

The RETURN of SHERLOCK HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE

Illustrated by F. D. STEALE

THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY CYCLIST

We have had some dramatic entrances and exits upon our small stage at Baker street, but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Dr. Thornercroft Huxtable, M. A., Ph. D., etc. His card, which seemed too small to carry the weight of his academic distinctions, preceded him by a few seconds, and then he entered himself—a so large, so pompous, and so dignified that he was the very embodiment of self-possession and solidity. And yet his first action, when the door had closed behind him, was to stagger against the table, whence he slipped down upon the floor, and there was that majestic figure prostrate and insensible upon our hearthstone.

We had sprung to our feet, and for a few moments we stared in silent amazement at this ponderous piece of wreckage, which told of some sudden and fatal storm far out on the ocean of life. Then Holmes hurried with a cushion for his head, and I with brandy for his lips. The heavy, white face was scummed with lines of trouble, the hanging pouches upon the closed eyes were laden with color, the loose mouth drooped dolorously at the corners, the rolling clouds were unshaven. Collar and shirt bore the grime of a long journey, and the hair bristled unkempt from the well-washed head. It was a sorely stricken man who lay before us.

"What is it, Watson?" asked Holmes. "Absolute exhaustion—possibly mere hunger and fatigue," said I, with my finger on the throbbing pulse, where the stream of life trickled thin and small. "Return ticket from MacKleton, in the north of England," said Holmes, drawing it from the watch-pocket. "It is not twelve o'clock yet. He has certainly been an early starter."

The puckered eyelids had begun to quiver, and now a pair of vacant, grey eyes looked up at us. An instant later the man had scrambled on to his feet, his face crimson with shame. "Forgive this weakness, Mr. Holmes, I have been a little overwrought. Thank you, if I might have a glass of milk and a biscuit, I have no doubt that I should be better. I came personally, Mr. Holmes, in order to insure that you would return with me. I feared that no telegram would convince you of the absolute urgency of the case."

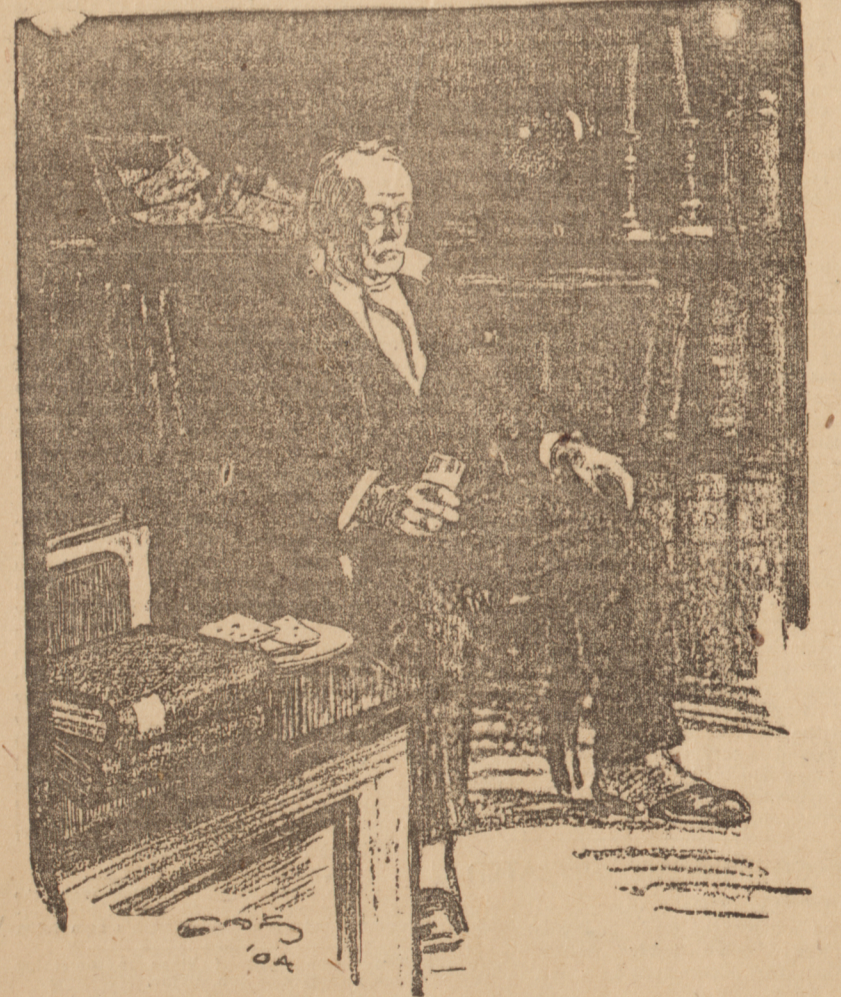
"When you are quite restored—"

"I am quite well again. I cannot imagine how I came to be so weak. I wish you, Mr. Holmes, to come to MacKleton with me by the next train."

"My friend shook his head.

"My colleague, Dr. Watson, could tell you that we are very busy at present. I am retained in this case of the Perron Documents, and the Aberavenny murder is coming up for trial. Only a very important issue could call me from London at present."

