

The Memwarz ov Sherloc Hoamz

bi

Cer Arthher Conan Doil

Advenchure I.

Cilver Blase

"I am afrade, Wautson, dhat I shal hav too go," ced Hoamz, az we sat down tooghether too our brecfast wun morning.

"Go! Whare too?"

"Too Dartmoor; too Kingz Piland."

I wauz not cerpriazd. Indede, mi oonly wunder wauz dhat he had not aulreddy bene mixt up in this extrordinary cace, which wauz the wun toppic ov conversaishon

throo the length and bredth ov In'gland. For a whole da mi companyon
had
rambeld about the roome withe hiz chin uppon hiz chest and hiz brouz
nitted,
charging and recharging hiz pipe withe the stron'ghest blac tobacco, and
absoluetly def too enny ov mi qweschonz or remarx. Fresh edishonz ov
evvery
paper had bene cent up bi our nuse agent, oonly too be glaanst over and
tost
doun intoo a corner. Yet, cilent az he wauz, I nu perfectly wel whaut it
wauz
over which he wauz brooding. Dhare wauz but wun problem befoer the
public which
cood challenj hiz pouwerz ov anallicis, and dhat wauz the cin'gular
disaperans
ov the favorite for the Wescex Cup, and the tradgic merder ov its traner.
When,
dhaerfoer, he suddenly anounst hiz intenshon ov cetting out for the cene ov
the draamaa it wauz oonly whaut I had boath expected and hoapt for.

"I shood be moast happy too go doun withe u if I shood not be in the wa,"
ced I.

"Mi dere Wautson, u wood confer a grate favor uppon me bi cumming.
And I thhinc
dhat yor time wil not be mispent, for dhare ar points about the cace which
prommice too make it an absoluetly uneke wun. We hav, I thhinc, just time
too
cach our trane at Paddington, and I wil go ferther intoo the matter uppon
our
gerny. U wood oblige me bi bringing withe u yor verry exelent
feeld-glaas."

And so it happend dhat an our or so later I found micelf in the corner ov a

ferst-claas carrage fliying along on roote for Exeter, while Sherloc Hoamz, withe hiz sharp, egher face fraimd in hiz ere-flapt travveling-cap, dipt rappidly intoo the bundel ov fresh paperz which he had procuerd at Paddington. We had left Reding far behiand us befoer he thrust the laast wun ov them under the cete, and offerd me hiz cigar-cace.

"We ar gowing wel," ced he, loocking out the windo and glaancing at hiz wauch.

"Our rate at prezsent iz fifty-thre and a haaf mialz an our."

"I hav not observd the qworter-mile poasts," ced I.

"Nor hav I. But the tellegraaf poasts uppon this line ar cixty yardz apart, and the calculaishon iz a cimpel wun. I prezhume dhat u hav looct intoo this matter ov the merder ov Jon Straker and the disaperans ov Silver Blase?"

"I hav cene whaut the Tellegraaf and the Cronnikel hav too sa."

"It iz wun ov dhose cacez whare the art ov the rezoner shood be uezd raather for the cifting ov detailz dhan for the aqwiring ov fresh evvidens. The tradgedy haz bene so uncommon, so complete and ov such personal importans too so menny pepel, dhat we ar suffering from a plethoraa ov cermise, con'gechure, and hipothhecis. The difficulty iz too detach the fraimwerc ov fact—ov absolute undeniyabel fact—from the embellishments ov ththeyorists and repoerterz. Then, havving establisht ourcelvz uppon this sound baxis, it iz our juty too ce whaut

inferencez ma be draun and whaut ar the speshal points uppon which the whole mystery ternz. On Chuezda evening I receevd tellegramz from boath Cuunel Ros, the oner ov the hors, and from Inspector Gregory, whoo iz loocking aafter the cace, inviting mi cowoperaishon."

"Chuezda evening!" I exclaimd. "And this iz Thherzda morning. Whi didnt u go doun yesterda?"

"Becauz I made a blunder, mi dere Wautson—which iz, I am afrade, a moer common occurrens dhan enny wun wood thhinc whoo oanly nu me throo yor memwarz. The fact iz dhat I cood not beleve it poscibel dhat the moast remarcabel hors in In'gland cood long remane conceeld, espeshaly in so sparsly inhabbited a place az the north ov Dartmoor. From our too our yesterda I expected too here dhat he had bene found, and dhat hiz abductor wauz the merderer ov Jon Straker. When, houwevver, anuther morning had cum, and I found dhat beyond the arest ov yung Fitzroi Cimpson nuthhing had bene dun, I felt dhat it wauz time for me too take acshon. Yet in sum wase I fele dhat yesterda haz not bene waisted."

"U hav formd a ththeyory, then?"

"At leest I hav got a grip ov the ecenshal facts ov the cace. I shal enumerate them too u, for nuthhing cleerz up a cace so much az stating it too

anuther person, and I can hardly expect yor co-operaishon if I doo not sho
u
the posishon from which we start."

I la bac against the cooshonz, puffing at mi cigar, while Hoamz, lening
forword, withe hiz long, thhin foerfin'gher checking of the points uppon
the paalm
ov hiz left hand, gave me a skech ov the events which had led too our
gerny.

"Cilver Blase," ced he, "iz from the Somomy stoc, and hoaldz az brilleyant a
reccord az hiz famous ancestor. He iz nou in hiz fifth yere, and haz braut in
tern eche ov the prisez ov the terf too Cuunel Ros, hiz forchunate oner. Up
too
the time ov the catastrofy he wauz the ferst favorite for the Wescecx Cup,
the
betting beying thre too wun on him. He haz aulwase, houwevver, bene a
prime
favorite withe the racing public, and haz nevver yet disapointed them, so
dhat
even at dhose odz enormous sumz ov munny hav bene lade uppon him. It
iz
obveyous, dhaerfoer, dhat dhare wer menny pepel whoo had the
stron'ghest interest
in preventing Cilver Blase from beying dhare at the faul ov the flag next
Chuezda.

"The fact wauz, ov coers, apreesheyated at Kingz Piland, whare the
Cuunelz
traning-stabel iz citchuwated. Evvery precaushon wauz taken too gard the
favorite.
The traner, Jon Straker, iz a retiard jocky whoo rode in Cuunel Roscez
cullorz befoer he became too hevvy for the waying-chare. He haz cervd the

Cuunel for five yeerz az jocky and for cevven az traner, and haz aulwase shone
himself too be a sellous and onnest cervant. Under him wer thre ladz; for the
establishment wauz a smaul wun, contaning oonly foer horcez in aul. Wun ov these
ladz sat up eche nite in the stabel, while the utherz slept in the loft. Aul thre boer exelent carracterz. Jon Straker, whoo iz a marrede man, livd in a smaul villaa about too hundred yardz from the stabelz. He haz no children, keeps
wun made-cervant, and iz cumfortably of. The cuntry round iz verry loanly, but
about haaf a mile too the north dhare iz a smaul cluster ov villaaz which hav
bene bilt bi a Tavistoc contractor for the uce ov invalidz and utherz whoo ma
wish too enjoi the pure Dartmoor are. Tavistoc itcelf lise too mialz too the west, while acros the moor, aulso about too mialz distant, iz the larger traning establishment ov Mapelton, which belongz too Lord Baqwauter, and iz
mannaijd bi Cilas Broun. In evvery uther direcshon the moor iz a complete wildernes, inhabbited oonly bi a fu roming gipcese. Such wauz the genneral
cichuwaishon laast Munda nite when the catastrofy okerd.

"On dhat evening the horcez had bene exerciazd and wauterd az uezhuwal, and the
stabelz wer loct up at nine oacloc. Too ov the ladz wauct up too the tranerz hous, whare dha had supper in the kitchen, while the thherd, Ned Hunter, remaind on gard. At a fu minnuets aafter nine the made, Edith Baxter,
carrede doun too the stabelz hiz supper, which concisted ov a dish ov currede

mutton. She tooc no liqwid, az dhare wauz a wauter-tap in the stabelz, and it wauz the rule dhat the lad on juty shood drinc nuthhing els. The made carrede a lantern withe her, az it wauz verry darc and the paath ran across the open moor.

"Edith Baxter wauz within thherty yardz ov the stabelz, when a man apeerd out ov the darcnes and cauld too her too stop. Az he stept intoo the cerkel ov yello lite throne bi the lantern she sau dhat he wauz a person ov gentelmanly baring, drest in a gra sute ov tweedz, withe a cloth cap. He woer gaterz, and carrede a hevvy stic withe a nob too it. She wauz moast imprest, houwevver, bi the extreme pallor ov hiz face and bi the nervousnes ov hiz manner. Hiz age, she thaut, wood be raather over thherty dhan under it.

"Can u tel me whare I am?' he aasct. 'I had aulmoast made up mi miand too slepe on the moor, when I sau the lite ov yor lantern.'

"U ar cloce too the Kingz Piland traning-stabelz,' ced she.

"O, indede! Whaut a stroke ov luc!' he cride. 'I understand dhat a stabel-boi sleeps dhare alone evvery nite. Perhaps dhat iz hiz supper which u ar carreying too him. Nou I am shure dhat u wood not be too proud too ern the price ov a nu dres, wood u?' He tooc a pece ov white paper foalded up out ov hiz waistcote pocket. Ce dhat the boi haz this too-nite, and u shal hav the prittetest froc dhat munny can bi.'

"She wauz fritend bi the ernestnes ov hiz manner, and ran paast him too the

windo throo which she wauz acustomd too hand the meelz. It wauz
aulreddy
opend, and Hunter wauz ceted at the smaul tabel incide. She had begun
too tel
him ov whaut had happend, when the strain'ger came up agane.

"Good-evening,' ced he, loocking throo the windo. 'I waunted too hav a
werd
withe u.' The gherl haz swoern dhat az he spoke she notiast the corner ov
the
littel paper packet protruding from hiz cloazd hand.

"Whaut biznes hav u here?' aasct the lad.

"Its biznes dhat ma poot sumthhing intoo yor pocket,' ced the uther.
Uve too horcez in for the Wesceex Cup—Cilver Blase and Biyar. Let me hav
the strate tip and u woant be a looser. Iz it a fact dhat at the waits
Biyar cood ghiv the uther a hundred yardz in five ferlongz, and dhat the
stabel hav poot dhare munny on him?'

"So, yor wun ov dhose damd touts!' cride the lad. Ile sho u hou we
cerv them in Kingz Piland.' He sprang up and rusht across the stabel too
unlooce the dog. The gherl fled awa too the hous, but az she ran she looct
bac and sau dhat the strain'ger wauz lening throo the windo. A minnute
later,
houwevver, when Hunter rusht out withe the hound he wauz gon, and dho
he ran
aul round the bildingz he faild too fiand enny trace ov him."

"Wun moment," I aasct. "Did the stabel-boi, when he ran out withe the dog,
leve
the doer unloct behiand him?"

"Exelent, Wautson, exelent!" mermerd mi companyon. "The importans ov the point struc me so forcibly dhat I cent a speshal wire too Dartmoor yesterda too clere the matter up. The boi loct the doer befoer he left it. The windo, I ma ad, wauz not larj enuf for a man too ghet throo.

"Hunter wated until hiz fello-gruimz had reternd, when he cent a message too the traner and toald him whaut had okerd. Straker wauz exited at hering the acount, auldho he duz not ceme too hav qwite reyaliagd its tru cignifficans. It left him, houwevver, vaigly unnesy, and Mrs. Straker, waking at wun in the morning, found dhat he wauz drescing. In repli too her inqwirese, he ced dhat he cood not slepe on acount ov hiz anxiyety about the horcez, and dhat he intended too wauc doun too the stabelz too ce dhat aul wauz wel. She begd him too remane at home, az she cood here the rane pattering against the windo, but in spite ov her entretese he poold on hiz larj mackintosh and left the hous.

"Mrs. Straker awoke at cevven in the morning, too fiand dhat her huzband had not yet reternd. She drest hercelf haistily, cauld the made, and cet of for the stabelz. The doer wauz open; incide, huddeld tooghether uppon a chare, Hunter wauz sunc in a state ov absolute schupor, the favoriats staul wauz empty, and dhare wer no cianz ov hiz traner.

"The too ladz whoo slept in the chaaf-cutting loft abuv the harnes-roome wer
qwicly arouzd. Dha had herd nuthhing juring the nite, for dha ar boath
sound sleperz. Hunter wauz obveyously under the influwens ov sum
pouwerfool drug,
and az no cens cood be got out ov him, he wauz left too slepe it of while the
too ladz and the too wimmen ran out in cerch ov the abcentese. Dha stil
had
hoaps dhat the traner had for sum rezon taken out the hors for erly
exercise, but on acending the nol nere the hous, from which aul the
naboring moorz wer vizsibel, dha not oonly cood ce no cianz ov the
miscing
favorite, but dha perceevd sumthhing which wornd them dhat dha wer in
the
prezsens ov a tradgedy.

"About a qworter ov a mile from the stabelz Jon Strakerz overcote wauz
flapping from a ferz-boosh. Imejaitly beyond dhare wauz a bole-shaipt
depreshon in the moor, and at the bottom ov this wauz found the ded
boddy ov
the unforchunate traner. Hiz hed had bene shatterd bi a savvage blo from
sum
hevvy weppon, and he wauz wuinded on the thhi, whare dhare wauz a
long, clene
cut, inflicted evvidently bi sum verry sharp instrument. It wauz clere,
houwevver,
dhat Straker had defended himcelf viggorously against hiz asalants, for in
hiz
rite hand he held a smaul nife, which wauz clotted withe blud up too the
handel, while in hiz left he claaapt a red and blac cilc cravat, which wauz
reccogniazd bi the made az havving bene woern on the preceding evening
bi the
strain'ger whoo had vizsited the stabelz. Hunter, on recuvvering from hiz
schupor,

wauz aulso qwite pozsitive az too the onership ov the cravat. He wauz
eeqwaly
certane dhat the same strain'ger had, while standing at the windo, drugd
hiz
currede mutton, and so depriavd the stabelz ov dhare wauchman. Az too
the
miscing hors, dhare wer abundant pruifs in the mud which la at the bottom
ov
the fatal hollo dhat he had bene dhare at the time ov the strugghel. But
from
dhat morning he haz disapeerd, and auldho a larj reword haz bene offerd,
and aul the gipcese ov Dartmoor ar on the alert, no nuse haz cum ov him.
Finaly, an anallicis haz shone dhat the remainz ov hiz supper left bi the
stabel-lad contane an apreeshabel qwauntity ov pouderd opeyum, while
the pepel
at the hous partooc ov the same dish on the same nite widhout enny il
efect.

"Dhose ar the mane facts ov the cace, stript ov aul cermise, and stated az
bauldy az poscibel. I shal nou recapitchulate whaut the polece hav dun in
the
matter.

"Inspector Gregory, too whoome the cace haz bene comitted, iz an
extreemly
competent officer. Wer he but ghifted withe imaginaishon he mite rise too
grate
hiats in hiz profeshon. On hiz arival he promptly found and arested the
man uppon whoome suspishon natchuraly rested. Dhare wauz littel
difficulty in
fianding him, for he inhabbited wun ov dhose villaaz which I hav
menshond. Hiz
name, it apeerz, wauz Fitzroi Cimpson. He wauz a man ov exelent berth
and

ejucaishon, whoo had sqwaunderd a forchune uppon the terf, and whoo livd nou bi doowing a littel qwiyet and gentele booc-making in the spoerting clubz ov Lunden.

An examinaishon ov hiz betting-booc shose dhat bets too the amount ov five thousand poundz had bene redgisterd bi him against the favorite. On beying arested he vollunteerd dhat staitment dhat he had cum down too Dartmoor in the hope ov ghetting sum informaishon about the Kingz Piland horcez, and aulso about Dezboro, the cecond favorite, which wauz in charj ov Cilas Broun at the Mapelton stabelz. He did not atempt too deni dhat he had acted az descriabd uppon the evening befoer, but declaerd dhat he had no cinnister desianz, and had cimply wisht too obtane ferst-hand informaishon. When confrunted withe hiz cravat, he ternd verry pale, and wauz utterly unnabel too acount for its prezsens in the hand ov the merderd man. Hiz wet cloathing shode dhat he had bene out in the storm ov the nite befoer, and hiz stic, which wauz a Penang-lauyer wated withe led, wauz just such a weppon az mite, bi repeted blose, hav inflicted the terribel injurese too which the traner had sucumd. On the uther hand, dhare wauz no wuind uppon hiz person, while the state ov Strakerz nife wood sho dhat wun at leest ov hiz asalants must bare hiz marc uppon him. Dhare u hav it aul in a nutshel, Wautson, and if u can ghiv me enny lite I shal be infiniatly obliajd too u."

I had liscend withe the gratest interest too the staitment which Hoamz, withe

characteristic cleernes, had lade befoer me. Dho moast ov the facts wer familleyar too me, I had not sufishly apreesheyated dhare rellative importans, nor dhare conecshon too eche uther.

"Iz it not poscibel," I sugested, "dhat the inciagd wuind uppon Straker ma hav bene cauzd bi hiz one nife in the convulcive strugghelz which follo enny brane injury?"

"It iz moer dhan poscibel; it iz probbabel," ced Hoamz. "In dhat cace wun ov the mane points in favor ov the acuezd disapeerz."

"And yet," ced I, "even nou I fale too understand whaut the ththeyory ov the polece can be."

"I am afrade dhat whatevver ththeyory we state haz verry grave obgecshonz too it," reternd mi companyon. "The polece imadgine, I take it, dhat this Fitzroi Cimpson, havving drugd the lad, and havving in sum wa obtaind a jueplicate ke, opend the stabel doer and tooc out the hors, withe the intenshon, aparrently, ov kidnaping him aultooghether. Hiz bridel iz miscing, so dhat Cimpson must hav poot this on. Then, havving left the doer open behiand him, he wauz leding the hors awa over the moor, when he wauz iather met or overtaken bi the traner. A rou natchuraly ensude. Cimpson bete out the tranerz brainz withe hiz hevvy stic widhout receving enny injury from the smaull nife which Straker uezd in celf-defens, and then the thhfe iather led the hors on too sum ceecret hiding-place, or els it ma hav bolted juring the strugghel, and

be nou wandering out on the moorz. Dhat iz the cace az it apeerz too the polece, and improbbabel az it iz, aul uther explanaishonz ar moer improbbabel stil. Houwevver, I shal verry qwicly test the matter when I am wuns uppon the spot, and until then I canot reyaly ce hou we can ghet much ferther dhan our prezsent posishon."

It wauz evening befoer we reecht the littel toun ov Tavistoc, which lise, like the bos ov a sheeld, in the middel ov the huge cerkel ov Dartmoor. Too gentelmen wer awating us in the staishon—the wun a taul, fare man withe liyon-like hare and beerd and cureyously pennetrating lite blu ise; the uther a smaul, alert person, verry nete and dapper, in a froc-cote and gaterz, withe trim littel cide-whiskerz and an i-glaas. The latter wauz Cuunel Ros, the wel-none spoertsman; the uther, Inspector Gregory, a man whoo wauz rappidly making hiz name in the In'glish detective cervice.

"I am delited dhat u hav cum down, Mr. Hoamz," ced the Cuunel. "The Inspector here haz dun aul dhat cood poscibly be sugested, but I wish too leve no stone unterned in triying too avenj poor Straker and in recuvering mi hors."

"Hav dhare bene enny fresh develloppments?" aasct Hoamz.

"I am sory too sa dhat we hav made verry littel proagres," ced the Inspector. "We hav an open carrage outside, and az u wood no dout like too ce the place befoer the lite failz, we mite tauc it over az we drive."

A minnute later we wer aul ceted in a cumfortabel landau, and wer ratling

throo the qwaint oald Devvonshire citty. Inspector Gregory wauz fool ov
hiz cace,
and poerd out a streme ov remarx, while Hoamz thru in an ocaizhonal
qweschon or intergecshon. Cuunel Ros leend bac withe hiz armz foalded
and hiz
hat tilted over hiz ise, while I liscend withe interest too the diyalog ov the
too detectiavz. Gregory wauz formulating hiz ththeyory, which wauz
aulmoast exactly
whaut Hoamz had foertoald in the trane.

"The net iz draun pritty cloce round Fitzroi Cimpson," he remarct, "and I
beleve micelf dhat he iz our man. At the same time I reccognise dhat the
evvidens iz puerly circumstaanshal, and dhat sum nu devellopment ma
upcet it."

"Hou about Strakerz nife?"

"We hav qwite cum too the concluezhon dhat he wuinded himcelf in hiz
faul."

"Mi frend Dr. Wautson made dhat sugeschon too me az we came doun. If
so, it
wood tel against this man Cimpson."

"Undoutedly. He haz niather a nife nor enny cine ov a wuind. The evvidens
against him iz certainly verry strong. He had a grate interest in the
disaperans ov the favorite. He lise under suspishon ov havving poizond
the
stabel-boi, he wauz undoutedly out in the storm, he wauz armd withe a
hevvyy
stic, and hiz cravat wauz found in the ded manz hand. I reyaly thhinc we
hav
enuf too go befoer a jury."

Hoamz shooc hiz hed. "A clevver council wood tare it aul too ragz," ced he. "Whi shood he take the hors out ov the stabel? If he wisht too injure it whi cood he not doo it dhare? Haz a jueplicate ke bene found in hiz poseshon? Whaut kemmist soald him the pouderd opeyum? Abuv aul, whare cood he, a strain'ger too the district, hide a hors, and such a hors az this? Whaut iz hiz one explanaishon az too the paper which he wisht the made too ghiv too the stabel-boi?"

"He cez dhat it wauz a ten-pound note. Wun wauz found in hiz pers. But yor uther difficultese ar not so formiddabel az dha ceme. He iz not a strain'ger too the district. He haz twice lojd at Tavistoc in the summer. The opeyum wauz probbably braut from Lundon. The ke, havving cervd its perpoce, wood be herld awa. The hors ma be at the bottom ov wun ov the pits or oald mianz uppon the moor."

"Whaut duz he sa about the cravat?"

"He acnollegez dhat it iz hiz, and declaerz dhat he had lost it. But a nu ellement haz bene introjuest intoo the cace which ma acount for hiz leding the hors from the stabel."

Hoamz prict up hiz eerz.

"We hav found tracez which sho dhat a party ov gipcese encampt on Munda nite within a mile ov the spot whare the merder tooc place. On Chueзда dha wer gon. Nou, prezhuming dhat dhare wauz sum understanding betwene Cimpson and these gipcese, mite he not hav bene leding the hors too them when he wauz

overtaken, and ma dha not hav him nou?"

"It iz certainly poscibel."

"The moor iz beying scourd for these gipcese. I hav aulso exammiand evvery stabel and out-hous in Tavistoc, and for a rajus ov ten mialz."

"Dhare iz anuther traning-stabel qwite cloce, I understand?"

"Yes, and dhat iz a factor which we must certainly not neglect. Az Dezboro, dhare hors, wauz cecond in the betting, dha had an interest in the disaperans ov the favorite. Cilas Broun, the traner, iz none too hav had larj bets uppon the event, and he wauz no frend too poor Straker. We hav, houwevver, exammiand the stabelz, and dhare iz nuthhing too conect him withe the afare."

"And nuthhing too conect this man Cimpson withe the interests ov the Mapelton stabelz?"

"Nuthhing at aul."

Hoamz leend bac in the carrage, and the conversaishon ceest. A fu minnuets

later our driver poold up at a nete littel red-bric villaa withe overhanging eevz which stood bi the rode. Sum distans of, acros a paddoc, la a long gra-tiald out-bilding. In evvery uther direcshon the lo kervz ov the moor, bronz-cullord from the fading fernz, strecht awa too the ski-line, broken oonly bi the stepelz ov Tavistoc, and bi a cluster ov housez awa too the westword which marct the Mapelton stabelz. We aul sprang out withe the exepshon ov Hoamz, whoo continnude too lene bac withe hiz ise fixt uppon the

ski in frunt ov him, entiarly abzorbd in hiz one thauts. It wauz oanly when I tucht hiz arm dhat he rouzd himcelf withe a viyolent start and stept out ov the carrage.

"Excuse me," ced he, terning too Cuunel Ros, whoo had looct at him in sum cerprise. "I wauz da-dreming." Dhare wauz a gleme in hiz ise and a suprest exiatment in hiz manner which convinst me, uezd az I wauz too hiz wase, dhat hiz hand wauz uppon a clu, dho I cood not imadgine whare he had found it.

"Perhaps u wood prefer at wuns too go on too the cene ov the crime, Mr. Hoamz?" ced Gregory.

"I thhinc dhat I shood prefer too sta here a littel and go intoo wun or too qweschonz ov detale. Straker wauz braut bac here, I prezhume?"

"Yes; he lise upstaerz. The inqwest iz too-moro."

"He haz bene in yor cervice sum yeerz, Cuunel Ros?"

"I hav aulwase found him an exelent cervant."

"I prezhume dhat u made an inventory ov whaut he had in hiz pockets at the time ov hiz deth, Inspector?"

"I hav the thhingz themcelvz in the citting-roome, if u wood care too ce them."

"I shood be verry glad." We aul fiald intoo the frunt roome and sat round the central tabel while the Inspector unloct a sqware tin box and lade a smaul

hepe ov thhingz befoer us. Dhare wauz a box ov vestaaz, too inchez ov tallo candel, an A D P briyer-roote pipe, a pouch ov cele-skin withe haaf an ouns ov long-cut Cavvendish, a cilver wauch withe a goald chane, five sovverainz in goald, an aluminum pencil-cace, a fu paperz, and an ivory-handeld nife withe a verry dellicate, inflexibel blade marct Wece & Co., Lundon.

"This iz a verry cin'gular nife," ced Hoamz, lifting it up and exammining it minuetly. "I prezhume, az I ce blud-stainz uppon it, dhat it iz the wun which wauz found in the ded manz graasp. Wautson, this nife iz shuerly in yor line?"

"It iz whaut we caul a cataract nife," ced I.

"I thaut so. A verry dellicate blade deviazd for verry dellicate werc. A strainj thhing for a man too carry withe him uppon a ruf expedishon, espeshaly az it wood not shut in hiz pocket."

"The tip wauz garded bi a disc ov corc which we found becide hiz boddy," ced the Inspector. "Hiz wife telz us dhat the nife had lane uppon the drescing-tabel, and dhat he had pict it up az he left the roome. It wauz a poor weppon, but perhaps the best dhat he cood la hiz handz on at the moment."

"Verry poscibel. Hou about these paperz?"

"Thre ov them ar receted ha-delerz acounts. Wun ov them iz a letter ov instrucshonz from Cuunel Ros. This uther iz a millinerz acount for thherty-cevven poundz fiftene made out bi Madam Leezhureyer, ov Bond Strete, too
Willeyam Darbshire. Mrs. Straker telz us dhat Darbshire wauz a frend ov her
huzbandz and dhat ocaizhonaly hiz letterz wer adrest here."

"Maddam Darbshire had sumwhaut expencive taists," remarct Hoamz, glaancing
doun the acount. "Twenty-too ghinnese iz raather hevvy for a cin'ghel coschume.
Houwevver dhare apeerz too be nuthhing moer too lern, and we ma nou go doun too
the cene ov the crime."

Az we emerjd from the citting-roome a woomman, whoo had bene wating in the
passage, tooc a step forword and lade her hand uppon the Inspectorz sleeve. Her
face wauz haggard and thhin and egher, stampt withe the print ov a recent horror.

"Hav u got them? Hav u found them?" she panted.

"No, Mrs. Straker. But Mr. Hoamz here haz cum from Lundon too help us, and we
shal doo aul dhat iz poscibel."

"Shuerly I met u in Plimmouth at a garden-party sum littel time ago, Mrs. Straker?" ced Hoamz.

"No, cer; u ar mistaken."

"Dere me! Whi, I cood hav swoern too it. U woer a coschume ov duv-cullord
cilc withe ostrich-fether trimming."

"I nevver had such a dres, cer," aancerd the lady.

"Aa, dhat qwite cettelz it," ced Hoamz. And withe an apollogy he follode
the
Inspector outside. A short wauc acros the moor tooc us too the hollo in
which
the boddy had bene found. At the brinc ov it wauz the ferz-boosh uppon
which the
cote had bene hung.

"Dhare wauz no wind dhat nite, I understand," ced Hoamz.

"Nun; but verry hevvy rane."

"In dhat cace the overcote wauz not blone against the ferz-boosh, but plaist
dhare."

"Yes, it wauz lade acros the boosh."

"U fil me withe interest, I perceve dhat the ground haz bene trampeld up a
good dele. No dout menny fete hav bene here cins Munda nite."

"A pece ov matting haz bene lade here at the cide, and we hav aul stood
uppon
dhat."

"Exelent."

"In this bag I hav wun ov the buits which Straker woer, wun ov Fitzroi
Cimpsonz shoose, and a caast horsshoo ov Cilver Blase."

"Mi dere Inspector, u cerpaas yorcelf!" Hoamz tooc the bag, and, decending intoo the hollo, he poosht the matting intoo a moer central posishon. Then stretching himself uppon hiz face and lening hiz chin uppon hiz handz, he made a caerfool studdy ov the trampeld mud in frunt ov him. "Hullo!" ced he, suddenly.

"Whauts this?" It wauz a wax vestaa haaf bernd, which wauz so coted withe mud dhat it looct at ferst like a littel chip ov wood.

"I canot thhinc hou I came too overlooc it," ced the Inspector, withe an expreshon ov anoiyans.

"It wauz invizsibel, berrede in the mud. I oanly sau it becauz I wauz loocking for it."

"Whaut! U expected too fiand it?"

"I thaut it not unliacly."

He tooc the buits from the bag, and compaerd the impreshonz ov eche ov them withe marx uppon the ground. Then he clamberd up too the rim ov the hollo, and crauld about among the fernz and booshez.

"I am afrade dhat dhare ar no moer trax," ced the Inspector. "I hav exammiand the ground verry caerfooly for a hundred yardz in eche direcshon."

"Indede!" ced Hoamz, rising. "I shood not hav the impertinens too doo it

agane aafter whaut u sa. But I shood like too take a littel wauc over the moor befoer it grose darc, dhat I ma no mi ground too-moro, and I thhinc dhat I shal poot this horsshoo intoo mi pocket for luc."

Cuunel Ros, whoo had shone sum cianz ov impaishens at mi companyonz qwiyet and cistemattic method ov werc, glaanst at hiz wauch. "I wish u wood cum bac withe me, Inspector," ced he. "Dhare ar cevveral points on which I shood like yor advice, and espeshaly az too whether we doo not o it too the public too remoove our horcez name from the entrese for the Cup."

"Certainly not," cride Hoamz, withe decizhon. "I shood let the name stand."

The Cuunel boud. "I am verry glad too hav had yor opinyon, cer," ced he. "U wil fiand us at poor Strakerz hous when u hav finnisht yor wauc, and we can drive tooghether intoo Tavistoc."

He ternd bac withe the Inspector, while Hoamz and I wauct sloly acros the moor. The sun wauz beghinning too cinc behiand the stabelz ov Mapelton, and the long, sloping plane in frunt ov us wauz tinjd withe goald, depening intoo rich, ruddy brounz whare the faded fernz and brambelz caut the evening lite. But the gloerese ov the landscape wer aul waisted uppon mi companyon, whoo wauz sunc in the depest thaut.

"Its this wa, Wautson," ced he at laast. "We ma leve the qweschon ov whoo kild Jon Straker for the instant, and confine ourcelvz too fianding out whaut

haz becum ov the hors. Nou, suposing dhat he broke awa juring or aafter the tradgedy, whare cood he hav gon too? The hors iz a verry gregareyouc crechure.

If left too himcelf hiz instincts wood hav bene iather too retern too Kingz Piland or go over too Mapelton. Whi shood he run wiald uppon the moor? He wood

shuerly hav bene cene bi nou. And whi shood gipcese kidnap him? These pepel

aulwase clere out when dha here ov trubbel, for dha doo not wish too be pesterd

bi the polece. Dha cood not hope too cel such a hors. Dha wood run a grate risc and gane nuthhing bi taking him. Shuerly dhat iz clere."

"Whare iz he, then?"

"I hav aulreddy ced dhat he must hav gon too Kingz Piland or too Mapelton. He

iz not at Kingz Piland. Dhaerfoer he iz at Mapelton. Let us take dhat az a werking hypothhecis and ce whaut it leedz us too. This part ov the moor, az the

Inspector remarct, iz verry hard and dri. But it faulz awa toowordz Mapelton,

and u can ce from here dhat dhare iz a long hollo over yonder, which must hav bene verry wet on Munda nite. If our suposishon iz corect, then the hors must hav crost dhat, and dhare iz the point whare we shood looc for hiz trax."

We had bene wauking briscly juring this conversaishon, and a fu moer minnuets

braut us too the hollo in qweschon. At Hoamz reqwest I wauct down the banc

too the rite, and he too the left, but I had not taken fifty pavez befoer I

herd him ghiv a shout, and sau him waving hiz hand too me. The trac ov a hors
wauz plainly outliand in the soft erth in frunt ov him, and the shoo which
he
tooc from hiz pocket exactly fitted the impreshon.

"Ce the vallu ov imaginaishon," ced Hoamz. "It iz the wun qwaulity which
Greggory lax. We imadgiand whaut mite hav happend, acted uppon the
suposishon, and fiand ourcelvz justifide. Let us procede."

We crost the marshy bottom and paast over a qworter ov a mile ov dri,
hard
terf. Agane the ground sloapt, and agane we came on the trax. Then we lost
them for haaf a mile, but oonly too pic them up wuns moer qwite cloce too
Mapelton. It wauz Hoamz whoo sau them ferst, and he stood pointing
withe a looc
ov triyumf uppon hiz face. A manz trac wauz vizsibel becide the horcez.

"The hors wauz alone befoer," I cride.

"Qwite so. It wauz alone befoer. Hullo, whaut iz this?"

The dubbel trac ternd sharp of and tooc the direcshon ov Kingz Piland.
Hoamz whisceld, and we boath follode along aafter it. Hiz ise wer on the
trale, but I happend too looc a littel too wun cide, and sau too mi cerprise
the
same trax cumming bac agane in the opposite direcshon.

"Wun for u, Wautson," ced Hoamz, when I pointed it out. "U hav saivd us a
long wauc, which wood hav braut us bac on our one tracez. Let us follo
the retern trac."

We had not too go far. It ended at the paving ov asfalt which led up too the

gaits ov the Mapelton stabelz. Az we aproacht, a groome ran out from them.

