'specially when you've got plenty of money and don't mind spending it."

“你一定到處混過一混，’這個油抹臉這麼說。‘假如說你看過比阿塔克薩市還活潑的市鎮的話，對我來說一點都不意外。偶爾，我會覺得必定有其他地方能提供這裏找不到的樂子，尤其是手頭有錢，又不介意花錢的話。’

"Then this Mother Cary's chick of the desert sits down by me and we hold a conversationfest. It seems that he was money-poor. He'd lived in ranch camps all his life; and he confessed to me that his supreme idea of luxury was to ride into camp, tired out from a round-up, eat a peck of Mexican beans, hobble his brains with a pint of raw whisky, and go to sleep with his boots for a pillow. When this barge-load of unexpected money came to him and his pink but perky partner, George, and they hied themselves to this clump of outhouses called Atascosa City, you know what happened to them. They had money to buy anything they wanted; but they didn't know what to want. Their ideas of spendthriftiness were limited to three—whisky, saddles, and gold watches. If there was anything else in the world to throw away fortunes on, they had never heard about it. So, when they wanted to have a hot time, they'd ride into town and get a city directory and stand in front of the principal saloon and call up the population alphabetically for free drinks. Then they would order three or four new California saddles from the storekeeper, and play crack-loo on the sidewalk with twenty-dollar gold pieces. Betting who could throw his gold watch the farthest was an inspiration of George's; but even that was getting to be monotonous.

“然後這隻卡媽媽的荒漠小鷄依著我坐下，我們談了一陣。他好像以前很窮。他這一生一直生活在牧牛場；他跟我坦白承認他的最崇高的奢侈理想是一天趕牛精疲力竭之後，騎馬回營，吃點墨西哥豆子，喝個半瓶老威士忌，然後靴子當成枕頭睡到天明。當這船意想不到的錢送來給他和他的粉紅而快活的合夥人喬治，然後他們來到這個名為阿塔克薩市的一堆戶外廁所的時候，你知道怎麼了。他們有錢到能買任何東西，但是他們不知道自己要什麼。他們對揮霍的定義，只限於三件—威士忌，馬鞍，和金錶。除此之外，世界上有任何其他東西能讓他們花錢的，他們一概不知。於是呢，他們要大大發作一下的時候，就騎馬來到鎮裏，拿起那本鎮民電話簿，站在最大的酒店面前，依照字母把鎮民一個一個叫來，喝免費的酒。之後，他們從店老闆那裏訂三四張加州馬鞍，這個買好了，就在人行道上拿金幣丟著玩耍。丟金錶看誰丟的最遠是喬治心血來潮的主意；但是嘛，連這麼好的點子也開始發霉了。

"Was I on to the opportunity? Listen.

“我是不是逢到了天賜良機？請聽。

"In thirty minutes I had dashed off a word picture of metropolitan joys that made life in Atascosa City look as dull as a trip to Coney Island with your own wife. In ten minutes more we shook hands on an agreement that I was to act as his guide, interpreter and friend in and to the aforesaid wassail and amenity. And Solomon Mills, which was his name, was to pay all expenses for a month. At the end of that time, if I had made good as director-general of the rowdy life, he was to pay me one thousand

dollars. And then, to clinch the bargain, we called the roll of Atascosa City and put all of its citizens except the ladies and minors under the table, except one man named Horace Westervelt St. Clair. Just for that we bought a couple of hatfuls of cheap silver watches and egged him out of town with 'em. We wound up by dragging the harness-maker out of bed and setting him to work on three new saddles; and then we went to sleep across the railroad track at the depot, just to annoy the S.A. & A.P. Think of having seventy-five thousand dollars and trying to avoid the disgrace of dying rich in a town like that!

“三十分鐘之內，我口述都市的歡樂，把它們快快描畫成一幅圖畫一般，相形之下，在阿塔克薩市的生活，好比跟自己的太太到康尼島玩一樣的無聊。又過十分鐘，我們握手同意，我將擔任他的導遊，翻譯和朋友，從這裏去到前述的歡宴之地，然後回來。這個月之內，米索羅，這是他的名字，將負起支付所有經費的責任。那個時候，假如我如同所述，圓滿達成了充當胡鬧生活的導演兼指揮的任務，他要付我一千塊錢。爲了找人來當合同的擔保，我們把阿塔克薩市點了一次名，除了女士和小孩，以及一個叫何威斯的之外，我們把每個大男人都找來灌醉。這個人帶著幾帽子塞滿我們買的廉價冒牌銀錶，被我們催促更快地走路。我們也把馬鞍匠從睡夢中叫起來，要他打造三副新馬鞍；然後我們躺在車站前的軌道上，就是要搗 S.A. & A.P.的蛋。想想看，擁有七萬五千塊嘩啦啦的鈔票，試圖躲避在那種市鎮裏死得太有錢的侮辱！

"The next day George, who was married or something, started back to the ranch. Me and Solly, as I now called him, prepared to shake off our moth balls and wing our way against the arc-lights of the joyous and tuneful East.

