

MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW FACE

(Continued.)

"For two days after this I stayed at home, and my wife appeared to abide loyally by our engagement, for, as far as I know, she never stirred out of the house. On the third day, however, I had ample evidence that her solemn promise was not enough to hold her back from this secret influence which drew her away from her husband and her duty."

"I had gone into town on that day, but I returned by the 2.40 instead of the 3.30, which is my usual train. As I entered the house the maid ran into the hall with a startled face."

"Where is your mistress?" I asked.

"I think that she has gone out for a walk," she answered.

"My mind was instantly filled with suspicion. I rushed upstairs to make sure that she was not in the house. As I did so I happened to glance out of one of the upper windows, and saw the maid with whom I had just been speaking running across the field in the direction of the cottage. Then, of course, I saw exactly what it all meant. My wife had gone over there, and had asked the servant to call her if I should return. Tinging with anger, I rushed down and hurried across the garden to the cottage. I did not even knock when I reached it, but turned the handle and rushed into the passage."

"It was all still and quiet upon the ground floor. In the kitchen a kettle was singing on the fire, and a large black cat lay coiled up in the basket; but there was no sign of the woman whom I had seen before. I ran into the other room, but it was equally deserted. Then I rushed up the stairs, only to find two other rooms empty and deserted at the top. There was no one at all in the whole house. The furniture and pictures were of the most common and vulgar description, save in the one chamber at the window of which I had seen the strange face. That was comfortable and elegant, and all my suspicions rose into a fierce, bitter flame when I saw that on the mantelpiece stood a copy of a full-length photograph of my wife, which had been taken at my request only three months ago."

"I stayed long enough to make certain that the house was absolutely empty. Then I left it, feeling a weight at my heart such as I had never had before. My wife came

out into the hall as I entered my house; but I was too hurt and angry to speak with her, and pushing past her, I made my way into my study. She followed me, however, before I closed the door."

"I am sorry that I broke my promise, but under the circumstances I am sure that you would forgive me."

"Tell me everything, then," said I.

"I cannot, Jack, I cannot," she cried.

"Until you tell me who it is that has been living in that cottage, and who it is to whom you have given that photograph, there can never be any confidence between us," said I, and breaking away from her I left the house. That was yesterday, Mr. Holmes, and I have not seen her since, nor do I know anything more about this strange business. It is the first shadow that has come between us, and it has so shaken me that I do not know what I should do for the best. Suddenly this morning it occurred to me that you were the man to advise me, so I have hurried to you now, and I place myself unreservedly in your hands. If there is any point which I have not made clear, pray question me about it. But, above all, tell me quickly what I am to do, for this misery is more than I can bear."

Holmes and I had listened with the utmost interest to this extraordinary statement, which had been delivered in the jerky, broken fashion of a man who is under the influence of extreme emotion. My companion sat silent now for some time, with his chin upon his hand, lost in thought.

"Tell me," said he at last, "could you swear that this was a man's face which you saw at the window?"

"Each time that I saw it I was some distance away from it, so that it is impossible for me to say."

"You appear, however, to have been disagreeably impressed by it."

"It seemed to be of an unnatural color, and to have a strange rigidity about the features. When I approached it vanished with a jerk."

"How long is it since your wife asked you for a hundred pounds?"

"Nearly two months."

"Have you ever seen a photograph of her first husband?"

"No; there was a great fire at Atlanta very shortly after his death, and all her papers were destroyed."

"And yet she had a certificate of death. You say that you saw it."

"Yes; she got a duplicate after the fire."

"Did you ever meet any one who knew her in America?"

"No."

"Did she ever talk of revisiting the place?"

"No."

"Or get letters from it?"

"No."

"Thank you. I should like to think over the matter a little now. If the cottage is now permanently deserted we may have some difficulty. If, on the other hand, as I fancy is more likely, the inmates were warned of your coming, and left before

you entered yesterday, then they may be back now, and we should clear it all up easily. Let me advise you, then, to return to Norbury, and to examine the windows of the cottage again. If you have reason to believe that it is inhabited, do not force your way in, but send a wire to my friend and me. We shall be with you within an hour of receiving it, and we shall then very soon get to the bottom of the business."

"And if it is still empty?"

"In that case I shall come out tomorrow and talk it over with you. Good-by; and, above all, do not fret until you really know that you have a cause for it."

"I am afraid that this is a bad business," Watson said, as he returned after accompanying Mr. Grant Munro to the door. "What do you make of it?"

"It had an ugly sound," I answered.

"Yes, there's blackmail in it, or I am much mistaken."

"And who is the blackmailer?"

