

quantity of luggage. I represented to him that I had come in time, and that he had no right to leave his post, and said that I would report him to his superiors in Tiflis if he did not contrive that I should travel by this train, running in connection with the one from Ullu-khanlu, which on the following morning would proceed to Nakichevan. But the man was simply a blockhead, and in answer to my threats gave the signal for the departure of the train. The telegraph clerk, who, like all the other servants of the station, was at loggerheads with the stationmaster, informed me that a luggage train would leave in about an hour's time, and I bribed the men in charge to take me and my baggage to Ullu-khanlu.

We arrived at this den of thieves in the dark, and here there was no place where I could find shelter. The stationmaster, a Caucasian bandit, was willing and pleasant, and unlocked for me a second-class carriage where I could spend the night, but declared that he could take no responsibility for my luggage, for there was no warehouse in the place, and here men stole and appropriated anything they could find. There was, then, nothing for it but to engage some Russian and Georgian workmen for ten roubles to be answerable for my baggage, which was placed for the night in their hut, where ruffians and womenfolk lead an awful life. Then I was conducted by a Russian porter to my *coupé*, fusty, old, and dirty, and, as he gave me warning, full of vermin. He kept me company for two hours, and was very entertaining with his liberal views and his thrilling descriptions of slaughter and bomb-throwing in Tiflis at which he had been present, and from which he still bore as a remembrance a gunshot in his leg.

When at last he took himself off with his dim lantern he advised me to fasten the compartment from inside—he would return immediately with the key—for in this country no one is safe, he remarked, and “of course you have money.” Certainly gendarmes kept guard over the carriages which stood on the track, but one could never know, and last night some scoundrels, just when the gendarmes were away drinking tea, watched their opportunity to break into a carriage by the window and steal a sum of money,