"We doant waunt enny loitererz about here," ced he.

"I oanly wisht too aasc a qweschon," ced Hoamz, withe hiz fin'gher and thum in hiz waistcote pocket. "Shood I be too erly too ce yor maaster, Mr. Cilas Broun, if I wer too caul at five oacloc too-moro morning?"

"Bles u, cer, if enny wun iz about he wil be, for he iz aulwase the ferst stuuring. But here he iz, cer, too aancer yor qweschonz for himcelf. No, cer, no; it iz az much az mi place iz werth too let him ce me tuch yor munny. Aafterwordz, if u like."

Az Sherloc Hoamz replaist the haaf-croun which he had draun from hiz pocket, a feers-loocking elderly man strode out from the gate withe a hunting-crop swinging in hiz hand.

"Whauts this, Dauson!" he cride. "No gosciping! Go about yor biznes! And u, whaut the devvil doo u waunt here?"

"Ten minnuets tauc withe u, mi good cer," ced Hoamz in the swetest ov voicez.

"Ive no time too tauc too evvery gadabout. We waunt no strain'ger here. Be of, or u ma fiand a dog at yor heelz."

Hoamz leend forword and whisperd sumthhing in the tranerz ere. He started viyolently and flusht too the tempelz.

"Its a li!" he shouted, "an infernal li!"

"Verry good. Shal we argu about it here in public or tauc it over in yor parlor?"

"O, cum in if u wish too."

Hoamz smiald. "I shal not kepe u moer dhan a fu minnuets, Wautson," ced he.

"Nou, Mr. Broun, I am qwite at yor dispozal."

It wauz twenty minnuets, and the redz had aul faded intoo grase befoer Hoamz and the traner reyapeerd. Nevver hav I cene such a chainj az had bene braut about in Cilas Broun in dhat short time. Hiz face wauz ashy pale, beedz ov perspiraishon shon uppon hiz brou, and hiz handz shooc until the hunting-crop wagd like a braanch in the wind. Hiz boolleying, overbaring manner wauz aul gon too, and he crinjd along at mi companyonz cide like a dog withe its maaster.

"Yor instrucshonz wil be dun. It shal aul be dun," ced he.

"Dhare must be no mistake," ced Hoamz, loocking round at him. The uther winst az he red the mennace in hiz ise.

"O no, dhare shal be no mistake. It shal be dhare. Shood I chainj it ferst or not?"

Hoamz thaut a littel and then berst out laafing. "No, doant," ced he; "I shal rite too u about it. No trix, nou, or—"

"O, u can trust me, u can trust me!"

"Yes, I thhinc I can. Wel, u shal here from me too-moro." He ternd uppon hiz hele, disregarding the trembling hand which the uther held out too him, and
we cet of for Kingz Piland.

"A moer perfect compound ov the boolly, couward, and sneke dhan Maaster Cilas
Broun I hav celdom met withe," remarct Hoamz az we trujd along tooghether.

"He haz the hors, then?"

"He tride too bluster out ov it, but I descriabd too him so exactly whaut hiz acshonz had bene uppon dhat morning dhat he iz convinst dhat I wauz wauching
him. Ov coers u observd the peculeyarly sqware tose in the impreshonz, and
dhat hiz one buits exactly coresponded too them. Agane, ov coers no subordinate wood hav daerd too doo such a thhing. I descriabd too him hou, when
acording too hiz custom he wauz the ferst doun, he perceevd a strainj hors waundering over the moor. Hou he went out too it, and hiz astonishment at
reccognising, from the white foerhed which haz ghivven the favorite its name,
dhat chaans had poot in hiz pouwer the oarly hors which cood bete the wun uppon
which he had poot hiz munny. Then I descriabd hou hiz ferst impuls had bene too
lede him bac too Kingz Piland, and hou the devvil had shone him hou he cood
hide the hors until the race wauz over, and hou he had led it bac and

conceald it at Mapelton. When I toald him evvery detale he gave it up and thaut oonly ov saving hiz one skin."

"But hiz stabelz had bene cercht?"

"O, an oald hors-faker like him haz menny a doj."

"But ar u not afrade too leve the hors in hiz pouwer nou, cins he haz evvery interest in injuring it?"

"Mi dere fello, he wil gard it az the appel ov hiz i. He nose dhat hiz oonly hope ov mercy iz too projuce it safe."

"Cuunel Ros did not impres me az a man whoo wood be liacly too sho much mercy in enny cace."

"The matter duz not rest withe Cuunel Ros. I follo mi one methodz, and tel az much or az littel az I chuse. Dhat iz the advaantage ov beying unnofishal. I doant no whether u observd it, Wautson, but the Cuunelz manner haz bene just a trifel cavaleyer too me. I am incliand nou too hav a littel amuezment at hiz expans. Sa nuthhing too him about the hors."

"Certainly not widhout yor permishon."

"And ov coers this iz aul qwite a minor point compaerd too the qweschon ov whoo kild Jon Straker."

"And u wil devote yorcelf too dhat?"

"On the contrary, we boath go bac too Lundon bi the nite trane."

I wauz thunderstruc bi mi frendz werdz. We had oonly bene a fu ourz in Devvonshire, and dhat he shood ghiv up an investigaishon which he had begun so brilleyantly wauz qwite incomprehencibel too me. Not a werd moer cood I drau from him until we wer bac at the tranerz hous. The Cuunel and the Inspector wer awating us in the parlor.

"Mi frend and I retern too toun bi the nite-expres," ced Hoamz. "We hav had a charming littel breth ov yor butifool Dartmoor are."

The Inspector opend hiz ise, and the Cuunelz lip kerld in a snere.

"So u despare ov aresting the merderer ov poor Straker," ced he.

Hoamz shrugd hiz shoalderz. "Dhare ar certainly grave difficultese in the wa," ced he. "I hav evvery hope, houwevver, dhat yor hors wil start uppon Chueзда, and I beg dhat u wil hav yor jocky in reddines. Mite I aasc for a fotograaf ov Mr. Jon Straker?"

The Inspector tooc wun from an envelope and handed it too him.

"Mi dere Gregory, u antiscipate aul mi waunts. If I mite aasc u too wate here for an instant, I hav a qweschon which I shood like too poot too the made."

"I must sa dhat I am raather disapointed in our Lunden consultant," ced Cuunel Ros, bluntly, az mi frend left the roome. "I doo not ce dhat we ar enny ferther dhan when he came."

"At leest u hav hiz ashurans dhat yor hors wil run," ced I.

"Yes, I hav hiz ashurans," ced the Cuunel, withe a shrug ov hiz shoalderz.

"I shood prefer too hav the hors."

I wauz about too make sum repli in defens ov mi frend when he enterd the roome agane.

"Nou, gentelmen," ced he, "I am qwite reddy for Tavistoc."

Az we stept intoo the carrage wun ov the stabel-ladz held the doer open for us. A sudden ideyaa ceemd too oker too Hoamz, for he leend forword and tucht the lad uppon the sleve.

"U hav a fu shepe in the paddoc," he ced. "Whoo atenz too them?"

"I doo, cer."

"Hav u notiast ennithing amis withe them ov late?"

"Wel, cer, not ov much acount; but thre ov them hav gon lame, cer."

I cood ce dhat Hoamz wauz extreemly pleezd, for he chuckeld and rubd hiz handz tooghether.

"A long shot, Wautson; a verry long shot," ced he, pinching mi arm.

"Greggory, let me recomend too yor atenshon this cin'gular epidemmic among the shepe.

Drive on, coachman!"

Cuunel Ros stil woer an expreshon which shode the poor opinyon which he had formd ov mi companyonz abillity, but I sau bi the Inspectorz face dhat

hiz atenshon had bene keenly arouzd.

"U concidder dhat too be important?" he aasct.

"Exedingly so."

"Iz dhare enny point too which u wood wish too drau mi atenshon?"

"Too the cureyous incident ov the dog in the nite-time."

"The dog did nuthhing in the nite-time."

"Dhat wauz the cureyous incident," remarct Sherlock Hoamz.

Foer dase later Hoamz and I wer agane in the trane, bound for Winchester too

ce the race for the Wescex Cup. Cuunel Ros met us bi apointment outside the

staishon, and we drove in hiz drag too the coers beyond the toun. Hiz face wauz

grave, and hiz manner wauz coald in the extreme.

"I hav cene nuthhing ov mi hors," ced he.

"I supose dhat u wood no him when u sau him?" aasct Hoamz.

The Cuunel wauz verry an'gry. "I hav bene on the terf for twenty yeerz, and

nevver wauz aasct such a qweschon az dhat befoer," ced he. "A chiald wood no

Cilver Blase, withe hiz white foerhed and hiz motteld of-foerleg."

"Hou iz the betting?"

"Wel, dhat iz the cureyous part ov it. U cood hav got fiftene too wun yesterda, but the price haz becum shorter and shorter, until u can hardly ghet thre too wun nou."

"Hum!" ced Hoamz. "Sumbody nose sumthhing, dhat iz clere."

Az the drag dru up in the encloazhure nere the grand stand I glaanst at the card
too ce the entrese.

Wescex Plate [it ran] 50 sovz eche h ft withe 1000 sovz added for foer and five
yere oaldz. Ceccond, L300. Thherd, L200. Nu coers (wun mile and five ferlongz).

Mr. Heeth Nutonz The Neegro. Red cap. Cinnamon jacket. Cuunel Wardlauz

Pugilist. Pinc cap. Blu and blac jacket. Lord Baqwauterz Dezboro. Yello cap and sleevz. Cuunel Roscez Cilver Blase. Blac cap. Red jacket. Juke ov Balmoralz Iris. Yello and blac striaps. Lord Cin'glefordz Raasper. Perpel cap. Blac sleevz.

"We scracht our uther wun, and poot aul hoaps on yor werd," ced the Cuunel.

"Whi, whaut iz dhat? Cilver Blase favorite?"

"Five too foer against Cilver Blase!" roerd the ring. "Five too foer against Cilver Blase! Five too fiftene against Dezboro! Five too foer on the feeld!"

"Dhare ar the numberz up," I cride. "Dha ar aul cix dhare."

"Aul cix dhare? Then mi hors iz running," cride the Cuunel in grate agitaishon. "But I doant ce him. Mi cullorz hav not paast."

"Oonly five hav paast. This must be he."

Az I spoke a pouwerfool ba hors swept out from the waying encloazhure
and
canterd paast us, baring on its bac the wel-none blac and red ov the
Cuunel.

"Dhats not mi hors," cride the oner. "Dhat beest haz not a white hare uppon
its boddy. Whaut iz this dhat u hav dun, Mr. Hoamz?"

"Wel, wel, let us ce hou he ghets on," ced mi frend, imperterbably. For a
fu minnuets he gaizd throo mi feeld-glaas. "Cappital! An exelent start!" he
cride suddenly. "Dhare dha ar, cumming round the kerv!"

From our drag we had a superb vu az dha came up the strate. The six
horcez
wer so cloce tooghether dhat a carpet cood hav cuvverd them, but haaf wa
up
the yello ov the Mapelton stabel shode too the frunt. Befoer dha reecht us,
houwevver, Dezborose bolt wauz shot, and the Cuunelz hors, cumming
awa withe
a rush, paast the poast a good six lengths befoer its rival, the Juke ov
Balmoralz Iris making a bad thherd.

"Its mi race, ennihou," gaaspt the Cuunel, paacing hiz hand over hiz ise. "I
confes dhat I can make niather hed nor tale ov it. Doant u thhinc dhat u
hav kept up yor mistery long enuf, Mr. Hoamz?"

"Certainly, Cuunel, u shal no evverithhing. Let us aul go round and hav a
looc at the hors tooghether. Here he iz," he continnude, az we made our wa
intoo
the waying encloazhure, whare oonly onerz and dhare frendz fiand
admittans.

"U hav oonly too waush hiz face and hiz leg in spirrits ov wine, and u wil
fiand dhat he iz the same oald Cilver Blase az evver."

"U take mi breth awa!"

"I found him in the handz ov a faker, and tooc the libberty ov running him just az he wauz cent over."

"Mi dere cer, u hav dun wunderz. The hors loox verry fit and wel. It nevver went better in its life. I o u a thousand apollogese for havving douted yor abillity. U hav dun me a grate cervice bi recuvvering mi hors. U wood doo me a grater stil if u cood la yor handz on the merderer ov Jon Straker."

"I hav dun so," ced Hoamz qwiyetly.

The Cuunel and I staerd at him in amaizment. "U hav got him! Whare iz he, then?"

"He iz here."

"Here! Whare?"

"In mi cumpany at the prezsent moment."

The Cuunel flusht an'grily. "I qwite reccognise dhat I am under obligaishonz too u, Mr. Hoamz," ced he, "but I must regard whaut u hav just ced az iather a verry bad joke or an insult."

Sherloc Hoamz laaft. "I ashure u dhat I hav not asoasheyated u withe the crime, Cuunel," ced he. "The reyal merderer iz standing imejaitly behiand u." He stept paast and lade hiz hand uppon the gloscy nec ov the thurroabred.

"The hors!" cride boath the Cuunel and micelf.

"Yes, the hors. And it ma leschen hiz ghilt if I sa dhat it wauz dun in celf-defens, and dhat Jon Straker wauz a man whoo wauz entiarly unwerthy ov yor confidens. But dhare gose the bel, and az I stand too win a littel on this next race, I shal defer a lengthhy explanaishon until a moer fitting time."

We had the corner ov a Poolman car too ourcelvz dhat evening az we wherld bac too Lundon, and I fancy dhat the gerny wauz a short wun too Cuunel Ros az wel az too micelf, az we liscend too our companyonz narrative ov the events which had okerd at the Dartmoor traning-stabelz uppon the Munda nite, and the meenz bi which he had unravveld them.

"I confes," ced he, "dhat enny ththeyorese which I had formd from the nuespaper repoerts wer entiarly eroanyous. And yet dhare wer indicaishonz dhare, had dha not bene overlade bi uther detailz which conceeld dhare tru impoert. I went too Devvonshire withe the convicshon dhat Fitzroi Cimpson wauz the tru culprit, auldho, ov coers, I sau dhat the evvidens against him wauz bi no meenz complete. It wauz while I wauz in the carrage, just az we reecht the tranerz hous, dhat the imens cignifficans ov the currede mutton okerd too me. U ma remember dhat I wauz distrate, and remaind citting aafter u had aul alited. I wauz marveling in mi one miand hou I cood poscibly hav overlooct so obveyous a clu."

"I confes," ced the Cuunel, "dhat even nou I canot ce hou it helps us."

"It wauz the ferst linc in mi chane ov rezoning. Pouderd opeyum iz bi no meenz taistles. The flavor iz not disagreyabel, but it iz perceptibel. Wer it mixt withe enny ordinary dish the eter wood undoutedly detect it, and wood probbably ete no moer. A curry wauz exactly the mejum which wood disghise this taist. Bi no poscibel suposishon cood this strain'ger, Fitzroi Cimpson, hav cauzd curry too be cervd in the tranerz fammily dhat nite, and it iz shuerly too monstros a cowincidens too suppose dhat he happend too cum along withe pouderd opeyum uppon the verry nite when a dish happend too be cervd which wood disghise the flavor. Dhat iz unthhincabel. Dhaerfoer Cimpson becumz eliminatid from the cace, and our atenshon centerz uppon Straker and hiz wife, the oanly too pepel whoo cood hav chosen currede mutton for supper dhat nite. The opeyum wauz added aafter the dish wauz cet acide for the stabel-boi, for the utherz had the same for supper withe no il efects. Which ov them, then, had axes too dhat dish widhout the made ceying them?

"Befoer deciding dhat qweschon I had graaspt the cignifficans ov the cilens ov the dog, for wun tru inferens invareyably sugests utherz. The Cimpson incident had shone me dhat a dog wauz kept in the stabelz, and yet, dho sum wun had bene in and had fecht out a hors, he had not barct enuf too arouz the too ladz in the loft. Obveyously the midnite vizsitor wauz sum wun whoome the dog nu wel.

"I wauz aulreddy convinst, or aulmoast convinst, dhat Jon Straker went doun too the stabelz in the ded ov the nite and tooc out Cilver Blase. For whaut perpoce? For a disonest wun, obveyously, or whi shood he drug hiz one stabel-boi? And yet I wauz at a los too no whi. Dhare hav bene cacez befoer nou whare tranerz hav made shure ov grate sumz ov munny bi laying against dhare one horcez, throo agents, and then preventing them from winning bi fraud. Sumtiamz it iz a pooling jocky. Sumtiamz it iz sum shurer and sutler meenz. Whaut wauz it here? I hoapt dhat the contents ov hiz pockets mite help me too form a concluezhon.

"And dha did so. U canot hav forgotten the cin'gular nife which wauz found in the ded manz hand, a nife which certainly no sane man wood chuse for a weppon. It wauz, az Dr. Wautson toald us, a form ov nife which iz uezd for the moast dellicate operaishonz none in cergery. And it wauz too be uezd for a dellicate operaishon dhat nite. U must no, withe yor wide expereyens ov terf matterz, Cuunel Ros, dhat it iz poscibel too make a slite nic uppon the tendonz ov a horcez ham, and too doo it subcutainyously, so az too leve absolutly no trace. A hors so treted wood devellop a slite laimnes, which wood be poot doun too a strane in exercise or a tuch ov rumatizm, but nevver too foul pla."

"Villane! Scoundrel!" cride the Cuunel.

"We hav here the explanaishon ov whi Jon Straker wisht too take the hors out on too the moor. So spirrited a crechure wood hav certainly rouzd the soundest ov sleperz when it felt the pric ov the nife. It wauz absoluetly nescesary too doo it in the open are."

"I hav bene bliand!" cride the Cuunel. "Ov coers dhat wauz whi he neded the candel, and struc the mach."

"Undoutedly. But in exammining hiz belonginz I wauz forchunate enuf too discuver not oonly the method ov the crime, but even its motiavz. Az a man ov the werld, Cuunel, u no dhat men doo not carry uther pepelz bilz about in dhare pockets. We hav moast ov us qwite enuf too doo too cettel our one. I at wuns concluded dhat Straker wauz leding a dubbel life, and keping a cecond establishment. The nachure ov the bil shode dhat dhare wauz a lady in the cace, and wun whoo had expencive taists. Libberal az u ar withe yor cervants, wun can hardly expect dhat dha can bi twenty-ghinny wauking drescez for dhare ladese. I qweschond Mrs. Straker az too the dres widhout her nowing it, and havving sattisfide micelf dhat it had nevver reecht her, I made a note ov the millinerz adres, and felt dhat bi caulng dhare withe Strakerz fotograaf I cood esily dispose ov the mithhical Darbishire.

"From dhat time on aul wauz plane. Straker had led out the hors too a hollo whare hiz lite wood be invizibel. Cimpson in hiz flite had dropt hiz

cravat, and Straker had pict it up—withe sum ideyaa, perhaps, dhat he mite use it in ceuring the horcez leg. Wuns in the hollo, he had got behiand the hors and had struc a lite; but the crechure fritend at the sudden glare, and withe the strainj instinct ov annimalz feling dhat sum mischefe wauz intended, had lasht out, and the stele shoo had struc Straker fool on the foerhed. He had aulreddy, in spite ov the rane, taken of hiz overcote in order too doo hiz dellicate taasc, and so, az he fel, hiz nife gasht hiz thhi. Doo I make it clere?"

"Wunderfool!" cride the Cuunel. "Wunderfool! U mite hav bene dhare!"

"Mi final shot wauz, I confes a verry long wun. It struc me dhat so aschute a man az Straker wood not undertake this dellicate tendon-nicking widhout a littel practice. Whaut cood he practice on? Mi ise fel uppon the shepe, and I aasct a qweschon which, raather too mi cerprise, shode dhat mi cermise wauz corect.

"When I reternd too Lundon I cauld uppon the milliner, whoo had reccogniazd Straker az an exelent customer ov the name ov Darbshire, whoo had a verry dashing wife, withe a strong parshallity for expencive drescez. I hav no dout dhat this woomman had plunjed him over hed and eerz in det, and so led him intoo this mizserabel plot."

"U hav explaind aul but wun thhing," cride the Cuunel. "Whare wauz the

hors?"

"Aa, it bolted, and wauz caerd for bi wun ov yor naborz. We must hav an amnesty in dhat direcshon, I thhinc. This iz Clappam Juncshon, if I am not mistaken, and we shal be in Victoereyaa in les dhan ten minnuets. If u care too
smoke a cigar in our ruimz, Cuunel, I shal be happy too ghiv u enny uther detailz which mite interest u."

Advenchure 2.

The Yello Face

[In publishing these short sketchez baist uppon the numerous cacez in which mi
companyonz cin'gular ghifts hav made us the liscenerz too, and evenchuwaly the
actorz in, sum strainj draamaa, it iz oonly natchural dhat I shood dwel raather
uppon hiz suxescez dhan uppon hiz faluerz. And this not so much for the sake ov
hiz reputaishon—for, indede, it wauz when he wauz at hiz wits end dhat hiz ennergy

and hiz versatillity wer moast admirabel—but becauz whare he faild it happend too often dhat no wun els suxeded, and dhat the tale wauz left forevver widhout a concluezhon. Nou and agane, houwevver, it chaanst dhat even when he erd, the trueth wauz stil discuvverd. I hav noted ov sum haaf-duzsen cacez ov the kiand; the Advenchure ov the Muzgrave Ritchuwal and dhat which I am about too recount ar the too which present the stron'ghest fechuerz ov interest.]

Sherloc Hoamz wauz a man whoo celdom tooc exercise for exercisez sake. Fu men wer capabel ov grater muscular effort, and he wauz undoutedly wun ov the finest boxerz ov hiz wate dhat I hav evver cene; but he looct uppon aimles boddily exershon az a waist ov ennergy, and he celdom besterd himcelf save when dhare wauz sum profeshonal obgett too be cervd. Then he wauz absoluetly untiring and indefattigabel. Dhat he shood hav kept himcelf in traning under such cercumstaancez iz remarcabel, but hiz diyet wauz uezhuwaly ov the sparest, and hiz habbits wer cimpel too the verj ov austerrity. Save for the ocaizhonal uce ov cocane, he had no vicez, and he oonly ternd too the drug az a protest against the monottony ov existens when cacez wer scanty and the paperz unninteresting.

Wun da in erly spring he had so far relaxt az too go for a wauc withe me in the Parc, whare the ferst faint shuits ov grene wer braking out uppon the elmz, and the sticky spere-hedz ov the chesnuts wer just beghinning too berst intoo dhare five-foald leevz. For too ourz we rambeld about tooghether, in

cilens for the moast part, az befits too men whoo no eche uther intimaitly. It wauz neerly five befoer we wer bac in Baker Strete wuns moer.

"Beg pardon, cer," ced our page-boi, az he opend the doer. "Dhaerz bene a gentelman here aasking for u, cer."

Hoamz glaanst reproachfooly at me. "So much for aafternoone waux!" ced he.

"Haz this gentelman gon, then?"

"Yes, cer."

"Didnt u aasc him in?"

"Yes, cer; he came in."

"Hou long did he wate?"

"Haaf an our, cer. He wauz a verry restles gentelman, cer, a-walkin and a-stampin aul the time he wauz here. I wauz watin outcide the doer, cer, and I cood here him. At laast he outs intoo the passage, and he crise, Iz dhat man nevver goin too cum?' Dhose wer hiz verry werdz, cer. Ule oonly nede too wate a littel lon'gher,' cez I. Then Ile wate in the open are, for I fele haaf choact,' cez he. Ile be bac befoer long.' And withe dhat he ups and he outs, and aul I cood sa woodnt hoald him bac."

"Wel, wel, u did yor best," ced Hoamz, az we wauct intoo our roome. "Its verry anoiying, dho, Wautson. I wauz badly in nede ov a cace, and this loox, from the manz impaishens, az if it wer ov importans. Hullo! Dhats not yor pipe on the tabel. He must hav left hiz behiand him. A nice oald briyer withe a

good long stem ov whaut the tobacconists caul amber. I wunder hou
menny reyal
amber mouthpecez dhare ar in Lundon? Sum pepel thhinc dhat a fli in it iz
a
cine. Wel, he must hav bene disterbd in hiz miand too leve a pipe behiand
him
which he evvidently valluse hily."

"Hou doo u no dhat he valluse it hily?" I aasct.

"Wel, I shood poot the oridginal cost ov the pipe at cevven and cixpens.
Nou it
haz, u ce, bene twice mended, wuns in the woodden stem and wuns in the
amber.
Eche ov these mendz, dun, az u observ, withe cilver bandz, must hav cost
moer dhan the pipe did oridginaly. The man must vallu the pipe hily when
he
preferz too pach it up raather dhan bi a nu wun withe the same munny."

"Ennithhing els?" I aasct, for Hoamz wauz terning the pipe about in hiz
hand,
and staring at it in hiz peculeyar pencive wa.

He held it up and tapt on it withe hiz long, thhin foer-fin'gher, az a
professor
mite whoo wauz lecchuring on a bone.

"Piaps ar ocaizhonaly ov extrordinary interest," ced he. "Nuthhing haz
moer
indivijuwallity, save perhaps wauchez and bootlacez. The indicaishonz
here,
houwevver, ar niather verry marct nor verry important. The oner iz
obveyously a
muscular man, left-handed, withe an exelent cet ov teeth, caerles in hiz

habbits, and withe no nede too practice econnomy."

Mi frend thru out the informaishon in a verry ofhand wa, but I sau dhat he coct hiz i at me too ce if I had follode hiz rezoning.

"U thhinc a man must be wel-too-doo if he smoax a cevven-shilling pipe,"
ced

I.

"This iz Grovenor mixchure at aitpens an ouns," Hoamz aancerd, nocking a littel out on hiz paalm. "Az he mite ghet an exelent smoke for haaf the price,
he haz no nede too practice econnomy."

"And the uther points?"

"He haz bene in the habbit ov liting hiz pipe at lamps and gas-gets. U can ce dhat it iz qwite chard aul doun wun cide. Ov coers a mach cood not hav dun dhat. Whi shood a man hoald a mach too the cide ov hiz pipe? But u

canot lite it at a lamp widhout ghetting the bole chard. And it iz aul on the rite cide ov the pipe. From dhat I gather dhat he iz a left-handed man. U hoald yor one pipe too the lamp, and ce hou natchuraly u, beying rite-handed, hoald the left cide too the flame. U mite doo it wuns the uther wa, but not az a constancy. This haz aulwase bene held so. Then he haz bitten

throo hiz amber. It taix a muscular, energettich fello, and wun withe a good cet ov teeth, too doo dhat. But if I am not mistaken I here him uppon the stare,

so we shal hav sumthhing moer interesting dhan hiz pipe too studdy."

An instant later our doer opend, and a taul yung man enterd the roome. He wauz

wel but qwiyetly drest in a darc-gra sute, and carrede a broun wide-awake
in
hiz hand. I shood hav poot him at about thherty, dho he wauz reyaly sum
yeerz oalder.

"I beg yor pardon," ced he, withe sum embarrasment; "I supose I shood hav
noct. Yes, ov coers I shood hav noct. The fact iz dhat I am a littel
upcet, and u must poot it aul doun too dhat." He paast hiz hand over hiz
foerhed like a man whoo iz haaf daizd, and then fel raather dhan sat doun
uppon
a chare.

"I can ce dhat u hav not slept for a nite or too," ced Hoamz, in hiz
esy, geenyal wa. "Dhat trise a manz nervz moer dhan werc, and moer even
dhan
plezhure. Ma I aasc hou I can help u?"

"I waunted yor advice, cer. I doant no whaut too doo and mi whole life
ceemz too
hav gon too pecez."

"U wish too emploi me az a consulting detective?"

"Not dhat oonly. I waunt yor opinyon az a judishous man—az a man ov the
werld. I
waunt too no whaut I aut too doo next. I hope too God ule be abel too tel
me."

He spoke in littel, sharp, gerky outbersts, and it ceemd too me dhat too
speke
at aul wauz verry painfool too him, and dhat hiz wil aul throo wauz
overiding
hiz inclinaishonz.

"Its a verry dellicate thhing," ced he. "Wun duz not like too speke ov wunz domestic afaerz too strain'gerz. It ceemz dredfool too discus the conduct ov wunz wife withe too men whoome I hav nevver cene befoer. Its horibel too hav too doo it. But Ive got too the end ov mi tether, and I must hav advice."

"Mi dere Mr. Graant Munro—" began Hoamz.

Our vizsitor sprang from hiz chare. "Whaut!" he cride, "u no mi name?"

"If u wish too preserv yor incogneto," ced Hoamz, smiling, "I wood sugest dhat u cece too rite yor name uppon the lining ov yor hat, or els dhat u tern the croun toowordz the person whoome u ar adrescing. I wauz about too sa dhat mi frend and I hav liscend too a good menny strainj ceecrets in this roome, and dhat we hav had the good forchune too bring pece too menny trubheld soalz. I trust dhat we ma doo az much for u. Mite I beg u, az time ma prove too be ov importans, too fernish me withe the facts ov yor cace widhout ferther dela?"

Our vizsitor agane paast hiz hand over hiz foerhed, az if he found it bitterly hard. From evvery geschure and expreshon I cood ce dhat he wauz a reservd, self-containd man, withe a dash ov pride in hiz nachure, moer liacly too hide hiz wuindz dhan too expose them. Then suddenly, withe a feers geschure ov hiz cloazd hand, like wun whoo throse reserv too the windz, he began.

"The facts ar these, Mr. Hoamz," ced he. "I am a marrede man, and hav bene

so for thre yearz. Juring dhat time mi wife and I hav luvd eche uther az fondly and livd az happily az enny too dhat evver wer joind. We hav not had a differens, not wun, in thaut or werd or dede. And nou, cins laast Munda, dhare haz suddenly sprung up a barreyer betwene us, and I fiand dhat dhare iz sumthhing in her life and in her thaut ov which I no az littel az if she wer the woomman whoo brushez bi me in the strete. We ar estrainjd, and I waunt too no whi.

"Nou dhare iz wun thhing dhat I waunt too impres uppon u befoer I go enny ferther, Mr. Hoamz. Effy luvz me. Doant let dhare be enny mistake about dhat.

She luvz me withe her whole hart and sole, and nevver moer dhan nou. I no it.

I fele it. I doant waunt too argu about dhat. A man can tel esily enuf when a woomman luvz him. But dhaerz this ceecret betwene us, and we can nevver be the same until it iz cleerd."

"Kiandly let me hav the facts, Mr. Munro," ced Hoamz, withe sum impaishens.

"Ile tel u whaut I no about Effese history. She wauz a widdo when I met her ferst, dho qwite yung—oonly twenty-five. Her name then wauz Mrs. Hebron.

She went out too Amerricaa when she wauz yung, and livd in the toun ov Atlantaa,

whare she marrede this Hebron, whoo wauz a lauyer withe a good practice. Dha had

wun chiald, but the yello fever broke out badly in the place, and boath huzband

and chiald dide ov it. I hav cene hiz deth certifficate. This cickend her ov Amerricaa, and she came bac too liv withe a maden aant at Pinner, in Middelcex.

I ma menshon dhat her huzband had left her cumfortably of, and dhat she had a cappital ov about foer thouzand five hundred poundz, which had bene so wel invested bi him dhat it reternd an avverage ov cevven per cent. She had oanly bene cix munths at Pinner when I met her; we fel in luv withe eche uther, and we marrede a fu weex aafterwordz.

"I am a hop merchant micelf, and az I hav an incum ov cevven or ate hundred, we found ourcelvz cumfortably of, and tooc a nice aty-pound-a-yere villaa at Norbury. Our littel place wauz verry countrifide, conciddering dhat it iz so cloce too toun. We had an in and too housez a littel abuv us, and a cin'ghel cottage at the uther cide ov the feeld which facez us, and exept dhose dhare wer no housez until u got haaf wa too the staishon. Mi biznes tooc me intoo toun at certane cezonz, but in summer I had les too doo, and then in our cuntry home mi wife and I wer just az happy az cood be wisht. I tel u dhat dhare nevver wauz a shaddo betwene us until this akerst afare began.

"Dhaerz wun thhing I aut too tel u befoer I go ferther. When we marrede, mi wife made over aul her propperty too me—raather against mi wil, for I sau hou auqword it wood be if mi biznes afaerz went rong. Houwevver, she wood hav it so, and it wauz dun. Wel, about cix weex ago she came too me.

"Jac,' ced she, when u tooc mi munny u ced dhat if evver I waunted enny I

wauz too aasc u for it.'

"Certainly,' ced I. Its aul yor one.'

"Wel,' ced she, 'I waunt a hundred poundz.'

"I wauz a bit staggherd at this, for I had imadgiand it wauz cimply a nudres or sumthhing ov the kiand dhat she wauz aafter.

"Whaut on erth for?' I aasct.

"O,' ced she, in her plafool wa, u ced dhat u wer oonly mi banker, and bankerz nevver aasc qweschonz, u no.'

"If u reyaly mene it, ov coers u shal hav the munny,' ced I.

"O, yes, I reyaly mene it.'

"And u woant tel me whaut u waunt it for?'

"Sum da, perhaps, but not just at prezsent, Jac.'

"So I had too be content withe dhat, dho it wauz the ferst time dhat dhare had evver bene enny ceecret betwene us. I gave her a chec, and I nevver thaut enny moer ov the matter. It ma hav nuthhing too doo withe whaut came aafterwordz, but I thaut it oonly rite too menshon it.

"Wel, I toald u just nou dhat dhare iz a cottage not far from our hous. Dhare iz just a feeld betwene us, but too reche it u hav too go along the rode

and then tern doun a lane. Just beyond it iz a nice littel grove ov Scoch ferz, and I uest too be verry fond ov stroling doun dhare, for trese ar aulwase a naborly kiand ov thhingz. The cottage had bene standing empty this ate munths, and it wauz a pittly, for it wauz a pritty too-stoerede place, withe an oald-fashond poerch and hunnisukel about it. I hav stood menny a time and thaut whaut a nete littel hoamsted it wood make.

"Wel, laast Munda evening I wauz taking a strole doun dhat wa, when I met an empty van cumming up the lane, and sau a pile ov carpets and thhingz liying about on the graas-plot becide the poerch. It wauz clere dhat the cottage had at laast bene let. I wauct paast it, and wunderd whaut sort ov foke dha wer whoo had cum too liv so nere us. And az I looct I suddenly became aware dhat a face wauz wauching me out ov wun ov the upper windose.

