

# MINING

At this instant the hall for starting

ran, and the guards began to howl:

"Any more going on?" but there was

plenty of time for me. I dashed back

to the little room, but hang me if there

wasn't a guard in there, feeling among

the great crowd, and shouting hoarsely,

as I could hear, at some of his mates,

for moving his particular coat out of its

place. I stood behind the long double

ladder they wheel about to clean the

haire, look off the poor fellow's coat

and cap, and flung them down by the

door, put on my own cap, and hurried

across the platform as though I had just

come from the refreshment-room. The

guard door was closed, but a guard

catching sight of me, shouted, "Now,

air, this way, or you will be too late!"

He opened a carriage door, and pushed

me in, just as the engine sounded its

whistle, and the long train which moved

on. I was in the carriage with the

dean! There was nobody else there, as

I well knew, and I really felt very un-

comfortable. I didn't at all suppose he

would recognize me. But yet there

was a sort of feeling which made me

wish that the guard had put me any-

where else. However, there was no

help for it now, and I made up my

mind to see at once if there was any

danger of recognition; so the first time

he put down his book, although it

was only to cut some lines, I con-

ceded him a newspaper. He declined,

it; but I had obtained an opening,

and following up my offer with a

few remarks about the weather and so

forth—quite enough to let me see that

he did not at all remember my voice. I

couldn't sleep, but I pretended to do so,

and on we went, scarcely another word

having been spoken on either side,

until the train slackened speed; and I

knew we were near the station where

they examined the tickets, and where,

of course, the guard would be out.

When the carriage drew up alongside

the ticket platform, and I could hear

the familiar cry of "All tickets ready!"

I feigned to be reading my paper very

intently, although in reality, I was

watching and listening with all my

might. I saw the dean look up curi-

ously when he first heard the shouts,

he listened, too, with a puzzled air,

and took off his spectacles and wiped

them, as if that would help him to understand;

however, I have no doubt he thought

the notice did not apply to him, so he

calmly put his glasses on again. At

that moment a guard—a regular one

this time, I thought to myself—looked

in and of course said: "Tickets, if you

please." I gave him mine, which he

merely glanced at and returned; and

then I screwed myself into a corner,

as much out of the light as I could

manage. The old clergyman had, of

course, done nothing. "Now, sir, if you

please," said the guard.

"Eh?" returned the dean, looking

round, and pushing up his spectacles,

which seemed to be a habit with him.

"Tickets, sir, tickets; look alive, if

you please, sir," answered the man.

"Tickets! tickets!" echoed the dean;

"mine is all right. I have given it up."

"Not to me, sir," said the guard; and

no one else has been here since this

o'clock, but I gave it up before we started,"

explained the old gentleman; "it is a

new rule—has only been in force this

month."

Upon my word, I thought I should

have burst with laughter here, the dean

explained this so innocently.

"New rule, sir," said the guard; "no

help for it now, and I made up my

mind to see at once if there was any

danger of recognition; so the first time

he put down his book, although it

was only to cut some lines, I con-

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