"Well, it must be the creature who lives in the only comfortable room in the place, and has her photograph above his fireplace. Upon my word, Watson, there is something very attractive about that livid face at the window, and I would not have missed the case for worlds."

"You have a theory?"

"Yes, a provisional one. But I shall be surprised if it does not turn out to be correct. This woman's first husband is in that cottage."

"Why do you think so?"

"How else can we explain her frenzied anxiety that her second one should not enter it? The facts as I read them, are something like this: This woman was married in America. Her husband developed some hateful qualities; or, shall we say that he contracted some loathsome disease, and became a leper or an imbecile? She flies from him at last, returns to England, changes her name, and starts her life, as she thinks, afresh. She has been married three years, and believes that her position is quite secure, having shown her husband the death certificate of some man whose name she has assumed, when suddenly her whereabouts is discovered by her first husband; or, we may suppose, by some unscrupulous woman, who has attached herself to the invalid. They write to the wife and threaten to come and expose her. She asks for a hundred pounds, and endeavors to buy them off. They come in spite of it, and when the husband mentions casually to the wife that there are new-comers in the cottage, she knows in some way that they are her pursuers. She waits until her husband is asleep, and then she rushes down to endeavor to persuade them to leave her in peace. Having no success she goes again next morning, and her husband meets her, as she has told us, as she comes out. She promises him then not to go there again, but two days afterwards the hope of getting rid of those dreadful neighbors was too strong for her, and she made another attempt, taking down with her the photograph which had probably been demanded from her. In the midst of this interview the maid rushed in to say that the master had come home, on which the

wife, knowing that he would come straight down to the cottage, hurried the inmates out of the back door, into the grove of fir-trees, probably, which was mentioned as standing near. In this way he found the place deserted. I shall be very much surprised, however, if it is still so when he reconnoitres it this evening. What do you think of my theory?"

"It is all surmise."

"But at least it covers all the facts. When new facts come to our knowledge which cannot be covered by it, it will be time enough to reconsider it. We can do nothing more until we have a message from our friend at Norbury."

But we had not a very long time to wait for that. It came just as we had finished our tea. "The cottage is still tenanted," it said. "Have seen the face again at the window. Will meet the 7 o'clock train, and will take no steps until you arrive."

He was waiting on the platform when we stepped out, and we could see in the light of the station lamps that he was very pale, and quivering with agitation.

"They are still there," Mr. Holmes said, laying his hand hard upon my friend's sleeve. "I saw lights in the cottage as I came down. We shall settle it now once and for all."

"What is your plan, then?" asked Holmes, as he walked down the dark tree-lined road.

(To be continued.)

CHEAP RENT FOR McCALLS SPECULATION: BANKRUPTCY

**Southern Cotton Mill Dropped
\$800,000 --- Its Liabilities
\$2,700,000.**

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Oct. 2.—A special to the Observer from Union, S. C., says: A special meeting of the stockholders of the Union Cotton Mill of Union, S. C., one of the largest in the state, was held today to effect a reorganization. Stockholders were present from Baltimore, New York and other eastern cities. Expert accountants submitted a report showing the mill had total liabilities of \$2,700,000 and that the mill had been losing money for several years, only maintaining itself by speculation in cotton. Since Jan. 1st, however, it appears that the mill has lost \$300,000 by speculation. The report also showed that President Duncan was individually indebted to the mill \$481,000 and the Buffalo mills, with which he is connected, owes it \$50,000. President Duncan stated that his borrowings were secured by stock in other enterprises which he had put up.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 2.—A petition in voluntary bankruptcy has been filed against the Union Cotton Mill of Union, S. C.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Oct. 2.—Habeas corpus proceedings in the case of Frederick A. Peckham in connection with the cotton leak scandal were argued before Judge Ray today and were adjourned for a further hearing on Oct. 16. Peckham was released from custody on \$12,000 bail.

THE COTTON LEAK

Somewhat of a sensation was caused in the late hours of today's session when Neill F. Towner, of Albany, was called to the stand and disclaimed any knowledge of the whereabouts of cancelled checks of Judge Andrew Hamilton, of Albany. Mr. Towner testified that he was associated

CHEAP RENT FOR McCALLS

Sons of New York Life's President Live in Swell Apartment House Owned by the Company.

New York, Oct. 4.—That John R. Hegeman, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, borrowed \$50,000 from the New York Life Insurance Company at 13 per cent interest, a rate below the market rate, was brought out in the insurance investigation last week, but today President John A. McCall, of the New York Life Insurance Company, testified that he in turn borrowed \$75,000 from the Metropolitan at the same rate. This was in January, 1903; the loan was renewed in January, 1904, and ran until March, 1905, when the rate of interest was advanced to 2 per cent, at which rate it is still running.

