

MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES,

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

(Continued.)

Suddenly there was the momentary gleam of a light up in the direction of the ventilator which vanished immediately, but was succeeded by a strong smell of burning oil and heated metal. Some-one in the next room had lit a dark lantern. I heard a gentle sound of movement, and then all was silent once more, though the smell grew stronger. For half an hour I sat with straining ears. Then suddenly another sound became audible—a very gentle, soothing sound, like that of a small jet of steam escaping continually from a kettle. The instant that we heard it Holmes sprang from the bed struck a match and lashed furiously with his cane at the bell-pull.

"You see it, Watson?" he yelled. "You see it?"

But I saw nothing. At the moment when Holmes struck the light I heard a low, clear whistle, but the sudden glare flashing into my weary eyes made it impossible for me to tell what it was at which my friend lashed so savagely. I could, however, see that his face was deadly pale and filled with horror and loathing.

He had ceased to strike and was gazing up at the ventilator, when suddenly there broke from the silence of the night the most horrible cry to which I have ever listened. It swelled up louder and louder a hoarse yell of pain and fear and anger all mingled in the one dreadful shriek. They sat that away down in the village, and even in the distant paragonage, that cry raised the sleepers from their beds, it struck cold to our hearts, and I stood gazing at Holmes, and he at me, until the

last echoes of it had died away into the silence from which it rose.

"What can it mean?" I gasped.

"It means that it is all over," Holmes answered. "And perhaps, after all, it is for the best. Take your pistol and we will enter Dr. Roylott's room."

With a grave face he lit the lamp and led the way down the corridor. Twice he struck at the chamber door without any reply from within. Then he turned the handle and entered, I at his heels, with the cocked pistol in my hand.

It was a singular sight which met our eyes. On the table stood a dark lantern with the shutter half open, throwing a brilliant beam of light upon the iron safe, the door of which was ajar. Beside this table, on the wooden chair, sat Dr. Grimesby Roylott, clad in a long gray dressing gown, his bare ankles protruding beneath, and his feet thrust into red heeled Turkish slippers. Across his lap lay the short stock with the long lash which we had noticed during the day. His chin was cocked upward and his eyes were fixed in a dreadful, rigid stare at the corner of the ceiling. Round his brow he had a peculiar yellow band, with brownish speckles, which seemed to be bound tightly round his head. As we entered he made neither sound nor motion.

"The band! the speckled band!" whispered Holmes.

I took a step forward. In an instant his headgear began to move, and there reared itself from among his hair the squat diamond shaped head and puffed neck of a loathsome serpent.

"It is a swamp adder!" cried Holmes; "the deadliest snake in India. He has died within ten seconds of being bitten. Violence does, in truth, recoil upon the violent, and the schemer falls into the pit which he digs for another. Let us thrust this creature back into its den, and we can then remove Miss Stoner to some place of shelter, and let the county police know what has happened."

As he spoke he drew the dog-whip swiftly

from the dead man's lap, and throwing the noose round the reptile's neck, he drew it from its horrid perch, and carrying it at arm's length threw it into the iron safe, which he closed upon it.

Such are the true facts of the death of Dr. Grimesby Roylott, of Stoke Moran. It is not necessary that I should prolong a narrative which has already run to too great a length, by telling how we broke the sad news to the terrified girl, how we conveyed her by the morning train to the care of her good aunt at Harrow, of how the slow process of official inquiry came to the conclusion that the doctor met his fate while indiscreetly playing with a dangerous pet. The little which I had yet to learn of the case was told me by Sherlock Holmes as we travelled back next day.

"I had," said he, "come to an entirely erroneous conclusion, which shows, my dear Watson, how dangerous it always is to reason from insufficient data. The presence of the gipsies, and the use of the word 'band,' which was used by the poor girl, no doubt to explain the appearance which she had caught a hurried glimpse of by the light of her match, were sufficient to put me upon an entirely wrong scent. I can only claim the merit that I instantly reconsidered my position when, however, it became clear to me that whatever danger threatened an occupant of the room could not come either from the window or the door. My attention was speedily drawn, as I have already remarked to you, to this ventilator, and to the bell-rope which hung down to the bed. The discovery that this was a dummy, and that the bed was clamped to the floor, instantly gave rise to the suspicion that the rope was there as a bridge for something passing through the hole, and coming to put me upon an entirely wrong scent. The idea of a snake instantly occurred to me, and when I coupled it with my knowledge that the doctor was furnished with a supply of creatures from India I felt that I was probably on the right track. The idea of using a form of poison which could not possibly be discovered by any chemical test was just such a one as would occur to a clever and ruthless man who had an Eastern

training. The rapidity with which such a poison would take effect would also, from his point of view, be an advantage. It would be a sharp-eyed coroner, indeed, who could distinguish the two little dark punctures which would show where the poison fangs had done their work. Then I thought of the whistle. Of course he must recall the snake before the morning light revealed it to the victim. He had turned it, probably by the use of the milk which we saw, to return to him when summoned. He would put it through this ventilator at the hour that he thought best, with the certainty that it would crawl down the rope and land on the bed. It might or might not bite the occupant, perhaps she might escape every night for a week, but sooner or later she must fall a victim.