"I doant no whaut dhare wauz about dhat face, Mr. Hoamz, but it ceemd too cend a chil rite doun mi bac. I wauz sum littel wa of, so dhat I cood not make out the fechuerz, but dhare wauz sumthhing un'natchural and inhuman about the face.

Dhat wauz the impreshon dhat I had, and I muivd qwicly forwordz too ghet a nerer vu ov the person whoo wauz wauching me. But az I did so the face suddenly disapeerd, so suddenly dhat it ceemd too hav bene pluct awa intoo the darcnes ov the roome. I stood for five minnuets thhinking the biznes over,

and tryin' too annalise mi impreshonz. I cood not tel if the face wer dhat
ov
a man or a woomman. It had bene too far from me for dhat. But its cullor
wauz whaut
had imprest me moast. It wauz ov a livvid chauky white, and withe
sumthhing cet
and ridgid about it which wauz shockingly un'natchural. So disterbd wauz
I dhat I
determiand too ce a littel moer ov the nu inmaits ov the cottage. I aproacht
and noct at the doer, which wauz instantly open'd bi a taul, gaunt
woomman withe
a harsh, forbidding face.

"Whaut ma u be wantin?' she aasct, in a Northern axent.

"I am yor nabor over yonder,' ced I, nodding toowordz mi hous. 'I ce
dhat u hav oanly just muivd in, so I thaut dhat if I cood be ov enny help
too u in enny—'

"I, wele just aasc ye when we waunt ye,' ced she, and shut the doer in mi
face. Anoid at the cherlish rebuf, I ternd mi bac and wauct home. Aul
evening, dho I tride too thhinc ov uther thhingz, mi miand wood stil tern
too
the aparishon at the windo and the ruednes ov the woomman. I
determiand too sa
nuthhing about the former too mi wife, for she iz a nervous, hily strung
woomman,
and I had no wish dhat she wood share the unplezzant impreshon which
had bene
projuest uppon micelf. I remarct too her, houwevver, befoer I fel aslepe,
dhat
the cottage wauz nou occupide, too which she reternd no repli.

"I am uezhuwaly an extreemly sound sleper. It haz bene a standing gest in the
fammily dhat nuthhing cood evver wake me juring the nite. And yet sumhou on
dhat particcular nite, whether it ma hav bene the slite exiatment projest
bi mi littel advenchure or not I no not, but I slept much moer liatly dhan
uezhuwal. Haaf in mi dreemz I wauz dimly conshous dhat sumthhing
wauz gowing on in
the roome, and gradjuwaly became aware dhat mi wife had drest hercelf
and wauz
slipping on her mantel and her bonnet. Mi lips wer parted too mermer out
sum
slepy werdz ov cerprise or remonstrans at this untiamly preparaishon,
when
suddenly mi haaf-opensel fel uppon her face, iluminated bi the
candel-lite, and astonishment held me dum. She woer an expreshon such
az I
had nevver cene befoer—such az I shood hav thaut her incapabel ov
ashuming.
She wauz dedly pale and breething faast, glaancing fertiavly toowordz the
bed az
she faacend her mantel, too ce if she had disterbd me. Then, thhinking dhat
I
wauz stil aslepe, she slipt noizlesly from the roome, and an instant later I
herd a sharp creking which cood oanly cum from the hin'gez ov the frunt
doer.
I sat up in bed and rapt mi nuckelz against the rale too make certane dhat I
wauz truly awake. Then I tooc mi wauch from under the pillo. It wauz thre
in
the morning. Whaut on this erth cood mi wife be doowing out on the
cuntry rode
at thre in the morning?

"I had sat for about twenty minnuets terning the thhing over in mi miand and triying too fiand sum poscibel explanaishon. The moer I thaut, the moer extrordinary and inexpliccabel did it apere. I wauz stil puzling over it when I herd the doer gently close agane, and her footsteps cumming up the staerz.

"Whare in the werld hav u bene, Effy?' I aasct az she enterd.

"She gave a viyolent start and a kiand ov gaasping cri when I spoke, and dhat cri and start trubbelde me moer dhan aul the rest, for dhare wauz sumthhing indescribably ghilty about them. Mi wife had aulwase bene a woomman ov a franc, open nachure, and it gave me a chil too ce her slinking intoo her one roome, and crying out and wincing when her one huzband spoke too her.

"U awake, Jac!' she cride, withe a nervous laaf. Whi, I thaut dhat nuthhing cood awake u.'

"Whare hav u bene?' I aasct, moer sternly.

"I doant wunder dhat u ar cerpriazd,' ced she, and I cood ce dhat her fin'gherz wer trembling az she undid the faaceningz ov her mantel. Whi, I nevver remember havving dun such a thhing in mi life befoer. The fact iz dhat I felt az dho I wer choking, and had a perfect longing for a breth ov fresh are. I reyaly thhinc dhat I shood hav fainted if I had not gon out. I stood at the doer for a fu minnuets, and nou I am qwite micelf agane.'

"Aul the time dhat she wauz telling me this stoery she nevver wuns looct in mi direcshon, and her vois wauz qwite unlike her uezhuwal toanz. It wauz evvident too me dhat she wauz saying whaut wauz fauls. I ced nuthhing in repli, but ternd mi face too the waul, cic at hart, withe mi miand fild withe a thouzand vennomous douts and suspishonz. Whaut wauz it dhat mi wife wauz conceling from me? Whare had she bene juring dhat strainj expedishon? I felt dhat I shood hav no pece until I nu, and yet I shranc from aasking her agane aafter wuns she had toald me whaut wauz fauls. Aul the rest ov the nite I tost and tumbeld, framing ththeyory aafter ththeyory, eche moer unliacly dhan the laast.

"I shood hav gon too the Citty dhat da, but I wauz too disterbd in mi miand too be abel too pa atenshon too biznes matterz. Mi wife ceemd too be az upcet az micelf, and I cood ce from the littel qweschoning glaancez which she kept shooting at me dhat she understood dhat I disbeleevd her staitment, and dhat she wauz at her wits end whaut too doo. We hardly exchainjd a werd juring breccfast, and imejaitly aafterwordz I went out for a wauc, dhat I mite thhinc the matter out in the fresh morning are.

"I went az far az the Cristal Pallace, spent an our in the groundz, and wauz bac in Norbury bi wun oacloc. It happend dhat mi wa tooc me paast the cottage, and I stopt for an instant too looc at the windose, and too ce if I cood cach a glimps ov the strainj face which had looct out at me on the da

befoer. Az I stood dhare, imadgine mi cerprise, Mr. Hoamz, when the doer suddenly opend and mi wife wauct out.

"I wauz struc dum withe astonishment at the cite ov her; but mi emoashonz wer nuthing too dhose which shode themcelvz uppon her face when our ise met. She ceemd for an instant too wish too shrinc bac incide the hous agane; and then, ceying hou uesles aul conceelment must be, she came forword, withe a verry white face and fritend ise which belide the smile uppon her lips.

"Aa, Jac,' she ced, 'I hav just bene in too ce if I can be ov enny acistans too our nu naborz. Whi doo u looc at me like dhat, Jac? U ar not an'gry withe me?'

"So,' ced I, this iz whare u went juring the nite.'

"Whaut doo u mene?' she cride.

"U came here. I am shure ov it. Whoo ar these pepel, dhat u shood vizsit them at such an our?'

"I hav not bene here befoer.'

"Hou can u tel me whaut u no iz fauls?' I cride. Yor verry vois chain'gez az u speke. When hav I evver had a ceecret from u? I shal enter dhat cottage, and I shal probe the matter too the bottom.'

"No, no, Jac, for Godz sake!' she gaaspt, in uncontrolabel emoashon. Then, az I aproacht the doer, she ceezd mi sleve and poold me bac withe convulcive strength.

"I imploer u not too doo this, Jac,' she cride. 'I sware dhat I wil tel u evverithhing sum da, but nuthhing but mizsery can cum ov it if u enter dhat cottage.' Then, az I tride too shake her of, she clung too me in a frensy ov entrety.

"Trust me, Jac!' she cride. Trust me oonly this wuns. U wil nevver hav cauz too regret it. U no dhat I wood not hav a ceecret from u if it wer not for yor one sake. Our whole liavz ar at stake in this. If u cum home withe me, aul wil be wel. If u foers yor wa intoo dhat cottage, aul iz over betwene us.'

"Dhare wauz such earnestnes, such despare, in her manner dhat her werdz arested me, and I stood irezzolute befoer the doer.

"I wil trust u on wun condishon, and on wun condishon oonly,' ced I at laast. It iz dhat this mistery cumz too an end from nou. U ar at libberty too preserv yor ceecret, but u must prommice me dhat dhare shal be no moer niatly vizsits, no moer doowingz which ar kept from mi nollej. I am willing too forghet dhose which ar paast if u wil prommice dhat dhare shal be no moer in the fuchure.'

"I wauz shure dhat u wood trust me,' she cride, withe a grate ci ov relefe. It shal be just az u wish. Cum awa—o, cum awa up too the hous.'

"Stil pooling at mi sleve, she led me awa from the cottage. Az we went I glaanst bac, and dhare wauz dhat yello livvid face wauching us out ov the upper windo. Whaut linc cood dhare be betwene dhat crechure and mi wife? Or hou cood the coers, ruf woomman whoome I had cene the da befoer be conected withe her? It wauz a strainj puzsel, and yet I nu dhat mi miand cood nevver no ese

agane until I had solvd it.

"For too dase aafter this I stade at home, and mi wife apeerd too abide loiyaly bi our en'gaijment, for, az far az I no, she nevver sterd out ov the hous. On the thherd da, houwevver, I had ampel evvidens dhat her sollem prommice wauz not enuf too hoald her bac from this ceecret influwens which dru her awa from her huzband and her juty.

"I had gon intoo toun on dhat da, but I reternd bi the 2.40 insted ov the 3.36, which iz mi uezhuwal trane. Az I enterd the hous the made ran intoo the haul withe a starteld face.

"Whare iz yor mistres?' I aasct.

"I thhinc dhat she haz gon out for a wauc,' she aancerd.

"Mi miand wauz instantly fild withe suspishon. I rusht upstaerz too make shure dhat she wauz not in the hous. Az I did so I happend too glaans out ov wun ov the upper windose, and sau the made withe whoome I had just bene speking running across the feeld in the direcshon ov the cottage. Then ov coers I sau exactly whaut it aul ment. Mi wife had gon over dhare, and had aasct the cervant too caul her if I shood retern. Tin'gling withe an'gher, I rusht down and hurrede across, determiand too end the matter wuns and forevver. I sau mi wife and the made hurreying bac along the lane, but I did not stop too speke withe them. In the cottage la the ceecret which wauz caasting a shaddo over mi life. I vould

dhat, cum whaut mite, it shoold be a ceecret no lon'gher. I did not even noc when I reecht it, but ternd the handel and rusht intoo the passage.

"It wauz aul stil and qwiyet uppon the ground floer. In the kitchen a kettel wauz cinging on the fire, and a larj blac cat la coild up in the baasket; but dhare wauz no cine ov the woomman whoome I had cene befoer. I ran intoo the uther roome, but it wauz eeqwaly deserted. Then I rusht up the staerz, oonly too fiand too uther ruimz empty and deserted at the top. Dhare wauz no wun at aul in the whole hous. The fernichure and picchuerz wer ov the moast common and vulgar descripshon, save in the wun chaimber at the windo ov which I had cene the strainj face. Dhat wauz cumfortabel and ellegant, and aul mi suspishonz rose intoo a feers bitter flame when I sau dhat on the mantelpece stood a cobby ov a fool-length fotograaf ov mi wife, which had bene taken at mi reqwest oonly thre munths ago.

"I stade long enuf too make certane dhat the hous wauz absolutely empty. Then I left it, feling a wate at mi hart such az I had nevver had befoer. Mi wife came out intoo the haul az I enterd mi hous; but I wauz too hert and an'gry too speke withe her, and pooshing paast her, I made mi wa intoo mi studdy. She follode me, houwevver, befoer I cood close the doer.

"I am sory dhat I broke mi prommice, Jac,' ced she; but if u nu aul the cercumstaancez I am shure dhat u wood forghiv me.'

"Tel me evverithhing, then,' ced I.

"I canot, Jac, I canot,' she cride.

"Until u tel me whoo it iz dhat haz bene livving in dhat cottage, and whoo it

iz too whoome u hav ghivven dhat fotograaf, dhare can never be enny confidens

betwene us,' ced I, and braking awa from her, I left the hous. Dhat wauz yesterda, Mr. Hoamz, and I hav not cene her cins, nor doo I no ennithhing moer about this strainj biznes. It iz the ferst shaddo dhat haz cum betwene us, and it haz so shaken me dhat I doo not no whaut I shood doo for the best.

Suddenly this morning it okerd too me dhat u wer the man too advise me, so

I hav hurrede too u nou, and I place micelf unreservdly in yor handz. If dhare iz enny point which I hav not made clere, pra qweschon me about it.

But,

abuv aul, tel me qwicly whaut I am too doo, for this mizsery iz moer dhan I can

bare."

Hoamz and I had liscend withe the utmoast interest too this extrordinary staitment, which had bene delivverd in the gerky, broken fashon ov a man whoo

iz under the influwens ov extreme emoashonz. Mi companyon sat cilent for sum

time, withe hiz chin uppon hiz hand, lost in thaut.

"Tel me," ced he at laast, "cood u sware dhat this wauz a manz face which u sau at the windo?"

"Eche time dhat I sau it I wauz sum distans awa from it, so dhat it iz imposcibel for me too sa."

"U apere, houwevver, too hav bene disagreyably imprest bi it."

"It ceemd too be ov an un'natchural cullor, and too hav a strainj rigiddity about
the fechuerz. When I aproacht, it vannisht withe a gerc."

"Hou long iz it cins yor wife aasct u for a hundred poundz?"

"Neerly too munths."

"Hav u evver cene a fotograaf ov her ferst huzband?"

"No; dhare wauz a grate fire at Atlantaa verry shortly aafter hiz deth, and
aul
her paperz wer destroid."

"And yet she had a certifficate ov deth. U sa dhat u sau it."

"Yes; she got a jueplicate aafter the fire."

"Did u evver mete enny wun whoo nu her in Amerricaa?"

"No."

"Did she evver tauc ov revizsiting the place?"

"No."

"Or ghet letterz from it?"

"No."

"Thanc u. I shood like too thhinc over the matter a littel nou. If the cottage

iz nou permanently deserted we ma hav sum difficulty. If, on the uther hand, az I fancy iz moer liacly, the inmaits wer wornd ov yor cumming, and left befoer u enterd yesterda, then dha ma be bac nou, and we shoed clere it aul up esily. Let me advise u, then, too retern too Norbury, and too examine the windose ov the cottage agane. If u hav rezon too beleve dhat it iz inhabbited, doo not foers yor wa in, but cend a wire too mi frend and me. We shal be withe u within an our ov receving it, and we shal then verry soone ghet too the bottom ov the biznes."

"And if it iz stil empty?"

"In dhat cace I shal cum out too-moro and tauc it over withe u. Good-bi; and, abuv aul, doo not fret until u no dhat u reyaly hav a cauz for it."

"I am afrade dhat this iz a bad biznes, Wautson," ced mi companyon, az he reternd aafter acumpanying Mr. Graant Munro too the doer. "Whaut doo u make ov it?"

"It had an ugly sound," I aancerd.

"Yes. Dhaerz blacmale in it, or I am much mistaken."

"And whoo iz the blacmaler?"

"Wel, it must be the crechure whoo livz in the oonly cumfortabel roome in the place, and haz her fotograaf abuv hiz fiarplace. Uppon mi werd, Wautson, dhare

iz sumthhing verry attractive about dhat livvid face at the windo, and I
wood
not hav mist the cace for werldz."

"U hav a thheyory?"

"Yes, a provizhonal wun. But I shal be cerpriazd if it duz not tern out too be
corect. This woommanz ferst huzband iz in dhat cottage."

"Whi doo u thhinc so?"

"Hou els can we explane her frensede anxiyety dhat her cecond wun
shood not
enter it? The facts, az I rede them, ar sumthhing like this: This woomman
wauz
marrede in Amerricaa. Her huzband devellopt sum haitfool qwaulitese; or
shal we
sa dhat he contracted sum loadhsome disese, and became a leper or an
imbecel? She flise from him at laast, reternz too In'gland, chain'gez her
name, and
starts her life, az she thhinx, afresh. She haz bene marrede thre yeerz, and
beleevz dhat her posishon iz qwite cecure, havving shone her huzband the
deth
certifficate ov sum man whoose name she haz ashuemd, when suddenly
her
wharabouts iz discuvverd bi her ferst huzband; or, we ma supose, bi sum
unscrupulous woomman whoo haz atacht hercelf too the invalid. Dha rite
too the
wife, and thretten too cum and expose her. She aasx for a hundred poundz,
and
endevvorz too bi them of. Dha cum in spite ov it, and when the huzband
menshonz cazhuwaly too the wife dhat dhare ar nu-cummerz in the
cottage, she

nose in sum wa dhat dha ar her pershuwerz. She waits until her huzband
iz
aslepe, and then she rushez doun too endevvor too perswade them too leve
her in
pece. Havving no suxes, she gose agane next morning, and her huzband
meets
her, az he haz toald us, az she cumz out. She prommicez him then not too
go dhare
agane, but too dase aafterwordz the hope ov ghetting rid ov dhose
dredfool
naborz wauz too strong for her, and she made anuther atempt, taking doun
withe her the fotograaf which had probbably bene demaanded from her. In
the midst
ov this intervü the made rusht in too sa dhat the maaster had cum home,
on
which the wife, nowing dhat he wood cum strate doun too the cottage,
hurrede the inmaitz out at the bac doer, intoo the grove ov fer-trese,
probbably, which wauz menshond az standing nere. In this wa he found
the place
deserted. I shal be verry much cerpriazd, houwevver, if it iz stil so when he
reconoiterz it this evening. Whaut doo u thhinc ov mi thheyory?"

"It iz aul cermise."

"But at leest it cuvverz aul the facts. When nu facts cum too our nollej
which cannot be cuvverd bi it, it wil be time enuf too reconcider it. We can
doo nuthhing moer until we hav a message from our frend at Norbury."

But we had not a verry long time too wate for dhat. It came just az we had
finnisht our te. "The cottage iz stil tennanted," it ced. "Hav cene the face
agane at the windo. Wil mete the cevven oacloc trane, and wil take no steps
until u arive."

He wauz wating on the platform when we stept out, and we cood ce in the

lite ov the staishon lamps dhat he wauz verry pale, and qwivvering withe agitaishon.

"Dha ar stil dhare, Mr. Hoamz," ced he, laying hiz hand hard uppon mi frendz sleve. "I sau liats in the cottage az I came down. We shal cettel it nou wuns and for aul."

"Whaut iz yor plan, then?" aasct Hoamz, az he wauct down the darc tre-liand rode.

"I am gowing too foers mi wa in and ce for micelf whoo iz in the hous. I wish u both too be dhare az witnecez."

"U ar qwite determiand too doo this, in spite ov yor wiafs worning dhat it iz better dhat u shood not solv the mistery?"

"Yes, I am determiand."

"Wel, I thhinc dhat u ar in the rite. Enny trueth iz better dhan indeffinite dout. We had better go up at wuns. Ov coers, legaly, we ar pootting ourcelvz hoaplesly in the rong; but I thhinc dhat it iz werth it."

It wauz a verry darc nite, and a thhin rane began too faul az we ternd from the hi rode intoo a narro lane, deeply rutted, withe hedgez on iather cide. Mr. Graant Munro poosht impaishently forward, houwevver, and we stumbeld aafter him az best we cood.

"Dhare ar the liats ov mi hous," he mermerd, pointing too a glimmer amung the trese. "And here iz the cottage which I am gowing too enter."

We ternd a corner in the lane az he spoke, and dhare wauz the bilding cloce
becide us. A yello bar fauling acros the blac foerground shode dhat the
doer wauz not qwite cloazd, and wun windo in the upper stoery wauz
briatly
illuminated. Az we looct, we sau a darc bler mooving acros the bliand.

"Dhare iz dhat crechure!" cride Graant Munro. "U can ce for yorcelvz dhat
sum wun iz dhare. Nou follo me, and we shal soone no aul."

We aproacht the doer; but suddenly a woomman apeerd out ov the shaddo
and
stood in the goalden trac ov the lamp-lite. I cood not ce her face in the
darcnes, but her armz wer throne out in an attichude ov entrety.

"For Godz sake, doant Jac!" she cride. "I had a presentiment dhat u wood
cum this evening. Thhinc better ov it, dere! Trust me agane, and u wil
nevver
hav cauz too regret it."

"I hav trusted u too long, Effy," he cride, sternly. "Leve go ov me! I
must paas u. Mi frendz and I ar gowing too cettel this matter wuns and
forevver!" He poosht her too wun cide, and we follode cloasly aafter him.
Az he
thru the doer open an oald woomman ran out in frunt ov him and tride too
bar hiz
passage, but he thrust her bac, and an instant aafterwordz we wer aul
uppon the
staerz. Graant Munro rusht intoo the lited roome at the top, and we enterd
at
hiz heelz.

It wauz a cosy, wel-fernisht apartment, withe too candelz barning uppon
the

tabel and too uppon the mantelpece. In the corner, stooping over a desc,
dhare
sat whaut apeerd too be a littel gherl. Her face wauz ternd awa az we
enterd,
but we cood ce dhat she wauz drest in a red froc, and dhat she had long
white gluvz on. Az she whisct round too us, I gave a cri ov cerprise and
horor. The face which she ternd toowordz us wauz ov the strain'gest livvid
tint,
and the fechuerz wer absoluetly devoid ov enny expreshon. An instant
later the
mistery wauz explaind. Hoamz, withe a laaf, paast hiz hand behiand the
chialdz
ere, a maasc peeld of from her countenans, and dhare wauz a littel cole blac
negres, withe aul her white teeth flashing in amuezment at our amaizd
facez. I
berst out laafing, out ov cimpathy withe her merriment; but Graant
Munro stood
staring, withe hiz hand clutching hiz throte.

"Mi God!" he cride. "Whaut can be the mening ov this?"

"I wil tel u the mening ov it," cride the lady, sweping intoo the roome
withe a proud, cet face. "U hav foerst me, against mi one jujment, too tel
u, and nou we must boath make the best ov it. Mi huzband dide at
Atlantaa. Mi
chiald cerviavd."

"Yor chiald?"

She dru a larj cilver locket from her boozzom. "U hav nevver cene this
open."

"I understood dhat it did not open."

She tucht a spring, and the frunt hinjd bac. Dhare wauz a poertrate within
ov
a man strikingly handsum and intelligent-loocking, but baring
unmistacabel
cianz uppon hiz fechuerz ov hiz African decent.

"Dhat iz Jon Hebron, ov Atlantaa," ced the lady, "and a noabler man nevver
wauct the erth. I cut micelf of from mi race in order too wed him, but
nevver
wuns while he livd did I for an instant regret it. It wauz our misforchune
dhat
our oonly chiald tooc aafter hiz pepel raather dhan mine. It iz often so in
such
matchez, and littel Lucy iz darker far dhan evver her faather wauz. But
darc or
fare, she iz mi one dere littel gherly, and her mutherz pet." The littel
crechure ran acros at the werdz and nesceld up against the ladese dres.
"When
I left her in Amerricaa," she continnude, "it wauz oonly becauz her helth
wauz
weke, and the chainj mite hav dun her harm. She wauz ghivven too the
care ov a
faithfool Scoch woomman whoo had wuns bene our cervant. Nevver for an
instant did I
dreme ov disoning her az mi chiald. But when chaans thru u in mi wa, Jac,
and I lernd too luv u, I feerd too tel u about mi chiald. God forghiv me,
I feerd dhat I shood loose u, and I had not the currage too tel u. I had
too chuse betwene u, and in mi weecnes I ternd awa from mi one littel
gherl. For thre yeerz I hav kept her existens a ceecret from u, but I herd
from the ners, and I nu dhat aul wauz wel withe her. At laast, houwevver,
dhare
came an overwhelming desire too ce the chiald wuns moer. I struggheld
against it,
but in vane. Dho I nu the dain'ger, I determiand too hav the chiald over, if

it wer but for a fu weex. I cent a hundred poundz too the ners, and I gave her instrucshonz about this cottage, so dhat she mite cum az a nabor, widhout mi apering too be in enny wa conected withe her. I poosht mi precaushonz so far az too order her too kepe the chiald in the hous juring the datime, and too cuvver up her littel face and handz so dhat even dhose whoo mite ce her at the windo shood not goscip about dhare beyng a blac chiald in the naborhood. If I had bene les caushous I mite hav bene moer wise, but I wauz haaf crasy withe fere dhat u shood lern the trueth.

"It wauz u whoo toald me ferst dhat the cottage wauz occupide. I shood hav wated for the morning, but I cood not slepe for exiatment, and so at laast I slipt out, nowing hou difficult it iz too awake u. But u sau me go, and dhat wauz the beghinning ov mi trubbelz. Next da u had mi ceecret at yor mercy, but u noably refraind from pershuwing yor advaantage. Thre dase later, houwevver, the ners and chiald oanly just escaipt from the bac doer az u rusht in at the frunt wun. And nou too-nite u at laast no aul, and I aasc u whaut iz too becum ov us, mi chiald and me?" She claaspt her handz and wated for an aancer.

It wauz a long ten minnuets befoer Graant Munro broke the cilens, and when hiz aancer came it wauz wun ov which I luv too thhinc. He lifted the littel chiald, kist her, and then, stil carreyng her, he held hiz uther hand out too hiz wife and ternd toowordz the doer.

"We can tauc it over moer cumfortably at home," ced he. "I am not a verry good man, Effy, but I thhinc dhat I am a better wun dhan u hav ghivven me credit for beying."

Hoamz and I follode them doun the lane, and mi frend pluct at mi sleve az we came out.

"I thhinc," ced he, "dhat we shal be ov moer uce in Lundon dhan in Norbury."

Not anuther werd did he sa ov the cace until late dhat nite, when he wauz terning awa, withe hiz lited candel, for hiz bedroome.

"Wautson," ced he, "if it shood evver strike u dhat I am ghetting a littel over-confident in mi pouwerz, or ghivving les painz too a cace dhan it deservz, kiandly whisper Norbury in mi ere, and I shal be infiniatly obliajd too u."

Advenchure 3.

The Stoc-Brokerz Clarc

Shortly aafter mi marrage I had baut a conecshon in the Paddington district.

Oald Mr. Farqwar, from whoome I perchaist it, had at wun time an exelent genneral practice; but hiz age, and an aflicshon ov the nachure ov St.

Vitucez

daans from which he sufferd, had verry much thhind it. The public not un'natchuraly gose on the principel dhat he whoo wood hele utherz must himcelf be

whole, and loox ascaans at the curative pouwerz ov the man whose one cace iz

beyond the reche ov hiz drugz. Dhus az mi predecessor wekend hiz practice

decliand, until when I perchaist it from him it had sunc from twelv hundred too

littel moer dhan thre hundred a yere. I had confidens, houwevver, in mi one

ueth and ennergy, and wauz convinst dhat in a verry fu yeeرز the concern wood

be az flurrishing az evver.

For thre munths aafter taking over the practice I wauz kept verry cloasly at werc, and sau littel ov mi frend Sherloc Hoamz, for I wauz too bizsy too vizsit

Baker Strete, and he celdom went enniwhare himcelf save uppon profeshonal

biznes. I wauz cerpriazd, dhaerfoer, when, wun morning in June, az I sat reding the Brittish Meddical Gernal aafter brecfast, I herd a ring at the bel, follode bi the hi, sumwhaut strident toanz ov mi oald companyonz vois.

"Aa, mi dere Wautson," ced he, striding intoo the roome, "I am verry delited too

ce u! I trust dhat Mrs. Wautson haz entiarly recuverd from aul the littel exiatments conected withe our advenchure ov the Cine ov Foer."

"Thanc u, we ar boath verry wel," ced I, shaking him wormly bi the hand.

"And I hope, aulso," he continnude, citting doun in the rocking-chare, "dhat the caerz ov meddical practice hav not entiarly oblitterated the interest which u uest too take in our littel deductive problemz."

"On the contrary," I aancerd, "it wauz oanly laast nite dhat I wauz loocking over mi oald noats, and clascifiying sum ov our paast rezults."

"I trust dhat u doant concidder yor colecshon cloazd."

"Not at aul. I shood wish nuthhing better dhan too hav sum moer ov such expereyencez."

"Too-da, for exaampel?"

"Yes, too-da, if u like."

"And az far of az Bermingam?"

"Certainly, if u wish it."

"And the practice?"

"I doo mi naborz when he gose. He iz aulwase reddy too werc of the det."

"Haa! Nuthhing cood be better," ced Hoamz, lening bac in hiz chare and loocking keenly at me from under hiz haaf cloazd lidz. "I perceve dhat u hav bene unwel laitly. Summer coaldz ar aulwase a littel trying."

"I wauz confiand too the hous bi a cevere chil for thre dase laast weke. I thaut, houwevver, dhat I had caast of evvery trace ov it."

"So u hav. U looc remarcably robust."

"Hou, then, did u no ov it?"

"Mi dere fello, u no mi methodz."

"U dejuest it, then?"

"Certainly."

"And from whaut?"

"From yor slipperz."

I glaanst doun at the nu patent letherz which I wauz waring. "Hou on erth —"

I began, but Hoamz aancerd mi qweschon befoer it wauz aasct.

"Yor slipperz ar nu," he ced. "U cood not hav had them moer dhan a fu weex. The soalz which u ar at this moment presenting too me ar sliatly scorcht. For a moment I thaut dha mite hav got wet and bene bernd in the driying. But nere the instep dhare iz a smaul cercular wafer ov paper withe the shopmanz hiyerogliffix uppon it. Damp wood ov coers hav remuivd this. U had, then, bene citting withe yor fete outstrecht too the fire, which a man wood hardly doo even in so wet a June az this if he wer in hiz fool helth."

Like aul Hoamsez rezoning the thhing ceemd cimplycity itcelf when it wauz wuns explaind. He red the thaut uppon mi fechuerz, and hiz smile had a tinj ov bitternes.

"I am afrade dhat I raather ghiv micelf awa when I explane," ced he.

"Rezults

widhout causez ar much moer imprescive. U ar reddy too cum too

Bermingam,

then?"

"Certainly. Whaut iz the cace?"

"U shal here it aul in the trane. Mi cliyent iz outside in a foer-wheler.

Can u cum at wuns?"

"In an instant." I scribbeld a note too mi nabor, rusht upstaerz too explane the matter too mi wife, and joind Hoamz uppon the doer-step.

"Yor nabor iz a doctor," ced he, nodding at the braas plate.

"Yes; he baut a practice az I did."

"An oald-establisht wun?"

"Just the same az mine. Boath hav bene evver cins the housez wer bilt."

"Aa! Then u got hoald ov the best ov the too."

"I thhinc I did. But hou doo u no?"

"Bi the steps, mi boi. Yorz ar woern thre inchez deper dhan hiz. But this gentelman in the cab iz mi cliyent, Mr. Haul Picroft. Alou me too introjuce

u

too him. Whip yor hors up, cabby, for we hav oonly just time too cach our trane."

The man whoome I found micelf facing wauz a wel bilt, fresh-complecshond yung fello, withe a franc, onnest face and a slite, crisp, yello mustaash. He woer a verry shiny top hat and a nete sute ov sober blac, which made him looc whaut he wauz—a smart yung Citty man, ov the claas whoo hav bene labeld cocnese, but whoo ghiv us our crac volluntere redgiments, and whoo tern out moer fine athleets and spoertsmen dhan enny boddy ov men in these ilandz. Hiz round, ruddy face wauz natchuraly fool ov cherines, but the cornerz ov hiz mouth ceemd too me too be poold down in a haaf-commical distres. It wauz not, houwevver, until we wer aul in a ferst-claas carrage and wel started uppon our gerny too Bermingam dhat I wauz abel too lern whaut the trubbel wauz which had drivven him too Sherloc Hoamz.

"We hav a clere run here ov cevventy minnuets," Hoamz remarct. "I waunt u, Mr. Haul Picroft, too tel mi frend yor verry interesting expereyens exactly az u hav toald it too me, or withe moer detale if poscibel. It wil be ov uce too me too here the suxeshon ov events agane. It iz a cace, Wautson, which ma proove too hav sumthhing in it, or ma proove too hav nuthhing, but which, at leest, presents dhose unnuezhuwal and uitra fechuerz which ar az dere too u az dha ar too me. Nou, Mr. Picroft, I shal not interupt u agane."

Our yung companyon looct at me withe a twinkel in hiz i.

"The werst ov the stoery iz," ced he, "dhat I sho micelf up az such a confounded foole. Ov coers it ma werc out aul rite, and I doant ce dhat I cood hav dun utherwise; but if I hav lost mi crib and ghet nuthhing in exchainj I shal fele whaut a soft Jonny I hav bene. Ime not verry good at telling a stoery, Dr. Wautson, but it iz like this withe me:

"I uest too hav a billet at Coxon & Wood'housez, ov Draperz Gardenz, but dha

wer let in erly in the spring throo the Venezwalan lone, az no dout u remember, and came a naasty cropper. I had bene withe them five yeerz, and oald

Coxon gave me a ripping good testimoanyal when the smash came, but ov coers we

clarx wer aul ternd adrift, the twenty-cevven ov us. I tride here and tride dhare, but dhare wer lots ov uther chaps on the same la az micelf, and it wauz

a perfect frost for a long time. I had bene taking thre poundz a weke at Coxonz, and I had saivd about cevventy ov them, but I soone werct mi wa throo dhat and out at the uther end. I wauz faerly at the end ov mi tether at laast, and cood hardly fiand the stamps too aancer the advertiazments or the

enveloaps too stic them too. I had woern out mi buits padling up office staerz,

and I ceemd just az far from ghetting a billet az ever.

"At laast I sau a vacancy at Mauson & Willeyamsez, the grate stoc-broking ferm

in Lombard Strete. I dare sa E. C. iz not much in yor line, but I can tel u dhat this iz about the rithest hous in Lundon. The advertiazment wauz too be

aancerd bi letter oonly. I cent in mi testimoanyal and aplicaishon, but widhout

the leest hope ov ghetting it. Bac came an aancer bi retern, saying dhat if I

wood apere next Munda I mite take over mi nu jutese at wuns, provided
dhat
mi aperans wauz satisfactory. No wun nose hou these thhingz ar werct.
Sum
pepel sa dhat the mannager just plun'gez hiz hand intoo the hepe and taix
the
ferst dhat cumz. Ennihou it wauz mi inningz dhat time, and I doant evver
wish too
fele better pleezd. The scru wauz a pound a weke rise, and the jutese just
about the same az at Coxonz.

