

58 — A BRIGAND

Soon afterwards, the train stopped by a small bridge. I looked out. Every window was closed and there was no one anywhere in sight, so I quickly opened the door and jumped down into some bushes which grew along the line. It would have been all right but for that dog. Thinking that I was trying to get away with its master's belongings, it started to make such a noise that it woke up the shepherd, who stood at the carriage door shouting. He seemed to think I was trying to kill myself. I crept through the bushes for a hundred yards or so, and then looked back. The guard and several passengers were standing by the open door and looking in my direction. Instead of leaving secretly, I had thus drawn the attention of the whole train, and it would not be long before the police heard about it. Soon afterwards the train started off, and I was alone.

All round me was empty moorland, with some hills to the north. Although there was not a human being in sight, strangely enough I felt for the first time the fear of the hunted.

(Lebanese Baccalaureate,
Second Session, 1964)