"Important!" Our visitor threw up his hands. "Have you heard nothing of the abduction of the only son of the Duke of Holderness?"



"I cannot imagine how I came to be so weak."

"What! the late Cabinet Minister?"

"Exactly. We had tried to keep it out of the papers, but there was some rumour in the Globe last night. I thought it might have reached your ears."

Holmes shot out his long, thin arm and picked out Volume "H" in his encyclopaedia of reference.

"Holderness, 6th Duke, K.G., P.C.—half the alphabet! Baron Beverley, Earl of Carston—dear me, what a list! Lord Lieutenant of Hallamshire since 1900. Married Edith, daughter of Sir Charles Appledore, 1888. Heir and only child, Lord Saltire. Owns about two hundred and fifty thousand acres. Minerals in Lancashire and Wales. Address: Carlton House Terrace, Holderness Hall, Hallamshire; Carston Castle, Bangor, Wales. Lord of the Admiralty, 1872; Chief Secretary of State for—"

"Well, well, this man is certainly one of the greatest subjects of the Crown!"

"The greatest and perhaps the wealthiest. I am aware, Mr. Holmes, that you take a very high line in professional matters, and that you are prepared to work for the work's sake. I may tell you, however, that his Grace has already intimated

into the Evening Times by special arrangement with the Canada Newspaper Syndicate.)

In a small shed beside this lawn, and it also was gone.

"He had been with me for two years, and came with the best references, but he was a silent, morose man, not very popular either with masters or boys. No trace could be found of the fugitives, and now, on Thursday morning, we are as ignorant as we were on Tuesday. Inquiry was, of course, made at once at Holderness Hall. It is only a few miles away, and we imagined that, in some sudden attack of homesickness, he had gone back to his father, but nothing had been heard of him. The Duke is greatly agitated, and, as to me, you have seen yourselves the state of nervous prostration to which the suspense and the responsibility have reduced me. Mr. Holmes, if ever you put forward your full powers, I implore you to do so now, for never in your life could you have a case which is more worthy of them."

Sherlock Holmes had listened with the utmost intension to the statement of the unhappy schoolmaster. His drawn brows and the deep furrow between them showed that he needed no exhortation to concentrate all his attention upon a problem which, apart from the tremendous interests involved, must appeal so directly to his love of the complex and the unusual. He now drew out his note-book, and jotted down one or two memoranda.

"You have been very remiss in not coming to me sooner," said he, severely. "You start me on my investigation with a very serious handicap. It is inconceivable, for example, that this ivy and this lawn would have yielded nothing to an expert observer."

"I am not to blame, Mr. Holmes. His Grace was extremely desirous to avoid all public scandal. He was afraid of his family unhappiness being dragged before the world. He has a deep horror of anything of the kind."

(To be continued.)

RIGGS TRIES SUICIDE

Man Sentenced at Fredericton for Writing Threatening Letters Thought to Be of Unsound Mind.

Fredericton, N. B., June 29.—(Special)—George Riggs, who was today convicted and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary, for writing threatening letters to Miss Bessie Clark, made a desperate attempt to end his life in the county jail this evening by swallowing a dose of horse powder, containing morphine which he had concealed upon his person.

Fortunately he was discovered before the poison had the chance to work, and taken out into the jail yard and given exercise. Dr. G. J. McNally was called and administered medicine which had the desired effect.

The prisoner, on being returned to his cell, made a second attempt to kill himself by pounding his head against the bed post. He said that he was tired of living and wanted to commit suicide. Upon being searched by the jailer lances used for bleeding horses were found concealed in his clothing.

Before swallowing the poison he wrote a touching note to the young lady he had been annoying, in which he bade her farewell and stated that he was giving up his life for her.

ANOTHER MAIL SERVICE

Second Subsidy May Be Given for Carrying Canadian Mails to England.

Montreal, June 29.—(Special)—It is reported in shipping circles here that a second weekly mail service between Canada and Great Britain is being contemplated.

At the present time Canada has one direct mail a week with Great Britain, this being the government contract with the Allan, and the service given by their vessels is far better than anything Canada has yet enjoyed. However, it is not weekly, while New York receives and sends out five British mails in the same period.

An even more prominent feature, however, is the fact that in the interval between the time the Allan boats leave on Friday until the middle of the following week, Canadians have no opportunity of sending out their mails, as there are no mail steamers out of the port of New York on Mondays, and more often than not, none on Tuesdays. The consequence of this is that shipments going out on the Dominion line steamships from Montreal on Saturday arrive at Liverpool before the mails do which bear the invoices and other correspondence relating to the cargoes.

The proposal is that the government grant the Dominion line a subsidy for the carrying of a second weekly mail leaving Rimouski on Sunday or a day later than that taken out by the Allan liners.

The Dominion line steamships Ottawa and Canada are, with the exception of the Virginius and Victorian, the fastest vessels on the St. Lawrence route, the former being 16 1/2 knots and the latter sixteen knots.

It is said that the Dominion line could secure the White Star steamers Teutonic and Majestic if a mail contract were awarded them by the Dominion government.