“隔一天，那個喬治，大概是結了婚還是什麼的，回牧場去。我和索力，我現在是這麼稱呼他，準備好抖掉一身的樟腦丸，向東方多彩多姿的霓虹燈展翅飛去。

"'No way-stops,' says I to Solly, 'except long enough to get you barbered and haberdashed. This is no Texas feet shampetter,' says I, 'where you eat chili-concarne-con-huevos and then holler "Whoopie!" across the plaza. We're now going against the real high life. We're going to mingle with the set that carries a Spitz, wears spats, and hits the ground in high spots.'

“‘不可逗留，’我跟索力說，‘除了理髮和買衣服以外。這不是跳德州踏腳舞的地方，’我這麼說，‘讓你在那裏吃辣椒-加豬肉-加-雞蛋然後望著廣場大叫“呼嘯！”的地方。我們是朝真正的高檔生命推進。我們要去跟一群抱小狗狗，穿鞋套，平步青雲的高檔人士並駕齊驅。’

"Solly puts six thousand dollars in century bills in one pocket of his brown ducks, and bills of lading for ten thousand dollars on Eastern banks in another. Then I resume diplomatic relations with the S.A. & A.P., and we hike in a northwesterly direction on our circuitous route to the spice gardens of the Yankee Orient.

“索利把六千塊紙幣放在他棕色背心的一支口袋裏，一萬塊東部銀行的提貨單放在另一支口袋裏。我重新回復了與 S.A. & A.P.的外交關係，於是我們往西北方向出發，迂迴而上，往洋基東方香料園推進。

"We stopped in San Antonio long enough for Solly to buy some clothes, and eight rounds of drinks for the guests and employees of the Menger Hotel, and order four Mexican saddles with silver trimmings and white Angora suaderos to be shipped down to the ranch. From there we made a big jump to St.

Louis. We got there in time for dinner; and I put our thumb-prints on the register of the most expensive hotel in the city.

“我們在聖安東尼停了一下，好讓索力買衣服，把門爺爺酒店所有房客和職員叫來，每人喝八巡酒，也買了四張白銀鑲邊用白安哥拉羊肚皮部分皮毛製造的墨西哥馬鞍，寄回牧場。接著就馬不停蹄趕到聖路易斯。我們抵達的時候正好是晚餐時分；我呢，把我們的大拇指指紋押在城裏最高檔的酒店旅客登記簿上面。

"'Now,' says I to Solly, with a wink at myself, 'here's the first dinner-station we've struck where we can get a real good plate of beans.' And while he was up in his room trying to draw water out of the gas-pipe, I got one finger in the buttonhole of the head waiter's Tuxedo, drew him apart, inserted a two-dollar bill, and closed him up again.

“‘這麼著，’我對索力說，其實是在給自己賀喜，‘這是我們能找點好豆子吃的第一個吃飯的地方。’然後，他在樓上房間裏試圖從瓦斯管轉出自來水的時候，我把侍者領班叫來，一隻手指頭鉤住他黑色及膝西裝制服外套的扣子孔，把他領開，塞了兩塊錢進去，然後扣好。

"'Frankoyse,' says I, 'I have a pal here for dinner that's been subsisting for years on cereals and short stogies. You see the chef and order a dinner for us such as you serve to Dave Francis and the general passenger agent of the Iron Mountain when they eat here. We've got more than Bernhardt's tent full of money; and we want the nose-bags crammed with all the Chief Deveries de cuisine. Object is no expense. Now, show us.'