"And nou I cum too the qwere part ov the biznes. I wauz in digghingz out
Hampsted wa, 17 Potterz Terrace. Wel, I wauz citting doowing a smoke
dhat verry
evening aafter I had bene prommiast the apointment, when up came mi
landlady
withe a card which had Arthher Pinner, Finanshal Agent,' printed uppon it.
I had
nevver herd the name befoer and cood not imadgine whaut he waunted
withe me; but,
ov coers, I aasct her too sho him up. In he wauct, a middel-ciazd,
darc-haerd, darc-ide, blac-beerded man, withe a tuch ov the Sheny about
hiz
nose. He had a brisc kiand ov wa withe him and spoke sharply, like a man
whoo
nu the vallu ov time."

"Mr. Haul Picroft, I beleve?" ced he.

"Yes, cer,' I aancerd, pooshing a chare toowordz him.

"Laitly en'gaijd at Coxon & Wood'housez?"

"Yes, cer.'

"And nou on the staaf ov Mausonz.'

"Qwite so.'

"Wel,' ced he, the fact iz dhat I hav herd sum reyaly extraordinary stoerese about yor finanshal abillity. U remember Parker, whoo uest too be Coxonz mannager? He can nevver sa enuf about it.'

"Ov coers I wauz pleezd too here this. I had aulwase bene pritty sharp in the office, but I had nevver dreemd dhat I wauz tauct about in the Citty in this fashon.

"U hav a good memmory?' ced he.

"Pritty fare,' I aancerd, moddestly.

"Hav u kept in tuch withe the market while u hav bene out ov werc?' he aasct.

"Yes. I red the stoc exchainj list evvery morning.'

"Nou dhat shose reyaly aplicaishon!' he cride. Dhat iz the wa too prosper! U woant miand mi testing u, wil u? Let me ce. Hou ar Aershiarz?'

"A hundred and cix and a qworter too a hundred and five and cevven-aiths.'

"And Nu Seland consollidated?'

"A hundred and foer.

"And Brittish Broken Hilz?'

"Cevven too cevven-and-cix.'

"Wunderfool!" he cride, withe hiz handz up. This qwite fits in withe aul dhat I had herd. Mi boi, mi boi, u ar verry much too good too be a clarc at Mausonz!'

"This outberst raather astonnisht me, az u can thhinc. Wel,' ced I, uther pepel doant thhinc qwite so much ov me az u ceme too doo, Mr. Pinner. I had a hard enuf fite too ghet this berth, and I am verry glad too hav it.'

"Poo, man; u shood soer abuv it. U ar not in yor tru sfere. Nou, Ile tel u hou it standz withe me. Whaut I hav too offer iz littel enuf when mezhuerd bi yor abillity, but when compaerd withe Mausonz, its lite too darc. Let me ce. When doo u go too Mausonz?'

"On Munda.'

"Haa, haa! I thhinc I wood risc a littel spoerting flutter dhat u doant go dhare at aul.'

"Not go too Mausonz?'

"No, cer. Bi dhat da u wil be the biznes mannager ov the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany, Limmited, withe a hundred and thherty-foer braanchez in the tounz and villagez ov Fraans, not counting wun in Bruscelz and wun in San Remo.'

"This tooc mi breth awa. 'I nevver herd ov it,' ced I.

"Verry liacly not. It haz bene kept verry qwiyet, for the cappital wauz aul privaitly subscriabd, and its too good a thhing too let the public intoo. Mi bruther, Harry Pinner, iz promoter, and joinz the boerd aafter alotment az mannaging director. He nu I wauz in the swim doun here, and aasct me too pic up a good man chepe. A yung, pooshing man withe plenty ov snap about him. Parker spoke ov u, and dhat braut me here too-nite. We can oanly offer u a beggarly five hundred too start withe.'

"Five hundred a yere!' I shouted.

"Oanly dhat at the beghinning; but u ar too hav an overriding comishon ov wun per cent on aul biznes dun bi yor agents, and u ma take mi werd for it dhat this wil cum too moer dhan yor sallary.'

"But I no nuthhing about hardware.'

"Tut, mi boi; u no about figguerz.'

"Mi hed buzd, and I cood hardly cit stil in mi chare. But suddenly a littel chil ov dout came uppon me.

"I must be franc withe u,' ced I. Mauson oanly ghivz me too hundred, but Mauson iz safe. Nou, reyaly, I no so littel about yor cumpany dhat—'

"Aa, smart, smart!' he cride, in a kiand ov extacy ov delite. U ar the verry man for us. U ar not too be tauct over, and qwite rite, too. Nou, heerz a note for a hundred poundz, and if u thhinc dhat we can doo biznes u ma just slip it intoo yor pocket az an advaans uppon yor sallary.'

"Dhat iz verry handsum,' ced I. When shood I take over mi nu jutese?'

"Be in Bermingam too-moro at wun,' ced he. 'I hav a note in mi pocket here

which u wil take too mi bruther. U wil fiand him at 126b Corporaishon Strete, whare the temporary officez ov the cumpany ar citchuwated. Ov coers he must conferm yor en'gaijment, but betwene ourcelvz it wil be aul rite.'

"Reyaly, I hardly no hou too expres mi grattichude, Mr. Pinner,' ced I.

"Not at aul, mi boi. U hav oonly got yor deserts. Dhare ar wun or too smaul thhingz—mere formallitese—which I must arainj withe u. U hav a bit ov paper becide u dhare. Kiandly rite uppon it "I am perfectly willing too act az biznes mannager too the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany, Limmited, at a minnimium sallary ov L500."

"I did az he aasct, and he poot the paper in hiz pocket.

"Dhare iz wun uther detale,' ced he. Whaut doo u intend too doo about Mausonz?'

"I had forgotten aul about Mausonz in mi joi. Ile rite and resine,' ced I.

"Preciasly whaut I doant waunt u too doo. I had a rou over u withe Mausonz mannager. I had gon up too aasc him about u, and he wauz verry ofencive; acuezd me ov coaxing u awa from the cervice ov the ferm, and dhat sort ov thhing. At laast I faerly lost mi temper. "If u waunt good men u shood pa them a good price," ced I.'

"He wood raather hav our smaul price dhan yor big wun,' ced he.

"Ile la u a fiver,' ced I, dhat when he haz mi offer ule nevver so much az here from him agane.'

"Dun!" ced he. We pict him out ov the gutter, and he woant leve us so esily.' Dhose wer hiz verry werdz."

"The impudent scoundrel!" I cride. Ive nevver so much az cene him in mi life.

Whi shood I concidder him in enny wa? I shal certainly not rite if u wood raather I didnt.'

"Good! Dhats a prommice,' ced he, rising from hiz chare. Wel, Ime delited too hav got so good a man for mi bruther. Heerz yor advaans ov a hundred poundz, and here iz the letter. Make a note ov the adres, 126b Corporaishon Strete, and remember dhat wun oacloc too-moro iz yor apointment. Good-nite; and ma u hav aul the forchune dhat u deserv!'

"Dhats just about aul dhat paast betwene us, az nere az I can remember. U can imadgine, Dr. Wautson, hou pleezd I wauz at such an extrordinary bit ov good forchune. I sat up haaf the nite hugging micelf over it, and next da I wauz of too Bermingam in a trane dhat wood take me in plenty time for mi apointment. I tooc mi thhingz too a hotel in Nu Strete, and then I made mi wa too the adres which had bene ghivven me.

"It wauz a qworter ov an our befoer mi time, but I thaut dhat wood make no differens. 126b wauz a passage betwene too larj shops, which led too a wianding stone stare, from which dhare wer menny flats, let az officez too cumpanese or

professional men. The names of the occupants were painted at the bottom on the wall, but there was no such name as the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited. I stood for a few minutes with my heart in my boots, wondering whether the whole thing was an elaborate hoax or not, when up came a man and addressed me. He was very like the chap I had seen the night before, the same figure and voice, but he was clean shaven and his hair was long.

"Are you Mr. Haul Picroft?" he asked.

"Yes," said I.

"Oh! I was expecting you, but you are a trifle before your time. I had a note from my brother this morning in which he said your presence was very loudly."

"I was just looking for the office when you came."

"We have not got our name up yet, for we only received these temporary premises last week. Come up with me, and we will discuss the matter over."

"I followed him to the top of a very lofty staircase, and there, right under the stairs, was a cupboard of empty, dusty little rooms, uncarpeted and unlighted, into which he led me. I had thought of a grand office with shining tables and a row of chairs, such as I was used to, and I dare say I stared rather stupidly at the two desks and a few little tables, which, with a ledger and a waist paper basket, made up the whole furniture."

"Doant be dis'hartend, Mr. Picroft,' ced mi nu aqwaintans, ceying the length ov mi face. Rome wauz not bilt in a da, and we hav lots ov munny at our bax, dho we doant cut much dash yet in officez. Pra cit down, and let me hav yor letter.'

"I gave it too him, and he red it over verry caerfooly.

"U ceme too hav made a vaast impreshon uppon mi bruther Arthher,' ced he;
and I no dhat he iz a pritty shrude juj. He swaerz bi Lundon, u no;
and I bi Bermingam; but this time I shal follo hiz advice. Pra concidder yorcelf deffiniatly en'gaijd."

"Whaut ar mi jutese?' I aasct.

"U wil evenchuwaly mannage the grate deppo in Parris, which wil poer a flud
ov In'glish crockery intoo the shops ov a hundred and thherty-foer agents
in
Fraans. The perchace wil be completed in a weke, and meenwhile u wil remane
in Bermingam and make yorcelf uesfool.'

"Hou?'

"For aancer, he tooc a big red booc out ov a drauwer.

"This iz a directory ov Parris,' ced he, withe the traidz aafter the naimz ov the pepel. I waunt u too take it home withe u, and too marc of aul the hardware cellerz, withe dhare adrecez. It wood be ov the gratest uce too me too hav them.'

"Shuerly dhare ar clascifide lists?' I sugested.

"Not reliyabel wunz. Dhare cistem iz different from ourz. Stic at it, and let me hav the lists bi Munda, at twelv. Good-da, Mr. Picroft. If u continu too sho sele and intelligens u wil fiand the cumpany a good maaster.'

"I went bac too the hotel withe the big booc under mi arm, and withe verry conflicting felingz in mi brest. On the wun hand, I wauz deffiniatly en'gaijd and had a hundred poundz in mi pocket; on the uther, the looc ov the officez,

the abcens ov name on the waul, and uther ov the points which wood strike a

biznes man had left a bad impreshon az too the posishon ov mi employerz.

Houwevver, cum whaut mite, I had mi munny, so I cetteld down too mi taasc. Aul

Sunda I wauz kept hard at werc, and yet bi Munda I had oanly got az far az H. I

went round too mi employer, found him in the same dismanteld kiand ov roome, and

wauz toald too kepe at it until Wednzda, and then cum agane. On Wednzda it

wauz stil unfinnisht, so I hammerd awa until Frida—dhat iz, yesterda.

Then

I braut it round too Mr. Harry Pinner.

"Thanc u verry much,' ced he; 'I fere dhat I underated the difficulty ov the taasc. This list wil be ov verry matereyal acistans too me.'

"It tooc sum time,' ced I.

"And nou,' ced he, 'I waunt u too make a list ov the fernichure shops, for dha aul cel crockery.'

"Verry good.'

"And u can cum up too-moro evening, at cevven, and let me no hou u ar ghetting on. Doant overwerc yorcelf. A cuppel ov ourz at Dase Music Haul in the evening wood doo u no harm aafter yor laborz.' He laaft az he spoke, and I sau withe a thril dhat hiz cecond tuith uppon the left-hand cide had bene verry badly stuf with the goald."

Sherloc Hoamz rubd hiz handz withe delite, and I staerd withe astonishment at our cliyent.

"U ma wel looc cerpriazd, Dr. Wautson; but it iz this wa," ced he: "When I wauz speking too the uther chap in Lundon, at the time dhat he laaft at mi not gowing too Mausonz, I happend too notice dhat hiz tuith wauz stuf in this verry identical fashon. The glint ov the goald in eche cace caut mi i, u ce. When I poot dhat withe the vois and figgure beying the same, and oanly dhose thhingz aulterd which mite be chainjd bi a razor or a wig, I cood not dout dhat it wauz the same man. Ov coers u expect too brutherz too be alike, but not dhat dha shood hav the same tuith stuf in the same wa. He boud me out, and I found micelf in the strete, hardly nowing whether I wauz on mi hed or mi heelz. Bac I went too mi hotel, poot mi hed in a bacin ov coald wauter, and tride too thhinc it out. Whi had he cent me from Lundon too Bermingam? Whi had he got dhare befoer me? And whi had he ritten a letter from himcelf too himcelf? It wauz aultooghether too much for me, and I cood make no cens ov it. And then

suddenly it struc me dhat whaut wauz darc too me mite be verry lite too Mr.

Sherloc Hoamz. I had just time too ghet up too toun bi the nite trane too ce him this morning, and too bring u boath bac withe me too Bermingam."

Dhare wauz a paуз aafter the stoc-brokerz clarc had concluded hiz cerprising expereyens. Then Sherloc Hoamz coct hiz i at me, lening bac on the cooshonz withe a pleezd and yet critical face, like a conocer whoo haz just taken hiz ferst cip ov a commet vintage.

"Raather fine, Wautson, iz it not?" ced he. "Dhare ar points in it which plese me. I thhinc dhat u wil agry withe me dhat an intervuu withe Mr. Arthher Harry

Pinner in the temporary officez ov the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany,

Limmitted, wood be a raather interesting expereyens for boath ov us."

"But hou can we doo it?" I aasct.

"O, esily enuf," ced Haul Picroft, cherily. "U ar too frendz ov mine whoo ar in waunt ov a billet, and whaut cood be moer natchural dhan dhat I shood bring u boath round too the mannaging director?"

"Qwite so, ov coers," ced Hoamz. "I shood like too hav a looc at the gentelman, and ce if I can make ennithhing ov hiz littel game. Whaut qwaulitese hav u, mi frend, which wood make yor cervicez so vallubel? or iz it poscibel dhat—" He began biting hiz nailz and staring blancly out ov the windo, and we hardly dru anuther werd from him until we wer in Nu Strete.

At cevven oacloc dhat evening we wer wauking, the thre ov us, doun

Corporaishon Strete too the cumpanese officez.

"It iz no uce our beying at aul befoer our time," ced our cliyent. "He oanly cumz dhare too ce me, aparrently, for the place iz deserted up too the verry our he naimz."

"Dhat iz sugestive," remarct Hoamz.

"Bi Jove, I toald u so!" cride the clarc. "Dhats he wauking ahed ov us dhare."

He pointed too a smallish, darc, wel-drest man whoo wauz busling along the uther side ov the rode. Az we waucht him he looct acros at a boi whoo wauz bauling out the latest edishon ov the evening paper, and running over among the cabz and buscez, he baut wun from him. Then, clutching it in hiz hand, he vannisht throo a doer-wa.

"Dhare he gose!" cride Haul Picroft. "These ar the cumpanese officez intoo which he haz gon. Cum withe me, and Ile fix it up az esily az poscibel."

Following hiz lede, we acended five stoerese, until we found ourcelvz outside a haaf-opend doer, at which our cliyent tapt. A vois within bad us enter, and we enterd a bare, unfernisht roome such az Haul Picroft had descriabd. At the cin'ghel tabel sat the man whoome we had cene in the strete, withe hiz evening paper spred out in frunt ov him, and az he looct up at us it ceemd too me dhat I had nevver looct uppon a face which boer such marx ov grefe, and ov

sumthhing beyond grefe—ov a horror such az cumz too fu men in a
liaftime. Hiz
brou gliscend withe perspiraishon, hiz cheex wer ov the dul, ded white ov
a
fishez belly, and hiz ise wer wiald and staring. He looct at hiz clarc az
dho he faild too reccognise him, and I cood ce bi the astonishment
depicted
uppon our conductorz face dhat this wauz bi no meenz the uezhual
aperans ov hiz
emploiyer.

"U looc il, Mr. Pinner!" he exclaimd.

"Yes, I am not verry wel," aancerd the uther, making obveyous efforts too
pool
himcelf tooghether, and licking hiz dri lips befoer he spoke. "Whoo ar these
gentelmen whoome u hav braut withe u?"

"Wun iz Mr. Harris, ov Bermondcy, and the uther iz Mr. Price, ov this toun,"
ced our clarc, glibly. "Dha ar frendz ov mine and gentelmen ov expereyens,
but dha hav bene out ov a place for sum littel time, and dha hoapt dhat
perhaps u mite fiand an opening for them in the cumpanese employment."

"Verry poscibly! Verry poscibly!" cride Mr. Pinner withe a gaastly smile.
"Yes, I
hav no dout dhat we shal be abel too doo sumthhing for u. Whaut iz yor
particcular line, Mr. Harris?"

"I am an acountant," ced Hoamz.

"Aa yes, we shal waunt sumthhing ov the sort. And u, Mr. Price?"

"A clarc," ced I.

"I hav evvery hope dhat the cumpany ma acommodate u. I wil let u no about it az soone az we cum too enny concluezhon. And nou I beg dhat u wil go.

For Godz sake leve me too micelf!"

These laast werdz wer shot out ov him, az dho the constraint which he wauz

evvidently cetting uppon himcelf had suddenly and utterly berst asunder.

Hoamz

and I glaanst at eche uther, and Haul Picroft tooc a step toowordz the tabel.

"U forghet, Mr. Pinner, dhat I am here bi apointment too receve sum direcshonz from u," ced he.

"Certainly, Mr. Picroft, certainly," the uther rezhuemd in a caalmer tone. "U ma wate here a moment; and dhare iz no rezon whi yor frendz shood not wate

withe u. I wil be entiarly at yor cervice in thre minnuets, if I mite trespas uppon yor paishens so far." He rose withe a verry kerchous are, and,

bouwing too us, he paast out throo a doer at the farther end ov the roome, which he cloazd behiand him.

"Whaut nou?" whisperd Hoamz. "Iz he ghivving us the slip?"

"Imposcibel," aancerd Picroft.

"Whi so?"

"Dhat doer leedz intoo an inner roome."

"Dhare iz no exit?"

"Nun."

"Iz it fernisht?"

"It wauz empty yesterda."

"Then whaut on erth can he be doowing? Dhare iz sumthhing which I doant understand in this manner. If evver a man wauz thre parts mad withe terror, dhat manz name iz Pinner. Whaut can hav poot the shivverz on him?"

"He suspects dhat we ar detectiavz," I sugested.

"Dhats it," cride Picroft.

Hoamz shooc hiz hed. "He did not tern pale. He wauz pale when we enterd the roome," ced he. "It iz just poscibel dhat—"

Hiz werdz wer interupted bi a sharp rat-tat from the direcshon ov the inner doer.

"Whaut the juce iz he nocking at hiz one doer for?" cride the clarc.

Agane and much louder came the rat-tat-tat. We aul gaizd expectantly at the cloazd doer. Glaancing at Hoamz, I sau hiz face tern ridgid, and he leend forword in intens exiatment. Then suddenly came a lo gugling, gargling sound, and a brisc drumming uppon woodwerc. Hoamz sprang frantically across the roome and poosht at the doer. It wauz faacend on the inner cide. Following hiz exaampel, we thru ourcelvz uppon it withe aul our wate. Wun hinj snapt,

then the uther, and doun came the doer withe a crash. Rushing over it, we found ourcelvz in the inner roome. It wauz empty.

But it wauz oanly for a moment dhat we wer at fault. At wun corner, the corner nerest the roome which we had left, dhare wauz a cecond doer. Hoamz sprang too it and poold it open. A cote and waistcote wer liying on the floer, and from a hooc behiand the doer, withe hiz one bracez round hiz nec, wauz hanging the mannaging director ov the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany. Hiz nese wer draun up, hiz hed hung at a dredfool an'ghel too hiz boddy, and the clatter ov hiz heelz against the doer made the noiz which had broken in uppon our conversaishon. In an instant I had caut him round the waist, and held him up while Hoamz and Picroft untide the elaastic bandz which had disapeerd betwene the livvid crecez ov skin. Then we carrede him intoo the uther roome, whare he la withe a cla-cullord face, puffing hiz perpel lips in and out withe evvery breth—a dredfool rec ov aul dhat he had bene but five minnuets befoer.

"Whaut doo u thhinc ov him, Wautson?" aasct Hoamz.

I stuipt over him and exammiand him. Hiz puls wauz febel and intermittent, but hiz breathing gru lon'gher, and dhare wauz a littel shivvering ov hiz ilidz, which shode a thhin white slit ov baul beneeth.

"It haz bene tuch and go withe him," ced I, "but hele liv nou. Just open

dhat windo, and hand me the wauter caraaf." I undid hiz collar, poerd the
coald
wauter over hiz face, and raizd and sanc hiz armz until he dru a long,
natchural
breth. "Its oonly a qweschon ov time nou," ced I, az I ternd awa from him.

Hoamz stood bi the tabel, withe hiz handz depe in hiz trouserz pockets and
hiz
chin uppon hiz brest.

"I supose we aut too caul the polece in nou," ced he. "And yet I confes
dhat Ide like too ghiv them a complete cace when dha cum."

"Its a blesced mistery too me," cride Picroft, scratching hiz hed.
"Whautevver
dha waunted too bring me aul the wa up here for, and then—"

"Poo! Aul dhat iz clere enuf," ced Hoamz impaishently. "It iz this laast
sudden moove."

"U understand the rest, then?"

"I thhinc dhat it iz faerly obveyous. Whaut doo u sa, Wautson?"

I shrugd mi shoalderz. "I must confes dhat I am out ov mi depths," ced I.

"O shuerly if u concidder the events at ferst dha can oonly point too wun
concluezhon."

"Whaut doo u make ov them?"

"Wel, the whole thhing hin'gez uppon too points. The ferst iz the making
ov
Picroft rite a declaraishon bi which he enterd the cervice ov this

preposterous company. Doo u not ce hou verry sugestive dhat iz?"

"I am afrade I mis the point."

"Wel, whi did dha waunt him too doo it? Not az a biznes matter, for these arainjments ar uezhuwaly verbal, and dhare wauz no erthly biznes rezon whi

this shood be an exepshon. Doant u ce, mi yung frend, dhat dha wer verry ancshous too obtane a spescimen ov yor handriting, and had no uther wa ov doowing it?"

"And whi?"

"Qwite so. Whi? When we aancer dhat we hav made sum proagres withe our littel

problem. Whi? Dhare can be oonly wun addeqwate rezon. Sum wun waunted too lern

too immitate yor riting, and had too procure a spescimen ov it ferst. And nou if

we paas on too the cecond point we fiand dhat eche throse lite uppon the uther.

Dhat point iz the reqwest made bi Pinner dhat u shood not resine yor place, but shood leve the mannager ov this important biznes in the fool expectaishon

dhat a Mr. Haul Picroft, whoome he had nevver cene, wauz about too enter the office uppon the Munda morning."

"Mi God!" cride our cliyent, "whaut a bliand betel I hav bene!"

"Nou u ce the point about the handriting. Suppose dhat sum wun ternd up in yor place whoo rote a compleetly different hand from dhat in which u had

aplide for the vacancy, ov coers the game wood hav bene up. But in the interval the roghe had lernd too immitate u, and hiz posishon wauz dhaerfoer
cecure, az I prezhume dhat nobody in the office had evver cet ise uppon u."

"Not a sole," groand Haul Picroft.

"Verry good. Ov coers it wauz ov the utmoast importans too prevent u from
thhinking better ov it, and aulso too kepe u from cumming intoo contact withe enny
wun whoo mite tel u dhat yor dubbel wauz at werc in Mausonz office. Dhaerfoer dha gave u a handsum advaans on yor sallary, and ran u of too the Midlandz, whare dha gave u enuf werc too doo too prevent yor gowing too
Lundon, whare u mite hav berst dhare littel game up. Dhat iz aul plane enuf."

"But whi shood this man pretend too be hiz one bruther?"

"Wel, dhat iz pritty clere aulso. Dhare ar evvidently oanly too ov them in it. The uther iz impersonating u at the office. This wun acted az yor en'gager, and then found dhat he cood not fiand u an employier widhout admitting a thherd
person intoo hiz plot. Dhat he wauz moast unwilling too doo. He chainjd hiz
aperans az far az he cood, and trusted dhat the liacnes, which u cood not fale too observ, wood be poot doun too a fammily resemblans. But for the
happy chaans ov the goald stuffing, yor suspishonz wood probbably nevver hav
bene arouzd."

Haul Picroft shooc hiz clincht handz in the are. "Good Lord!" he cride,
"while
I hav bene fuild in this wa, whaut haz this uther Haul Picroft bene doowing
at
Mausonz? Whaut shood we doo, Mr. Hoamz? Tel me whaut too doo."

"We must wire too Mausonz."

"Dha shut at twelv on Satterdase."

"Nevver miand. Dhare ma be sum doer-keper or atendant—"

"Aa yes, dha kepe a permanent gard dhare on acount ov the vallu ov the
cecuritese dhat dha hoald. I remember hering it tauct ov in the City."

"Verry good; we shal wire too him, and ce if aul iz wel, and if a clarc ov
yor name iz werking dhare. Dhat iz clere enuf; but whaut iz not so clere iz
whi at cite ov us wun ov the roagz shood instantly wauc out ov the roome
and
hang himcelf."

"The paper!" croact a vois behiand us. The man wauz citting up, blaansht
and
gaastly, withe reterning rezon in hiz ise, and handz which rubd nervously
at
the braud red band which stil encerkeld hiz throte.

"The paper! Ov coers!" yeld Hoamz, in a parroxizm ov exiatment. "Iddeyot
dhat
I wauz! I thaut so much ov our vizsit dhat the paper nevver enterd mi hed
for
an instant. Too be shure, the ceecret must be dhare." He flattend it out
uppon the
tabel, and a cri ov triyumf berst from hiz lips. "Looc at this, Wautson," he

crude. "It iz a Lunden paper, an erly edishon ov the Evening Standard. Here iz whaut we waunt. Looc at the hedlianz: Crime in the Citty. Merder at Mauson & Willeyamsez. Gigantic attempted Robbery. Capchure ov the Crimminal.' Here, Wautson, we ar aul eeqwaly ancshous too here it, so kiandly rede it aloud too us."

It apeerd from its posishon in the paper too hav bene the wun event ov importans in toun, and the acount ov it ran in this wa:

"A desperate atempt at robbery, culminating in the deth ov wun man and the capchure ov the crimminal, okerd this aafternoone in the Citty. For sum time bac Mauson & Willeyamz, the famous finanshal hous, hav bene the garjanz ov securitese which amount in the agregate too a sum ov concidderably over a milleyon sterling. So conshous wauz the mannager ov the responcibility which devolvd uppon him in conceqwens ov the grate interests at stake dhat saifs ov the verry latest construcshon hav bene emploid, and an armd wauchman haz bene left da and nite in the bilding. It apeerz dhat laast weke a nu clarc naimd Haul Picroft wauz en'gaijd bi the ferm. This person apeerz too hav bene nun uther dhat Beddington, the famous foerger and craxman, whoo, withe hiz bruther, had oonly recently emerjd from a five yeerz spel ov penal cervichude. Bi sum meenz, which ar not yet clere, he suxeded in winning, under a fauls name, this ofishal posishon in the office, which he utiliazd in order too obtane moalding ov vareyoux lox, and a thurro nollej ov the posishon ov the

strong roome and the saifs.

"It iz customary at Mausonz for the clarx too leve at midda on Satterda. Sarjant Chuson, ov the Citty Polece, wauz sumwhaut cerpriazd, dhaerfoer too ce a gentelman withe a carpet bag cum doun the steps at twenty minnuets paast wun. Hiz suspishonz beying arouzd, the sarjant follode the man, and withe the ade ov Cunstabel Polloc suxeded, aafter a moast desperate resistans, in aresting him. It wauz at wuns clere dhat a daring and gigantic robbery had bene comitted. Neerly a hundred thousand poundz werth ov Amerrican railwa bondz, withe a larj amount ov scrip in mianz and uther cumpanese, wauz discuverd in the bag. On exammining the premmicez the boddy ov the unforchunate wauchman wauz found dubbeld up and thrust intoo the largest ov the saifs, whare it wood not hav bene discuverd until Munda morning had it not bene for the prompt acshon ov Sarjant Chuson. The manz scul had bene shatterd bi a blo from a poker delivverd from behiand. Dhare cood be no dout dhat Beddington had obtaind entrans bi pretending dhat he had left sumthhing behiand him, and havving merderd the wauchman, rappidly rifeld the larj safe, and then made of withe hiz booty. Hiz bruther, whoo uezhuwaly werx withe him, haz not apeerd in this job az far az can at prezsent be ascertaind, auldho the polece ar making energettik inqwirese az too hiz wharabouts."

"Wel, we ma save the polece sum littel trubbel in dhat direcshon," ced

Hoamz, glaancing at the haggard figgure huddeld up bi the windo.
"Human nachure
iz a strainj mixchure, Wautson. U ce dhat even a villane and merderer can
inspire such afecshon dhat hiz bruther ternz too suwicide when he lernz
dhat
hiz nec iz forfejed. Houwevver, we hav no chois az too our acshon. The
doctor
and I wil remane on gard, Mr. Picroft, if u wil hav the kiandnes too step
out for the polece."

Advenchure 4.

The "Gloereyaa Scot"

"I hav sum paperz here," ced mi frend Sherloc Hoamz, az we sat wun
winterz nite on iather cide ov the fire, "which I reyaly thhinc, Wautson,
dhat
it wood be werth yor while too glaans over. These ar the documents in the
extrordinary cace ov the Gloereyaa Scot, and this iz the message which
struc
Justice ov the Pece Trevvor ded withe horror when he red it."

He had pict from a drauwer a littel tarnisht cillinder, and, undoowing the
tape,

he handed me a short note scrauld uppon a haaf-shete ov slate-gra paper.

"The supli ov game for Lundon iz gowing steddily up," it ran. "Hed-keper Hudson, we beleve, haz bene nou toald too receive aul orderz for fli-paper and
for preservaishon ov yor hen-fezzants life."

Az I glaanst up from reding this enigmattical message, I sau Hoamz chucling
at the expreshon uppon mi face.

"U looc a littel bewilderd," ced he.

"I canot ce hou such a message az this cood inspire horror. It ceemz too me too be raather grotesc dhan urtherwise."

"Verry liacly. Yet the fact remainz dhat the reder, whoo wauz a fine, robust oald
man, wauz noct clene down bi it az if it had bene the but end ov a pistol."

"U arouz mi cureyosity," ced I. "But whi did u sa just nou dhat dhare wer verry particcular rezonz whi I shood studdy this cace?"

"Becauz it wauz the ferst in which I wauz evver en'gaijd."

I had often endevvord too eliscit from mi companyon whaut had ferst ternd hiz
miand in the direcshon ov crimminal recerch, but had nevver caut him befoer in
a comunicative humor. Nou he sat forword in this arm-chare and spred out the
doccuments uppon hiz nese. Then he lit hiz pipe and sat for sum time smoking
and terning them over.

"U nevver herd me tauc ov Victor Trevvor?" he aasct. "He wauz the oanly frend I made juring the too yeerz I wauz at college. I wauz nevver a verry soashabel fello, Wautson, aulwase raather fond ov moping in mi ruimz and werking out mi one littel methodz ov thaut, so dhat I nevver mixt much withe the men ov mi yere. Bar fencing and boxing I had fu athlettic taists, and then mi line ov studdy wauz qwite distinct from dhat ov the uther fellose, so dhat we had no points ov contact at aul. Trevvor wauz the oanly man I nu, and dhat oanly throo the axident ov hiz bool terreyer fresing on too mi ankel wun morning az I went down too chappel.

"It wauz a prozayic wa ov forming a frendship, but it wauz efective. I wauz lade bi the heelz for ten dase, but Trevvor uest too cum in too inqwire aafter me. At ferst it wauz oanly a minnuets chat, but soone hiz vizsits lengthhend, and befoer the end ov the term we wer cloce frendz. He wauz a harty, fool-bludded fello, fool ov spirrits and ennergy, the verry opposite too me in moast respects, but we had sum subjects in common, and it wauz a bond ov uenyon when I found dhat he wauz az frendles az I. Finaly, he invited me down too hiz faatherz place at Donnithorp, in Norfoke, and I axepted hiz hospitallity for a munth ov the long vacaishon.

"Oald Trevvor wauz evvidently a man ov sum welth and concideraishon, a J.P., and a landed propriyetor. Donnithorp iz a littel hamlet just too the north ov Langmere, in the cuntry ov the Braudz. The hous wauz an oald-fashond, wide-spreed, oke-beemd bric bilding, withe a fine lime-liand avvenu leding up too it. Dhare wauz exelent wiald-duc shooting in the fenz, remarcably good fishing, a smaul but celect liabrary, taken over, az I understood, from a former occupant, and a tollerabel cooc, so dhat he wood be a fastidjous man whoo not poot in a plezzant munth dhare.

"Trevvor ceenyor wauz a widdower, and mi frend hiz oanly sun.

"Dhare had bene a dauter, I herd, but she had dide ov difthhereyaa while on a vizsit too Bermingam. The faather interested me extreemly. He wauz a man ov littel culchure, but withe a concidderabel amount ov rude strength, boath fizensicaly and mentaly. He nu hardly enny boox, but he had travveld far, had cene much ov the werld. And had rememberd aul dhat he had lernd. In person he wauz a thhic-cet, berly man withe a shoc ov grizeld hare, a broun, wether-beten face, and blu ise which wer kene too the verj ov feersnes. Yet he had a reputaishon for kiandnes and charrity on the cuntry-cide, and wauz noted for the leenyency ov hiz centencez from the bench.

"Wun evening, shortly aafter mi arival, we wer citting over a glaas ov poert aafter dinner, when yung Trevvor began too tauc about dhose habbits ov observaishon

and inferens which I had aulreddy formd intoo a cistem, auldho I had not yet apreesheyated the part which dha wer too pla in mi life. The oald man evvidently thaut dhat hiz sun wauz exadgerating in hiz descripshon ov wun or too trivveyal feets which I had performd.

"Cum, nou, Mr. Hoamz,' ced he, laafing good-humordly. Ime an exelent subject, if u can dejuce ennithhing from me.'