ROCKEFELLER'S OFFER.

John D. Rockefeller has pledged himself to the Euclid Avenue Baptist church of Cleveland to give 75 cents for every dollar that is contributed to the church in any way. This means that he will contribute 43 per cent. of the cost of maintaining the church.

The revenue of the church last year was \$35,000, and of this sum \$17,000 was spent in maintaining missions. Mr. Rockefeller contributed last year \$15,000 of the \$35,000.

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ALL SICK WOMEN

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In All Parts of Canada Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Has Effected Similar Cures.

Many wonderful cures of female ills are continually coming to light which have been brought about by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and



Miss A. E. Schwalm

through the advice of Mrs. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., which is given to sick women absolutely free of charge.

Mrs. Pinkham has for many years made a study of the ills of her sex; she has consulted with and advised thousands of suffering women, who to-day owe not only their health but even life to her helpful advice.

Miss Annie E. Schwalm, of 326 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ont., writes:

Dear Mrs. Pinkham—

"I have found Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a specific for Leucorrhoea, with which I have been troubled for years. I also had irregular and painful menstruation which affected my general health until last spring. I was only a wreck of my former self. In my affliction I was advised to use your Compound, and am so glad that I did so. I found that in a few short months there was no trace of Leucorrhoea, my strength gradually returned, and in a very short time I considered myself a perfectly well woman. I appreciate my good health, and beg to assure you that I am most grateful to you for discovering such a wonderful remedy for suffering women."

The testimonials which we are constantly publishing from grateful women establish beyond a doubt the power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to conquer female diseases.

Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to promptly communicate with Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. She asks nothing in return for her advice. It is absolutely free, and always helpful.

to look into the whole matter during recess. The attention of the government had been called to recent events arising from the accumulation of large funds by certain companies.

He thought that Mr. McMullen had done service in calling attention to this. He believed it almost impossible for any provisions to supply the lack of care by directors. There were other questions involving private rights of a complicated and difficult character. He could not say at the moment what could be done. Policy holders were a reading and thinking body.

He merely alluded to a matter which possibly might have to be considered, whether the government should not provide those who desire it with life insurance by the state. He would call his colleague's attention to the matter and asked that the second reading be not pressed.

In view of this statement the bill was withdrawn.

The bill giving running rights to the I. C. R. over the C. A. R. was read a third time.

Referring to the investment in trust company funds, he drew attention to the very wide range of stocks, etc., in which insurance companies might invest.

He believed that Mr. Fielding intended

HELPFUL MEDICAL HINTS.

Importance of Keeping Your Blood Purified.

Does your head feel heavy and ache? Your nature, noisy, stopped up and hot, no appetite, little chilly feelings creep along the spine, hands hot, feet cold, tongue furred, eyes burn, you feel sick all over? Ever felt this way before? You are bilious. Rip it in the bud; do the right thing first. Promptness will work wonders. Start using Smith's Pineapple and Butternut Pills, take two to four at bed time. You won't need any more; they will cure you a night. Don't wait till you get down on your back, then it will take longer, but even so, these pills will cure in a short time. They promptly remove the congestion of the circulation and drive out the bilious accumulations, restoring harmonious action to the digestive organs, stomach, liver and bowels. Get one day's use of Smith's Pineapple and Butternut Pills will ward off and cure any bilious attack, warm up your spinal nerves, store the appetite and free the blood of any impurities. They are good for young or old, ever grip or cause unpleasant effects. Get a bottle of your dealer today and take them with you and use them when you experience any departure whatever from a healthy standard. They save you from sickness. Smith's Pineapple and Butternut Pills cure constipation, biliousness, headache in one night. All dealers, 25 cents. All genuine signed W. F. Smith.

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mrs. Robert Thomson's Report Dealt With the Work of the Year.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., June 29.—(Special)—At the meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada today Mrs. Thomson, of St. John, presented her address. She said that the council filled the need felt everywhere of systematic organization. Much had been done towards forming societies for the improvement of sanitary conditions and general health of communities, especially with respect to infants and children.

Among the events of the year was an invitation to the national council to attend the convention at Washington, (D. C.) A cable was read from Lady Aberdeen expressing affectionate greetings and extending sincere regret at her absence.

The corresponding secretary reported that an earnest attempt had been made

during the year to have the same laws which apply to women working in factories extend to offices. Much had been done towards the betterment of the poor. It is expected that bureau registration for trained nurses will soon be established. A good deal has been accomplished towards improvement of the marriage laws.

SENATOR DOMVILLE ELECTED.

The Central River Railway executive, at a recent meeting, elected Senator Domville as president, in the room of the late Colonel McMillan. Hon. Senator Owens is vice-president, and Mr. Germain, M. P., second vice-president. No work has actually been done on this road, as yet, but the engineering staff is about to be selected and it is stated that there will be early reconstruction between Montreal and St. Andrews, which section has already been located. The line proposes to offer a short route between Montreal and Ottawa, using partly electricity and partly steam power.

At the tip of the tongue should be Buster Brown, the best cigar for 5c.

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