“‘法蘭克伊斯，’我說道，‘我有個朋友幾年來乾巴巴的吃麥片和雪茄屁股為生，現在來這裏吃飯。你去找廚子跟他說，訂一份福大尾和那個鐵山鐵路旅客總經理來吃飯的時候你們為他們準備的那種晚飯。我們的錢多到奔哈迪的帳篷都裝不下；我要我們的聞香鼻子細胞裝滿佛跳牆的山珍海味，重點是錢儘管花。現在，去，不要讓我們失望。’

"At six o'clock me and Solly sat down to dinner. Spread! There's nothing been seen like it since the Cambon snack. It was all served at once. The chef called it dinnay a la poker. It's a famous thing among the gormands of the West. The dinner comes in threes of a kind. There was guinea-fowls, guinea-pigs, and Guinness's stout; roast veal, mock turtle soup, and chicken pate; shad-roë, caviar, and tapioca; canvas-back duck, canvas-back ham, and cotton-tail rabbit; Philadelphia capon, fried snails, and sloe-gin—and so on, in threes. The idea was that you eat nearly all you can of them, and then the waiter takes away the discard and gives you pears to fill on.

“六點鐘我和索力坐下準備吃飯。神仙雙手一展，宴席展現眼前！自從慈禧太后的滿漢全席之後，就再沒有人看過這樣的。服務生根本不須要再動什麼手脚，所有的菜餚都已經擺上了。廚子稱之為顯貴大餐，在美國大西部的美食主義者中極是時尚。所有菜單都是成三。幾內亞雞，幾內亞豬，幾內亞胖胖；紅燒小牛汁，燜烏龜湯，雞肉餛飩湯；美國鮭魚子，蘇聯魚子醬，澎湖烏魚子；烤鴨，烤火腿，烤小白兔；費城後街燜海螺，三重龍山寺炒路螺，梅山梅汁醃田螺—如此類推，都是成三。主意是這麼的：敬請尊便，然後服務生把殘席收掉，重新擺上一大籃二十世紀梨，好讓那些肚子空空什麼都不敢吃的填飽肚子。

"I was sure Solly would be tickled to death with these hands, after the bobtail flushes he'd been eating on the ranch; and I was a little anxious that he should, for I didn't remember his having honoured my efforts with a smile since we left Atascosa City.

“我敢打賭索力會高興的要死，看他以前在牧場吃的是什麼兔子吃的草根；另一方面，我耽心他可能又要鬧鬼，也是真的，自從離開阿塔克薩市我從來沒有看他笑過。

"We were in the main dining-room, and there was a fine-dressed crowd there, all talking loud and enjoyable about the two St. Louis topics, the water supply and the colour line. They mix the two subjects so fast that strangers often think they are discussing water-colours; and that has given the old town something of a rep as an art centre. And over in the corner was a fine brass band playing; and now, thinks I, Solly will become conscious of the spiritual oats of life nourishing and exhilarating his system. But nong, mong frang.

“我們在主餐廳裏面，餐廳裏面許多穿著講究的顧客，一面來這裏吃飯，一面談論他們熱衷的兩個聖路易斯話題，也就是水源和色綫。他們在這兩個話題來回地轉換得這麼快，不知道的人還以為他們在談論畫水彩呢；也就是如此，這個古老的城市也混了這麼個藝術中心的美譽。在餐廳的一角有個銅樂隊演奏著；我也開始這麼想，索力要開始對他體內的營養和快活系統之中的精神糧食留意了。但是噠，噠 呷啣。

"He gazed across the table at me. There was four square yards of it, looking like the path of a cyclone that has wandered through a stock- yard, a poultry-farm, a vegetable-garden, and an Irish linen mill. Solly gets up and comes around to me.

“他隔過餐桌瞪著我。桌面有乒乓桌那麼大，好比一陣旋風席捲過一個生畜欄，一個養雞場，一片菜園，和一處愛爾蘭織麻廠一樣。索力站起來，繞過桌子走到我這邊。

"'Luke,' says he, 'I'm pretty hungry after our ride. I thought you said they had some beans here. I'm going out and get something I can eat. You can stay and monkey with this artificial layout of grub if you want to.'

“‘看，’他這麼說，‘我們坐火車坐了這麼久，我也餓了。我以為你說他們有些豆子。我要到外面去，找一點我能吃的東西。假如你要留下來，和這些人工製造的玩意兒鬼混我也不在意。’

"'Wait a minute,' says I.

“‘請等我一等，’我說。

"I called the waiter, and slapped 'S. Mills' on the back of the check for thirteen dollars and fifty cents.

“我把侍者叫來，把‘△米’往一張十三塊五的支票的背面啪的一聲簽上。

"'What do you mean,' says I, 'by serving gentlemen with a lot of truck only suitable for deck-hands on a Mississippi steamboat? We're going out to get something decent to eat.'

