dow-panes reflect a deep red glare. Groups of miners, clad in the nondescript picturesque garb of the Western frontier, are scattered along, up and down the street. These men, scattered during the day on the claims and mines which occupy the surrounding hills and gullies, enjoy this quiet hour between sunset and dark as only hard-working men can. Here, at the close of their day's toil, they meet to talk and discuss the scant bits of news that reach their isolated little town with the advent of a new-comer or the bi-weekly stage.

On this particular evening, by far the largest group is gathered under a crude awning which hangs from the front of a building a trifle more pretentious than its fellows. Over the awning is painted, in great sprawling letters, "Palace Hotel." Through the open window a fat Dutchman dispenses beer and vile whiskey to the crowd.

One of the group, setting his glass upon the window-ledge, turns and saunters carelessly away from the crowd. As he does so, a bit of paper is slipped into his hand by some one in the group.

A look of surprise comes into his face, but as quickly disappears; and thrusting his hands into his pockets, he makes his way slowly down the street. He is a young fellow, tall and stalwart, with a handsome smooth-shaven face and bright gray eyes. He continues his way down the street, and enters one of the houses near the end of it.

Closing the door, he seats himself at a table and spreads the paper, which was slipped into his hand by some one in the group.

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Closing the door, he seats himself at a table and spreads the paper, which was slipped into his hand before him, and reads it, slowly spelling the words out to himself.

"Dear Twid," it begins, "we are in danger, and no time must be lost! The gang have in some way discovered us, and even now are preparing to make it hot for us. I say *us*, but, however, the danger does not menace you and I immediately, although it probably will soon. For you to be able to understand this I must make some explanations: you have thought that I am the only one at work on this job; but the fact is, there is another who has been work-