"I fere dhare iz not verry much,' I aancerd; 'I mite sugest dhat u hav gon about in fere ov sum personal atac within the laast twelvmunth.'

"The laaf faded from hiz lips, and he staerd at me in grate cerprise.

"Wel, dhats tru enuf,' ced he. U no, Victor,' terning too hiz sun, when we broke up dhat poching gang dha swoer too nife us, and Cer Edword Holly haz acchuwaly bene atact. Ive aulwase bene on mi gard cins then, dho I hav no ideyaa hou u no it.'

"U hav a verry handsum stic,' I aancerd. Bi the inscripshon I observd dhat u had not had it moer dhan a yere. But u hav taken sum painz too boer the hed ov it and poer melted led intoo the hole so az too make it a formiddabel weppon. I argude dhat u wood not take such precaushonz unles u had sum dain'ger too fere.'

"Ennithhing els?' he aasct, smiling.

"U hav boxt a good dele in yor ueth.'

"Rite agane. Hou did u no it? Iz mi nose noct a littel out ov the strate?"

"No,' ced I. It iz yor eerz. Dha hav the peculeyar flattening and thhickening which marx the boxing man.'

"Ennithing els?"

"U hav dun a good dele ov digghing bi yor caloscitese."

"Made aul mi munny at the goald feeldz."

"U hav bene in Nu Seland."

"Rite agane."

"U hav vizsited Japan."

"Qwite tru."

"And u hav bene moast intimaitly asoasheyated withe sum wun whoose inishalz wer J. A., and whoome u aafterwordz wer egher too entiarly forghet."

"Mr. Trevvor stood sloly up, fixt hiz larj blu ise uppon me withe a strainj wiald stare, and then picht forword, withe hiz face among the nutshelz which strude the cloth, in a ded faint.

"U can imadgine, Wautson, hou shoct boath hiz sun and I wer. Hiz atac did not laast long, houwevver, for when we undid hiz collar, and sprinkeld the wauter from wun ov the fin'gher-glaacez over hiz face, he gave a gaasp or too and sat up.

"Aa, boiz,' ced he, foercing a smile, 'I hope I havnt fritend u. Strong az I looc, dhare iz a weke place in mi hart, and it duz not take much too noc me over. I doant no hou u mannage this, Mr. Hoamz, but it ceemz too me dhat aul the detectiavz ov fact and ov fancy wood be children in yor handz. Dhats yor line ov life, cer, and u ma take the werd ov a man whoo haz cene sumthhing ov the werld.'

"And dhat recomendaishon, withe the exadgerated estimate ov mi abillity withe which he preffaist it, wauz, if u wil beleve me, Wautson, the verry ferst thhing which evver made me fele dhat a profeshon mite be made out ov whaut had up too dhat time bene the merest hobby. At the moment, houwevver, I wauz too much concernd at the sudden ilnes ov mi hoast too thhinc ov ennithhing els.

"I hope dhat I hav ced nuthhing too pane u?' ced I.

"Wel, u certainly tucht uppon raather a tender point. Mite I aasc hou u no, and hou much u no?' He spoke nou in a haaf-gesting fashon, but a looc ov terror stil lerct at the bac ov hiz ise.

"It iz cimpliscity itcelf,' ced I. When u baerd yor arm too drau dhat fish intoo the bote I sau dhat J. A. had bene tatoode in the bend ov the elbo. The letterz wer stil ledgibel, but it wauz perfectly clere from dhare blerd aperans, and from the staning ov the skin round them, dhat efforts had bene made too oblitterate them. It wauz obveyous, then, dhat dhose inishalz had wuns bene verry familleyar too u, and dhat u had aafterwordz wisht too forghet them.'

"Whaut an i u hav!" he cride, withe a ci ov relefe. It iz just az u sa. But we woant tauc ov it. Ov aul goasts the goasts ov our oald luvverz ar the werst. Cum intoo the billeyard-roome and hav a qwiyet cigar.'

"From dhat da, amid aul hiz corjallity, dhare wauz aulwase a tuch ov suspishon in Mr. Trevvorz manner toowordz me. Even hiz sun remarct it. Uve ghivven the guvvernor such a tern,' ced he, dhat hele nevver be shure agane ov whaut u no and whaut u doant no.' He did not mene too sho it, I am shure, but it wauz so strongly in hiz miand dhat it peept out at evvery acshon. At laast I became so convinst dhat I wauz causing him unnesines dhat I dru mi vizsit too a close. On the verry da, houwevver, befoer I left, and incident okerd which pruid in the ceeqwel too be ov importans.

"We wer citting out uppon the laun on garden chaerz, the thre ov us, baasking in the sun and admiring the vu acros the Braudz, when a made came out too sa dhat dhare wauz a man at the doer whoo waunted too ce Mr. Trevvor.

"Whaut iz hiz name?' aasct mi hoast.

"He wood not ghiv enny.'

"Whaut duz he waunt, then?'

"He cez dhat u no him, and dhat he oanly waunts a moments conversaishon.'

"Sho him round here.' An instant aafterwordz dhare apeerd a littel wisend

fello withe a crin'ging manner and a shambling stile ov wauking. He woer an open jacket, withe a sploch ov tar on the sleve, a red-and-blac chec shert, dun'gary trouserz, and hevvy buits badly woern. Hiz face wauz thhin and broun and craafty, withe a perpetchuwal smile uppon it, which shode an ireggular line ov yello teeth, and hiz crinkeld handz wer haaf cloazd in a wa dhat iz distinctive ov salorz. Az he came slouching acros the laun I herd Mr. Trevvor make a sort ov hiccuping noiz in hiz throte, and jumping out ov hiz chare, he ran intoo the hous. He wauz bac in a moment, and I smelt a strong reke ov brandy az he paast me.

"Wel, mi man,' ced he. Whaut can I doo for u?"

"The salor stood loocking at him withe puckerd ise, and withe the same looce-lipt smile uppon hiz face.

"U doant no me?' he aasct.

"Whi, dere me, it iz shuerly Hudson,' ced Mr. Trevvor in a tone ov cerprise.

"Hudson it iz, cer,' ced the ceman. Whi, its thherty yere and moer cins I sau u laast. Here u ar in yor hous, and me stil picking mi sault mete out ov the harnes caasc.'

"Tut, u wil fiand dhat I hav not forgotten oald tiamz,' cride Mr. Trevvor, and, wauking toowordz the salor, he ced sumthhing in a lo vois. Go intoo the kitchen,' he continnude out loud, and u wil ghet foode and drinc. I hav no dout dhat I shal fiand u a cichuwaishon.'

"Thanc u, cer,' ced the ceman, tutching hiz foer-loc. Ime just of a too-yerer in an ate-not tramp, short-handed at dhat, and I waunts a rest. I thaut Ide ghet it iather withe Mr. Beddose or withe u.'

"Aa!' cride Trevvor. U no whare Mr. Beddose iz?'

"Bles u, cer, I no whare aul mi oald frendz ar,' ced the fello withe a cinnister smile, and he sloucht of aafter the made too the kitchen. Mr. Trevvor mumbeld sumthhing too us about havving bene shipmate withe the man when he wauz

gowing bac too the digghingz, and then, leving us on the laun, he went indoerz.

An our later, when we enterd the hous, we found him strecht ded drunc uppon the dining-roome sofaa. The whole incident left a moast ugly impreshon uppon mi miand, and I wauz not sory next da too leve Donnithorp behiand me, for I felt dhat mi prezsens must be a soers ov embarrasment too mi frend.

"Aul this okerd juring the ferst munth ov the long vacaishon. I went up too mi

Lundon ruimz, whare I spent cevven weex werking out a fu experriments in

organnic kemmistry. Wun da, houwevver, when the autum wauz far advaanst and the

vacaishon drauwing too a close, I receevd a tellegram from mi frend imploering me

too retern too Donnithorp, and saying dhat he wauz in grate nede ov mi advice and

acistans. Ov coers I dropt evverithhing and cet out for the North wuns moer.

"He met me withe the dog-cart at the staishon, and I sau at a glaans dhat the laast too munths had bene verry triying wunz for him. He had grone thhin and caerwoern, and had lost the loud, chery manner for which he had bene remarcabel.

"The guvvernor iz diying,' wer the ferst werdz he ced.

"Imposcibel!' I cride. Whaut iz the matter?'

"Appoplexy. Nervous shoc, Hese bene on the verj aul da. I dout if we shal fiand him alive.'

"I wauz, az u ma thhinc, Wautson, horifide at this unexpected nuse.

"Whaut haz cauzd it?' I aasct.

"Aa, dhat iz the point. Jump in and we can tauc it over while we drive. U remember dhat fello whoo came uppon the evening befoer u left us?'

"Perfectly.'

"Doo u no whoo it wauz dhat we let intoo the hous dhat da?'

"I hav no ideyaa.'

"It wauz the devvil, Hoamz,' he cride.

"I staerd at him in astonishment.

"Yes, it wauz the devvil himcelf. We hav not had a peesfool our cins—not wun.

The guvvernor haz nevver held up hiz hed from dhat evening, and nou the
life haz
bene crusht out ov him and hiz hart broken, aul throo this akerst
Hudson.'

"Whaut pouwer had he, then?"

"Aa, dhat iz whaut I wood ghiv so much too no. The kiandly, charritabel,
good
oald guvvernor—hou cood he hav faulen intoo the clutch ez ov such a
ruffeyan! But
I am so glad dhat u hav cum, Hoamz. I trust verry much too yor jujment
and
discreshon, and I no dhat u wil advise me for the best.'

"We wer dashing along the smuithe white cuntry rode, withe the long
strech ov
the Braudz in frunt ov us glimmering in the red lite ov the cetting sun.
From
a grove uppon our left I cood aulreddy ce the hi chimnese and the flag-
staaf
which marct the sqwiarz dwelling.

"Mi faather made the fello gardener,' ced mi companyon, and then, az dhat
did not sattisfi him, he wauz promoted too be butler. The hous ceemd too
be at
hiz mercy, and he waunderd about and did whaut he chose in it. The maidz
complained ov hiz drunken habbits and hiz vile lan'gwage. The dad raizd
dhare
wagez aul round too recompens them for the anoiyans. The fello wood take
the
bote and mi faatherz best gun and trete himcelf too littel shooting trips.
And
aul this withe such a snering, lering, insolent face dhat I wood hav noct

him doun twenty tiamz over if he had bene a man ov mi one age. I tel u, Hoamz, I hav had too kepe a tite hoald uppon micelf aul this time; and nou I am aasking micelf whether, if I had let micelf go a littel moer, I mite not hav bene a wiser man.

"Wel, matterz went from bad too wers withe us, and this annimal Hudson became moer and moer intrucive, until at laast, on making sum insolent repli too mi faather in mi prezsens wun da, I tooc him bi the shoalderz and ternd him out ov the roome. He slunc awa withe a livvid face and too vennomous ise which utterd moer threts dhan hiz tung cood doo. I doant no whaut paast betwene the poor dad and him aafter dhat, but the dad came too me next da and aasct me whether I wood miand apollogising too Hudson. I refuezd, az u can imadgine, and aasct mi faather hou he cood alou such a rech too take such libbertese withe himcelf and hiz hous'hoald.

""Aa, mi boi," ced he, "it iz aul verry wel too tauc, but u doant no hou I am plaist. But u shal no, Victor. Ile ce dhat u shal no, cum whaut ma. U woodnt beleve harm ov yor poor oald faather, wood u, lad?" He wauz verry much muivd, and shut himcelf up in the studdy aul da, whare I cood ce throo the windo dhat he wauz riting bizsily.

"Dhat evening dhare came whaut ceemd too me too be a grand relece, for Hudson

toald us dhat he wauz gowing too leve us. He wauct intoo the dining-roome az we sat aafter dinner, and anounst hiz intenshon in the thhic vois ov a haaf-drunken man.

""Ive had enuf ov Norfoke," ced he. "Ile run doun too Mr. Beddose in Hampshire. Hele be az glad too ce me az u wer, I dare sa."

""Yor not gowing awa in an unkiand spirrit, Hudson, I hope," ced mi faather, withe a taimnes which made mi blud boil.

""Ive not had mi pollogy," ced he sulkily, glaancing in mi direcshon.

""Victor, u wil acollej dhat u hav uezd this werthy fello raather rufly," ced the dad, terning too me.

""On the contrary, I thhinc dhat we hav boath shone extrordinary paishens toowordz him," I aancerd.

""O, u doo, doo u?" he snarlz. "Verry good, mate. Wele ce about dhat!"

"He sloucht out ov the roome, and haaf an our aafterwordz left the hous, leving mi faather in a state ov pitteyabel nervousnes. Nite aafter nite I herd him pacing hiz roome, and it wauz just az he wauz recuvering hiz confidens dhat the blo did at laast faul.'

"And hou?' I aasct egherly.

"In a moast extrordinary fashon. A letter ariavd for mi faather yesterda evening, baring the Fordingbrij poast-marc. Mi faather red it, clapt boath

hiz handz too hiz hed, and began running round the roome in littel cerkelz
like
a man whoo haz bene drivven out ov hiz cencez. When I at laast dru him
doun on too
the sofaa, hiz mouth and ilidz wer aul puckerd on wun cide, and I sau dhat
he had a stroke. Dr. Foerdam came over at wuns. We poot him too bed; but
the
parallicis haz spred, he haz shone no cine ov reterning conshousnes, and I
thhinc dhat we shal hardly fiand him alive.'

"U horifi me, Trevvor!" I cride. Whaut then cood hav bene in this letter
too cauz so dredfool a rezult?"

"Nuthhing. Dhare lise the inexpliccabel part ov it. The message wauz
abcerd and
trivveyal. Aa, mi God, it iz az I feerd!"

"Az he spoke we came round the kerv ov the avvenu, and sau in the fading
lite
dhat evvery bliand in the hous had bene draun doun. Az we dasht up too
the doer,
mi frendz face convulst withe grefe, a gentelman in blac emerjrd from it.

"When did it happen, doctor?' aasct Trevvor.

"Aulmoast imejaitly aafter u left.'

"Did he recuvver conshousnes?"

"For an instant befoer the end.'

"Enny message for me.'

"Oonly dhat the paperz wer in the bac drauwer ov the Japanese cabbinet.'

"Mi frend acended withe the doctor too the chaimber ov deth, while I remaind
in the studdy, terning the whole matter over and over in mi hed, and feling
az
somber az evver I had dun in mi life. Whaut wauz the paast ov this
Trevvor,
pugilist, travveler, and goald-diggher, and hou had he plaist himself in the
pouwer
ov this ascid-faist ceman? Whi, too, shood he faint at an aluezhon too the
haaf-effaist inishalz uppon hiz arm, and di ov frite when he had a letter
from
Fordingam? Then I rememberd dhat Fordingam wauz in Hampshire, and
dhat this
Mr. Beddose, whoome the ceman had gon too vizsit and preezhumably too
blacmale, had
aulso bene menshond az livving in Hampshire. The letter, then, mite iather
cum
from Hudson, the ceman, saying dhat he had betrade the ghilty ceecret
which
apeerd too exist, or it mite cum from Beddose, worning an oald
confedderate
dhat such a betrayal wauz imminent. So far it ceemd clere enuf. But then
hou
cood this letter be trivveyal and grotesc, az describe bi the sun? He must
hav misred it. If so, it must hav bene wun ov dhose in'geenyous ceecret
coadz
which mene wun thhing while dha ceme too mene anuther. I must ce this
letter.
If dhare wer a hidden mening in it, I wauz confident dhat I cood pluc it
foerth. For an our I sat pondering over it in the gloome, until at laast a
weping made braut in a lamp, and cloce at her heelz came mi frend
Trevvor,

pale but compoazd, withe these verry paperz which li uppon mi ne held in
hiz

graasp. He sat doun opposite too me, dru the lamp too the ej ov the tabel,
and

handed me a short note scribbeld, az u ce, uppon a cin'ghel shete ov gra
paper. The supli ov game for Lunden iz gowing steddily up,' it ran.

Hed-keper Hudson, we beleve, haz bene nou toald too receive aul orderz
for

fli-paper and for preservaishon ov yor hen-fezzants life.'

"I dare sa mi face looct az bewilderd az yorz did just nou when ferst I
red this message. Then I rered it verry caerfooly. It wauz evvidently az I

had

thaut, and sum ceecret mening must li berrede in this strainj combinaishon
ov

werdz. Or cood it be dhat dhare wauz a preyarainjd cignifficans too such
frasez

az fli-paper and hen-fezant? Such a mening wood be arbitrary and cood
not be dejuest in enny wa. And yet I wauz loath too beleve dhat this wauz
the

cace, and the prezsens ov the werd Hudson ceemd too sho dhat the subject
ov

the message wauz az I had ghest, and dhat it wauz from Beddose raather
dhan the

salor. I tride it baqwordz, but the combinaishon life fezzants hen wauz not
encurraging. Then I tride aulternate werdz, but niather the ov for nor supli
game London prommiast too thro enny lite uppon it.

"And then in an instant the ke ov the riddel wauz in mi handz, and I sau
dhat

evvery thherd werd, beghinning withe the ferst, wood ghiv a message
which mite

wel drive oald Trevvor too despare.

"It wauz short and ters, the worning, az I nou rede it too mi companyon:

"The game iz up. Hudson haz toald aul. Fli for yor life.'

"Victor Trevvor sanc hiz face intoo hiz shaking handz. It must be dhat, I supose,' ced he. "This iz wers dhan deth, for it meenz disgrace az wel. But whaut iz the mening ov these "hed-keperz" and "hen-fezzants"?"

"It meenz nuthhing too the message, but it mite mene a good dele too us if we

had no uther meenz ov discuvvering the cender. U ce dhat he haz begun bi riting "The...game...is," and so on. Aafterwordz he had, too foolfil the preyarainjd cifer, too fil in enny too werdz in eche space. He wood natchuraly

use the ferst werdz which came too hiz miand, and if dhare wer so menny which

referd too spoert amung them, u ma be tollerably shure dhat he iz iather an ardent shot or interested in breeding. Doo u no ennithhing ov this Beddose?"

"Whi, nou dhat u menshon it,' ced he, 'I remember dhat mi poor faather uest

too hav an invitaishon from him too shoote over hiz preservz evvery autum.'

"Then it iz undoutedly from him dhat the note cumz,' ced I. It oonly remainz for us too fiand out whaut this ceecret wauz which the salor Hudson ceemz

too hav held over the hedz ov these too welthhy and respected men.'

"Alaas, Hoamz, I fere dhat it iz wun ov cin and shame!' cride mi frend. But from u I shal hav no ceecrets. Here iz the staitment which wauz draun up bi

mi faather when he nu dhat the dain'ger from Hudson had becum imminent. I found

it in the Japanese cabbinet, az he toald the doctor. Take it and rede it too me,
for I hav niather the strength nor the currage too doo it micelf.'

"These ar the verry paperz, Wautson, which he handed too me, and I wil rede them too u, az I rede them in the oald studdy dhat nite too him. Dha ar endorst outcide, az u ce, Sum particcularz ov the voiyage ov the barc Gloereyaa Scot, from her leving Falmouth on the 8th October, 1855, too her destrucshon in N. Lat. 15 degrese 20', W. Long. 25 degrese 14' on Nov. 6th.' It iz in the form ov a letter, and runz in this wa:

"Mi dere, dere sun, nou dhat aproching disgrace beghinz too darken the closing yeerz ov mi life, I can rite withe aul trueth and onnesty dhat it iz not the terror ov the lau, it iz not the los ov mi posishon in the county, nor iz it mi faul in the ise ov aul whoo hav none me, which cuts me too the hart; but it iz the thaut dhat u shood cum too blush for me—u whoo luv me and whoo hav celdom, I hope, had rezon too doo uther dhan respect me. But if the blo faulz which iz forevver hanging over me, then I shood wish u too rede this, dhat u ma no strate from me hou far I hav bene too blame. On the uther hand, if aul shood go wel (which ma kiand God Aulmity graant!), then if bi enny chaans this paper shood be stil undestroid and shood faul intoo yor handz, I cunjure u, bi aul u hoald saicred, bi the memmory ov yor dere muther, and bi the luv which had bene betwene us, too herl it intoo the fire and too never ghiv wun thaut too it agane.

"If then yor i gose on too rede this line, I no dhat I shal aulreddy hav bene expoazd and dragd from mi home, or az iz moer liacly, for u no dhat mi hart iz weke, bi liying withe mi tung ceeld forevver in deth. In iather

cace the time for supreshon iz paast, and evvery werd which I tel u iz the naked trueth, and this I sware az I hope for mercy.

"Mi name, dere lad, iz not Trevvor. I wauz Jaimz Armitage in mi yun'gher dase, and u can understand nou the shoc dhat it wauz too me a fu weex ago when yor college frend adrest me in werdz which ceemd too impli dhat he had cerpriazd mi ceecret. Az Armitage it wauz dhat I enterd a Lundoon banking-hous, and az Armitage I wauz convicted ov braking mi cuntrese lauz, and wauz centenst too traansportaishon. Doo not thhinc verry harshly ov me, laddy. It wauz a det ov onnor, so cauld, which I had too pa, and I uezd munny which wauz not mi one too doo it, in the certainty dhat I cood replace it befoer dhare cood be enny pocibility ov its beying mist. But the moast dredfool il-luc pershude me. The munny which I had recond uppon nevver came too hand, and a premachure examinaishon ov acounts expoazd mi deficit. The cace mite hav bene delt leenyently withe, but the lauz wer moer harshly adminnisterd thherty yeerz ago dhan nou, and on mi twenty-thherd berthda I found micelf chaind az a fellow withe thherty-cevven uther convicts in twene-dex ov the barc Gloereyaa Scot, bound for Australeyaa.

"It wauz the yere '55 when the Crimeyan wor wauz at its hite, and the oald convict ships had bene larjly uezd az traanspoerts in the Blac Ce. The guvvernment wauz compeld, dhaerfoer, too use smauler and les sutabel vescelz

for cending out dhare prizzonerz. The Gloereyaa Scot had bene in the Chinese te-trade, but she wauz an oald-fashond, hevvy-boud, braud-beemd craaft, and the nu clipperz had cut her out. She wauz a five-hundred-tun bote; and beciadz her thherty-ate jale-berdz, she carrede twenty-cix ov a cru, atene soalgerz, a captane, thre maitz, a doctor, a chaplane, and foer worderz. Neerly a hundred soalz wer in her, aul toald, when we cet sale from Falmouth.

"The partishonz betwene the celz ov the convicts, insted ov beying ov thhic oke, az iz uezhuwal in convict-ships, wer qwite thhin and frale. The man next too me, uppon the aaft cide, wauz wun whoome I had particcularly notiast when we wer led doun the ke. He wauz a yung man withe a clere, haerles face, a long, thhin nose, and raather nut-cracker jauz. He carrede hiz hed verry jauntily in the are, had a swagghering stile ov wauking, and wauz, abuv aul els, remarcabel for hiz extrordinary hite. I doant thhinc enny ov our hedz wood hav cum up too hiz shoalder, and I am shure dhat he cood not hav mezhuerd les dhan cix and a haaf fete. It wauz strainj amung so menny sad and wery facez too ce wun which wauz fool ov ennergy and rezolueshon. The cite ov it wauz too me like a fire in a sno-storm. I wauz glad, then, too fiand dhat he wauz mi nabor, and gladder stil when, in the ded ov the nite, I herd a whisper cloce too mi ere, and found dhat he had mannaijd too cut an opening in the boerd which cepparated us.

""Hullo, chummy!" ced he, "whauts yor name, and whaut ar u here for?"

"I aancerd him, and aasct in tern whoo I wauz tauking withe.

""Ime Jac Prendergaast," ced he, "and bi God! Ule lern too bles mi name befoer uve dun withe me."

"I rememberd hering ov hiz cace, for it wauz wun which had made an imens censaishon throowout the cuntry sum time befoer mi one arest. He wauz a man ov good fammily and ov grate abillity, but ov incurably vishous habbits, whoo had bi an in'geenyous cistem ov fraud obtaind huge sumz ov munny from the leding Lundon merchants.

""Haa, haa! U remember mi cace!" ced he proudly.

""Verry wel, indede."

""Then maby u remember sumthhing qwere about it?"

""Whaut wauz dhat, then?"

""Ide had neerly a qworter ov a milleyon, hadnt I?"

""So it wauz ced."

""But nun wauz recuvverd, a?"

""No."

""Wel, whare dye supose the ballans iz?" he aasct.

""I hav no ideyaa," ced I.

""Rite betwene mi fin'gher and thum," he cride. "Bi God! Ive got moer poundz too mi name dhan uve haerz on yor hed. And if uve munny, mi sun, and no hou too handel it and spred it, u can doo ennithhing. Nou, u doant thhinc it liacly dhat a man whoo cood doo ennithhing iz gowing too ware hiz britchez out citting in the stinking hoald ov a rat-gutted, betel-ridden, moaldy oald coffin ov a Chin Chinaa coaster. No, cer, such a man wil looc aafter himcelf and wil looc aafter hiz chumz. U ma la too dhat! U hoald on too him, and u ma kis the booc dhat hele haul u throo."

"Dhat wauz hiz stile ov tauc, and at ferst I thaut it ment nuthhing; but aafter a while, when he had tested me and swoern me in withe aul poscibel solemnity, he let me understand dhat dhare reyaly wauz a plot too gane comaand ov the vescel. A duzsen ov the prizzonerz had hacht it befoer dha came aboard, Prendergaast wauz the leder, and hiz munny wauz the motive pouwer.

""Ide a partner," ced he, "a rare good man, az tru az a stoc too a barrel. Hese got the dibz, he haz, and whare doo u thhinc he iz at this moment? Whi, hese the chaplane ov this ship—the chaplane, no les! He came aboard withe a blac cote, and hiz paperz rite, and munny enuf in hiz box too bi the thhing rite up from kele too mane-truc. The cru ar hiz, boddy and sole. He cood bi em at so much a groce withe a cash discount, and he did it befoer evver dha

ciand on. Hese got too ov the worderz and Merere, the cecond mate, and hede ghet the captane himcelf, if he thaut him werth it."

""Whaut ar we too doo, then?" I aasct.

""Whaut doo u thhinc?" ced he. "Wele make the coats ov sum ov these soalgerz redder dhan evver the talor did."

""But dha ar armd," ced I.

""And so shal we be, mi boi. Dhaerz a brace ov pistolz for evvery mutherz sun ov us, and if we caant carry this ship, withe the cru at our bac, its time we wer aul cent too a yung miscez boerding-scoole. U speke too yor mate uppon the left too-nite, and ce if he iz too be trusted."

"I did so, and found mi uther nabor too be a yung fello in much the same posishon az micelf, whose crime had bene forgery. Hiz name wauz Evvanz, but he aafterwordz chainjd it, like micelf, and he iz nou a rich and prosperous man in the south ov In'gland. He wauz reddy enuf too join the consperracy, az the oonly meenz ov saving ourcelvz, and befoer we had crost the Ba dhare wer oonly too ov the prizzonerz whoo wer not in the ceecret. Wun ov these wauz ov weke miand, and we did not dare too trust him, and the uther wauz suffering from jaundice, and cood not be ov enny uce too us.

"From the beghinning dhare wauz reyaly nuthhing too prevent us from taking poseshon ov the ship. The cru wer a cet ov ruffeyanz, speshaly pict for

the job. The sham chaplane came intoo our celz too exort us, carreying a
blac
bag, supoast too be fool ov tracts, and so often did he cum dhat bi the
thherd
da we had eche stode awa at the foot ov our bedz a file, a brace ov pistolz,
a pound ov pouder, and twenty slugz. Too ov the worderz wer agents ov
Prendergaast, and the cecond mate wauz hiz rite-hand man. The captane,
the too
maits, too worderz Leftennant Martin, hiz atene soalgerz, and the doctor
wer aul dhat we had against us. Yet, safe az it wauz, we determiand too
neglect
no precaushon, and too make our atac suddenly bi nite. It came,
houwevver, moer
qwicly dhan we expected, and in this wa.

"Wun evening, about the thherd weke aafter our start, the doctor had cum
doun
too ce wun ov the prizzonerz whoo wauz il, and pootting hiz hand doun
on the
bottom ov hiz bunc he felt the outline ov the pistolz. If he had bene cilent
he
mite hav blone the whole thhing, but he wauz a nervous littel chap, so he
gave
a cri ov cerprise and ternd so pale dhat the man nu whaut wauz up in an
instant and ceezd him. He wauz gagd befoer he cood ghiv the alarm, and
tide
doun uppon the bed. He had unloct the doer dhat led too the dec, and we
wer
throo it in a rush. The too centrese wer shot doun, and so wauz a corporal
whoo came running too ce whaut wauz the matter. Dhare wer too moer
soalgerz at
the doer ov the state-roome, and dhare muskets ceemd not too be loded,
for dha

nevver fiard uppon us, and dha wer shot while triying too fix dhare bayonets.

Then we rusht on intoo the captainz cabbin, but az we poosht open the doer

dhare wauz an exploazhon from within, and dhare he la withe hiz brainz smeerd

over the chart ov the Atlantic which wauz pind uppon the tabel, while the chaplane stood withe a smoking pistol in hiz hand at hiz elbo. The too

maitz

had boath bene ceezd bi the cru, and the whole biznes ceemd too be cetteld.

"The state-roome wauz next the cabbin, and we floct in dhare and flopt doun

on the cettese, aul speking tooghether, for we wer just mad withe the feling dhat we wer fre wuns moer. Dhare wer lockerz aul round, and Wilson, the sham

chaplane, noct wun ov them in, and poold out a duzsen ov broun sherry.

We

cract of the nex ov the bottelz, poerd the stuf out intoo tumblerz, and wer just toscing them of, when in an instant widhout worning dhare came the

roer ov muskets in our eertz, and the saloone wauz so fool ov smoke dhat we cood

not ce acros the tabel. When it cleerd agane the place wauz a shambelz.

Wilson and ate utherz wer rigling on the top ov eche uther on the floer, and the blud and the broun sherry on dhat tabel tern me cic nou when I thhinc

ov it. We wer so coud bi the cite dhat I thhinc we shood hav ghivven the job

up if it had not bene for Prendergaast. He bellode like a bool and rusht for the doer withe aul dhat wer left alive at hiz heelz. Out we ran, and dhare

on

the poepe wer the leftennant and ten ov hiz men. The swing skiliats abuv the

saloon table had been a bit open, and dha had fiard on us throo the slit.
We
got on them befoer dha cood lode, and dha stood too it like men; but we
had
the upper hand ov them, and in five minnuets it wauz aul over. Mi God!
Wauz dhare
evver a slauter-hous like dhat ship! Prendergaast wauz like a raging devvil,
and
he pict the soalgerz up az if dha had bene children and thru them
overboerd
alive or ded. Dhare wauz wun sarjant dhat wauz horibly wuinded and yet
kept on
swimming for a cerprising time, until sum wun in mercy blu out hiz
brainz.
When the fiting wauz over dhare wauz no wun left ov our ennemese exept
just the
worderz the maitz, and the doctor.

"It wauz over them dhat the grate qworel arose. Dhare wer menny ov us
whoo wer
glad enuf too win bac our fredom, and yet whoo had no wish too hav
merder on
our soalz. It wauz wun thhing too noc the soalgerz over withe dhare
muskets in
dhare handz, and it wauz anuther too stand bi while men wer beying kild
in coald
blud. Ate ov us, five convicts and thre salorz, ced dhat we wood not ce
it dun. But dhare wauz no mooving Prendergaast and dhose whoo wer
withe him. Our
oonly chaans ov saifty la in making a clene job ov it, ced he, and he wood
not leve a tung withe pouwer too wag in a wites-box. It neerly came too
our
sharing the fate ov the prizzonerz, but at laast he ced dhat if we wisht we
mite take a bote and go. We jumt at the offer, for we wer aulreddy cic ov

these bludthhersty doowingz, and we sau dhat dhare wood be wers befoer
it wauz
dun. We wer ghivven a sute ov salor togz eche, a barrel ov wauter, too
caasx,
wun ov junc and wun ov biskits, and a cumpas. Prendergaast thru us over
a
chart, toald us dhat we wer shiprect marrinerz whoose ship had founderd
in
Lat. 15 degrese and Long 25 degrese west, and then cut the painter and let
us
go.

"And nou I cum too the moast cerprising part ov mi stoery, mi dere sun.
The
cemen had hauld the foer-yard abac juring the rising, but nou az we left
them dha braut it sqware agane, and az dhare wauz a lite wind from the
north
and eest the barc began too drau sloly awa from us. Our bote la, rising and
fauling, uppon the long, smuithe rolerz, and Evvanz and I, whoo wer the
moast
edjucated ov the party, wer citting in the sheets werking out our posishon
and
planning whaut coast we shood make for. It wauz a nice qweschon, for the
Cape de
Verdz wer about five hundred mialz too the north ov us, and the African
coast
about cevven hundred too the eest. On the whole, az the wind wauz
cumming round too
the north, we thaut dhat Ceyerraa Leyone mite be best, and ternd our hed
in
dhat direcshon, the barc beying at dhat time neerly hul down on our
starbord
qworter. Suddenly az we looct at her we sau a dens blac cloud ov smoke
shoote

up from her, which hung like a monstrous tre upon the ski line. A fu
cecondz
later a roer like thunder berst upon our eerz, and az the smoke thhind
awa
dhare wauz no cine left ov the Gloereyaa Scot. In an instant we swept the
boats
hed round agane and poold withe aul our strength for the place whare the
hase
stil traling over the wauter marct the cene ov this catastrofy.

"It wauz a long our befoer we reecht it, and at ferst we feerd dhat we had
cum too late too save enny wun. A splinterd bote and a number ov craits
and
fragments ov sparz rising and fauling on the waivz shode us whare the
vescel
had founderd; but dhare wauz no cine ov life, and we had ternd awa in
despare
when we herd a cri for help, and sau at sum distans a pece ov reccage
withe
a man liying strecht acros it. When we poold him aboard the bote he pruid
too be a yung ceman ov the name ov Hudson, whoo wauz so bernd and
exausted
dhat he cood ghiv us no acount ov whaut had happend until the following
morning.

"It ceemd dhat aafter we had left, Prendergaast and hiz gang had proceded
too
poot too deth the five remaning prizzonerz. The too worderz had bene shot
and
throne overboerd, and so aulso had the thherd mate. Prendergaast then
decended
into the twene-dex and withe hiz one handz cut the throte ov the
unforchunate

cerjon. Dhare oonly remaind the ferst mate, whoo wauz a boald and active man.