“‘你們這是什麼意思，’我說，‘給紳士們這種只適合密西西比河汽船上的水手吃的垃圾吃？我們要到外面吃點適合人吃的東西。’

"I walked up the street with the unhappy plainsman. He saw a saddle- shop open, and some of the sadness faded from his eyes. We went in, and he ordered and paid for two more saddles—one with a solid silver horn and nails and ornaments and a six-inch border of rhinestones and imitation rubies around the flaps. The other one had to have a gold- mounted horn, quadruple-plated stirrups, and the leather inlaid with silver beadwork wherever it would stand it. Eleven hundred dollars the two cost him.

“我和這位大平原來的不樂人走上街。他看到一家馬鞍店，眼睛裏傷心的神情有點退了。我們進到裏面，他訂了兩副鞍子，付了錢—其中一副有純銀的馬鞍頭，馬鞍釘，和裝飾，六吋寬的人造鑽石和仿紅寶石鑲邊。另一副必定有套金的馬鞍頭，鍍了四層金的馬鐙子，皮內裏，只要可縫之處都縫滿了珠子。兩副馬鞍花了一千一百塊錢。

"Then he goes out and heads toward the river, following his nose. In a little side street, where there was no street and no sidewalks and no houses, he finds what he is looking for. We go into a shanty and sit on high stools among stevedores and boatmen, and eat beans with tin spoons. Yes, sir, beans—beans boiled with salt pork.

“之後，他走出店來，往河的方向走，反正鼻子到哪裏，就跟到哪裏。在一個小巷弄裏面，也沒有街道，也沒有人行道，也沒有房子的地方，他找到了他要的東西。我們走進一個棚子，擠在船夫和碼頭工人之間，坐在高凳子上，拿錫鐵調羹吃豆子。是的，先生，豆子—鹽豬肉煮豆。

"I kind of thought we'd strike some over this way,' says Solly.

“我就覺得我會在這裏找到，’索力說。

"'Delightful,' says I, 'That stylish hotel grub may appeal to some; but for me, give me the husky /table d'goat.'

“‘真愜意，’我說，‘那個時髦旅館的東西可能有些人喜歡；我嘛，給我燒餅油條陽春麵。’

"When we had succumbed to the beans I leads him out of the tarpaulin- steam under a lamp post and pulls out a daily paper with the amusement column folded out.

“我們吃完豆子，我把他從帳篷的熱氣裏領出來，走到一個路燈下面，拿出一份日報，把娛樂欄摺在外面。

"But now, what ho for a merry round of pleasure,' says I. 'Here's one of Hall Caine's shows, and a stock-yard company in "Hamlet," and skating at the Hollowhorn Rink, and Sarah Bernhardt, and the Shapely Syrens Burlesque Company. I should think, now, that the Shapely—'

“‘現在嗎，做些什麼消遣，’我這麼說。‘這是一場何堪怡表演，這是到畜欄表演的巡迴戲團演“哈姆雷特，”胡羅洪溜冰場溜冰表演，莎拉本哈，還有那個雪碧襲人綜藝團。我這麼想，那個雪碧--’

"But what does this healthy, wealthy, and wise man do but reach his arms up to the second-story windows and gape noisily.

“但是呢，你看這個健康，富有，聰明的家夥怎麼做？他把手臂擡高，指向二樓窗子大聲打呵欠。

"Reckon I'll be going to bed,' says he; 'it's about my time. St. Louis is a kind of quiet place, ain't it?'

“我想我還是睡覺算了，’他說；‘我的時間到了。聖路易斯靜悄悄的，不是嗎？’

"'Oh, yes,' says I; 'ever since the railroads ran in here the town's been practically ruined. And the building-and-loan associations and the fair have about killed it. Guess we might as well go to bed. Wait till you see Chicago, though. Shall we get tickets for the Big Breeze to-morrow?'

“‘啊，是的，’我說；‘自從火車鐵道來到這裏，這個城市實際上成了廢墟。建築-貸款協會和展覽會幾乎要了它的命。我想還是上床去吧。到了芝加哥，有你夠瞧的。明天我們該買車票到這個大風城去嗎？’

"'Mought as well,' says Solly. 'I reckon all these towns are about alike.'

“‘也好吧，’索力說。‘我想這些市鎮都大同小異。’

"Well, maybe the wise cicerone and personal conductor didn't fall hard in Chicago! Loolooville-on-the-Lake is supposed to have one or two things in it calculated to keep the rural visitor awake after the curfew rings. But not for the grass-fed man of the pampas! I tried him with theatres, rides in automobiles, sails on the lake, champagne suppers, and all those little inventions that hold the simple life in check; but in vain. Solly grew sadder day by day. And I got fearful about my salary, and knew I must play my trump card. So I mentioned New York to him, and informed him that these Western towns were no more than gateways to the great walled city of the whirling dervishes.

