The Return of Sherlock Holmes

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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NORWOOD BUILDER.



hardly think that you

Mr. Sherlock Holmes was leaning back in his chair after his whimsical protest, and was unfolding his morning paper in a leisurely fashion, when our attention was arrested by a fremendous ring at the bell, followed immediately by a hollow drumming sound, as if someone were beating on the exter door with his fist. As it spened there came a tumultous rush into the hall, rapid feet clattered up the stair, and an instant later a wild eyed and frantic young man, pale, did and frantic young man, pale, di-weled, and palpitating, burst into room. He looked from one to the er of us, and under our gaze of in-rry be became conscious that some blogy was needed for this uncere-

'Tm sorry, Mr. Holmes," he cried.

You mustn't blame me. I am nearly
mad. Mr. Holmes, I am the unhappy
John Hector McFariane."

Have a cigarette, Mr. McFarlane,"
mid he, pushing his case across. "I
am sure that, with your symptoms, my
friend Dr. Watson here would prescribe
a sedative. The weather has been so
very warm these last few days. Now,
if you feel a little more composed, I
should be glad if you would sit down
In that chair, and tell us very slowly
and exietly who you are, and what it
that you want. You mentioned your
manne, as if I should recognize it, but
I assure you, that beyond the obvious
facts that you are a bachelor, a solictter, a Freemason, and an asthmatic,
I know nothing whatever about you."

marifiar as I was with my friend's thods, it was not difficult for me to ow his deductions, and to observe e untidiness of attire, the sheaf of rai papers, the watch charm, and he heeathing which had prompted em. Our client, however, stared in

Tes, I am all that, Mr. Holmes; and in addition, I am the most unsortunate man at this moment in London. For heaven's sake, don't abandon me. Mr. Holmes! If they come to arms me before I have finished my story, make them give me time, so that I may tell you the whole truth. I could go to gaol happy if I knew that you were working for me outside."

"Arrest you!" said Holmes. "This is really most grati—most interesting.

most grati-most interesting.

n what charge do you expect to be

"Upon the charge of murdering Mr.

cans Oldacre, of Lower Norwood."

My companion's expressive face

bowed a sympathy which was not, I fewed a sympathy which was not, I m afraid, entirely unmixed with sat-sfaction.

"Dear me," said he, "it was only this

owent at breakfast that I was saying my friend. Dr. Watson, that sensa-mal cases had disappeared out of our Our claster stretched forward a quiv-

THE ering hand and picked up the Daily Telegraph, which still lay upon Holmes'

knee.

"If you had looked at it, sir, you would have seen at a glance what the errand is on which I have come to you this morning. I feel as if my name and my misfortune must be in every man's mouth." He turned it over to expose the central page. "Here it is, and with your permission I will read it to you. Listen to this, Mr. Holmes. The head lines are: 'Myster:-ous Affair at Lower Norwood. Disap-Holmes. The head lines are: 'Mysterious Affair at Lower Norwood. Disappearance of a Well Known Builder. Suspicion of Murder and Arson. A Clue to the Criminal.' That is the clue which they are already following, Mr. Holmes, and I know that it leads infallibly to me. I have been followed from London Bridge station, and I am sure that they are only waiting for from London Bridge station, and I am sure that they are only waiting for the warrant to arrest me. It will break my mother's heart—it will break he heart!" He wrung his hands in an agony of apprehension, and swayed backwards and forwards in his chair.

backwards and forwards in his chair. I looked with interest upon this man, who was accused of being the perpetrator of a crime of violence. He was flaxen-haired and handspme, in a washed out negative fashion, with frightened blue eyes, and a clean shaven face, with a weak, sensitive mouth. His age may have been about twenty-seven, his dress and bearing that of a gentleman. From the pocket of his light summer overcoat protruded the bundle of indorsed papers which proclaimed his profession.

constant. In the constant of t

Norwood. Besides the signs of a struggle in the room of the unfortunate buildare it is now known that the French windows of his bedroom (which is on the ground floor) were found to be open, that there were marks as if some bulky object, had been dragged across to the wood pile, and, finally, it is asserted that charred remains have been found among the charcoal ashes of the fire. The police theory is that a most sensational crime has been committed, that the victim was clubbed to death in his own bedroom, his papers rified, and his dead body dragged across to the wood stack, which was then ignited so as to hide all traces of the crime. The conduct of the criminal investigation has been left in the experienced hands of inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, who is following up the clues with his accustomed energy and sagacity. Sherlock Holmes listened with closed eyes and finger tips together to this

Sherlock Holmes listened with closed eyes and finger tips together to this remarkable account.

