By A. CONAN DOYLE,

Author of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," The Hound of the Baskervilles," "The Sign of the Four." "A Study In Scarlet," Etc.



BY P. D. STEELB

revolver bullet, as you perceive, Wat- doubt of it. The bullets alone are son. There's genius in that, for who would expect to find such a thing fired from an air gun. All right, Mrs. Hudlike to discuss with you."

He had thrown off the seedy frock which he took from his effigy.

"The old shikari's nerves have not

"Plumb in the middle of the back of expect that there are few better in me to explain?" London. Have you heard the name?" "No. I have not."

"Well, well, such is fame! But, then, if I remember right, you had not beard the name of Professor James Moriarty, who had one of the great brains of the century. Just give me down my index of biographies from the shelf."

He turned over the pages lazily, leaning back in his chair and blowing great clouds from his eigar.

"My collection of M's is a fine one," said he. "Moriarty blasself is enough to make any letter illustrious, and here is Morgan, the poisoner, and Merridew of aboutnable memory, and Mathews, who knocked out my left canine in the waiting room at Charling Cross, and finally here is our friend of tonight."

He handed over the book, and I read: "Moran, Sebastian, colonel. Unemployed. Formerly First Bengalore Pioneers. Born London, 1840. Son of Sir Augustus Moran, C. R., once British minister to Persia. Educated Eton and Oxford. Served in Jowaki campalgn, Afghan campaign, Charaslab (dispatches), Sherpur and Cabul. Auther of Heavy Game of the Western the Jungle' (1884). Address: Conduit Tankerville, the Bagatelle Card club."

On the margin was written in Holmes' precise hand, "The second most dangerous man in London."

"This is asfonishing," said I as I handed back the volume. "The man's career is that of an honorable soldier.'

"It is true," Holmes answered. "Up to a certain point he did well. He was always a man of fron nerve, and the story is still told in India how he crawled down a drain after a wounded man eating tiger. There are some trees, Watson, which grow to a certain height and then suddenly develop some unsightly eccentricity. You will see it often in humans. I have a theory that the individual represents in his development the whole procession of his ancestors, and that such a sudden turn to good or evil stands for some strong influence which came into the line of his pedigree. The person becomes, as it were, the epitome of the history of his own family."

"It is surely rather famelful." "Well, I don't insist upon it. Whatever the cause, Colonel Moran began to go wrong. Without any open scan dal he still made India too hot to hold him. He retired, came to London and again acquired an evil name. It was at this time that he was sought out by Professor Moriarty, to whom for a time he was chief of the staff. Mociarty supplied him liberally with money and used him only in one or two very high class jobs which no ordinary criminal could have undertaken. You may have some recollection of the death of Mrs, Stewart of Lander in 1887. Not? Well, I am sure Moran was at the bottom of it, but nothing could be proved. So cleverly was the colonel concealed You," I answered. that even when the Moriarty gang was broken up we could not incriminate

"You may think that I read the papers with some attention during my so Journ in France, on the lookout for any chance of laying him by the heels. So long as he was free in London my life would really not have been worth hying. Night and day the shadow would have been over me and sooner or later his chance must have come. What could I do? I could not shoot him at sight or I should myself be in the dock. There was no use appealing to a magistrate. They cannot interfere on the strength of what would appear to them to be a wild suspicton. So I could do nothing. But I watched the criminal news, knowing that sooner or later I should get him. Then came the death of this Ronald Adalr. My chance had come at last. Knowing what I did, was it not certain that Colonel Moran time later when I found that Verner had done it? He had played eards with | was a distant relation of Holmes and the lad; he had followed him home that it was my friend who had really from the club; he had shot him through found the money.

Reichenbuch ledge.

Holmes held it out to me. "A soft | the open window. There was not a enough to put his head in a noose.

"I came over at once. I was seen by the sentinel, who would, I knew, direct son; I am much obliged for your as- the colonel's attention to my presence. sistance. And now, Watson, let me see | He could not fail to connect my sudden you in your old seat once more, for return with his crime and to be terribly there are several points which I should alarmed. I was sure he would make an attempt to get me out of the way at once and would bring round his murcoat, and now he was the Holmes of derous weapon for that purpose. I left old in the mouse colored dressing gown him an excellent mark in the window, and, having warned the police that they might be needed by the way, lost their steadiness nor his eyes their Watson, you spotted their presence in keenness," said he, with a laugh, as he | that doorway with unerring accuracyinspected the shattered forehead of his I took up what seemed to me to be a judicious post for observation, never dreaming that he would choose the the head and smack through the brain. same spot for his attack. Now, my He was the best shot in India, and 1 dear Watson, does anything remain for

> "Yes," said I. "You have not made it quite clear what was Colonel Moran's motive in murdering the Hon. Ronald Adair?"

> "Ah, my dear Watson, there we come into those realms of conjecture where the most logical mind may be at fault. Each may form his own hypothesis upon the present evidence, and yours is as likely to be correct as mine."

"You have formed one, then?" "I think that it is not difficult to explain the facts. It came out in evidence that Colonel Moran and young Adair had between them won a considerable amount of money. Now, Moran undoubtedly played foul. Of that I have long been aware. I believe that on the day of the murder Adair had discovered that Moran was cheating. Very likely he had spoken to him privately and had threatened to expose him unless he voluntarily resigned his membership of the club and promised not to play cards again. It is unlikely that a youngster like Adult would at once make a hideous scandal by exposing a well known man so much older than himself. Probably he acted as I sug-Himalayas' (1881); 'Three Months In gest. The exclusion from his clubs would mean rain to Moran, who lived street. Clubs: The Anglo-Indian, the by his ill gotten card gains. He therefore murdered Adair, who at the time was endeavoring to work out how much money he should himself return. since he could not profit by his parther's foul play. He locked the door lest the ladles should surprise him and insist upon knowing what he was doing with these names and coins. Will it

> "I have no doubt that you have hit upon the truth."