"I had come to these conclusions before ever I had entered his room. An inspection of his chair showed me that he had been in the habit of standing on it, which, of course, would be necessary in order that he should reach the ventilator. The sight of the safe, the saucer of milk, and the loop of whiplcord were enough to finally dispel any doubts which may have remained. The metallic clang heard by Miss Stoner was obviously caused by her stepfather hastily closing the door of his safe upon its terrible occupant. Having once made up my mind, you know the steps which I took in order to put the matter to the proof. I heard the creature hiss, as I have no doubt that you did also, and I instantly lit the light and attacked it."

"With the result of driving it through the ventilator."

"And also with the result of causing it to turn upon its master at the other side. Some of the blows of my cane came home and roused its snakish temper, so that it flew upon the first person it saw. In this way I am no doubt indirectly responsible for Dr. Grimesby Roylott's death, and I cannot say it is likely to weigh very heavily upon my conscience."

(The End.)

SUNDAY SERVICES

Church of England.

Trinity—Rev. Canon Richardson, rector; Rev. G. R. MacDonald, 10th Sunday after Trinity. Celebration of the Holy Communion at 8; morning service at 11:05; Sunday school at 3; evening service, all seats free at 7.

St. John's—Rector, Rev. Gustave A. Kurling. Holy Communion, 8 a. m.; morning prayer, 11; evening prayer, 7. The rector will preach at both services. Seats free in the evening; strangers welcome.

St. James, Broad street, Rev. A. D. Dewdney, rector—11 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Sunday school and Bible class at 3 p. m. All seats free.

St. Paul's (Valley)—Holy Communion, 8 a. m.; matins, 11 a. m.; evening, 7 p. m.

Preacher, the rector, Rev. A. G. Hamilton. Bible class for men after the evening service.

St. Luke's parish—Rector, Rev. R. P. McKim, curate, Rev. C. W. Nichols.

St. Luke's—11 a. m., morning prayer; 7 p. m., evening prayer. The rector will preach at both services. All seats free.

St. Clement's, Millidgeville—7 p. m., evening prayer; preacher, Rev. G. F. Scovill of St. Jude's, Carleton.

St. George's, West End—Rev. W. H. Sampson, rector.

St. Jude's—Rev. G. F. Scovill, rector; 8, 11 and 7.

Catholic.

Cathedral—Rt. Rev. Dr. Casey, D. D.; Rev. A. W. Meshan; 7, 9 and 11; vespers at 3:15 p. m.

St. Peter's, North End (Redemptorists)—6, 7:30, 9 and 10:30; vespers at 7:30 p. m.

Holy Trinity—Rev. J. J. Walsh; 8 and 10; vespers at 7.

St. John the Baptist—Rev. W. F. Chapman, V. O.; 8 and 10; vespers at 7 p. m.

Church of the Assumption, West End—Rev. J. J. O'Donovan.

Presbyterian.

St. Stephen's church—11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Rev. Edward A. Wicher, the preacher, at both services.

German street—Rev. David Lang, M. A., B. D., pastor. Services on Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday school at 9:30 p. m. At the evening service by request the pastor will give an account of the Northfield conference. Strangers cordially invited.

St. David's—Minister, Rev. A. A. Graham, M. A., B. D. Sabbath services, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Calvin—Pastor, Rev. Allan S. Reid. Services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Reformed—Services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. by Rev. T. J. Allen, of Beaver Falls (Pa.).

Methodist.

Queen square—Sunday services, 11 a. m., Rev. J. Deinstadt, 7 p. m., the pastor. Rev. Geo. M. Campbell. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Epworth League, Monday evening, 8 p. m. Prayer meeting, Friday evening, 8 p. m. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

Portland—11 a. m., Rev. H. D. Marr; 7 p. m., Rev. S. Howard, pastor.

Fairville—Rev. G. M. Campbell at 11 a. m. and Rev. T. J. Deinstadt at 7 p. m.