Mr. McCall testified that he was a director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company but not a stockholder. The fact of his being a director, McCall says, did not deter him from procuring a loan at as low a rate of interest as possible when it was to his interest to do so.

Somewhat of a sensation was caused in the late hours of today's session when Neill F. Towner, of Albany, was called to the stand and disclaimed any knowledge of the whereabouts of cancelled checks of Judge Andrew Hamilton, of Albany. Mr. Towner testified that he was associated

with Judge Hamilton in the practice of law in Albany. Mr. Towner testified that he had made deposits for Judge Hamilton but not while the latter was in Europe. He had taken some cancelled checks from the Albany Trust Company early in September and had thrown them into a drawer in Judge Hamilton's desk. He had had no occasion to look at them again until last week when he received the subpoena to appear before the committee.

Another interesting point was brought by Mr. Hughes just before the committee adjourned for the day. Edward F. Devlin, the real estate manager for the New York Life Insurance Company, was again called to continue his testimony of last week relative to the real estate values of the company's properties in this country and abroad.

Mr. Devlin had to consult records and he presented a number of transcripts of the records.

It developed that the New York Life had acquired, by foreclosure, apartment houses in one of the most desirable residential sections of this city, and the cost with the improvements deemed necessary was \$203,056. The net income from this property was found to be .023 per cent on the investment.

It then developed that four of the tenants were the immediate family of President McCall, three sons and a son-in-law. Mr. Devlin was asked who fixed the rental of these properties, and he said he discussed the matter with Mr. McCall.

Mr. McCall enlivened the day's proceedings further when he said that there were no records on the books of the New York Life Insurance Company of the \$150,000 paid the Republican National campaign fund. While he had no personal knowledge that the money was paid, he assumed

THE STORY IS SHORT AND QUICKLY told, but it means a lot of saving to the women who are going to take advantage of this sale.

ON
Friday Morning

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF TEN AND TWELVE O'CLOCK,
THERE WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE,

100 Ladies' Flannelette Wrappers

At 59c. Each. They Are Worth \$1.25.

Made from a fine quality of fast colored wrapperette in neat patterns, are prettily trimmed, have lined body, flounced skirt which is made good and full. The sizes run from 34 to 44 bust measure. A large assortment of colors, including light, medium and dark patterns, also black and white.

F. A. DYKEMAN & CO., 59 Charlotte Street.

VERY HEAVY DIVIDENDS

(New York Journal of Commerce.)

Total industrial dividends payable in October based on declarations thus far announced will foot up about \$7,500,000, the heaviest total in years. These figures represent an increase of \$1,000,000 over the same month last year and about \$4,000,000 as compared with the October payments in October, 1902. The favorable results of the current year were reached, notwithstanding several important omissions. These, of course, were more than offset by increases and also by the resumption of dividends on the part of corporations which had previously ceased to make divisions to shareholders.

The aggregate dividends for October compared with those in previous months in this and the two preceding years as follows:

	1905.	1904.	1902.
Jan.	\$23,289,450	\$25,779,324	\$26,315,803
Feb.	16,478,879	19,364,641	18,397,212
Mar.	25,308,086	21,891,625	\$1,283,409
Apr.	24,861,940	22,594,891	19,872,919
May	17,674,657	16,749,256	21,025,697
June	15,711,894	15,611,489	18,820,877
July	28,876,375	24,846,569	25,448,651
Aug.	18,248,718	14,622,465	18,624,280
Sept.	15,955,839	10,759,871	17,473,403
Oct.	25,494,390	24,833,545	21,500,026
Total	\$212,632,640	\$195,567,349	\$208,562,286

Hugh Hamilton, of Greensburg, P. A., was shot and fatally wounded yesterday by a man giving his name as Anthony Olsen, and whom the police suspect of being the same man who tried to reach President Roosevelt, Monday afternoon, Oct. 3, 1903, and who afterwards escaped from an insane asylum.

The revenue from license to hunt big game in this province so far this year amounts to \$10,000, as against \$4,940 to the same date last year.

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Used by the masses, who, unsolicited, certify to its worth
Tones the Stomach and Stirs the Liver to
Healthy Action

EFFERVESCENT

Is Nature's Remedy for Tired, Fagged-out and Run-down Men or Women
If taken regularly contributes to Perfect Health,
Makes Life Worth Living

SALT

ALL DRUGGISTS

RECOMMENDED
BY THE
FACULTY