

pudding; ham of mine own curing, hot rice cakes, and waffles of three kinds."

The traveler heard him out with some impatience, all the while waving him away from his holsters and saddlebags, which he persistently declined to give up. When the innkeeper had once drawn breath, he broke in with: "Show me first, good master Basmorne—that is your name, I believe?—to a room where I may rid me of travel stains ere I eat and drink. No, I need no one to carry my few traveling comforts for me. Show me but a room."

The innkeeper lit a tallow candle in a sconce and walked before to show him the way. The stranger noted, as he reached the top of the broad stairway and saw Basmorne stop in front of a door, the key to which he drew from his pocket, that the room assigned him was one of those immediately over the huge kitchen below, into which he had had a peep, as he came up, through the grated windows looking out on the broad piazza.

The room into which Basmorne led him was fairly furnished for the times. At a glance he saw that the bed, although low, was large and richly curtained. There were one or two easy chairs, a great chest of drawers, and a convenient lavabo. Here the innkeeper stopped, turned up the basin, poured water into it from a gilt pitcher that was set below it, and with a bow left his guest to his ablutions.

But the stranger did not immediately proceed to make himself ready for his supper. Tossing his holsters and saddlebags into one of the roomy chairs, he strode across the room to take a view from the window looking into the yard in rear of the inn. There was nothing very remarkable to be seen there. A great number of those trees of dense foliage called then the Pride of India were near the back door of the inn. A little farther off were leafy mulberries and great masses of figtrees, and beyond them were the poultry yard, noisy still with the quacks of ducks, though the fowls had long gone to roost. There was a constant grunting of pigs in the same quarter, which might account for the short colloquy