"The case has certainly some points of interest," said he, in his languid fashion. "May I ask, in the first place, Mr. McFarlane, how it is that you are still at liberty, since there appears to be enough evidence to justify your arrest?"

He made the announcement as if the same alone would explain both his visit and its manner, but I could see, by my companion's unresponsive face, that it meant no more to him than to the same a cigarette, Mr. McFarlane,"

"Have a cigarette, Mr. McFarlane," In the train when I was a companion." in the train, when I read what you have just heard. I at once saw the horrible danger of my position, and I hurried to put the case into your hands. I have no doubt that I should have been arrested either at my city office or at my home. or at my home. A man followed me from London Bridge station, and I have no doubt— Great heaven's! what is that?"

It was a clang of the bell, followed instantly by heavy steps upon the stair. A moment later, our old friend Lestrade appeared in the doorway. Over



Man of the House—Is that policeman who was in the kitchen last night your steady company? The New Cook—He will be, sir, if I

his shoulder I caught a glimpse of one or two uniformed policemen outside. "Mr. John Hector McFarlane?" said

Our unfortunate client rose with a ghastly face,
"I arrest you for the wilful murder
of Mr. Jonas Oldacre, of Lower Nor-

McFarlane turned to us with a ges morariane turned to us with a ges-ture of despair, and sank into his chair once more like one who is crushed. "One moment, Lestrade," said Holmes. "Half an hour more or less can make no difference to you, and the gentleman was about to give us an ac-

count of this very interesting affair, which might aid us in clearing it up."
"I think there will be no difficulty in clearing it up." said Lestrade, grimly.
"None the less, with your permission, I should be much interested to hear his account."
"Well, Mr. Holmes, it is difficult for

me to refuse you anything, for you have been of use to the force once or have been of use to the force once or twice in the past, and we owe you a good turn at Scotland Yard," said Lestrade. "At the same time I must remain with my prisoner, and I am bound to warn him that anything he may say will appear in evidence against him."

"I wish nothing better," said our client. "All I ask is that you should hear and recognize the absolute truth."

Lestrade looked at his watch. "Fill give you half an hour," said he.

"I must explain first," said McFarlane, "that I knew nothing of Mr. Jonas Oldacre. His name was familiar to me, for many years ago my parents were acquainted with him, but they drifted apart. I was very much surprised, therefore, when yesterday, about three celeok in the externed.

prised, therefore, when yesterday about three o'clock in the afternoon, he walked into my office in the city. But I was still more astonished when he told me the object of his visit. He had in his hand several sheets of a note book, covered with scribbled writ-ing—here they are—and he laid them

we must not disturb the housekeeper. He showed me out through his own French window, which had been open all the time."
"Was the blind down?" asked

Holmes "I will not be sure, but I believe that it was only half down. Yes, I remember how he pulled it up in order to swing open the window. I could not find my stick, and he said, 'Nevermind, my boy, I shall see a good deal of you now, I hope, and I will keep your stick until you come back again to claim it.' I left him there, the safe open, and the papers made up in packets upon the table. It was so late that I could not get back to Blackheath, so I spent the night at the An-"I will not be sure, but I believe that heath, so I spent the night at the An-Arms and I knew nothing mor

the morning."

"Anything more that you would like to ask, Mr. Holmes?" said Lestrade, whose eyebrows had gone up once or twice during this remarkable explana-

"Not until I have been to Black-You mean to Norwood," said Les-

"Oh, yes, no doubt that is what must have meant," said Holmes with his enigmatical smile. Lestrade had learned by more experiences than he would care to acknowledge that that razor-like brain could cut through that which was impenetrable to him. I saw him look curiously at my compan-

"I think I should like to have a word with you presently, Mr. Sherlock Holmes," said he. "Now Mr. McFar-lane, two of my constables are at the door, and there is a four-wheeler waiting." The wretched young man arose, and with a last beseeching glance at us walked from the room. The officers conducted him to the cab, but Lestrade

(Continued Next Week)

Why Insulted? Philadelphia Press: Ned—I don't see why you should feel insuited because he said your eyes were like stars,

Bess—You don't? Why, stars keep winking at you all the time.