“就這麼，可能這位聰明的導遊兼指揮的勾當在芝加哥並沒有走俏！湖濱的珞珞維是該有一兩件令鄉下地方來的訪客在宵禁以後活躍的地方。對大草原來的這位吃素草的，完全不起作用！戲院啦，坐汽車啦，湖上駛帆啦，香檳晚餐啦，加上種種讓純樸生活嘆為觀止的小小點子；但是呢，卻完完全全徒勞無功。索力一天傷心似一天。我開始耽心我的薪水，明白我必須拿出壓軸好戲來。於是乎，我跟他提起紐約，說是這些西部城市只不過是前往那個飛碟似旋轉大城的一些萬里長城過路關卡而已。

"After I bought the tickets I missed Solly. I knew his habits by then; so in a couple of hours I found him in a saddle-shop. They had some new ideas there in the way of trees and girths that had strayed down from the Canadian mounted police; and Solly was so interested that he almost looked reconciled to live. He invested about nine hundred dollars in there.

“我買好票之後，卻找不到索力。到那時候，我已經知道他的癖性；所以，幾小時之內，在一家馬鞍店裏找到他。這裏的馬鞍店有些點子是從加拿大騎警學過來的，譬如分叉的馬鞍頭啦，腹帶啦，什麼的；引得索力躍躍欲試，幾乎完全回復了往常的興致。他在那裏投資了九百塊錢。

"At the depot I telegraphed a cigar-store man I knew in New York to meet me at the Twenty-third Street ferry with a list of all the saddle-stores in the city. I wanted to know where to look for Solly when he got lost.

“在車站我打電報給紐約一個熟識的雪茄店老闆，要他在二十三街的渡船碼頭跟我會面，準備好一份所有紐約馬鞍店的清單。這麼一來，索力走失的時候，我就知道去哪裏找他。

"Now I'll tell you what happened in New York. I says to myself: 'Friend Heherezade, you want to get busy and make Bagdad look pretty to the sad sultan of the sour countenance, or it'll be the bowstring for yours.' But I never had any doubt I could do it.

“我告訴你在紐約怎麼了。我跟自己說：‘喝著拉著的朋友，你要不賣點力氣好讓巴格達在這個哭喪臉的愁容土皇帝的眼裏看起來漂漂亮亮的，要不然，只好自己上吊了。’但是呢，我從來沒有懷疑過自己的能力。

"I began with him like you'd feed a starving man. I showed him the horse-cars on Broadway and the Staten Island ferry-boats. And then I piled up the sensations on him, but always keeping a lot of warmer ones up my sleeve.

“好比調養一個餓死鬼一樣，必須緩步而行。我先讓他看一看百老匯的馬拉車和斯塔騰島的渡船。然後漸入佳境，卻一直把更俏的一招留在袖子裏。

"At the end of the third day he looked like a composite picture of five thousand orphans too late to catch a picnic steamboat, and I was wilting down a collar every two hours wondering how I could please him and whether I was going to get my thou. He went to sleep looking at the Brooklyn Bridge; he disregarded the sky-scrapers above the third story; it took three ushers to wake him up at the liveliest vaudeville in town.

“第三天晚上，他看起來好比五千位沒趕上野餐汽船的孤兒的哭喪臉加起來那麼頹喪，我呢，好像每兩小時就掉掉一根肩膀骨頭一樣，懷疑自己怎麼能取悅他，要不乾脆能不能拿到薪水。他晚上望著布魯克林橋睡覺；摩天樓第三層以上他連看都不看；最精彩的輕鬆歌舞劇結束的時候，要三位領座員才能把他搖醒。

"Once I thought I had him. I nailed a pair of cuffs on him one morning before he was awake; and I dragged him that evening to the palm-cage of one of the biggest hotels in the city—to see the Johnnies and the Alice-sit-by-the-hours. They were out in numerous quantities, with the fat of the land showing in their clothes. While we were looking them over, Solly divested himself of a fearful, rusty kind of laugh—like moving a folding bed with one roller broken. It was his first in two weeks, and it gave me hope.