When he sau the convict aproching him withe the bluddy nife in hiz hand he kict of hiz bondz, which he had sumhou contriavd too loocen, and rushing doun the dec he plunjd intoo the aafter-hoald. A duzsen convicts, whoo decended withe dhare pistolz in cerch ov him, found him withe a mach-box in hiz hand ceted beside an open pouder-barrel, which wauz wun ov a hundred carrede on boerd, and swaring dhat he wood blo aul handz up if he wer in enny wa molested. An instant later the exploazhon okerd, dho Hudson thaut it wauz cauzd bi the misdirected boollet ov wun ov the convicts raather dhan the maits mach. Be the cauz whaut it ma, it wauz the end ov the Gloereyaa Scot and ov the rabbel whoo held comaand ov her.

"Such, in a fu werdz, mi dere boi, iz the history ov this terribel biznes in which I wauz involvd. Next da we wer pict up bi the brig Hotsper, bound for Australeyaa, whose captane found no difficulty in beleving dhat we wer the cervivorz ov a pascen'ger ship which had founderd. The traanspoert ship Gloereyaa Scot wauz cet doun bi the Admiralty az beying lost at ce, and no werd haz evver leect out az too her tru fate. Aafter an exelent voiyage the Hotsper landed us at Cidny, whare Evvanz and I chainjd our naimz and made our wa too the digghingz, whare, amung the croudz whoo wer gatherd from aul naishonz, we had no

difficulty in loosing our former identitese. The rest I nede not relate. We prosperd, we travveld, we came bac az rich coloanyalz too In'gland, and we baut cuntry estaits. For moer dhan twenty yeeرز we hav led peesfool and uesfool liavz, and we hoapt dhat our paast wauz forevver berrede. Imadgine, then, mi felingz when in the ceman whoo came too us I reccogniazd instantly the man whoo had bene pict of the rec. He had tract us doun sumhou, and had cet himcelf too liv uppon our feerz. U wil understand nou hou it wauz dhat I strove too kepe the pece withe him, and u wil in sum mezhure cimpathise withe me in the feerz which fil me, nou dhat he haz gon from me too hiz uther victim withe threts uppon hiz tung.'

"Underneeth iz ritten in a hand so shaky az too be hardly ledgibel, Beddose riats in cifer too sa H. haz toald aul. Swete Lord, hav mercy on our soalz!"

"Dhat wauz the narrative which I red dhat nite too yung Trevvor, and I thhinc, Wautson, dhat under the cercumstaancez it wauz a dramattic wun. The good fello wauz hart-broken at it, and went out too the Teri te plaanting, whare I here dhat he iz doowing wel. Az too the salor and Beddose, niather ov them wauz evver herd ov agane aafter dhat da on which the letter ov worning wauz ritten. Dha both disapeerd utterly and compleetly. No complaint had bene lojd withe the polece, so dhat Beddose had mistaken a thret for a dede. Hudson had bene cene lerking about, and it wauz beleevd bi the polece dhat he had dun awa withe Beddose and had fled. For micelf I beleve dhat the trueth wauz exactly the

opposite. I thhinc dhat it iz moast probbabel dhat Beddose, poosht too
desperaishon
and beleving himcelf too hav bene aulreddy betrade, had revenjd himcelf
uppon
Hudson, and had fled from the cuntry withe az much munny az he cood la
hiz
handz on. Dhose ar the facts ov the cace, Doctor, and if dha ar ov enny uce
too yor colecshon, I am shure dhat dha ar verry hartily at yor cervice."

Advenchure 5.

The Muzgrave Ritchuwal

An anomaly which often struc me in the carracter ov mi frend Sherloc
Hoamz
wauz dhat, auldho in hiz methodz ov thaut he wauz the netest and moast
methoddical ov mankiand, and auldho aulso he afected a certane qwiyet
primnes
ov dres, he wauz nun the les in hiz personal habbits wun ov the moast
untidy
men dhat evver drove a fello-lodger too distracshon. Not dhat I am in the
leest
convenshonal in dhat respect micelf. The ruf-and-tumbel werc in
Afganistan,

cumming on the top ov a natchural Bohemeyanizm ov disposishon, haz made me raather moer lax dhan befits a meddical man. But withe me dhare iz a limmit, and when I fiand a man whoo keeps hiz cigarz in the cole-scuttel, hiz tobacco in the to end ov a Perzhan slipper, and hiz unnaancerd corespondens traansfixt bi a jac-nife intoo the verry center ov hiz wooden mantelpece, then I beghin too ghiv micelf verchuwous aerz. I hav aulwase held, too, dhat pistol practice shoold be distinctly an open-are paastime; and when Hoamz, in wun ov hiz qwere humorz, wood cit in an arm-chare withe hiz hare-triggher and a hundred Boxer cartrigez, and procede too adorn the opposite waul withe a patreyotic V. R. dun in boollet-pox, I felt strongly dhat niather the atmosfere nor the aperans ov our roome wauz impruivd bi it.

Our chaimberz wer aulwase fool ov kemmicalz and ov crimminal rellix which had a wa ov waundering intoo unliacly posishonz, and ov terning up in the butter-dish or in even les desirabel placez. But hiz paperz wer mi grate crux. He had a horror ov destroyng documents, espeshaly dhose which wer conected withe hiz paast cacez, and yet it wauz oanly wuns in evvery yere or too dhat he wood muster ennergy too docket and arainj them; for, az I hav menshond sumwhare in these incoherent memwarz, the outbersts ov pashonate ennergy when he performd the remarcabel feets withe which hiz name iz asoasheyated wer follode bi reyacsionz

ov lethargy juring which he wood li about withe hiz viyolin and hiz boox,
hardly mooving save from the sofaa too the tabel. Dhus munth aafter
munth hiz
paperz acumulated, until evvery corner ov the roome wauz stact withe
bundelz ov
mannuscript which wer on no acount too be bernd, and which cood not be
poot
awa save bi dhare oner. Wun winterz nite, az we sat tooghether bi the fire, I
venchuerd too sugest too him dhat, az he had finnisht paisting extracts
intoo hiz
common-place booc, he mite emploi the next too ourz in making our roome
a
littel moer habbitabel. He cood not deni the justice ov mi reqwest, so withe
a
raather rufool face he went of too hiz bedroome, from which he reternd
prezently
pooling a larj tin box behiand him. This he plaist in the middel ov the floer
and, sqwauting doun uppon a stoole in frunt ov it, he thru bac the lid. I
cood
ce dhat it wauz aulreddy a thherd fool ov bundelz ov paper tide up withe
red tape
intoo cepparate paccagez.

"Dhare ar cacez enuf here, Wautson," ced he, loocking at me withe
mischevous
ise. "I thhinc dhat if u nu aul dhat I had in this box u wood aasc me too
pool sum out insted ov pootting utherz in."

"These ar the reccordz ov yor erly werc, then?" I aasct. "I hav often wisht
dhat I had noats ov dhose cacez."

"Yes, mi boi, these wer aul dun premachuerly befoer mi biyograafer had
cum too
glorifi me." He lifted bundel aafter bundel in a tender, carescing sort ov wa.

"Dha ar not aul suxesez, Wautson," ced he. "But dhare ar sum pritty littel problemz amung them. Heerz the reccord ov the Tarlton merderz, and the cace ov Vambery, the wine merchant, and the advenchure ov the oald Rushan woomman, and the cin'gular afare ov the aluminyum cruch, az wel az a fool acount ov Ricoletty ov the club-foot, and hiz abomminabel wife. And here —aa, nou, this reyalz iz sumthhing a littel reshersha."

He diavd hiz arm doun too the bottom ov the chest, and braut up a smaul wooden box withe a sliding lid, such az childrenz toiz ar kept in. From within he projuest a crumpeld pece ov paper, and oald-fashond braas ke, a peg ov wood withe a baul ov string atacht too it, and thre rusty oald disx ov mettal.

"Wel, mi boi, whaut doo u make ov this lot?" he aasct, smiling at mi expreshon.

"It iz a cureyous colecshon."

"Verry cureyous, and the stoery dhat hangz round it wil strike u az beying moer cureyous stil."

"These rellix hav a history then?"

"So much so dhat dha ar history."

"Whaut doo u mene bi dhat?"

Sherloc Hoamz pict them up wun bi wun, and lade them along the ej ov the tabel. Then he receted himcelf in hiz chare and looct them over withe a gleme ov satisfacshon in hiz ise.

"These," ced he, "ar aul dhat I hav left too remiand me ov the advenchure ov the Muzgrave Ritchuwal."

I had herd him menshon the cace moer dhan wuns, dho I had nevver bene abel too gather the detailz. "I shood be so glad," ced I, "if u wood ghiv me an acount ov it."

"And leve the litter az it iz?" he cride, mischevously. "Yor tidines woant bare much strane aafter aul, Wautson. But I shood be glad dhat u shood ad this cace too yor annalz, for dhare ar points in it which make it qwite uneke in the crimmlinal reccordz ov this or, I beleve, ov enny uther cuntry. A colecshon ov mi triafling acheevments wood certainly be incomplete which containd no acount ov this verry cin'gular biznes.

"U ma remember hou the afare ov the Gloereyaa Scot, and mi conversaishon withe the unhappy man whoose fate I toald u ov, ferst ternd mi atenshon in the direcshon ov the profeshon which haz becum mi liafs werc. U ce me nou when mi name haz becum none far and wide, and when I am genneraly reccogniazd both bi the public and bi the ofishal foers az beying a final coert ov apele in doutfool cacez. Even when u nu me ferst, at the time ov the afare which u hav comemmorated in 'A Studdy in Scarlet,' I had aulreddy establisht a concidderabel, dho not a verry lucrative, conecshon. U can hardly reyalise, then, hou difficult I found it at ferst, and hou long I had too wate befoer I suxeded in making enny hedwa.

"When I ferst came up too Lunden I had ruimz in Montagu Strete, just round the corner from the Brittish Museyum, and dhare I wated, filling in mi too abundant lezhure time bi studdeying aul dhose braanchez ov ciyens which mite make me moer efishent. Nou and agane cacez came in mi wa, principaly throo the introducshon ov oald fello-schudents, for juring mi laast yeerz at the Univercity dhare wauz a good dele ov tauc dhare about micelf and mi methodz. The thherd ov these cacez wauz dhat ov the Muzgrave Ritchuwal, and it iz too the interest which wauz arouzd bi dhat cin'gular chane ov events, and the larj ishuse which pruivd too be at stake, dhat I trace mi ferst stride toowordz the posishon which I nou hoald.

"Reginald Muzgrave had bene in the same college az micelf, and I had sum slite aqwaintans withe him. He wauz not genneraly poppular among the undergradjuwaits, dho it aulwase ceemd too me dhat whaut wauz cet doun az pride wauz reyal an atempt too cuvver extreme natchural diffidens. In aperans he wauz a man ov exedingly aristocrattic tipe, thhin, hi-noazd, and larj-ide, withe lan'gwid and yet coertly mannerz. He wauz indede a ciyon ov wun ov the verry oaldest fammilese in the kingdom, dho hiz braanch wauz a cadet wun which had ceeparated from the northern Muzgraivz sum time in the sixteenth cenchury, and

had establish itcelf in western Suscex, whare the Mannor Hous ov
Herlstone iz
perhaps the oaldest inhabbited bilding in the county. Sumthhing ov hiz
berth
place ceemd too cling too the man, and I nevver looct at hiz pale, kene face
or
the poiz ov hiz hed widhout asoasheyating him withe gra archwase and
mulleyond
windose and aul the vennerabel reccage ov a fudal kepe. Wuns or twice we
drifted intoo tauc, and I can remember dhat moer dhan wuns he exprest a
kene
interest in mi methodz ov observaishon and inferens.

"For foer yeerz I had cene nuthhing ov him until wun morning he wauct
intoo mi
roome in Montagu Strete. He had chainjd littel, wauz drest like a yung man
ov
fashon—he wauz aulwase a bit ov a dandy—and preservd the same
qwiyet, swaav
manner which had formerly distin'gwisht him.

"Hou haz aul gon withe u Muzgrave?" I aasct, aafter we had corjaly shaken
handz.

"U probbably herd ov mi poor faatherz deth,' ced he; he wauz carrede of
about too yeerz ago. Cins then I hav ov coers had the Herlstone estaits too
mannage, and az I am member for mi district az wel, mi life haz bene a
bizsy
wun. But I understand, Hoamz, dhat u ar terning too practical endz dhose
pouwerz withe which u uest too amase us?"

"Yes,' ced I, 'I hav taken too livving bi mi wits.'

"I am delited too here it, for yor advice at prezsent wood be exedingly

vallubel too me. We hav had sum verry strainj doowingz at Herlstone, and the polece hav bene abel too thro no lite uppon the matter. It iz reyaly the moast extrordnary and inexpliccabel biznes.'

"U can imadgine withe whaut eghernes I liscend too him, Wautson, for the verry chaans for which I had bene panting juring aul dhose munths ov inacshon ceemd too hav cum within mi reche. In mi inmoast hart I beleevd dhat I cood suxede whare utherz faild, and nou I had the oporchunity too test micelf.

"Pra, let me hav the detailz,' I cride.

"Reginald Muzgrave sat doun opposite too me, and lit the ciggaret which I had poosht toowordz him.

"U must no,' ced he, dhat dho I am a batchelor, I hav too kepe up a concidderabel staaf ov cervants at Herlstone, for it iz a rambling oald place, and taix a good dele ov loocking aafter. I preserv, too, and in the fezzant munths I uezhuwaly hav a hous-party, so dhat it wood not doo too be short-handed. Aultooghether dhare ar ate maidz, the cooc, the butler, too footmen, and a boi. The garden and the stabelz ov coers hav a ceperate staaf.

"Ov these cervants the wun whoo had bene lon'ghest in our cervice wauz Brunton the butler. He wauz a yung scoole-maaster out ov place when he wauz ferst taken up bi mi faather, but he wauz a man ov grate ennergy and carracter, and he soone became

qwite invallubel in the hous'hoald. He wauz a wel-grone, handsum man, withe a splendid foerhed, and dho he haz bene withe us for twenty yeez he canot be moer dhan forty nou. Withe hiz personal advaantagez and hiz extraordinary ghifts—for he can speke cevveral lan'gwagez and pla neerly evvery musical instrument—it iz wunderfool dhat he shood hav bene sattisfide so long in such a posishon, but I supose dhat he wauz cumfortabel, and lact ennergy too make enny chainj. The butler ov Herlstone iz aulwase a thhing dhat iz rememberd bi aul whoo vizesit us.

"But this parragon haz wun fault. He iz a bit ov a Don Hwaan, and u can imadgine dhat for a man like him it iz not a verry difficult part too pla in a qwiyet cuntry district. When he wauz marrede it wauz aul rite, but cins he haz bene a widdower we hav had no end ov trubbel withe him. A fu munths ago we wer in hoaps dhat he wauz about too cettel doun agane for he became en'gaijd too Rachel Houwelz, our cecond hous-made; but he haz throne her over cins then and taken up withe Jannet Tregellis, the dauter ov the hed game-keper. Rachel—whoo iz a verry good gherl, but ov an exitabel Welsh temperament—had a sharp tuch ov brane-fever, and gose about the hous nou—or did until yesterda—like a blac-ide shaddo ov her former celf. Dhat wauz our ferst draamaa at Herlstone; but a cecond wun came too drive it from our miandz, and it wauz preffaist bi the

disgrace and dismissal ov butler Brunton.

"This wauz hou it came about. I hav ced dhat the man wauz intelligent, and this verry intelligens haz cauzd hiz ruwin, for it ceemz too hav led too an insaishabel cureyosity about ththingz which did not in the leest concern him. I had no ideyaa ov the lengths too which this wood carry him, until the merest axident opend mi ise too it.

"I hav ced dhat the hous iz a rambling wun. Wun da laast weke—on Thherzda nite, too be moer exact—I found dhat I cood not slepe, havving foolishly taken a cup ov strong caffea nwar aafter mi dinner. Aafter strugling against it until too in the morning, I felt dhat it wauz qwite hoaples, so I rose and lit the candel withe the intenshon ov continnuwing a novvel which I wauz reding. The booc, houwevver, had bene left in the billeyard-roome, so I poold on mi drescing-goun and started of too ghet it.

"In order too reche the billeyard-roome I had too decend a flite ov staerz and then too cros the hed ov a passage which led too the liabrary and the gun-roome. U can imadgine mi cerprise when, az I looct doun this coridor, I sau a glimmer ov lite cumming from the open doer ov the liabrary. I had micelf extin'gwisht the lamp and cloazd the doer befoer cumming too bed. Natchuraly mi ferst thaut wauz ov berglarz. The coridorz at Herlstone hav dhare waulz larjly deccorated withe trofese ov oald wepponz. From wun ov these I pict a battel-ax, and then, leving mi candel behiand me, I crept on tipto doun the

passage and peept in at the open doer.

"Brunton, the butler, wauz in the liabrary. He wauz citting, foolly drest, in an esy-chare, withe a slip ov paper which looct like a map uppon hiz ne, and hiz foerhed sunc forword uppon hiz hand in depe thaut. I stood dum withe astonishment, wauching him from the darcnes. A smaull taper on the ej ov the tabel shed a febel lite which sufiast too sho me dhat he wauz foolly drest. Suddenly, az I looct, he rose from hiz chare, and wauking over too a buro at the cide, he unloct it and dru out wun ov the drauwerz. From this he tooc a paper, and reterning too hiz cete he flattend it out becide the taper on the ej ov the tabel, and began too studdy it withe minute atenshon. Mi indignaishon at this caalm examinaishon ov our fammily documents overcame me so far dhat I tooc a step forword, and Brunton, loocking up, sau me standing in the doerwa. He sprang too hiz fete, hiz face ternd livvid withe fere, and he thrust intoo hiz brest the chart-like paper which he had bene oridginally studdeying.

""So!" ced I. "This iz hou u repa the trust which we hav repoazd in u. U wil leve mi cervice too-moro."

"He boud withe the looc ov a man whoo iz utterly crusht, and slunc paast me widhout a werd. The taper wauz stil on the tabel, and bi its lite I glaanst too ce whaut the paper wauz which Brunton had taken from the buro. Too mi cerprise it wauz nuthhing ov enny importans at aul, but cimply a cobby ov the qweschonz and aancerz in the cin'gular oald observans cauld the Muzgrave Ritchuwal. It iz a sort

ov ceremony peculeyar too our fammily, which eche Muzgrave for
cenchurese paast haz
gon throo on hiz cumming ov age—a thhing ov private interest, and
perhaps ov
sum littel importans too the arkeyollogist, like our one blazonningz and
chargez, but ov no practical uce whautevver.'

"We had better cum bac too the paper aafterwordz,' ced I.

"If u thhinc it reyaly nescesary,' he aancerd, withe sum hesitaishon. Too
continnu mi staitment, houwevver: I reloct the buro, using the ke which
Brunton had left, and I had ternd too go when I wauz cerpriazd too fiand
dhat the
butler had reternd, and wauz standing befoer me.

""Mr. Muzgrave, cer," he cride, in a vois which wauz hoers withe
emoashon, "I
caant bare disgrace, cer. Ive aulwase bene proud abuv mi staishon in life,
and
disgrace wood kil me. Mi blud wil be on yor hed, cer—it wil, indede—if
u drive me too despere. If u canot kepe me aafter whaut haz paast, then for
Godz sake let me ghiv u notice and leve in a munth, az if ov mi one fre
wil. I cood stand dhat, Mr. Muzgrave, but not too be caast out befoer aul
the
foke dhat I no so wel."

""U doant deserv much concideraishon, Brunton," I aancerd. "Yor conduct
haz bene moast infamous. Houwevver, az u hav bene a long time in the
fammily, I
hav no wish too bring public disgrace uppon u. A munth, houwevver iz too
long.
Take yorcelf awa in a weke, and ghiv whaut rezon u like for gowing."

""Oanly a weke, cer?" he cride, in a desparing vois. "A fortnite—sa at

leest a fortnite!"

""A weke," I repeted, "and u ma concidder yorcelf too hav bene verry leenyently delt withe."

"He crept awa, hiz face sunc uppon hiz brest, like a broken man, while I poot out the lite and reternd too mi roome.

""For too dase aafter this Brunton wauz moast acidjuwous in hiz atenshon too hiz jutese. I made no aluezhon too whaut had paast, and wated withe sum cureyosity too ce hou he wood cuvver hiz disgrace. On the thherd morning, houwevver he did not apere, az wauz hiz custom, aafter breccfast too receive mi instrucshonz for the da. Az I left the dining-roome I happend too mete Rachel Houwelz, the made. I hav toald u dhat she had oanly recently recuvverd from an ilnes, and wauz loocking so retchedly pale and waun dhat I remmonstrated withe her for beying at werc.

""U shood be in bed," I ced. "Cum bac too yor jutese when u ar stron'gher."

"She looct at me withe so strainj an expreshon dhat I began too suspect dhat her brane wauz afected.

""I am strong enuf, Mr. Muzgrave," ced she.

""We wil ce whaut the doctor cez," I aancerd. "U must stop werc nou, and when u go dounstaerz just sa dhat I wish too ce Brunton."

""The butler iz gon," ced she.

""Gon! Gon whare?"

""He iz gon. No wun haz cene him. He iz not in hiz roome. O, yes, he iz gon, he iz gon!" She fel bac against the waul withe shreke aafter shreke ov laafter, while I, horifide at this sudden histerrical atac, rusht too the bel too summon help. The gherl wauz taken too her roome, stil screaming and sobbing, while I made inqwiresse about Brunton. Dhare wauz no dout about it dhat he had disapeerd. Hiz bed had not bene slept in, he had bene cene bi no wun cins he had retiard too hiz roome the nite befoer, and yet it wauz difficult too ce hou he cood hav left the hous, az boath windose and doerz wer found too be faacend in the morning. Hiz cloadhz, hiz wauch, and even hiz munny wer in hiz roome, but the blac sute which he uezhuwaly woer wauz miscing. Hiz slipperz, too, wer gon, but hiz buits wer left behiand. Whare then cood butler Brunton hav gon in the nite, and whaut cood hav becum ov him nou?

"Ov coers we cercht the hous from cellar too garret, but dhare wauz no trace ov him. It iz, az I hav ced, a labbirinth ov an oald hous, espeshaly the oridginal wing, which iz nou practicaly unninhabbited; but we ransact evvery

roome and cellar widhout discuvvering the leest cine ov the miscing man.
It wauz
incredidibel too me dhat he cood hav gon awa leving aul hiz propperty
behind
him, and yet whare cood he be? I cauld in the local polece, but widhout
suxes. Rane had faulen on the nite befoer and we exammiand the laun and
the
paaths aul round the hous, but in vane. Matterz wer in this state, when a
nu
devellopment qwite dru our atenshon awa from the oridginal mistery.

"For too dase Rachel Houwelz had bene so il, sumtiamz delereyous,
sumtiamz
histerical, dhat a ners had bene emloyd too cit up withe her at nite. On
the
thherd nite aafter Bruntonz disaperans, the ners, fianding her paishent
slepig niasly, had dropt intoo a nap in the arm-chare, when she woke in
the
erly morning too fiand the bed empty, the windo open, and no cianz ov the
invalid. I wauz instantly arouzd, and, withe the too footmen, started of at
wuns in cerch ov the miscing gherl. It wauz not difficult too tel the
direcshon
which she had taken, for, starting from under her windo, we cood follo her
footmarx esily acros the laun too the ej ov the mere, whare dha vannisht
cloce too the gravvel paath which leedz out ov the groundz. The lake dhare
iz
ate fete depe, and u can imadgine our felingz when we sau dhat the trale
ov
the poor demented gherl came too an end at the ej ov it.

"Ov coers, we had the dragz at wuns, and cet too werc too recuvver the
remainz,
but no trace ov the boddy cood we fiand. On the uther hand, we braut too
the

cerface an obgett ov a moast unnexpected kiand. It wauz a linnen bag
which containd
within it a mas ov oald rusted and discullord mettal and cevveral dul-
cullord
pecez ov pebbel or glaas. This strainj fiand wauz aul dhat we cood ghet
from the
mere, and, auldho we made evvery poscibel cerch and inqwiry yesterda,
we
no nuthhing ov the fate iather ov Rachel Houwelz or ov Ritchard Brunton.
The
county polece ar at dhare wits end, and I hav cum up too u az a laast
rezoers.'

"U can imadgine, Wautson, withe whaut eghernes I liscend too this
extrordinary
ceeqwens ov events, and endevvord too pece them tooghether, and too
devise sum
common thred uppon which dha mite aul hang. The butler wauz gon. The
made wauz
gon. The made had luvd the butler, but had aafterwordz had cauz too hate
him.
She wauz ov Welsh blud, firy and pashonate. She had bene terribly exited
imejaitly aafter hiz disaperans. She had flung intoo the lake a bag
contaning sum cureyous contents. These wer aul factorz which had too be
taken
intoo concideraishon, and yet nun ov them got qwite too the hart ov the
matter.
Whaut wauz the starting-point ov this chane ov events? Dhare la the end
ov this
tan'gheld line.

"I must ce dhat paper, Muzgrave,' ced I, which this butler ov yor thaut
it werth hiz while too consult, even at the risc ov the los ov hiz place.'

"It iz raather an abcerd biznes, this ritchuwal ov ourz,' he aancerd. But it haz at leest the saving grace ov antiqwity too excuse it. I hav a cobby ov the qweschonz and aancerz here if u care too run yor i over them.'

"He handed me the verry paper which I hav here, Wautson, and this iz the strainj cattekizm too which eche Muzgrave had too submit when he came too manz estate. I wil rede u the qweschonz and aancerz az dha stand.

"Whoose wauz it?'

"Hiz whoo iz gon.'

"Whoo shal hav it?'

"He whoo wil cum.'

"Whare wauz the sun?'

"Over the oke.'

"Whare wauz the shaddo?'

"Under the elm.'

"Hou wauz it stept?'

"North bi ten and bi ten, eest bi five and bi five, south bi too and bi too, west bi wun and bi wun, and so under.'

"Whaut shal we ghiv for it?'

"Aul dhat iz ourz.'

"Whi shood we ghiv it?"

"For the sake ov the trust."

"The oridginal haz no date, but iz in the spelling ov the middel ov the cevventeenth cenchury,' remarct Muzgrave. 'I am afrade, houwevver, dhat it can be ov littel help too u in solving this mistery.'

"At leest,' ced I, it ghivz us anuther mistery, and wun which iz even moer interesting dhan the ferst. It ma be dhat the solueshon ov the wun ma prove too be the solueshon ov the uther. U wil excuse me, Muzgrave, if I sa dhat yor butler apeerz too me too hav bene a verry clevver man, and too hav had a clerer incite dhan ten generaishonz ov hiz maasterz.'

"I hardly follo u,' ced Muzgrave. The paper ceemz too me too be ov no practical importans.'

"But too me it ceemz imensly practical, and I fancy dhat Brunton tooc the same vu. He had probbably cene it befoer dhat nite on which u caut him.'

"It iz verry poscibel. We tooc no painz too hide it.'

"He cimply wisht, I shood imadgine, too refresh hiz memmory uppon dhat laast ocaizhon. He had, az I understand, sum sort ov map or chart which he wauz comparing withe the mannuscript, and which he thrust intoo hiz pocket when u apeerd.'

"Dhat iz tru. But whaut cood he hav too doo withe this oald fammily custom ov ourz, and whaut duz this rigmarole mene?"

"I doant thhinc dhat we shood hav much difficulty in determining dhat,' ced I; withe yor permishon we wil take the ferst trane down too Suscex, and go a littel moer deeply intoo the matter uppon the spot.'

"The same aafternoone sau us boath at Herlstone. Poscibly u hav cene picchuerz and red descriphonz ov the famous oald bilding, so I wil confine mi acount ov it too saying dhat it iz bilt in the shape ov an L, the long arm beying the moer moddern porshon, and the shorter the ainshent nuecleyus, from which the uther had devellopt. Over the lo, hevvely-linteld doer, in the center ov this oald part, iz chizseld the date, 1607, but experts ar agrede dhat the beemz and stone-werc ar reyaly much oalder dhan this. The enormously thhic waulz and tiny windose ov this part had in the laast cenchury drivven the fammily intoo bilding the nu wing, and the oald wun wauz uezd nou az a stoer-hous and a cellar, when it wauz uezd at aul. A splendid parc withe fine oald timber surroundz the hous, and the lake, too which mi cliyent had referd, la cloce too the avvenu, about too hundred yardz from the bilding.

"I wauz aulreddy fermly convinst, Wautson, dhat dhare wer not thre cepparate misterese here, but wun oanly, and dhat if I cood rede the Muzgrave Ritchuwal

rite I shood hoald in mi hand the clu which wood lede me too the trueth concerning boath the butler Brunton and the made Houwelz. Too dhat then I ternd aul mi ennergese. Whi shood this cervant be so ancshous too maaster this oald formulaa? Evvidently becauz he sau sumthhing in it which had escaipt aul dhose generaishonz ov cuntry sqwiarz, and from which he expected sum personal advaantage. Whaut wauz it then, and hou had it afected hiz fate?

"It wauz perfectly obveyous too me, on reding the ritchuwal, dhat the mezhuerments must refer too sum spot too which the rest ov the doccument aluded, and dhat if we cood fiand dhat spot, we shood be in a fare wa toowordz fianding whaut the ceecret wauz which the oald Muzgraivz had thaut it nescesary too embalm in so cureyous a fashon. Dhare wer too ghiadz ghivven us too start withe, an oke and an elm. Az too the oke dhare cood be no qweschon at aul. Rite in frunt ov the hous, uppon the left-hand cide ov the drive, dhare stood a paitreyarc amung oax, wun ov the moast magnifficent trese dhat I hav evver cene.

"Dhat wauz dhare when yor ritchuwal wauz draun up,' ced I, az we drove paast it.

"It wauz dhare at the Norman Conqwest in aul probabillity,' he aancerd. It haz a gherth ov twenty-thre fete.'

"Hav u enny oald elmz?' I aasct.

"Dhare uest too be a verry oald wun over yonder but it wauz struc bi
liatning
ten yearz ago, and we cut down the stump.'

"U can ce whare it uest too be?"

"O, yes.'

"Dhare ar no uther elmz?"

"No oald wunz, but plenty ov bechez.'

"I shood like too ce whare it gru.'

"We had drivven up in a dog-cart, and mi cliyent led me awa at wuns,
widhout our
entering the hous, too the scar on the laun whare the elm had stood. It
wauz
neerly midwa betwene the oke and the hous. Mi investigaishon ceemd too
be
progrescing.

"I supose it iz imposcibel too fiand out hou hi the elm wauz?' I aasct.

"I can ghiv u it at wuns. It wauz cixty-foer fete.'

"Hou doo u cum too no it?' I aasct, in cerprise.

"When mi oald chutor uest too ghiv me an exercise in trigonometry, it
aulwase tooc
the shape ov mezhuring hiats. When I wauz a lad I werct out evvery tre
and
bilding in the estate.'

"This wauz an unexpected pece ov luc. Mi dataa wer cumming moer qwicly dhan I cood hav rezonably hoapt.

"Tel me,' I aasct, did yor butler evver aasc u such a qweschon?'

"Reginald Muzgrave looct at me in astonishment. Nou dhat u caul it too mi miand,' he aancerd, Brunton did aasc me about the hite ov the tre sum munths ago, in conecshon withe sum littel argument withe the groome.'

"This wauz exelent nuse, Wautson, for it shode me dhat I wauz on the rite rode. I looct up at the sun. It wauz lo in the hevvenz, and I calculated dhat in les dhan an our it wood li just abuv the topmoast braanchez ov the oald oke. Wun condishon menshond in the Ritchuwal wood then be foolfild. And the shaddo ov the elm must mene the farther end ov the shaddo, urtherwise the trunc wood hav bene chosen az the ghide. I had, then, too fiand whare the far end ov the shaddo wood faul when the sun wauz just clere ov the oke."

"Dhat must hav bene difficult, Hoamz, when the elm wauz no lon'gher dhare."

"Wel, at leest I nu dhat if Brunton cood doo it, I cood aulso. Beciadz, dhare wauz no reyal difficulty. I went withe Muzgrave too hiz studdy and whitteld micelf this peg, too which I tide this long string withe a not at eche yard. Then I tooc too lengths ov a fishing-rod, which came too just cix fete, and I went bac withe mi cliyent too whare the elm had bene. The sun wauz just grasing the top ov the oke. I faacend the rod on end, marct out the direcshon ov the

shaddo, and mezhuerd it. It wauz nine fete in length.

"Ov coers the calculaishon nou wauz a cimpel wun. If a rod ov cix fete thru a shaddo ov nine, a tre ov cixty-foer fete wood thro wun ov nianty-cix, and the line ov the wun wood ov coers be the line ov the uther. I mezhuerd out the distans, which braut me aulmoast too the waul ov the hous, and I thrust a peg intoo the spot. U can imadgine mi exultaishon, Wautson, when within too inchez ov mi peg I sau a connical depreshon in the ground. I nu dhat it wauz the marc made bi Brunton in hiz mezhuerments, and dhat I wauz stil uppon hiz trale.

"From this starting-point I proceded too step, havving ferst taken the cardinal points bi mi pocket-cumpas. Ten steps withe eche foot tooc me along parralel withe the waul ov the hous, and agane I marct mi spot withe a peg. Then I caerfooly paist of five too the eest and too too the south. It braut me too the verry threshoald ov the oald doer. Too steps too the west ment nou dhat I wauz too go too pacez doun the stone-flagd passage, and this wauz the place indicated bi the Ritchuwal.

"Nevver hav I felt such a coald chil ov disapointment, Wautson. For a moment iz ceemd too me dhat dhare must be sum raddical mistake in mi calculaishonz. The cetting sun shon fool uppon the passage floer, and I cood ce dhat the oald,

foot-woern gra stoanz withe which it wauz paivd wer fermly cemented
tooghether,
and had certainly not bene muivd for menny a long yere. Brunton had not
bene at
werc here. I tapt uppon the floer, but it sounded the same aul over, and
dhare
wauz no cine ov enny crac or crevvice. But, forchunaitly, Muzgrave, whoo
had begun
too apreesheyate the mening ov mi procedingz, and whoo wauz nou az
exited az
micelf, tooc out hiz mannuscript too chec mi calculaishon.

"And under,' he cride. U hav omitted the "and under."

"I had thaut dhat it ment dhat we wer too dig, but nou, ov coers, I sau at
wuns dhat I wauz rong. Dhare iz a cellar under this then?' I cride.