Chicago Banker: "Your occupation," said the judge to the prisoner at the dock, "is given as 'banker,' is that cor-

Yes, sir," said the ex-convict. "I had no money and no friends, so I opened a bank. Was that against the law?"

"Not in Chicago," said the judge with Creek, Mich.

Absent Minded.
From the Boston Herald.
Captain Alexander Hutchins of Ellsworth, Me., although a sea captain of ability, has always been noted for absent-mindedness. On one occasion, while at home between trips, he decided to have a spare chamber in his house lathed and plastered. Being somewhat of a carpenter, he undertook this part of it himself, and e undertook this part of it himself, and labored at It industriously for a day or

It was finally lathed according to his ideas, and as he drove the last nail and surveyed his work, not without pride, he called his wife to see what a good job he She climbed the stairs, and then paused,

somewhat perplexed, and, after looking in vain for an entrance, said, "Why, Alec,

where's the door?"
"By thunder," exclaimed the captain, in amazement. "I forgot all about it." He had actually lathed himself in the room.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets.
Druggists refund money if it falls to cure.
E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

Not a Convert.
From the Philadelphia Ledger.
The ship subsidy was under discussion.
"As I understand it," said the senator from the interior, "you want the government to pay you for going into a profitable

They tried to explain that this course would make the business even more profit-"Out in my country," he said, "we do not have to bribe farmers to fatten hogs."

Worth Knowing -that Allcock's are the original and only genuine porous plasters; all other so-called porous plasters are imitations.

The Husband's Suspicion.
From the Philadelphia Press.
"Gee whiz!" explained Luschman, the
next morning, "I haven't a cent in my pocket this morning." "Well," remarked his wife, sharply, who's to blame for that but yourself?" ."I-er-think somebody else has had a hand in it."

TERRIBLE SCALY ECZEMA.

Eruptions Appeared on Chest, and Face and Neck Were All Broken

Out-Cured by Cuticura. "I had an eruption appear on my chest and body and extend upwards and downwards, so that my neck and face were all broken out; also my arms and the lower limbs as far as the knees. I at first thought it was prickly heat. But soon scales or crusts formed where the breaking out was. Instead of going to a physician, I purchased a complete treatment of the Cuticura Remedies, in which I had great faith, and all was satisfactory. A year or two later the eruption appeared again, only a little lower; but before it had time to spread I procured another supply of the Cuticura Remedies, and continued their use until the cure was complete. It is now five years since the last attack, and have not seen any signs of a return. I have more faith in Cuticura Remedies for skin diseases than anything I know of. Emma E. Wilson, Liscomb, owa, Oct. 1, 1905."

60,000 Bunches of Bananas.

The largest cargo of bananas ever received in any port of the world reached here Thursday on the United Fruit company's steamer Esparta from Port Limon, Costa Rica. It consisted of 60,000 bunches of Limon fruit, which is the largest variety of banana shipped to this country, and it filled 150 box cars. These cars, if attached to one locomotive, would have stretched a distance of a mile and a half The work of discharging this cargo will be the greatest task the company has ever undertaken. Once the sister ship of the Esparta, the Limon, arrived with 54,000 bunches of fruit, and up to that time the record was very much smaller. The Esparta broke the Limon's record by 6,000

The Southern Pacific road ran out a special train to assist in the delivery of this fruit, which will be scattered all over the country between St. Louis and Van-couver. A portion of the cargo goes to Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Another section will go to Seattle and Vancouver and this train will run a special over the Southern Pacific straight through San Franciscoand up the Pacific coast. Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, Detroit, St. Louis, Indianup the Pacific coast. supplied with fruit from this one single

It took eight trains loaded with nothing but bananas to carry out the consignment and there were fifteen messengers in charge of the fruit.