Exmouth street—Rev. C. W. Hamilton, pastor. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. The pastor in the morning and Mr. Westmorland in the evening.

Centenary—Sunday services, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., Rev. Howard Sprague, D. D., minister. Rev. Chas. Comben in the evening.

Zion—Rev. Charles Comben, 11 a. m.; Rev. W. T. Duncan at 7 p. m.

Baptist.

German street—Rev. G. O. Gates, D. D., pastor. In the absence of Dr. Gates, Rev. Clinton Reid will preach at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Leinster street—Rev. A. J. Price of New Jersey will preach morning and evening.

Main street—Rev. D. Hutchinson, pastor; 11 a. m., subject, The Great Theme of Apostolic Preaching; 7 p. m., Good News from a Far Country.

Carleton—Rev. F. S. Bamford, pastor. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. by the pastor, men's Bible class at 2:30 p. m. Sunday school at 2:15 o'clock.

Brussels street Baptist and Waterloo street F. Baptist churches will unite in the morning at 11 in Brussels street, and at 7 p. m. in Waterloo street church. Rev. A. J. Prosser will preach at both services. Y. P. S. C. E. at the close of the evening service in the vestry.

The Tabernacle, Haymarket square—Minister, Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, B. D. At 11 a. m., the pastor will preach; at 7 p. m. Rev. W. C. Kolstead, Ph. D., of Rockford (Ill.), will preach. All seats free; all welcome.

Christian.

Douglas avenue—J. Chas. B. Appel, minister. Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.; regular services at 11 a. m., and 7 p. m. Miss Lillie Kee, of Cambridge (Mass.), will sing at the evening service. Prayer and praise service, Wednesday, 8 p. m.; all seats free.

Other Services.

Adj. Mrs. Payne, assisted by Miss Bechstead, will conduct special revival services in No. 5 barracks, Mill street, all day Sunday. Every one welcome.

People's Mission, Waterloo street—Sunday school at 11 a. m.; song and social service at 3 p. m.; preaching at 7 p. m.; strangers welcome, seats free.

Congregational church—Rev. W. S. Pritchard, B. A., pastor. Services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Morning subject, "Man Waiting for God's evening subject, "God Waiting for Man." Sunday school at 12; young people's meeting at 8:15 p. m.; prayer service Wednesday evening at 8; seats free. All are invited.



The Introduction of Printing. A. D. 1473.

The reign of Edward IV. was distinguished by the introduction of printing into England. William Caxton, who learned the art in Holland, set up a press in Westminster in 1473, and in 1474 issued from it the first book printed on English ground, "The Game and Playe of Chess." The King took a great interest in the matter, and on several occasions visited Caxton's office.

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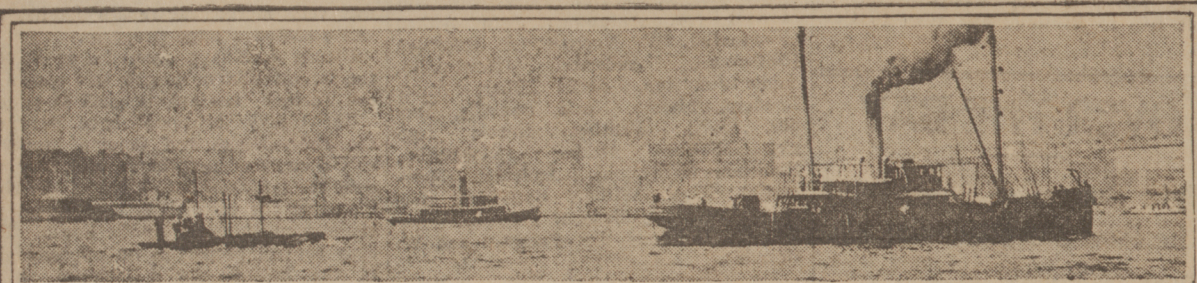
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ROOSEVELT AT THE BOTTOM OF LONG ISLAND SOUND



THE PLUNGER BEING TOWED TO OYSTER BAY BY THE NAVY YARD TUG APACHE.