"Yes, and az oald az the hous. Doun here, throo this doer.'

"We went doun a wianding stone stare, and mi companyon, striking a
mach, lit a
larj lantern which stood on a barrel in the corner. In an instant it wauz
obveyous dhat we had at laast cum uppon the tru place, and dhat we had
not bene
the oonly pepel too vizsit the spot recently.

"It had bene uezd for the stoerage ov wood, but the billets, which had
evvidently
bene litterd over the floer, wer nou piald at the ciadz, so az too leve a
clere space in the middel. In this space la a larj and hevvy flagstone withe a
rusted iarn ring in the center too which a thhic shepherdz-chec mufler
wauz
atacht.

"Bi Jove!' cride mi cliyent. Dhats Bruntonz mufler. I hav cene it on him, and cood sware too it. Whaut haz the villane bene doowing here?"

"At mi sugeschon a cuppel ov the county polece wer summond too be prezsent, and I then endevvord too rase the stone bi pooling on the cravat. I cood oonly moove it sliatly, and it wauz withe the ade ov wun ov the cunstabelz dhat I suxeded at laast in carreying it too wun cide. A blac hole yaund beneeth intoo which we aul peerd, while Muzgrave, neling at the cide, poosht down the lantern.

"A smaual chaimber about cevven fete depe and foer fete sqware la open too us. At wun cide ov this wauz a sqwaut, braas-bound wooden box, the lid ov which wauz hinjd upwordz, withe this cureyous oald-fashond ke projecting from the loc. It wauz ferd outside bi a thhic layer ov dust, and damp and wermz had eten throo the wood, so dhat a crop ov livvid fun'ghi wauz growing on the incide ov it. Cevveral disx ov mettal, oald coinz aparrently, such az I hoald here, wer scatterd over the bottom ov the box, but it containd nuthhing els.

"At the moment, houwevver, we had no thaut for the oald chest, for our ise wer rivveted uppon dhat which croucht beside it. It wauz the figgure ov a man, clad in a sute ov blac, whoo sqwauted down uppon hiz hamz withe hiz foerhed sunc uppon the ej ov the box and hiz too armz throne out on eche cide ov it. The

attitude had drawn all the stagnant blood to the face, and no man could
have
recognized that distorted liver-cullord countenance; but his height, his dress,
and his hair were all sufficient to show me the client, when we had drawn the
body
up, that it was indeed his missing butler. He had been dead some days, but
there was no wound or bruise upon his person to show how he had met
his
dreadful end. When his body had been carried from the cellar we found
ourselves
still confronted with a problem which was almost as formidable as
that with
which we had started.

"I confess that so far, Watson, I had been disappointed in my investigation.
I
had relied upon solving the matter when weeks I had found the place
referred
to in the Ritz; but now I was there, and was apparently as far as
ever from
knowing what it was which the family had concealed with such
elaborate
precautions. It is true that I had thrown a light upon the fate of Brunton,
but
now I had to ascertain how that fate had come upon him, and what part
had been
played in the matter by the woman who had disappeared. I sat down
upon a chair in
the corner and thought the whole matter carefully over.

"Under my method in such cases, Watson. I put myself in the man's place
and, having first gained his intelligence, I try to imagine how I should
myself
have proceeded under the same circumstances. In this case the matter was

cimplifide bi Bruntonz intelligens beying qwite ferst-rate, so dhat it wauz un'necesary too make enny alouwans for the personal eqwaizhon, az the astronnomerz hav dubd it. He nu dhat sumthhing vallubel wauz conceeld. He had spotted the place. He found dhat the stone which cuvverd it wauz just too hevvy for a man too moove unnaded. Whaut wood he doo next? He cood not ghet help from outcide, even if he had sum wun whoome he cood trust, widhout the unbaaring ov doerz and concidderabel risc ov detecshon. It wauz better, if he cood, too hav hiz helpmate incide the hous. But whoome cood he aasc? This gherl had bene devoted too him. A man aulwase fiandz it hard too reyalise dhat he ma hav finally lost a woommanz luv, houwevver badly he ma hav treted her. He wood tri bi a fu atenshonz too make hiz pece withe the gherl Houwelz, and then wood en'gage her az hiz acumplice. Tooghether dha wood cum at nite too the cellar, and dhare united foers wood sufice too rase the stone. So far I cood follo dhare acshonz az if I had acchuwaly cene them.

"But for too ov them, and wun a woomman, it must hav bene hevvy werc the rasing ov dhat stone. A berly Suscex poleesman and I had found it no lite job. Whaut wood dha doo too acist them? Probbably whaut I shood hav dun micelf. I rose and exammiand caerfooly the different billets ov wood which wer scatterd round the floer. Aulmoast at wuns I came uppon whaut I expected. Wun pece, about thre

fete in length, had a verry marct indentaishon at wun end, while cevveral
wer
flattend at the ciadz az if dha had bene comprest bi sum concidderabel
wate. Evvidently, az dha had dragd the stone up dha had thrust the chunx
ov wood intoo the chinc, until at laast, when the opening wauz larj enuf too
craul throo, dha wood hoald it open bi a billet plaist lengthwise, which
mite verry wel becum indented at the lower end, cins the whole wate ov
the
stone wood pres it down on too the ej ov this uther slab. So far I wauz stil
on safe ground.

"And nou hou wauz I too procede too reconstruct this midnite draamaa?
Cleerly, oonly
wun cood fit intoo the hole, and dhat wun wauz Brunton. The gherl must
hav
wated abuv. Brunton then unloct the box, handed up the contents
preezhumably—cins dha wer not too be found—and then—and then
whaut happend?

"Whaut smoaldering fire ov venjans had suddenly sprung intoo flame in
this
pashonate Keltic woommanz sole when she sau the man whoo had rongd
her—rongd
her, perhaps, far moer dhan we suspected—in her pouwer? Wauz it a
chaans dhat the
wood had slipt, and dhat the stone had shut Brunton intoo whaut had
becum hiz
ceppulker? Had she oonly bene ghilty ov cilens az too hiz fate? Or had sum
sudden blo from her hand dasht the supoert awa and cent the slab crashing
down intoo its place? Be dhat az it mite, I ceemd too ce dhat woommanz
figgure
stil clutching at her trezhure trove and fliying wialdly up the wianding
stare,

withe her eerz ringing perhaps withe the muffeld screemz from behiand
her and withe
the drumming ov frensede handz against the slab ov stone which wauz
choking her
faithles luvverz life out.

"Here wauz the ceecret ov her blaansht face, her shaken nervz, her peelz ov
histerical laafter on the next morning. But whaut had bene in the box?
Whaut had
she dun withe dhat? Ov coers, it must hav bene the oald mettal and
pebbelz
which mi cliyent had dragd from the mere. She had throne them in dhare at
the
ferst oportchunity too remoove the laast trace ov her crime.

"For twenty minnuets I had sat moashonles, thhinking the matter out.
Muzgrave
stil stood withe a verry pale face, swinging hiz lantern and pering doun
intoo
the hole.

"These ar coinz ov Charlz the Ferst,' ced he, hoalding out the fu which had
bene in the box; u ce we wer rite in fixing our date for the Ritchuwal.'

"We ma fiand sumthhing els ov Charlz the Ferst,' I cride, az the probbabel
mening ov the ferst too qweschonz ov the Ritchuwal broke suddenly
uppon me. Let
me ce the contents ov the bag which u fisht from the mere.'

"We acended too hiz studdy, and he lade the daibry befoer me. I cood
understand
hiz regarding it az ov smaul importans when I looct at it, for the mettal
wauz
aulmoast blac and the stoanz lusterles and dul. I rubd wun ov them on mi

sleve, houwevver, and it glode aafterwordz like a sparce in the darc hollo ov mi hand. The mettal werc wauz in the form ov a dubbel ring, but it had bene bent and twisted out ov its oridginal shape.

"U must bare in miand,' ced I, dhat the roiyal party made hed in In'gland even aafter the deth ov the king, and dhat when dha at laast fled dha probbably left menny ov dhare moast preshous poseshonz berrede behiand them, withe the intenshon ov reterning for them in moer peesfool tiamz.'

"Mi ancestor, Cer Ralf Muzgrave, wauz a prominent Cavaleyer and the rite-hand man ov Charlz the Cecond in hiz waunderingz,' ced mi frend.

"Aa, indede!' I aancerd. Wel nou, I thhinc dhat reyaly shood ghiv us the laast linc dhat we waunted. I must con'gratchulate u on cumming intoo the poseshon, dho in raather a tradgic manner ov a rellic which iz ov grate intrinsic vallu, but ov even grater importans az an historical cureyosity.'

"Whaut iz it, then?' he gaaspt in astonishment.

"It iz nuthhing les dhan the ainshent croun ov the kingz ov In'gland.'

"The croun!'

"Preciasly. Concidder whaut the Ritchuwal cez: Hou duz it run? "Whoose wauz it?"

"Hiz whoo iz gon." Dhat wauz aafter the execueshon ov Charlz. Then,

"Whoo shal

hav it?" "He whoo wil cum." Dhat wauz Charlz the Cecond, whose advent wauz

aulreddy foercene. Dhare can, I thhinc, be no dout dhat this batterd and shaiples diyadem wuns encerkeld the brouz ov the roiyal Schuwarts.'

"And hou came it in the pond?"

"Aa, dhat iz a qweschon dhat wil take sum time too aancer.' And withe dhat I skecht out too him the whole long chane ov cermise and ov prooffe which I had constructed. The twilite had cloazd in and the moone wauz shining briatly in the ski befoer mi narrative wauz finnisht.

"And hou wauz it then dhat Charlz did not ghet hiz croun when he reternd?' aasct Muzgrave, pooshing bac the rellic intoo its linnen bag.

"Aa, dhare u la yor fin' gher uppon the wun point which we shal probbably nevver be abel too clere up. It iz liacly dhat the Muzgrave whoo held the ceecret dide in the interval, and bi sum overcite left this ghide too hiz descendant widhout explaning the mening ov it. From dhat da too this it haz bene handed doun from faather too sun, until at laast it came within reche ov a man whoo toer its ceecret out ov it and lost hiz life in the venchure.'

"And dhats the stoery ov the Muzgrave Ritchuwal, Wautson. Dha hav the croun doun at Herlstone—dho dha had sum legal bother and a concidderabel sum too pa befoer dha wer aloud too retane it. I am shure dhat if u menshond mi name dha wood be happy too sho it too u. Ov the woomman nuthhing wauz evver herd, and

the probability is that she got away out of In'gland and carried herself and the memory of her crime too sum land beyond the cese."

Adventure 6.

The Rigate Puzsel

It wauz sum time befoer the helth ov mi frend Mr. Sherloc Hoamz recuverd from the strane cauzd bi hiz imens exershonz in the spring ov '87. The whole qweschon ov the Netherland-Sumaatraa Cumpany and ov the colossal skeemz ov Barron Mopertwy ar too recent in the miandz ov the public, and ar too intimaitly concernd withe pollitix and finans too be fitting subgects for this cerese ov sketchez. Dha led, houwevver, in an indirect fashon too a cin'gular and complex problem which gave mi frend an oportchunity ov demmonstrating the vullu ov a fresh weppon among the menny withe which he waijd hiz life-long battel against crime.

On refuuring too mi noats I ce dhat it wauz uppon the 14th ov Aipril dhat I receevd a tellegram from Leyon which informd me dhat Hoamz wauz liying il in the Hotel Julong. Within twenty-foer ourz I wauz in hiz cic-roome, and wauz releevd too fiand dhat dhare wauz nuthhing formiddabel in hiz cimptomz. Even hiz iarn constichueshon, houwevver, had broken doun under the strane ov an investigaishon which had extended over too munths, juring which pereyod he had nevver werct les dhan fiftene ourz a da, and had moer dhan wuns, az he ashuerd me, kept too hiz taasc for five dase at a strech. Even the triyumfant ishu ov hiz laborz cood not save him from reyacshon aafter so terribel an exershon, and at a time when Urope wauz ringing withe hiz name and when hiz roome wauz litteraly ankel-depe withe con'grachulatory tellegramz I found him a pra too the blackest depreshon. Even the nollej dhat he had suxeded whare the polece ov thre cuntrese had faild, and dhat he had outmanuuverd at evvery point the moast acumplisht swindler in Urope, wauz insufishent too rouz him from hiz nervous prostraishon.

Thre dase later we wer bac in Baker Strete tooghether; but it wauz evvident dhat mi frend wood be much the better for a chainj, and the thaut ov a weke ov spring time in the cuntry wauz fool ov atracshonz too me aulso. Mi oald frend, Cuunel Hater, whoo had cum under mi profeshonal care in Afganistan, had nou taken a hous nere Rigate in Surry, and had freeqwently aasct me too cum doun too him uppon a vizsit. On the laast ocaizhon he had remarct dhat if mi frend

wood oonly cum withe me he wood be glad too extend hiz hospitallity too him aulso.

A littel diplomacy wauz neded, but when Hoamz understood dhat the establishment wauz a batchelor wun, and dhat he wood be aloud the foollest freedom, he fel in withe mi planz and a weke aafter our retern from Leyon we wer under the Cuunelz roofe. Hater wauz a fine oald soalger whoo had cene much ov the werld, and he soone found, az I had expected, dhat Hoamz and he had much in common.

On the evening ov our arival we wer citting in the Cuunelz gun-roome aafter dinner, Hoamz strecht uppon the sofaa, while Hater and I looct over hiz littel armory ov Eestern wepponz.

"Bi the wa," ced he suddenly, "I thhinc Ile take wun ov these pistolz upstaerz withe me in cace we hav an alarm."

"An alarm!" ced I.

"Yes, weve had a scare in this part laitly. Oald Acton, whoo iz wun ov our county magnaits, had hiz hous broken intoo laast Munda. No grate dammage dun, but the fellose ar stil at larj."

"No clu?" aasct Hoamz, cocking hiz i at the Cuunel.

"Nun az yet. But the afare iz a petty wun, wun ov our littel cuntry criamz, which must ceme too smaul for yor atenshon, Mr. Hoamz, aafter this grate internashonal afare."

Hoamz waivd awa the compliment, dho hiz smile shode dhat it had pleezd him.

"Wauz dhare enny fechure ov interest?"

"I fancy not. The thheevz ransact the liabrary and got verry littel for dhare painz. The whole place wauz ternd upcide doun, drauwerz berst open, and prescez

ransact, withe the rezult dhat an od vollume ov Poaps Homer,' too plated candelstix, an ivory letter-wate, a smaul oke barometer, and a baul ov twine ar aul dhat hav vannisht."

"Whaut an extrordinary assortment!" I exclaimd.

"O, the fellose evvidently grabd hoald ov evverithhing dha cood ghet."

Hoamz grunted from the sofaa.

"The county polece aut too make sumthhing ov dhat," ced he; "whi, it iz shuerly obveyous dhat—"

But I held up a worning fin'gher.

"U ar here for a rest, mi dere fello. For Hevvenz sake doant ghet started on a nu problem when yor nervz ar aul in shredz."

Hoamz shrugd hiz shoalderz withe a glaans ov commic resignaishon toowordz the

Cuunel, and the tauc drifted awa intoo les dain'gerous channelz.

It wauz destiand, houwevver, dhat aul mi profeshonal caushon shood be waisted,

for next morning the problem obruded itcelf uppon us in such a wa dhat it wauz

imposcibel too ignoer it, and our cuntry vizsit tooc a tern which niather ov
us
cood hav antiscipated. We wer at breccfast when the Cuunelz butler rusht
in withe aul hiz propriyety shaken out ov him.

"Hav u herd the nuse, cer?" he gaaspt. "At the Cunningamz cer!"

"Berglary!" cride the Cuunel, withe hiz coffy-cup in mid-are.

"Merder!"

The Cuunel whisceld. "Bi Jove!" ced he. "Whoose kild, then? The J.P. or hiz
sun?"

"Niather, cer. It wauz Willeyam the coachman. Shot throo the hart, cer, and
nevver spoke agane."

"Whoo shot him, then?"

"The berglar, cer. He wauz of like a shot and got clene awa. Hede just broke
in at the pantry windo when Willeyam came on him and met hiz end in
saving hiz
maasterz propperty."

"Whaut time?"

"It wauz laast nite, cer, sumwhare about twelv."

"Aa, then, wele step over aafterwordz," ced the Cuunel, cooly cetling doun
too hiz breccfast agane. "Its a baddish biznes," he added when the butler had
gon; "hese our leding man about here, iz oald Cunningam, and a verry
decent
fello too. Hele be cut up over this, for the man haz bene in hiz cervice for

yeerz and wauz a good cervant. Its evvidently the same villainz whoo
broke intoo
Actonz."

"And stole dhat verry cin'gular colecshon," ced Hoamz, thautfooly.

"Preciasly."

"Hum! It ma proove the cimplest matter in the werld, but aul the same at
ferst
glaans this iz just a littel cureyous, iz it not? A gang ov berglarz acting in
the cuntry mite be expected too vary the cene ov dhare operaishonz, and
not too
crac too cribz in the same district within a fu dase. When u spoke laast
nite ov taking precaushonz I remember dhat it paast throo mi miand dhat
this
wauz probbably the laast parrish in In'gland too which the thhefe or
thheevz wood be
liacly too tern dhare atenshon—which shose dhat I hav stil much too lern."

"I fancy its sum local practishoner," ced the Cuunel. "In dhat cace, ov
coers, Actonz and Cunningamz ar just the placez he wood go for, cins
dha ar far the largest about here."

"And ritchest?"

"Wel, dha aut too be, but dhave had a lausute for sum yeerz which haz
suct the blud out ov boath ov them, I fancy. Oald Acton haz sum clame on
haaf
Cunningamz estate, and the lauyerz hav bene at it withe boath handz."

"If its a local villane dhare shood not be much difficulty in running him
doun," ced Hoamz withe a yaun. "Aul rite, Wautson, I doant intend too
meddel."

"Inspector Forester, cer," ced the butler, throwing open the doer.

The ofishal, a smart, kene-faist yung fello, stept intoo the roome.

"Good-morning, Cuunel," ced he; "I hope I doant intrude, but we here dhat Mr.

Hoamz ov Baker Strete iz here."

The Cuunel waivd hiz hand toowordz mi frend, and the Inspector boud.

"We thaut dhat perhaps u wood care too step acros, Mr. Hoamz."

"The faits ar against u, Wautson," ced he, laafing. "We wer chatting about the matter when u came in, Inspector. Perhaps u can let us hav a fu detailz." Az he leend bac in hiz chare in the familleyar attichude I nu dhat the cace wauz hoaples.

"We had no clu in the Acton afare. But here we hav plenty too go on, and dhaerz no dout it iz the same party in eche cace. The man wauz cene."

"Aa!"

"Yes, cer. But he wauz of like a dere aafter the shot dhat kild poor Willeyam Kerwan wauz fiard. Mr. Cunningham sau him from the bedroome windo, and Mr. Alec

Cunningham sau him from the bac passage. It wauz qworter too twelv when the

alarm broke out. Mr. Cunningham had just got intoo bed, and Mr. Alec wauz smoking

a pipe in hiz drescing-goun. Dha boath herd Willeyam the coachman cauling for

help, and Mr. Alec ran doun too ce whaut wauz the matter. The bac doer wauz open,

and az he came too the foot ov the staerz he sau too men resling tooghether

outside. Wun ov them fiard a shot, the uther dropt, and the merderer rusht across the garden and over the hej. Mr. Cunningam, loocking out ov hiz bedroome, sau the fello az he gaine the rode, but lost cite ov him at wuns. Mr. Alec stopt too ce if he cood help the dying man, and so the villane got clene awa. Beyond the fact dhat he wauz a middel-ciazd man and drest in sum

darc stuf, we hav no personal clu; but we ar making energettich inqwirse, and if he iz a strain'ger we shal soone fiand him out."

"Whaut wauz this Willeyam doowing dhare? Did he sa ennithhing befoer he dide?"

"Not a werd. He livz at the loj withe hiz muther, and az he wauz a verry faithfool fello we imadgine dhat he wauct up too the hous withe the intenshon ov ceying dhat aul wauz rite dhare. Ov coers this Acton biznes haz poot evvery wun on dhare gard. The robber must hav just berst open the doer—the loc haz bene foerst—when Willeyam came uppon him."

"Did Willeyam sa ennithhing too hiz muther befoer gowing out?"

"She iz verry oald and def, and we can ghet no informaishon from her. The shoc haz made her haaf-witted, but I understand dhat she wauz nevver verry brite.

Dhare iz wun verry important cercumstaans, houwevver. Looc at this!"

He tooc a smaule pece ov toern paper from a note-booc and spred it out uppon hiz ne.

"This wauz found betwene the fin'gher and thum ov the ded man. It apeerz too be a fragment toern from a larger shete. U wil observ dhat the our menshond uppon it iz the verry time at which the poor fello met hiz fate. U ce dhat hiz merderer mite hav toern the rest ov the shete from him or he mite hav taken this fragment from the merderer. It reedz aulmoast az dho it wer an apointment."

Hoamz tooc up the scrap ov paper, a fac-cimmily ov which iz here reprojuest.

d at qworter too twelv lern whaut maby

"Prezhuming dhat it iz an apointment," continnude the Inspector, "it iz ov coers a concevabel ththeyory dhat this Willeyam Kerwan—dho he had the reputaishon ov beying an onnest man, ma hav bene in leghe withe the thhefe. He ma hav met him dhare, ma even hav helpt him too brake in the doer, and then dha ma hav faulen out betwene themcelvz."

"This riting iz ov extrordnary interest," ced Hoamz, whoo had bene exammining it withe intens concentraishon. "These ar much deper wauterz dhan I had thaut." He sanc hiz hed uppon hiz handz, while the Inspector smiald at the efect which hiz cace had had uppon the famous Lundon speshalist.

"Yor laast remarc," ced Hoamz, prezently, "az too the pocibillity ov dhare beying an understanding betwene the berglar and the cervant, and this beying a note ov apointment from wun too the uther, iz an in'geenyous and not entiarly

imposcibel suposishon. But this riting openz up—" He sanc hiz hed intoo
hiz
handz agane and remaind for sum minnuets in the depest thaut. When he
raizd hiz face agane, I wauz cerpriazd too ce dhat hiz cheke wauz tinjd
withe
cullor, and hiz ise az brite az befoer hiz ilnes. He sprang too hiz fete withe
aul hiz oald ennergy.

"Ile tel u whaut," ced he, "I shood like too hav a qwiyet littel glaans
intoo the detailz ov this cace. Dhare iz sumthhing in it which fascinaitz me
extreemly. If u wil permit me, Cuunel, I wil leve mi frend Wautson and
u, and I wil step round withe the Inspector too test the trueth ov wun or
too
littel fancese ov mine. I wil be withe u agane in haaf an our."

An our and haaf had elapst befoer the Inspector reternd alone.

"Mr. Hoamz iz wauking up and doun in the feeld outside," ced he. "He
waunts us
aul foer too go up too the hous tooghether."

"Too Mr. Cunningamz?"

"Yes, cer."

"Whaut for?"

The Inspector shrugd hiz shoalderz. "I doant qwite no, cer. Betwene
ourcelvz, I thhinc Mr. Hoamz had not qwite got over hiz ilnes yet. Hese
bene
behaving verry qweerly, and he iz verry much exited."

"I doant thhinc u nede alarm yorcelf," ced I. "I hav uezhuwaly found dhat
dhare wauz method in hiz madnes."

"Sum foax mite sa dhare wauz madnes in hiz method," mutterd the Inspector.

"But hese aul on fire too start, Cuunel, so we had best go out if u ar reddy."

We found Hoamz pacing up and doun in the feeld, hiz chin sunc uppon hiz brest,
and hiz handz thrust intoo hiz trouserz pockets.

"The matter grose in interest," ced he. "Wautson, yor cuntry-trip haz bene a distinct suxes. I hav had a charming morning."

"U hav bene up too the cene ov the crime, I understand," ced the Cuunel.

"Yes; the Inspector and I hav made qwite a littel reconnasans tooghether."

"Enny suxes?"

"Wel, we hav cene sum verry interesting thhingz. Ile tel u whaut we did az we wauc. Ferst ov aul, we sau the boddy ov this unforchunate man. He certainly
dide from a revolver wuind az repoerted."

"Had u douted it, then?"

"O, it iz az wel too test evverithhing. Our inspecshon wauz not waisted. We then
had an intervü withe Mr. Cunningam and hiz sun, whoo wer abel too point out
the exact spot whare the merderer had broken throo the garden-hej in hiz flite. Dhat wauz ov grate interest."

"Natchuraly."

"Then we had a looc at this poor fellose muther. We cood ghet no informaishon from her, houwevver, az she iz verry oald and febel."

"And whaut iz the rezult ov yor investigaishonz?"

"The convicshon dhat the crime iz a verry peculeyar wun. Perhaps our vizsit nou ma doo sumthhing too make it les obscure. I thhinc dhat we ar boath agrede, Inspector dhat the fragment ov paper in the ded manz hand, baring, az it duz, the verry our ov hiz deth ritten uppon it, iz ov extreme importans."

"It shood ghiv a clu, Mr. Hoamz."

"It duz ghiv a clu. Whoowevver rote dhat note wauz the man whoo braut Willeyam Kerwan out ov hiz bed at dhat our. But whare iz the rest ov dhat shete ov paper?"

"I exammiand the ground caerfooly in the hope ov fianding it," ced the Inspector.

"It wauz toern out ov the ded manz hand. Whi wauz sum wun so ancshous too ghet poseshon ov it? Becauz it incriminated him. And whaut wood he doo withe it? Thrust it intoo hiz pocket, moast liacly, nevver noticing dhat a corner ov it had bene left in the grip ov the corps. If we cood ghet the rest ov dhat shete it iz obveyous dhat we shood hav gon a long wa toowordz solving the mistery."

"Yes, but how can we get at the criminal's pocket before we catch the criminal?"

"Well, well, it was worth thinking over. Then there is another obvious point.

The note was sent to Willeyam. The man who wrote it could not have taken it;

otherwise, of course, he might have delivered his one message by word of mouth.

Who brought the note, then? Or did it come through the post?"

"I have made inquiries," said the Inspector. "Willeyam received a letter by the afternoon post yesterday. The envelope was destroyed by him."

"Excellent!" cried Hoamz, clapping the Inspector on the back. "I've seen the postman. It is a pleasure to work with you. Well, here is the log, and if you will come up, Counsel, I will show you the scene of the crime."

We passed the pretty cottage where the murderer had lived, and went up an

oak-lined avenue to the fine old Queen Anne house, which bore the date of

Malplaca upon the lintel of the door. Hoamz and the Inspector led us round

it until we came to the side gate, which is separated by a stretch of garden

from the house which lies the road. A constable was standing at the kitchen door.

"Through the door open, officer," said Hoamz. "Now, it was on those stairs that

young Mr. Cunningham stood and saw the two men struggling just where we are.

Oald Mr. Cunningham wauz at dhat windo—the cecond on the left—and he sau the fello ghet awa just too the left ov dhat boosh. Then Mr. Alec ran out and nelt beside the wuinded man. The ground iz verry hard, u ce, and dhare ar no marx too ghide us." Az he spoke too men came doun the garden paath, from round the an'ghel ov the hous. The wun wauz an elderly man, withe a strong, depe-liand, hevvy-ide face; the uther a dashing yung fello, whoose brite, smiling expreshon and showy dres wer in strainj contraast withe the biznes which had braut us dhare.

"Stil at it, then?" ced he too Hoamz. "I thaut u Lundonerz wer nevver at fault. U doant ceme too be so verry qwic, aafter aul."

"Aa, u must ghiv us a littel time," ced Hoamz good-humordly.

"Ule waunt it," ced yung Alec Cunningham. "Whi, I doant ce dhat we hav enny clu at aul."

"Dhaerz oanly wun," aancerd the Inspector. "We thaut dhat if we cood oanly fiand—Good hevvenz, Mr. Hoamz! Whaut iz the matter?"

Mi poor frendz face had suddenly ashuemd the moast dredfool expreshon. Hiz ise roald upwordz, hiz fechuerz riadhhd in agony, and withe a suprest grone he dropt on hiz face uppon the ground. Horifide at the suddenes and ceverrity ov the atac, we carrede him intoo the kitchen, whare he la bac in a larj chare, and breedhd hevvely for sum minnuets. Finaly, withe a shaimfaist

apology for his weakness, he rose with a moan.

"Watson would tell you that I have only just recovered from a severe illness," he explained. "I am liable to these sudden nervous attacks."

"Shall I send you home in my trap?" asked Cunningham.

"Well, since I am here, there is one point on which I should like to be sure.

We can very easily verify it."

"What was it?"

"Well, it seems to me that it is just possible that the arrival of this poor fellow Willeyam was not before, but after, the entrance of the burglar into the

house. You appear to take it for granted that, although the door was first, the robber never got in."

"I fancy that is quite obvious," said Mr. Cunningham, gravely. "When, my

Alec had not yet gone to bed, and he would certainly have heard any sound moving about."

"Where was he sitting?"

"I was smoking in my dressing-room."

"Which window is that?"

"The last on the left next my father's."

"Both of your lamps were lit, were they?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Dhare ar sum verry cin'gular points here," ced Hoamz, smiling. "Iz it not extrordinary dhat a berglary—and a berglar whoo had had sum preveyous expereyens—shood delibberaitly brake intoo a hous at a time when he cood ce from the liats dhat too ov the fammily wer stil afoot?"

"He must hav bene a coole hand."

"Wel, ov coers, if the cace wer not an od wun we shood not hav bene drivven too aasc u for an explanaishon," ced yung Mr. Alec. "But az too yor ideyaaz dhat the man had robd the hous befoer Willeyam tackeld him, I thhinc it a moast abcerd noashon. Woodnt we hav found the place disarainjd, and mist the thhingz which he had taken?"

"It dependz on whaut the thhingz wer," ced Hoamz. "U must remember dhat we ar deling withe a berglar whoo iz a verry peculeyar fello, and whoo apeerz too werc on lianz ov hiz one. Looc, for exaampel, at the qwere lot ov thhingz which he tooc from Actonz—whaut wauz it?—a baul ov string, a letter-wate, and I doant no whaut uther odz and endz."

"Wel, we ar qwite in yor handz, Mr. Hoamz," ced oald Cunningam. "Ennithing which u or the Inspector ma sugest wil moast certainly be dun."

"In the ferst place," ced Hoamz, "I shood like u too offer a reword—
cumming
from yorcelf, for the ofishalz ma take a littel time befoer dha wood agry
uppon the sum, and these thhingz canot be dun too promptly. I hav jotted
doun
the form here, if u wood not miand cining it. Fifty poundz wauz qwite
enuf,
I thaut."

"I wood willingly ghiv five hundred," ced the J.P., taking the slip ov paper
and the pencil which Hoamz handed too him. "This iz not qwite corect,
houwevver," he added, glaancing over the document.

"I rote it raather hurreedly."

"U ce u beghin, Wharaz, at about a qworter too wun on Chueзда morning
an
atempt wauz made,' and so on. It wauz at a qworter too twelv, az a matter
ov
fact."

I wauz paind at the mistake, for I nu hou keenly Hoamz wood fele enny
slip
ov the kiand. It wauz hiz speshalty too be accurate az too fact, but hiz
recent
ilnes had shaken him, and this wun littel incident wauz enuf too sho me
dhat
he wauz stil far from beying himcelf. He wauz obveyously embarrast for
an
instant, while the Inspector raizd hiz iabrouz, and Alec Cunningam berst
intoo a laaf. The oald gentelman corected the mistake, houwevver, and
handed the
paper bac too Hoamz.

"Ghet it printed az soone az poscibel," he ced; "I thhinc yor ideyaa iz an exelent wun."

Hoamz poot the slip ov paper caerfooly awa intoo hiz pocket-booc.

"And nou," ced he, "it reyaly wood be a good thhing dhat we shood aul go over the hous tooghether and make certane dhat this raather erattic berglar did not, aafter aul, carry ennithhing awa withe him."

Befoer entering, Hoamz made an examinaishon ov the doer which had bene foerst.

It wauz evvident dhat a chizsel or strong nife had bene thrust in, and the loc foerst bac withe it. We cood ce the marx in the wood whare it had bene poosht in.

"U doant use barz, then?" he aasct.

"We hav nevver found it nescesary."

"U doant kepe a dog?"

"Yes, but he iz chaind on the uther cide ov the hous."

"When doo the cervants go too bed?"

"About ten."

"I understand dhat Willeyam wauz uezhuwaly in bed aulso at dhat our."

"Yes."

"It iz cin'gular dhat on this particular nite he shood hav bene up. Nou, I shood be verry glad if u wood hav the kiandnes too sho us over the hous, Mr. Cunningam."

A stone-flagd passage, withe the kitchenz braanching awa from it, led bi a wooden staercace directly too the ferst floer ov the hous. It came out uppon the landing opposite too a cecond moer ornamental stare which came up from the frunt haul. Out ov this landing opened the drauwing-roome and ceveral bedruimz, including dhose ov Mr. Cunningam and hiz sun. Hoamz wauct sloly, taking kene note ov the arkitecchure ov the hous. I cood tel from hiz expreshon dhat he wauz on a hot cent, and yet I cood not in the leest imadgine in whaut direcshon hiz inferencez wer leding him.

"Mi good cer," ced Mr. Cunningam withe sum impaishens, "this iz shuerly verry un'necesary. Dhat iz mi roome at the end ov the staerz, and mi sunz iz the wun beyond it. I leve it too yor jujment whether it wauz poscibel for the thhefe too hav cum up here widhout disterbing us."

"U must tri round and ghet on a fresh cent, I fancy," ced the sun withe a raather malishous smile.

"Stil, I must aasc u too humor me a littel ferther. I shood like, for exaampel, too ce hou far the windose ov the bedruimz comaand the frunt. This, I understand iz yor sunz roome"—he poosht open the doer—"and dhat, I prezhume, iz

the drescing-roome in which he sat smoking when the alarm wauz ghivven. Whare duz the windo ov dhat looc out too?" He stept acros the bedroome, poosht open the doer, and glaanst round the uther chaimber.

"I hope dhat u ar sattisfide nou?" ced Mr. Cunningam, tartly.

"Thanc u, I thhinc I hav cene aul dhat I wisht."

"Then if it iz reyaly nescesary we can go intoo mi roome."

"If it iz not too much trubbel."