When the cargo of the Esparta is com-pared with the shipments which were re-ceived up to a few years ago, and idea can be secured as to the wonderful growth of the importations.

When the steamers first ran in the fruit trade they carried on an average of 10,000 bunches each, just one-sixth of the Esparta's cargo. These vessels were chartered in Norway and made an average of nine miles an hour. The steamers ow in the trade are magnificent ships, fast and equipped with every modern comfort for limited number of passengers,

UNDER WHICH KING.

The More Postum the More Foodthe More Coffee the More Poison.' The President of the W. C. T. U. in

young giant State in the Northwest "I did not realize that I was a slave

to coffee till I left off drinking it. For three or four years I was obliged to take a nerve tonic every day. Now I am free, thanks to Postum Food Cof-"After finding out what coffee will

do to its victims, I could hardly stand to have my husband drink it; but he was not willing to quit. I studied for months to find a way to induce him to leave it off. Finally I told him I would make no more coffee.

"I got Postum Food Coffee, and made it strong-boiled it the required time, and had him read the little book, The Road to Welfville,' that comes in every pkg.

"To-day Postum has no stronger advocate than my husband! He tells our friends how to make it, and that he got through the winter without a spell of the grip and has not had a headache for months-ue used to be subject to frequent nervous headaches

"The stronger you drink Postum the more food you get; the stronger you drink coffee the more poison you get." Name given by Postum Co., Battle

There's a reason

Reforms in Diplomatic Service.

As the very first thing to be done, whether our diplomatic service remains as at present or be improved, I would urge, as a condition precedent to any urge, as a condition precedent to any thoroughly good service, that there be in each of the greater capitals of the world at which we have a representative, a suitable embassy or legation building or apartment, owned or leased for a term of years by the American government. Every other great power, and many of the smaller nations, have provided such quarters for their repprovided such quarters for their representatives, and some years ago President Cleveland recommended to congress a similar policy. Under the present system the head of an American embassy or mission abroad is at a wretched disadvantage. In many capitals he finds it at times impossible to secure a proper furnished apartment; and, in some, very difficult to find any suitable apartment at all, whether fur-nished or unfurnished. Even if he finds nished or unfurnished. Even if he finds proper rooms, they are frequently in an unfit quarter of the town, remote from the residences of his colleagues, from the public offices, from everybody and everything related to his work. His term of office being generally short, he is usually considered a rather undesirable tenant, and is charged accordingly. Besides this the fitting and furable tenant, and is charged accordingly. Besides this, the fitting and furnishing of such an apartment is a very
great burden, both as regards trouble
and expense. I have twice thus fitted
and furnished a large apartment in
Berlin, and in each case this represented an expenditure of more than the
salary for the first year. Within my
own knowledge, two American ministers abroad have impoverished their
families by expenditures of this kind.

Evils of Existing System.

Evils of Existing System.

But this is not the worst. The most serious result of the existing system

concerns our country.

I have elsewhere shown how, in one very important international question very important international question at St. Petersburg, our mistaken policy in this respect once cost the United States a sum which would have forever put that embassy, and, indeed, many others besides, on the very best footing. If an American ambassador is to exercise a really strong influence for the United States as against other nations he must be properly provided for tions, he must be properly provided for as regards his residence and support— not provided for, indeed, so largely as some representatives of other nations; for I neither propose nor desire that the American representative shall imi-tate the norm of certain ambassadors. tate the pomp of certain ambassadors of the greater European powers. But he ought to be enabled to live respecthe ought to be enabled to live respectably, and to discharge his duties efficiently. There should be, in this respect, what Thomas Jefferson acknowledged in the declaration of independence as a duty—"a decent regard for the opinions of mankind." The present condition of things is frequently humiliating. In the great capitals of Europe the general public know the British. the general public know the British, French, Austrian, Italian and all other important embassies or legations, ex-cept that of our country. The Ameri-can embassy or legation has no settled home, is sometimes in one quarter of the town, sometimes in another, some-times almost in an attic, sometimes al-most in a cellar, generally inadequate in its accommodations, and frequently unfortunate in its surroundings. Both my official terms at St. Petersburg showed me that one secret of the great success of British diplomacy, in all parts of the world, is that especial are taken regarding this and that, consequently, every British embassy is the center of a widespread social influence which counts for very much indeed in her political influence.