“有一次我以為逮住他了。一天早上，在他還沒起床之前，我把一對袖扣給他扣上；那天晚上，把他拉到城裏最大飯店之一的棕櫚籠—去看那種強尼和愛麗絲排排坐。那種照片很多，美國所有俊男美女穿著時髦地亮相。我們一邊看的時候，索力似笑不笑地發出一聲恐怖，沙啞的笑聲—好比推折了一支腳輪子的床那種吱吱咯咯的響聲。兩星期來首次，讓我有了希望。

"'Right you are,' says I. 'They're a funny lot of post-cards, aren't they?'

“‘你看的不錯，’我說。‘這些明信片很滑稽，不是嗎？’

"'Oh, I wasn't thinking of them dudes and culls on the hoof,' says he. 'I was thinking of the time me and George put sheep-dip in Horsehead Johnson's whisky. I wish I was back in Atascosa City,' says he.

“‘啊哦，我不是在想這些家夥或者什麼被挑剩的殘渣兒，’他說。‘我是突然想起那次我和喬治把羊大便偷偷放在馬頭強生的威士忌裏面。真希望我回到阿塔克薩市，’他說。

"I felt a cold chill run down my back. 'Me to play and mate in one move,' says I to myself.

“我感覺一股寒流沿著我背脊而下。‘必須快馬加鞭，兩步當成一步走，’我跟自己這麼說。

"I made Solly promise to stay in the cafe for half an hour and I hiked out in a cab to Lolabelle Delatour's flat on Forty-third Street. I knew her well. She was a chorus-girl in a Broadway musical comedy.

“我讓索力答應我在小吃店等我半小時，然後快快叫了一部計程車趕到四十三街迪路拉的公寓。我跟她很熟。她是百老匯一個音樂喜劇團的合唱女團員。

"Jane,' says I when I found her, 'I've got a friend from Texas here. He's all right, but—well, he carries weight. I'd like to give him a little whirl after the show this evening—bubbles, you know, and a buzz out to a casino for the whitebait and pickled walnuts. Is it a go?'

“‘珍，’我找到她的時候跟他說，‘我有個德州來的朋友。他不錯，但是——他有分量。我想今天表演完之後給他來那麼一點旋風—泡泡，你知道，到賭場蜜蜂嗡嗡的那種，吃點白蚯蚓，醃胡桃一類的玩意兒。好不好？’

"Can he sing?' asks Lolabelle.

“‘他有材料嗎？’路拉問。

"You know,' says I, 'that I wouldn't take him away from home unless his notes were good. He's got pots of money—bean-pots full of it.'

“‘你知道，’我這麼說，‘要不是他的證券結實，我不會把他從家裏帶出來的。他有成鍋的錢—一個豆鍋，一個豆鍋，滿滿的錢。’

"Bring him around after the second act,' says Lolabelle, 'and I'll examine his credentials and securities.'

“‘第二幕之後把他帶來，’路拉說，‘讓我瞧瞧他的信用溜不溜，保證結實不結實。’

"So about ten o'clock that evening I led Solly to Miss Delatour's dressing-room, and her maid let us in. In ten minutes in comes Lolabelle, fresh from the stage, looking stunning in the costume she wears when she steps from the ranks of the lady grenadiers and says to the king, 'Welcome to our May-day revels.' And you can bet it wasn't the way she spoke the lines that got her the part.

“大約晚上十點左右，我把索力領到迪小姐的化妝室，女傭讓我們進去。過了十分鐘路拉下了舞臺回來，身上穿的衣服把可我們嚇得半死，在劇裏，她站在女侍衛隊中間向前踏出，然後跟國王說，‘歡迎來到我們的救難狂歡會。’你可以賭她被派演這個角色並不是因為她的臺詞說得好。

"As soon as Solly saw her he got up and walked straight out through the stage entrance into the street. I followed him. Lolabelle wasn't paying my salary. I wondered whether anybody was.

“索力一看到她，馬上直直走過舞臺入口出到街上。我跟著他出來。路拉不付我薪水。我不知道有沒有人付。

"Luke,' says Solly, outside, 'that was an awful mistake. We must have got into the lady's private room. I hope I'm gentleman enough to do anything possible in the way of apologies. Do you reckon she'd ever forgive us?'

“你看，’索力到了外面這麼說，‘那是個糟糕透了的錯誤。我們一定是進到一個女士的私人寢室。我希望我當這個紳士還當得起，想盡辦法跟她道歉。你認為她會真的原諒我們嗎？’

“'She may forget it,' says I. 'Of course it was a mistake. Let's go find some beans.'

