left less attention for other observation. In this case our notes were rendered inaccurate near their close by a singular cause: they were kept by one who had himself taken a dose of haschisch after mine, and when his action commenced, his feelings were unconsciously recorded with those I described.

Hours of the most detailed description might fail to give any idea of the feelings I experienced when I first became an assassin (fr. *haschischin*): they were so absolutely unique as to seem to belong to another world. Contrary to our expectation, there was no disinclination to talk of our feelings while under its influence, and the fluency of description and peculiar use of words was remarkable in the primary lighter stages. This is, however, apt to be accompanied with a frank confidence often regretted afterward.

Our first trial of the effects of haschisch was not under the most favorable circumstances; for, taken rather unexpectedly, late in the evening, little time was had for preparation, even if we had thought any necessary, for we were incredulous as to its powers. Three hours, indeed, passed before the slightest symptom was felt, and the subject was almost forgotten, when — I gradually came to, and aroused from an unsuspected state of semi-unconsciousness, of so short a duration, however, that others had not noticed it. It was like a faint, in that I felt no sensation of losing consciousness, but only felt that of arousing. The mental shock was sudden and terrible, for our absolute inexperience, unsupported by actual evidence of its results, inspired a certain dread, which the sense of increasing, irresistible helplessness gradually approaching, heightened into apprehension.

This awakening was regularly repeated about every half-minute, occurring between gradually diminishing intervals of lucidity, which themselves became less clear: that is, at no time did I again recover full use of all my faculties, although I periodically aroused into comparative attention.

Immediately after this first shock, I became conscious of the dual existence so often mentioned. It is a sensation almost indescribable to one who has not felt it, and is a kind of double consciousness; for, during the whole time that I seemed to be in such novel situations, I knew vaguely where I was, and though connected thought was impossible, yet with a vigorous effort I could awake for a moment. In my wildest flights of fancy I could hear and understand conversation in the room. Although temporary restoration was thus voluntary, it was hastened by drinking water, or by the use of other restoratives. An exclamation of mine upon being requested to keep quiet, will show the strange condition in which I was placed. "The idea," I said, "of a person's telling me to remain unconscious—and of its being possible!"

Immediately after the first symptoms, time, and to a less degree distance, gradually stretched out into tremendous proportions: it seemed to take hours to cross the room; my legs were immensely long, and I seemed to be "trotting on the tops of tall pendulums." Meanwhile, the most startling ideas and fancies flew through my brain so swiftly, that, wishing to make a note of some extraordinary idea, I would have forgotten it before I could find the pencil at my side, and often held it, wondering why it was in my hand.

This action of the narcotic went on till I was forced to lie down from weakness. By this time I had become more than doubly sensitive, and impatient of the slightest discomforts: even the off-hand way in which a friend presumed to pour coal on a fire, seemed to prove his utter heartlessness and carelessness of my condition. Meanwhile my body seemed to stiffen, till I felt like marble, and laid during the rest of the time strangely disinclined to stir; at the same time I became wildly absurd, and shrieked with spasms of laughter at the most commonplace remarks. It was a sight long to be remembered by those present, to see me stretched straight and stiff as death on the floor, long after midnight, convulsed with the most ghastly laughter for five minutes at a time without another movement of the body betraying life. Not until this stiffening was felt, did I experience the