Present Crying Needs. The United States, as perhaps the wealthiest nation in existence—a nation far-reaching in the exercise of its foreign policy, with vast and increasing commercial and other interests throughcommercial and other interests through-out the world—should, in all substantial matters, be equally well provided for. Take our recent relations with Turkey. We have insisted on the payment of an indemnity for the destruction of Amer-ican property, and we have constantly a vast number of Americans of the very best sort, and especially our mis-sionaries, who have to be protected throughout the whole of that vast empire. Each of the other great powers provides its representative at Constantinople with a residence honorable, suitable and within a proper inclosure for its protection; but the American minister lives anywhere and every-where—in such premises, over shops and warehouses, as can be secured and he is liable, in case of trouble be tween the two nations, to suffer per sonal violence and to have his house sonal violence and to have his house sacked by a Turkish mob. No foreign people, and least of all an oriental people, can highly respect a diplomatic representative who, by his surroundings, seems not to be respected by his own people. The American government can easily afford the expenditure needed to provide proper houses or apartments for its entire diplomatic corps but it can hardly afford not to corps, but it can hardly afford not to provide these. Full provision for them would not burden any American citi-zen to the amount of the half of a on biscuit. Leaving matters in present condition is, in the long run, far more costly. I once had oc-casion to consider this matter in the light of economy, and found that the cost of the whole diplomatic service of the United States during an entire year was only equal to the expenditure in one of our recent wars during four hours; so that if any member of the diplomatic service should delay a declaration of war merely for the space of a day, he would defray the cost of the service for about six years. Charles Francis Adams, by his ad-

mirable diplomatic dealing with the British foreign office at the crisis of our civil war, prevented the coming out of the later confederate cruisers to prey upon our commerce, and, in all pro ability, thus averted a quarrel w ability, thus averted a quarrel with Great Britain which would have length-ened our civil war by many years, and doubtless have cost us hundreds of mil

General Woodford, our recent minister at Madrid, undoubtedly delayed our war at maurie, undoubtedly delayed our war with Spain for several months, and skilful diplomatic intervention brought that war to a speedy close just as soon as our mili-tary and naval successes made it possible. The cases are also many wheer our diplomatic representatives have quieted ill eelings which would have done great harm to our commerce. These facts show that the diplomatic service may well be called "The Cheap Defense of Nations." when in addition to this, an American recalls such priceless services to civiliza-tion, and to the commerce of our country and of the world, as those rendered by Mr.

and of the world, as those rendered by Mr. Townsend Harris while American minister in Japan, the undoubted saving through a long series of years of many lives and much property by our ministers in such outlying parts of the world as Turkey and China, the promotion of American com-mercial and other interests, and the securing of information which has been precious to innumerable American enterprises, eems incontestable that our diplomatic service ought to be left in its present allpshod condition. It ought to be put on the best and most effective footing pos-sible, so that everywhere the men we send forth to support and advance the manifold the keenest interest in the matter and interests of our country shall be thoroughly well equipped and provided for. To this end the permanent possession of a scheme.

From the Autobiography of Andrew D. suitable house or apartment in every cap-White, Copyright by The Century Co. | ital is the foremost and most elementary ital is the foremost and most elementary

ital is the foremost and most elementary of necessities.

And while such a provision is the first thing, it would be wise to add, as other nations do, a moderate allowance for furniture, and for keeping the embassy or legation properly cared for during the interim between the departure of one representative and the arrival of another. If this were done, the prestige of the American name and the effectiveness of the service would be vastly improved, and diplomatic posts would be no longer so onerous and, indeed, ruinous as they have been to some of the best men we have sent abroad.

Salaries Should Be Increased. And in order fully to free my mind I will add that, while the provision for a proper embassy or legation building is the first of all things necessary, it might also be well to increase somewhat the salaries of our representatives abroad. These may seem large even at present; but the cost of living has greatly increased since they were fixed, and the special financial demands upon an ambassador or minister at any of the most important posts are always far beyond the present salary. It is utterly impossible for an American diplomatic representative to do his duty upon the salary now given, even while living on the most moderate scale known in the diplomatic corps. To attempt to do so would deprive him of all opportunity to exercise that friendly, peronal, social influence which is so important an element in his success.