“‘她有可能會忘記，’我這麼說。‘真是個錯誤。我們去找些豆子吃。’

"That's the way it went. But pretty soon afterward Solly failed to show up at dinner-time for several days. I cornered him. He confessed that he had found a restaurant on Third Avenue where they cooked beans in Texas style. I made him take me there. The minute I set foot inside the door I threw up my hands.

“情況就是這麼著。不久，索力好幾天吃晚飯的時間不見人影。是這一回我把他逼住了。他坦承在第三大道找到了一家以德州風味煮豆子的餐廳。我令他帶我去那裏。我一進到門裏，就知道完蛋了。

"There was a young woman at the desk, and Solly introduced me to her. And then we sat down and had beans.

“有個年輕女人坐在櫃檯，索力把我介紹給她。隨後我們坐下吃豆子。

"Yes, sir, sitting at the desk was the kind of a young woman that can catch any man in the world as easy as lifting a finger. There's a way of doing it. She knew. I saw her working it. She was healthy-looking and plain dressed. She had her hair drawn back from her forehead and face—no curls or frizzes; that's the way she looked. Now I'll tell you the way they work the game; it's simple. When she wants a man, she manages it so that every time he looks at her he finds her looking at him. That's all.

“是的，先生，坐在櫃檯的是一位能夠易如反掌把住世界上任何一位男人的年輕女人。她們有她們的一招。她知道。我看到她玩她的點子。她看起來健康，穿著樸素。把頭髮從前額和臉頰往後梳到後面—不捲，不打波折；賣油的姑娘水梳頭，就是那個樣子。我告訴你她們怎麼玩她們的點子；很簡單。她要一個男人的時候，她故意安排每當他看她的時候，他看到她正在看他。就是這麼溜。

"The next evening Solly was to go to Coney Island with me at seven. At eight o'clock he hadn't showed up. I went out and found a cab. I felt sure there was something wrong.

“隔天晚上，索力跟我約好七點鐘要去康妮島。八點鐘了，他還沒有露面。我走上街，叫了一輛計程車。我感覺苗頭不好。

""Drive to the Back Home Restaurant on Third Avenue,' says I. 'And if I don't find what I want there, take in these saddle-shops.' I handed him the list.

“‘載我到第三大道的回老家餐廳，’我跟司機說。‘假如我沒找到要的人，照著這個單子的馬鞍店去找。’我把那個單子給他。

""Boss,' says the cabby, 'I et a steak in that restaurant once. If you're real hungry, I advise you to try the saddle-shops first.'

“‘老闆，’那個計程車司機說，‘我在那家餐廳吃過一次牛排。假如你真的這麼餓，我奉勸你還不如先去試試馬鞍店。’

"'I'm a detective,' says I, 'and I don't eat. Hurry up!'

“我是個偵探，’我回答他，‘再說，我也不吃飯。快！’

"As soon as I got to the restaurant I felt in the lines of my palms that I should beware of a tall, red, damfool man, and I was going to lose a sum of money.

“我一到餐廳，我直覺地由手掌的命運綫感覺到我必須留意一個高個子，紅面皮，傻瓜一樣的人，另外呢，加上我會丟掉一筆錢。

"Solly wasn't there. Neither was the smooth-haired lady.

“索力不在。那個水梳頭賣油的姑娘也不在。

"I waited; and in an hour they came in a cab and got out, hand in hand. I asked Solly to step around the corner for a few words. He was grinning clear across his face; but I had not administered the grin.

“我在那裏等；大約一小時之後我看到他們下計程車，手牽著手。我請索力到轉角說兩句話。他高興得合不攏嘴；可是呢，不是我這個醫生給他打了什麼快樂針他才高興的。

"'She's the greatest that ever sniffed the breeze,' says he.

“她是所有呼吸空氣的萬物之中最棒的，’他這麼開口說。

"'Congrats,' says I. 'I'd like to have my thousand now, if you please.'

“‘恭喜，’我說。‘我想拿我的一千塊錢，假如你願意。’

"'Well, Luke,' says he, 'I don't know that I've had such a skyhoodlin' fine time under your tutelage and dispensation. But I'll do the best I can for you—I'll do the best I can,' he repeats. 'Me and Miss Skinner was married an hour ago. We're leaving for Texas in the morning.'