> "It will be verified or disproved at the trial. Meanwhile, come what may, Colonel Moran will trouble us no more, The famous air gun of Von Herder will embeliish the Scotland Yard museum, and once again Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents."

The Adventure of the Norwood Builder

No. 2 of the Series

(Copyright, 1901, by A. Coman Doyle and Collier's



pass?"

(Copyright, 1985, by McClure, Phillips & Co.) ROM the point of view of the criminal expert," said Mr. Sherlock Holmes, "London has become a singularly uninteresting city since the death of

the late lamented Pro-

fessor Morlarty." "I can hardly think that you would find many decent citizens to agree with

"Well, well, I must not be selfish," said he, with a smile as he pushed back him. You remember at that date, when his chair from the breakfast table, I called upon you in your rooms, how "The community is certainly the gain-I put up the shutters for fear of alz er and no one the loser save the poor guns? No doubt you thought me famet, but of work specialist, whose occupaful. I knew exactly what I was do. then has gone. With that man in the ling, for I knew of the existence of this "field one's morning paper presented inremarkable gun, and I knew also that | finite possibilities. Often it was only one of the best shots in the world the smallest trace, Watson, the faintwould be behind it. When we were in est fadication, and yet it was enough Switzerland he followed us with Mori- to tell me that the great malignant arty, and it was undoubtedly be who brain was there, as the gentlest tregave me that evil five minutes on the thors of the edges of the web remind one of the foul spider which links in the center. Petty thefts, wanton assaults, purposeless outrage to the man who held the clew all could be worked into one connected whole. To the setentine student of the higher criminal world no capital in Europe offered the ndvantages which London then possessed. But now" He shrugged his shoulders in humorous deprecation of the state of things which he had him

self done so much to produce. At the time of which I speak, Holmes had been back for some months, and I at his request had sold my practice and returned to share the old quarters in Baker street. A young doctor named Verner had purchased my small Kensington practice and given with astonishingly little demur the highest price that I ventured to ask-an incldent which only explained itself some

Our months of partnership had not been so uneventful as he had stated, for I find on looking over my notes that this period includes the case of the papers of ex President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost us both our lives. His cold and proud nature was always averse, however, to anything in the shape of public applause, and he bound me in the most stringent terms to say no further word of himself, his methods or his successes a prohibition which, as I have explained, has only now been removed. Mr. Sherlock Holmes was leaning back in his chair after his whimsical protest and was unfolding his morning paper and was unfolding his morning paper in a leisurely fashion when our attention was arrested by a tremendous ring at the bell, followed immediately by a hollow drumming sound, as if some one were beating on the outer door with his fist. As it opened there came a tumalituous rush into the hall, rapid feet elattered up the stair and an instant later a wild eyed and frantile young man, pale, disheveled and parhituiting harst into the rapid. He

ed for this unceremonious entry. "I'm sorry, Mr. Holmes," he cried. 'You mustn't blame me. I am nearly mad. Mr. Holmes, I am the unhappy John Hector McFarlane."

pulpitating, burst into the room. He

looked from one to the other of us, and

under our gaze of fliquity he became

conscious that some apology was need-

He made the autouncement as if the name 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

"Have a cigarette, Mr. McFarlane," said 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 quietly who you are and what it is that you want. You men-tioned your name as if I should recognize it, but I assure you that beyond the obvious facts that you are a bachclor, a solicitor, a Freemason and an asthmatic I know nothing whatever about you."

Familiar as I was with my friend's methods, it was not difficult for me to follow his deductions and to observe the untidiness of attire, the sheaf of legal papers, the watch charm and the breathing which had prompted them. Our client, however, stared in amaze

"Yes, I am all that, Mr. Holmes, and in addition I am the most unfortunate man at this moment in London. For heaven's sake, don't abandon me, Mr. Holmes! If they come to arrest 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 jail happy if I knew that you were working for me outside."

"Arrest you!" said Holmes, "This is really most grati-most interesting. On what charge do you expect to be arrested?"

"Upon the charge of murdering Mr.

My companion's expressive face showed a sympathy which was not. I am arraid, entirely unmixed with sat-

"Dear me," said he, "it was only this moment at breakfast that I was say ing to my friend Dr. Watson that sensational cases had disappeared out of our papers."

Our visitor stretched forward a quivering hand and picked up the Daily Telegraph, which still lay upon Holmes'

"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 Affair at Lower Norwood. Disappearance of a Well Known Builder. Suspicion of Murder and Arson. A Clew to the Criminal.' That is the clew 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 T. A. Omaha. Neb. sure that they are only waiting for the warrant to arrest me. It will break my mother's heart-it will break her heart!" He wrung his hands in an agony of apprehension and swayed

backward and forward 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 baired and handsome, 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.

"We must use what time we have," said Holmes. "Watson, would you have the kindness to take the paper and to read the paragraph in ques-

underneath the vigorous headlines which our client had quoted I read the following suggestive narrative:

(To be continued.)

A hedgehog curls itself up by a frown that is, by muscles like those which produce a frown and it frowns severely or gently, according to circumstances. If it is poked hard it "sighs" itself tighter. If really hurt it frowns into a tight ball. The prickles can be erected in a measure, though as they point all ways this is not needed. They are as sharp as needles. We have only known one dog, a large black and white setter, which would deliberately bite a hedgehog till it killed it. But this dog was quite mad and shared some of the anaesthesia common to certain lunatics.- London Spectator.

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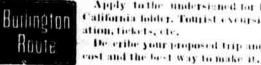
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