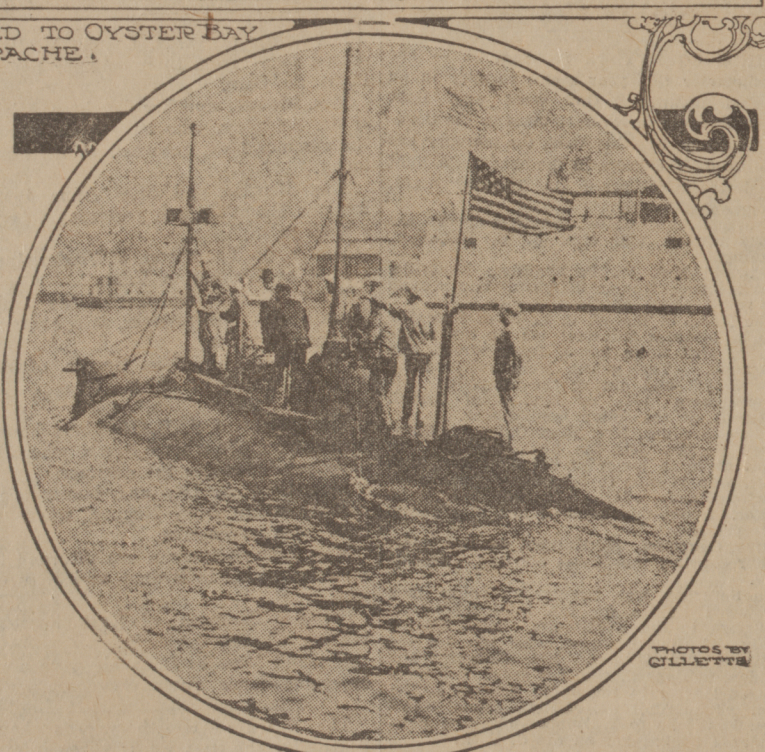
Oyster Bay, Aug. 25—President Roosevelt this afternoon made a descent in Long Island Sound on board the submarine torpedo boat Plunger. He was aboard the vessel about three hours. At one time the little boat was submerged for fifty minutes, and in that time was put through all of the submarine feats of which she is capable. The president expressed his delight at the novel experience, and said that he was immensely impressed with the boat and with the manner in which she was handled. In thus braving the dangers of submarine maneuvering the president has endeared himself to naval officers and men the world over, and made Lieutenant Charles H. Nelson, commander of the Plunger, the proudest and happiest man in the United States navy.

The special trial of the boat with the president on board took place in Long Island Sound, just off the entrance to Oyster Bay.

A stiff northeast breeze kicked up a heavy sea in the sound, but the Plunger behaved beautifully. The water is about forty feet deep, too shallow in the opinion of Lieutenant Nelson and his experts to enable the vessel to do her best work.

Soon after the vessel reached the necessary depth she was directed downward until she rested on the bottom. When the mechanism of the craft was explained minutely to the president by Lieutenant Nelson, so that he afterward experienced no difficulty in understanding the manoeuvres.

Lieutenant Nelson then began to put the Plunger through her paces.



THE PLUNGER ON TRIAL. TRIP AT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

During the operations of the Plunger, the tender Apache remained within a short distance, prepared to render any assistance that might be necessary.

In describing his experience President Roosevelt expressed great satisfaction. He remarked particularly on the possibilities

of the submarine torpedo boats in warfare. Not even the members of his family knew of the president's intention to make the descent in the Plunger. One result of the secrecy maintained was that the Plunger had practically the entire Long Island Sound to herself.

BRITAIN AND JAPAN

Believed That a New Anglo-Japanese Treaty Has Been Signed.

London, Aug. 25—The Associated Press has gone so far as to state that a new Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance has been signed. The foreign office declines to give official confirmation or denial, but the Associated Press understands that the treaty was signed some days ago. There is no reason why it should not be signed prior to the conclusion of the Portsmouth conference, as the action of that conference will not affect its terms.

The new treaty is broader in scope in some respects than the former treaty, notably where it includes the recognition by Great Britain of a Japanese protectorate over Korea and on other points which it was not necessary to include in the old treaty.

In some respects the new treaty contains limitations as compared with the old treaty. For instance, the latter contained a clause to the effect that in case of a combination of two powers against Great Britain, Japan would be obliged to assist her ally, while the clause in the new treaty requires the assistance of Japan only so far as the British colonies in the far east and the Pacific are concerned.

The Associated Press understands that terms of the new treaty were fully laid upon before parliament adjourned, but it was also agreed that the official announcement of its signature and of its full terms should be deferred until after the conclusion of the Portsmouth conference.

JACK TWIN SULLIVAN

AFTER TOMMY BURNS

NEW YORK, Aug. 23—Jack (Twin) Sullivan, the clever New England middleweight, who has been doing all kinds of

stunts in the Far West, has wired the Los Angeles A. C. that he is ready to post a forfeit and sign articles to meet Tommy Burns, the Detroit middleweight. Sullivan says that if a club will come forward and Burns wants to fight, let him show the color of his money.

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