To sum up my suggestions as to this part of the subject, I should say: First, that, as a rule, there should be provided at each diplomatic post where the United States has a representative a spacious and suitable house, either bought by our government or taken on a long lease; and that there should be a small appropriation each year for maintaining it as re-gards furniture, care, etc. Secondly, that American representatives of the highest grade—namely, ambassadors—should have a salary of at least \$25,000 a year; and that diplomatic representatives of lower grade should have their salaries raised in the same proportion. Thirdly, that an additional number of secretaries and attaches should be provided in the manner and for

the reasons above recommended.

If the carrying out of these reforms should require an appropriation to the diplomatic service 50 per cent. higher than it now is—which is an amount greater than would really be required by all the expenditures I propose, including interest upon the purchase money of appropriate quarters for our representatives abroad— the total additional cost to each citizen of the United States would be less than half

a cent each year.

The first result of these and other reforms which I have indicated, beginning with what is of the very first importance provision for a proper house or apartment in every capital-would certainly be increased respect for the United States and increased effectiveness of its foreign representatives.

Indian Spares Consumptive.

From the Washington Post.
A retired colonel of the United States army told this story between halves of a football game the other day:

"After the Fort Kearny fight with the Indians I was sent out scouting with my troop, rounding up a band of hostiles. The week before we left a consumptive Englishman showed up at the post. He was a friend of the colonel's, and he was trying roughing it as a last chance. He was in a bad way.

"When the orders came he asked to go along. He was still strong enough to ride, and we took him, although rather against my judgment. Of course, such a thing wouldn't be allowed now adays, but that was on the old frontier, where rules were lax.

"We rode for a fortnight and never found our hostiles. But one rainy night they found us.

"I remember that the Englishman was huddled over a little covered camp fire when firing started from all sides; and in ten seconds 300 Indians were riding over us. They had murdered our outposts and sprung a surprise. We got together, formed some kind of a hollow square, and drove them back. We lost six killed.

"When we had time to look about for dead and wounded I thought of my English friend. He was nowhere in sight. I supposed, of course, that he had been killed, and I started scouts to look for his

They found him lying under a bush. The trooper who saw him first rolled him over and found that he was alive and un-hurt, but crying as though his heart would

'What's the matter?' said the trooper. "'I'm a dead man,' said the English-

"He wouldn't explain until I had a session alone with him. It appears that he had been sitting by the fire when a buck on horseback rose up over him with his gun raised club fashion. The Englishman threw up his hands and faced the Indian, ready to die like a man. The Indian, caught a full view of his face in the fire 'Ugh,' said the Indian in English, 'ne

use. Dead man,' and he lowered his gun and passed on.
"There was no heartening the consumptive after that. Two days later we made a settlement and dropped him off in charge of the keeper of the stage station, and in

a month he was dead." Dictating Letters by Telegraph.

Peter V. DeGraw, fourth assistant

postmaster general of the United States, has recently installed, and now has in daily operation one of the most unique adjuncts ever adopted by government official.

without official,
Without Melville, describing the innovation, in the February Technical
World Magazine, says:
"Between his private office and the adjoining room occupied by his private secretary and confidential stenographer there is in operation what is undoubted-

ly the shortest complete telegraph line "Mr. DeGraw, his private secretary,

W. H. Allen, and his stenographer,
Mr. Prender, are all old experienced
telegraphers. Upon the desk of each is
a complete sending and receiving apparatus, and Mr. DeGraw says he finds of a day's business. By the use of his private line he can call for papers wanted by him or dictate letters with-out leaving his private room or inter-rupting in any way the important con-ferences that take place daily in his

The municipality of the German capital has decided to build an under-ground railroad from the north to the ground railroad from the north to the south of the city. The line will be electrical and will be owned and operated by the city. It is estimated that the work can be done in about three years, and it is stated that the cost of construction will be in the neighborhood of 60,000,000 marks. The emperor is taking the keenest interest in the matter and has conferred several times with promise.