“‘這個，看，’他說，‘在你的調教和分配佈置之下，我不知道是不是真的有那麼快樂似神仙。可是呢，我會盡力替你做—我會盡可能替你做，’他這麼重複。‘我和史小姐一小時前結了婚。明天大早前往德州。’

"'Great!' says I. 'Consider yourself covered with rice and Congress gaiters. But don't let's tie so many satin bows on our business relations that we lose sight of 'em. How about my honorarium?'

“‘上道！’我這麼說。‘就算你全身灑滿白米穿長筒靴子好了。不要在我們的業務關係上打太多的段子結，把我們的眼睛都蒙住了。我的謝禮如何處理？’

"'Missis Mills,' says he, 'has taken possession of my money and papers except six bits. I told her what I'd agreed to give you; but she says it's an irreligious and illegal contract, and she won't pay a cent of it. But I ain't going to see you treated unfair,' says he. 'I've got eighty-seven saddles on the ranch what I've bought on this trip; and when I get back I'm going to pick out the best six in the lot and send 'em to you.'"

“‘米太太，’他這麼說，‘除了六支馬啣之外，她把我所有的錢和證券都拿去了。我跟她講我同意給你的報酬；但是她說那個合約不道德，也不合法，她連一分錢也不付。可是呢，我不會讓你吃

虧，’他說。‘這趟旅行我買了八十七副馬鞍，都寄回牧場；我回去的時候，要從其中挑選最好的六副寄給你。’”

"And did he?" I asked, when Lucullus ceased talking.

“他寄給你了嗎？”魯庫說完故事我問他。

"He did. And they are fit for kings to ride on. The six he sent me must have cost him three thousand dollars. But where is the market for 'em? Who would buy one except one of these rajahs and princes of Asia and Africa? I've got 'em all on the list. I know every tan royal dub and smoked princerino from Mindanao to the Caspian Sea."

“他寄了。它們只好讓國王來乘騎。他寄給我的六副至少花了他三千塊錢。可是，誰會買它們呢？除了這些從亞洲，非洲來的皇親貴戚們或者王子們？我把他們的名字都搜刮來排成一張表。東從菲律賓的明達娜兒島西到裏海所有棕色皮膚的的皇室哥兒和皮膚被火燻過的同堂同表王子們，我都知道，沒放過半個。”

"It's a long time between customers," I ventured.

“每賣一個，要等好久才賣另一個，”我這麼猜測。

"They're coming faster," said Polk. "Nowadays, when one of the murdering mutts gets civilised enough to abolish suttee and quit using his whiskers for a napkin, he calls himself the Roosevelt of the East, and comes over to investigate our Chautauquas and cocktails. I'll place 'em all yet. Now look here."

“他們來的步調比較緊了，”勃某說。“最近，這些犯殺人罪的羊肉塊一旦文明了一點，不再法令妻子殉葬，拿鬍鬚當餐巾來擦嘴，就自稱為東方羅斯福，然後來到這裏審視我們的喬大哥和鷄尾酒。我要一個一個抓住他們。看這個。”

From an inside pocket he drew a tightly folded newspaper with much-worn edges, and indicated a paragraph.

從外套裏邊的口袋他拿出一份密密摺好的報紙，因為看得太多次，邊都發毛了。拿手指指出一段文字。

"Read that," said the saddler to royalty. The paragraph ran thus:

“請讀，”這位皇家供鞍者說。這段文字是這麼寫的：

His Highness Seyyid Feysal bin Turkee, Imam of Muskat, is one of the most progressive and enlightened rulers of the Old World. His stables contain more than a thousand horses of the purest Persian breeds. It is said that this powerful prince contemplates a visit to the United States at an early date.

穆斯克國師，薩伊費舍斌特基大人，舊世界最為先進與開明之君主之一。馬廄有千匹以上最純種波斯馬。據聞，此王子考慮近日往美國一訪。

"There!" said Mr. Polk triumphantly. "My best saddle is as good as sold—the one with turquoises set in the rim of the cantle. Have you three dollars that you could loan me for a short time?"

“這個！”勃某拍手叫好。“我的最好的馬鞍等於是賣定了 – 那個馬鞍頭圍了一圈玳瑁殼的那個。老兄有沒有三塊錢能夠借給我一下子？”

It happened that I had; and I did.

我正好有；就借給他。

If this should meet the eye of the Imam of Muskat, may it quicken his whim to visit the land of the free!  
Otherwise I fear that I shall be longer than a short time separated from my dollars three.

假如穆斯克國師巧遇本文，但願他老人家心血來潮，快來拜訪這個自由國度！否則，我耽心我會跟我的三塊錢分離一段更長的日子。