The J. P. shrugd hiz shoalderz, and led the wa intoo hiz one chaimber, which wauz a plainly fernisht and commonplace roome. Az we muivd acros it in the direcshon ov the windo, Hoamz fel bac until he and I wer the laast ov the groope. Nere the foot ov the bed stood a dish ov oran'gez and a caraaf ov wauter. Az we paast it Hoamz, too mi unnutterabel astonnishment, leend over in frunt ov me and delibberaitly noct the whole thhing over. The glaas smasht intoo a thousand pecez and the frute roald about intoo evvery corner ov the roome.

"Uve dun it nou, Wautson," ced he, cooly. "A pritty mes uve made ov the carpet."

I stuipt in sum confuezhon and began too pic up the frute, understanding for sum rezon mi companyon desiard me too take the blame uppon micelf. The utherz

did the same, and set the table on its legs again.

"Hullo!" cried the Inspector, "where's he got to?"

Hoamz had disappeared.

"Wait here an instant," said young Alec Cunningham. "The fellow is of his head, in my opinion. Come with me, father, and see where he has got to!"

They rushed out of the room, leaving the Inspector, the Constable, and me staring at each other.

"Don't mind, I am inclined too angry with Master Alec," said the official. "It may be the effect of this illness, but it seems to me that—"

His words were cut short by a sudden scream of "Help! Help! Murder!"

With a

thrill I recognized the voice of that of my friend. I rushed madly from the room on to the landing. The cry, which had sunk down into a hoarse, inarticulate shouting, came from the room which we had first visited. I

had

entered, and on into the dressing-room beyond. The two Cunninghams were bending over

the prostrate figure of Sherlock Hoamz, the younger clutching his throat with

both hands, while the elder seemed to be twisting woe over his wrists. In an instant the three of us had torn them away from him, and Hoamz staggered too

his face, very pale and evidently greatly exhausted.

"Arrest these men, Inspector," he gasped.

"On whaut charj?"

"Dhat ov merdering dhare coachman, Willeyam Kerwan."

The Inspector staerd about him in bewilderment. "O, cum nou, Mr. Hoamz,"

ced he at laast, "Ime shure u doant reyaly mene too—"

"Tut, man, looc at dhare facez!" cride Hoamz, kertyly.

Nevver certainly hav I cene a planer confeshon ov ghilt uppon human countenancez. The oalder man ceemd numd and daizd withe a hevvy, sullen

expreshon uppon hiz strongly-marct face. The sun, on the uther hand, had dropt aul dhat jaunty, dashing stile which had carracteriazd him, and the ferocity ov a dain'gerous wiald beest gleemd in hiz darc ise and distorted hiz

handsom fechuerz. The Inspector ced nuthhing, but, stepping too the doer, he

blu hiz whiscel. Too ov hiz cunstabelz came at the caul.

"I hav no aulternative, Mr. Cunningam," ced he. "I trust dhat this ma aul proove too be an abcerd mistake, but u can ce dhat—Aa, wood u? Drop it!" He

struc out withe hiz hand, and a revolver which the yun'gher man wauz in the act

ov cocking clatterd doun uppon the floer.

"Kepe dhat," ced Hoamz, qwiyetly pootting hiz foot uppon it; "u wil fiand it

uesfool at the triyal. But this iz whaut we reyaly waunted." He held up a littel

crumpeld pece ov paper.

"The remainder ov the shete!" cride the Inspector.

"Preciasly."

"And whare wauz it?"

"Whare I wauz shure it must be. Ile make the whole matter clere too u prezently. I thhinc, Cuunel, dhat u and Wautson mite retern nou, and I wil be withe u agane in an our at the ferthest. The Inspector and I must hav a werd withe the prizzonerz, but u wil certainly ce me bac at lunchon time."

Sherloc Hoamz wauz az good az hiz werd, for about wun oacloc he rejoind us in the Cuunelz smoking-roome. He wauz acumpanede bi a littel elderly gentelman, whoo wauz introjuest too me az the Mr. Acton whoose hous had bene the cene ov the oridginal berglary.

"I wisht Mr. Acton too be prezsent while I demmonstrated this smaull matter too u," ced Hoamz, "for it iz natchural dhat he shood take a kene interest in the detailz. I am afrade, mi dere Cuunel, dhat u must regret the our dhat u tooc in such a stormy petrel az I am."

"On the contrary," aancerd the Cuunel, wormly, "I concidder it the gratest privvilege too hav bene permitted too studdy yor methodz ov werking. I confes dhat dha qwite cerpaas mi expectaishonz, and dhat I am utterly unnabel too acount for yor rezult. I hav not yet cene the vestige ov a clu."

"I am afrade dhat mi explanaishon ma diciluezhon u but it haz aulwase bene mi

habbit too hide nun ov mi methodz, iather from mi frend Wautson or from enny wun whoo mite take an intelligent interest in them. But, ferst, az I am raather shaken bi the nocking about which I had in the drescing-roome, I thhinc dhat I shal help micelf too a dash ov yor brandy, Cuunel. Mi strength had bene raather tride ov late."

"I trust dhat u had no moer ov dhose nervous atax."

Sherloc Hoamz laaft hartily. "We wil cum too dhat in its tern," ced he. "I wil la an acount ov the cace befoer u in its ju order, showing u the vareyous points which ghided me in mi decizhon. Pra interupt me if dhare iz enny inferens which iz not perfectly clere too u.

"It iz ov the hiyest importans in the art ov detecshon too be abel too reccognise, out ov a number ov facts, which ar incidental and which vital. Utherwise yor ennergy and atenshon must be discipated insted ov beying concentrated. Nou, in this cace dhare wauz not the slitest dout in mi miand from the ferst dhat the ke ov the whole matter must be looct for in the scrap ov paper in the ded manz hand.

"Befoer gowing intoo this, I wood drau yor atenshon too the fact dhat, if Alec Cunningamz narrative wauz corect, and if the asalant, aafter shooting Willeyam Kerwan, had instantly fled, then it obveyously cood not be he whoo toer the paper from the ded manz hand. But if it wauz not he, it must hav bene Alec Cunningam himcelf, for bi the time dhat the oald man had decended cevveral cervants wer uppon the cene. The point iz a cimpel wun, but the Inspector had overllooct it becauz he had started withe the suposishon dhat these county

magnaits had had nuthhing too doo withe the matter. Nou, I make a point ov nevver havving enny predjudicez, and ov following docily wharevver fact ma lede me, and so, in the verry ferst stage ov the investigaishon, I found micelf loocking a littel ascaans at the part which had bene plade bi Mr. Alec Cunningam.

"And nou I made a verry caerfool examinaishon ov the corner ov paper which the Inspector had submitted too us. It wauz at wuns clere too me dhat it formd part ov a verry remarcabel doccument. Here it iz. Doo u not nou observ sumthhing verry sugestive about it?"

"It haz a verry ireggular looc," ced the Cuunel.

"Mi dere cer," cride Hoamz, "dhare canot be the leest dout in the werld dhat it haz bene ritten bi too personz doowing aulternate werdz. When I drau yor atenshon too the strong t'z ov at and to, and aasc u too compare them withe the weke wunz ov qwarter and twelv,' u wil instantly reccognise the fact. A verry brefe anallicis ov these foer werdz wood enabel u too sa withe the utmoast confidens dhat the leern and the mabe ar ritten in the stron'gher hand, and the what in the weker."

"Bi Jove, its az clere az da!" cride the Cuunel. "Whi on erth shood too men rite a letter in such a fashon?"

"Obveyously the biznes wauz a bad wun, and wun ov the men whoo distrusted the uther wauz determiand dhat, whautevver wauz dun, eche shood hav an eeqwal hand in it. Nou, ov the too men, it iz clere dhat the wun whoo rote the at and to

wauz the ringleder."

"Hou doo u ghet at dhat?"

"We mite dejuce it from the mere carracter ov the wun hand az compaerd
withe

the uther. But we hav moer ashuerd rezonz dhan dhat for suposing it. If u
exammine this scrap withe atenshon u wil cum too the concluezhon dhat
the man

withe the stron'gher hand rote aul hiz werdz ferst, leving blanx for the
uther

too fil up. These blanx wer not aulwase sufishent, and u can ce dhat the
cecond man had a sqwese too fit hiz qwarter in betwene the at and the
too,'

showing dhat the latter wer aulreddy ritten. The man whoo rote aul hiz
werdz

ferst iz undoutedly the man whoo pland the afare."

"Exelent!" cride Mr. Acton.

"But verry superfishal," ced Hoamz. "We cum nou, houwevver, too a point
which iz

ov importans. U ma not be aware dhat the deducshon ov a manz age from
hiz

riting iz wun which haz braut too concidderabel accuracy bi experts. In
normal

cacez wun can place a man in hiz tru deccade withe tollerabel confidens. I
sa

normal cacez, becauz il-helth and fizensal weecnes reprojuce the cianz ov
oald age, even when the invalid iz a ueth. In this cace, loocking at the
boald,

strong hand ov the wun, and the raather broken-bact aperans ov the uther,
which stil retainz its legibillity auldho the t'z hav begun too loose dhare

crossing, we can see that the young man and the other was
advancing in
years without being positively decrepit."

"Excellent!" cried Mr. Acton again.

"There is a further point, however, which is subtle and of greater interest.
There is something in common between these hands. They belong to men
who are
blood-related. It may be most obvious to you in the Greek ones, but to me
there are many small points which indicate the same thing. I have no
doubt at
all that a family mannerism can be traced in these two specimens of
writing. I
am only, of course, giving you the leading results now of my examination
of the
paper. There were twenty-three other deductions which would be of more
interest
to experts than to you. They all tend to deepen the impression upon my
mind
that the Cunninghams, father and son, had written this letter.

"Having got so far, my next step was, of course, to examine into the
details of
the crime, and to see how far they would help us. I went up to the house
with
the Inspector, and saw all that was to be seen. The wound upon the
dead man
was, as I was able to determine with absolute confidence, fired from a
revolver
at the distance of something over four yards. There was no powder-
blackening on
the clothes. Evidently, therefore, Alec Cunningham had lied when he said
that

the two men were struggling when the shot was fired. Again, both father and son

agreed as to the place where the man escaped into the road. At that point,

however, as it happened, there is a braudish ditch, moist at the bottom.

As

there were no indications of bootmarks about this ditch, I was absolutely sure

not only that the Cunninghams had again lied, but that there had never been any

un'none man upon the scene at all.

"And now I have to consider the motive of this singular crime. Too ghet at this,

I endeavored first of all to solve the reason of the original burglary at Mr. Acton's. I understood, from something which the Counsel told us, that a lawsuit

had been going on between you, Mr. Acton, and the Cunninghams. Of course, it

instantly occurred to me that she had broken into your library with the intention of getting at some document which might be of importance in the case."

"Precisely so," said Mr. Acton. "There can be no possible doubt as to there intentions. I have the clearest claim upon half of there present estate, and if

she could have found a singular paper—which, fortunately, was in the strong-box

of my solicitor—she would undoubtedly have crippled our case."

"There you are," said Hoams, smiling. "It was a dangerous, reckless attempt, in which I came too close to the influence of young Alec. Having found nothing she

tride too divert suspishon bi making it apere too be an ordinary berglary,
too
which end dha carrede of whautevver dha cood la dhare handz uppon.
Dhat iz
aul clere enuf, but dhare wauz much dhat wauz stil obscure. Whaut I
waunted
abuv aul wauz too ghet the miscing part ov dhat note. I wauz certane dhat
Alec had
toern it out ov the ded manz hand, and aulmoast certane dhat he must hav
thrust
it intoo the pocket ov hiz drescing-goun. Whare els cood he hav poot it?
The
oonly qweschon wauz whether it wauz stil dhare. It wauz werth an effort
too fiand
out, and for dhat obgett we aul went up too the hous.

"The Cunningamz joind us, az u doutles remember, outside the kitchen
doer. It wauz, ov coers, ov the verry ferst importans dhat dha shood not be
remianded ov the existens ov this paper, uthewise dha wood natchuraly
destroi
it widhout dela. The Inspector wauz about too tel them the importans
which we
atacht too it when, bi the luckeyest chaans in the werld, I tumbeld doun in
a
sort ov fit and so chainjd the conversaishon.

"Good hevvenz!" cride the Cuunel, laafing, "doo u mene too sa aul our
cimpathy wauz waisted and yor fit an imposchure?"

"Speking profeshonaly, it wauz admirably dun," cride I, loocking in
amaizment
at this man whoo wauz forevver confounding me withe sum nu fase ov hiz
aschuetnes.

"It iz an art which iz often uesfool," ced he. "When I recuvverd I mannaijd, bi a device which had perhaps sum littel merrit ov in' genuwity, too ghet oald Cunningam too rite the werd twelv,' so dhat I mite compare it withe the twelv uppon the paper."

"O, whaut an as I hav bene!" I exclaimd.

"I cood ce dhat u wer comizserating me over mi weecnes," ced Hoamz, laafing. "I wauz sory too cauz u the cimpathhettic pane which I no dhat u felt. We then went upstaerz tooghether, and havving enterd the roome and cene the

drescing-goun hanging up behiand the doer, I contriavd, bi upcetting a tabel, too

en'gage dhare atenshon for the moment, and slipt bac too exammine the pockets.

I had hardly got the paper, houwevver—which wauz, az I had expected, in wun ov

them—when the too Cunningamz wer on me, and wood, I verrily beleve, hav

merderd me then and dhare but for yor prompt and frendly ade. Az it iz, I fele dhat yung manz grip on mi throte nou, and the faather haz twisted mi rist round in the effort too ghet the paper out ov mi hand. Dha sau dhat I must

no aul about it, u ce, and the sudden chainj from absolute cecurity too complete despere made them perfectly desperate.

"I had a littel tauc withe oald Cunningam aafterwordz az too the motive ov the

crime. He wauz tractabel enuf, dho hiz sun wauz a perfect demon, reddy too

blo out hiz one or enniboddy elcez brainz if he cood hav got too hiz revolver.

When Cunningham saw that the case against him was so strong he lost all
heart
and made a clean breast of everything. It seems that Willeyam had
secretly
followed his two masters on the night when they made their raid upon Mr.
Acton, and having thus got them into his power, proceeded, under
threats of
exposure, to levy blackmail upon them. Mr. Alec, however, was a
dangerous man
too plain-gamed of that sort with. It was a stroke of positive genius on
his part
to see in the burglary scare which was convulsing the country side an
opportunity of plausibly getting rid of the man whom he feared.
Willeyam was
decided up and shot, and had they only got the whole of the note and paid
a
little more attention to details in the accessories, it is very possible that
suspicion might never have been aroused."

"And the note?" I asked.

Sherlock Holmes placed the subjoined paper before us.

If you will only come around to the east gate you will

very much surprise us and be of the greatest service to us

and also to Miss Morison. But say nothing too early upon

the matter.

"It iz verry much the sort ov thhing dhat I expected," ced he. "Ov coers, we doo not yet no whaut the relaishonz ma hav bene betwene Alec Cunningam, Willeyam Kerwan, and Anny Morison. The rezults shose dhat the trap wauz skilfooly bated. I am shure dhat u canot fale too be delited withe the tracez ov hereddity shone in the p'z and in the tailz ov the g'z. The abcens ov the i-dots in the oald manz riting iz aulso moast characteristic. Wautson, I thhinc our qwiyet rest in the cuntry haz bene a distinct suxes, and I shal certainly retern much inviggorated too Baker Strete too-moro."

Advenchure 7.

The Croocked Man

Wun summer nite, a fu munths aafter mi marrage, I wauz ceted bi mi one harth smoking a laast pipe and nodding over a novvel, for mi dase werc had bene an exhausting wun. Mi wife had aulreddy gon upstaerz, and the sound ov the locking ov the haul doer sum time befoer toald me dhat the cervants had aulso retiard. I had rizens from mi cete and wauz nocking out the ashez ov mi pipe when I

suddenly herd the clang ov the bel.

I looct at the cloc. It wauz a qworter too twelv. This cood not be a vizsitor at so late an our. A paishent, evvidently, and poscibly an aul-nite citting. Withe a ri face I went out intoo the haul and opend the doer. Too mi astonishment it wauz Sherloc Hoamz whoo stood uppon mi step.

"Aa, Wautson," ced he, "I hoapt dhat I mite not be too late too cach u."

"Mi dere fello, pra cum in."

"U looc cerpriazd, and no wunder! Releevd, too, I fancy! Hum! U stil smoke the Arcajaa mixchure ov yor batchelor dase then! Dhaerz no mistaking dhat fluffy ash uppon yor cote. Its esy too tel dhat u hav bene acustomd too ware a uniform, Wautson. Ule nevver paas az a pure-bred civilleyan az long az u kepe dhat habbit ov carreying yor hankerchefe in yor sleve. Cood u poot me up too-nite?"

"Withe plezhure."

"U toald me dhat u had batchelor qworterz for wun, and I ce dhat u hav no gentelman vizsitor at prezsent. Yor hat-stand proclaimz az much."

"I shal be delited if u wil sta."

"Thanc u. Ile fil the vacant peg then. Sory too ce dhat uve had the Brittish wercman in the hous. Hese a token ov evil. Not the drainz, I hope?"

"No, the gas."

"Aa! He haz left too nale-marx from hiz boote uppon yor linoleyum just whare the

lite striax it. No, thanc u, I had sum supper at Wauterloo, but Ile smoke a pipe withe u withe plezhure."

I handed him mi pouch, and he ceted himcelf opposite too me and smoact for sum time in cilens. I wauz wel aware dhat nuthhing but biznes ov importans wood hav braut him too me at such an our, so I wated paishently until he shood cum round too it.

"I ce dhat u ar profeshonaly raather bizsy just nou," ced he, glaancing verry keenly acros at me.

"Yes, Ive had a bizsy da," I aancerd. "It ma ceme verry foolish in yor ise," I added, "but reyaly I doant no hou u dejuet it."

Hoamz chuckeld too himcelf.

"I hav the advaantage ov nowing yor habbits, mi dere Wautson," ced he. "When yor round iz a short wun u wauc, and when it iz a long wun u use a hansom. Az I perceve dhat yor buits, auldho uezd, ar bi no meenz derty, I canot dout dhat u ar at prezsent bizsy enuf too justifi the hansom."

"Exelent!" I cride.

"Elementary," ced he. "It iz wun ov dhose instancez whare the rezoner can projuce an efect which ceemz remarcel too hiz nabor, becauz the latter haz mist the wun littel point which iz the baxis ov the deducshon. The same ma be ced, mi dere fello, for the efect ov sum ov these littel sketchez ov yorz, which iz entiarly meretrishous, depending az it duz uppon yor retaning

in yor one handz sum factorz in the problem which ar nevver imparted too
the
reder. Nou, at prezsent I am in the posishon ov these same rederz, for I
hoald
in this hand cevveral thredz ov wun ov the strain'gest cacez which evver
perplext
a manz brane, and yet I lac the wun or too which ar needfool too complete
mi
ththeyory. But Ile hav them, Wautson, Ile hav them!" Hiz ise kindeld and a
slite flush sprang intoo hiz thhin cheex. For an instant oanly. When I
glaanst
agane hiz face had rezhuemd dhat red-Injan compoazhure which had
made so menny
regard him az a mashene raather dhan a man.

"The problem presents fechuerz ov interest," ced he. "I ma even sa
exepshonal fechuerz ov interest. I hav aulreddy looct intoo the matter, and
hav cum, az I thhinc, within cite ov mi solueshon. If u cood acumpany me
in dhat laast step u mite be ov concidderabel cervice too me."

"I shood be delited."

"Cood u go az far az Auldershot too-moro?"

"I hav no dout Jaxon wood take mi practice."

"Verry good. I waunt too start bi the 11.10 from Wauterloo."

"Dhat wood ghiv me time."

"Then, if u ar not too slepy, I wil ghiv u a skech ov whaut haz
happend, and ov whaut remainz too be dun."

"I wauz slepy befoer u came. I am qwite waicfool nou."

"I wil compres the stoery az far az ma be dun widhout omitting ennithhing vital too the cace. It iz concevabel dhat u ma even hav red sum acount ov the matter. It iz the suposed merder ov Cuunel Barcla, ov the Roiyal Munsterz, at Auldershot, which I am investigating."

"I hav herd nuthhing ov it."

"It haz not exited much atenshon yet, exept localy. The facts ar oonly too dase oald. Breefly dha ar these:

"The Roiyal Munsterz iz, az u no, wun ov the moast famous Irish redgiments in the Brittish army. It did wunderz boath in the Crimeyaa and the Mutiny, and haz cins dhat time distin'gwisht itcelf uppon evvery poscibel ocaizhon. It wauz comaanded up too Munda nite bi Jaimz Barcla, a gallant vetteran, whoo started az a fool private, wauz raizd too comishond ranc for hiz bravery at the time ov the Mutiny, and so livd too comaand the redgiment in which he had wuns carrede a musket.

"Cuunel Barcla had marrede at the time when he wauz a sarjant, and hiz wife, whoose maden name wauz Mis Nancy Devoi, wauz the dauter ov a former cullor-sarjant in the same coer. Dhare wauz, dhaerfoer, az can be imadgiand, sum littel soashal fricshon when the yung cuppel (for dha wer stil yung) found themcelvz in dhare nu surroundingz. Dha apere, houwevver, too hav quwicly adapted themcelvz, and Mrs. Barcla haz aulwase, I understand, bene az poppular withe the ladese ov the redgiment az her huzband wauz withe hiz bruther

officerz. I ma ad dhat she wauz a woomman ov grate buty, and dhat even nou,
when she haz bene marrede for upwordz ov therty yeerz, she iz stil ov a striking and qweenly aperans.

"Cuunel Barclase fammily life apeerz too hav bene a uniformly happy wun. Major Merfy, too whoome I o moast ov mi facts, ashuerz me dhat he haz nevver herd ov enny misunderstanding betwene the pare. On the whole, he thhinx dhat Barclase devoashon too hiz wife wauz grater dhan hiz wiafs too Barcla. He wauz acuetly unnesy if he wer abcent from her for a da. She, on the uther hand, dho devoted and faithfool, wauz les obtruciavly afecshonate. But dha wer regarded in the redgiment az the verry moddel ov a middel-aijd cuppel. Dhare wauz absolutely nuthing in dhare muchuwal relaishonz too prepare pepel for the tradgedy which wauz too follo.

"Cuunel Barcla himcelf ceemz too hav had sum cin'gular traits in hiz carracter. He wauz a dashing, joveyal oald soalger in hiz uezhuwal moode, but dhare wer ocaizhonz on which he ceemd too sho himcelf capabel ov concidderabel viyolens and vindictiavnes. This cide ov hiz nachure, houwevver, apeerz nevver too hav bene ternd toowordz hiz wife. Anuther fact, which had struc Major Merfy and thre out ov five ov the uther officerz withe whoome I converst, wauz the cin'gular sort ov depreshon which came uppon him at tiamz. Az the major exprest it, the smile had often bene struc from hiz mouth, az if bi sum invizibel hand, when he haz bene joining the gayetese and chaaf ov the

mes-tabel. For dase on end, when the moode wauz on him, he haz bene sunc in the depest gloome. This and a certane tinj ov superstishon wer the oanly unnuezhual traits in hiz carracter which hiz bruther officerz had observd. The latter peculeyarrity tooc the form ov a dislike too beying left alone, espeshaly aafter darc. This purile fechure in a nachure which wauz conspiccuwously manly had often ghivven rise too comment and con'gechure.

"The ferst batalleyon ov the Roiyal Munsterz (which iz the oald 117th) haz bene staishond at Auldershot for sum yearz. The marrede officerz liv out ov barrax, and the Cuunel haz juring aul this time occupide a villaa cauld Lashene, about haaf a mile from the north camp. The hous standz in its one groundz, but the west cide ov it iz not moer dhan thherty yardz from the hi-rode. A coachman and too maidz form the staaf ov cervants. These withe dhare maaster and mistres wer the sole occupants ov Lashene, for the Barclase had no children, nor wauz it uezhual for them too hav rezident vizsitorz.

"Nou for the events at Lashene betwene nine and ten on the evening ov laast Munda."

"Mrs. Barcla wauz, it apeerz, a member ov the Roman Catholic Cherch, and had interested hercelf verry much in the establishment ov the Ghild ov St. Jorj, which wauz formd in conecshon withe the Waut Strete Chappel for the perpoce ov supliying the poor withe caast-of cloathing. A meting ov the Ghild had bene held

dhat evening at ate, and Mrs. Barcla had hurrede over her dinner in order too
be prezsent at it. When leving the hous she wauz herd bi the coachman too make
sum commonplace remarc too her huzband, and too ashure him dhat she wood be
bac befoer verry long. She then cauld for Mis Morison, a yung lady whoo livz in the next villaa, and the too went of tooghether too dhare meting. It laasted forty minnuets, and at a qworter-paast nine Mrs. Barcla reternd home,
havving left Mis Morison at her doer az she paast.

"Dhare iz a roome which iz uezd az a morning-roome at Lashene. This facez the
rode and openz bi a larj glaas foalding-doer on too the laun. The laun iz thherty
yardz acros, and iz oonly divided from the hiwa bi a lo waul withe an iarn rale abuv it. It wauz intoo this roome dhat Mrs. Barcla went uppon her retern.
The bliandz wer not doun, for the roome wauz celdom uezd in the evening, but Mrs.
Barcla hercelf lit the lamp and then rang the bel, aasking Jane Schuwart, the hous-made, too bring her a cup ov te, which wauz qwite contrary too her uezhuwal
habbits. The Cuunel had bene citting in the dining-roome, but hering dhat hiz
wife had reternd he joint her in the morning-roome. The coachman sau him cros
the haul and enter it. He wauz nevver cene agane alive.

"The te which had bene orderd wauz braut up at the end ov ten minnuets; but
the made, az she aproacht the doer, wauz cerpriazd too here the voicez ov her

maaster and mistres in fureyous aultercaishon. She noct widhout receving
enny
aancer, and even ternd the handel, but oonly too fiand dhat the doer wauz
loct
uppon the incide. Natchuraly enuf she ran doun too tel the cooc, and the
too
wimmen withe the coachman came up intoo the haul and liscend too the
dispute which
wauz stil raging. Dha aul agrede dhat oonly too voicez wer too be herd,
dhose
ov Barcla and ov hiz wife. Barclase remarx wer subjude and abrupt, so dhat
nun ov them wer audibel too the liscenerz. The ladese, on the uther hand,
wer
moast bitter, and when she raizd her vois cood be plainly herd. U
couward!' she repeted over and over agane. Whaut can be dun nou? Whaut
can be
dun nou? Ghiv me bac mi life. I wil nevver so much az breethe the same
are
withe u agane! U couward! U couward!' Dhose wer scraps ov her
conversaishon,
ending in a sudden dredfool cri in the manz vois, withe a crash, and a
peercing screme from the woomman. Convinst dhat sum tradgedy had
okerd, the
coachman rusht too the doer and strove too foers it, while screme aafter
screme
ishude from within. He wauz unnabel, houwevver, too make hiz wa in,
and the maidz
wer too distracted withe fere too be ov enny acistans too him. A sudden
thaut
struc him, houwevver, and he ran throo the haul doer and round too the
laun
uppon which the long French windose open. Wun cide ov the windo wauz
open, which

I understand wauz qwite uezhuwal in the summer-time, and he paast
widhout
difficulty intoo the roome. Hiz mistres had ceest too screme and wauz
strecht
incencibel uppon a couch, while withe hiz fete tilted over the cide ov an
arm-chare, and hiz hed uppon the ground nere the corner ov the fender,
wauz
liying the unforchunate soalger stone ded in a poole ov hiz one blud.

"Natchuraly, the coachmanz ferst thaut, on fianding dhat he cood doo
nuthhing
for hiz maaster, wauz too open the doer. But here an unexpected and
cin'gular
difficulty presented itcelf. The ke wauz not in the inner cide ov the doer,
nor
cood he fiand it enniwhare in the roome. He went out agane, dhaerfoer,
throo
the windo, and havving obtaind the help ov a poleesman and ov a
meddical man,
he reternd. The lady, against whoome natchuraly the stron'ghest suspishon
rested,
wauz remuivd too her roome, stil in a state ov incencibillity. The Cuunelz
boddy
wauz then plaist uppon the sofaa, and a caerfool examinaishon made ov
the cene ov
the tradgedy.

"The injury from which the unforchunate vetteran wauz suffering wauz
found too be a
jagghed cut sum too inchez long at the bac part ov hiz hed, which had
evvidently bene cauzd bi a viyolent blo from a blunt weppon. Nor wauz it
difficult too ghes whaut dhat weppon ma hav bene. Uppon the floer, cloce
too the

boddy, wauz liying a cin'gular club ov hard carvd wood withe a bone handel. The Cuunel posest a varede colecshon ov wepponz braut from the different cuntrese in which he had faut, and it iz con'gecchuerd bi the polece dhat hiz club wauz amung hiz trofese. The cervants deni havving cene it befoer, but amung the numerous cureyoscitese in the hous it iz poscibel dhat it ma hav bene overlooct. Nuthhing els ov importans wauz discuvverd in the roome bi the polece, save the inexpliccabel fact dhat niather uppon Mrs. Barclase person nor uppon dhat ov the victim nor in enny part ov the roome wauz the miscing ke too be found. The doer had evenchuwaly too be opend bi a loxmith from Auldershot.

"Dhat wauz the state ov thhingz, Wautson, when uppon the Chueзда morning I, at the reqwest ov Major Merfy, went down too Auldershot too suplement the efforts ov the polece. I thhinc dhat u wil acnollej dhat the problem wauz aulreddy wun ov interest, but mi observaishonz soone made me reyalise dhat it wauz in trueth much moer extrordinary dhan wood at ferst cite apere.

"Befoer exammining the roome I cros-qweschond the cervants, but oonly suxeded in elisciting the facts which I hav aulreddy stated. Wun uther detale ov interest wauz rememberd bi Jane Schuwart, the housmade. U wil remember dhat on hering the sound ov the qworel she decended and reternd withe the uther

cervants. On dhat ferst ocaizhon, when she wauz alone, she cez dhat the voicez

ov her maaster and mistres wer sunc so lo dhat she cood here hardly ennithing, and jujd bi dhare toanz raather dhan dhare werdz dhat dha had

faulen out. On mi prescing her, houwevver, she rememberd dhat she herd the werd

David utterd twice bi the lady. The point iz ov the utmoast importans az ghiding us toowordz the rezon ov the sudden qworel. The Cuunelz name, u

remember, wauz Jaimz.

"Dhare wauz wun thhing in the cace which had made the depest impreshon boath

uppon the cervants and the polece. This wauz the contorshon ov the Cuunelz

face. It had cet, acording too dhare acount, intoo the moast dredfool expreshon

ov fere and horror which a human countenans iz capabel ov ashuming.

Moer dhan

wun person fainted at the mere cite ov him, so terribel wauz the efect. It wauz

qwite certane dhat he had foercene hiz fate, and dhat it had cauzd him the utmoast horror. This, ov coers, fitted in wel enuf withe the polece thheyory, if the Cuunel cood hav cene hiz wife making a merderous atac uppon him.

Nor

wauz the fact ov the wuind beying on the bac ov hiz hed a fatal obgecshon too

this, az he mite hav ternd too avoid the blo. No informaishon cood be got from the lady hercelf, whoo wauz temporarily insane from an acute atac ov brane-fever.

"From the polece I lernd dhat Mis Morison, whoo u remember went out dhat

evening with the Mrs. Barcla, denide havving enny nollej ov whaut it wauz which had
cauzd the il-humor in which her companyon had reternd.

"Havving gatherd these facts, Wautson, I smoact cevveral piaps over them, triying
too cepparate dhose which wer crueshal from utherz which wer meerly incidental.

Dhare cood be no qweschon dhat the moast distinctiv and sugestive point in

the cace wauz the cin'gular disaperans ov the doer-ke. A moast caerfool cerch

had faild too discuver it in the roome. Dhaerfoer it must hav bene taken from

it. But niather the Cuunel nor the Cuunelz wife cood hav taken it. Dhat wauz perfectly clere. Dhaerfoer a thherd person must hav enterd the roome. And

dhat thherd person cood oanly hav cum in throo the windo. It ceemd too me

dhat a caerfool examinaishon ov the roome and the laun mite poscibly revele sum

tracez ov this mistereyous individjuwal. U no mi methodz, Wautson. Dhare wauz

not wun ov them which I did not apli too the inqwiry. And it ended bi mi discuvering tracez, but verry different wunz from dhose which I had expected.

Dhare had bene a man in the roome, and he had crost the laun cumming from the

rode. I wauz abel too obtane five verry clere impreshonz ov hiz foot-marx: wun

in the roadwa itcelf, at the point whare he had cliamd the lo waul, too on the laun, and too verry faint wunz uppon the staind boerdz nere the windo whare

he had enterd. He had aparrently rusht across the laun, for hiz to-marx

wer much deper dhan hiz heelz. But it wauz not the man whoo cerpriazd me. It wauz hiz companyon."

"Hiz companyon!"

Hoamz poold a larj shete ov tishu-paper out ov hiz pocket and caerfooly unfoalded it uppon hiz ne.

"Whaut doo u make ov dhat?" he aasct.

The paper wauz cuvverd withe he tracingz ov the foot-marx ov sum smaual annimal.

It had five wel-marct foot-padz, an indicaishon ov long nailz, and the whole print mite be neerly az larj az a dezsert-spoone.

"Its a dog," ced I.

"Did u evver here ov a dog running up a kertane? I found distinct tracez dhat this crechure had dun so."

"A munky, then?"

"But it iz not the print ov a munky."

"Whaut can it be, then?"

"Niather dog nor cat nor munky nor enny crechure dhat we ar familleyar withe. I

hav tride too reconstruct it from the mezhuerments. Here ar foer prints whare

the beest haz bene standing moashonles. U ce dhat it iz no les dhan fiftene

inchez from foer-foot too hiand. Ad too dhat the length ov nec and hed,
and u
ghet a crechure not much les dhan too fete long—probbably moer if dhare
iz enny
tale. But nou observ this uther mezhuerment. The annimal haz bene
mooving, and
we hav the length ov its stride. In eche cace it iz oonly about thre inches.
U hav an indicaishon, u ce, ov a long boddy withe verry short legz atacht
too it. It haz not bene concidderate enuf too leve enny ov its hare behiand
it.
But its genneral shape must be whaut I hav indicated, and it can run up a
kertane, and it iz carnivvorous."

"Hou doo u dejuce dhat?"

"Becauz it ran up the kertane. A canarese cage wauz hanging in the windo,
and
its ame ceemz too hav bene too ghet at the berd."

"Then whaut wauz the beest?"

"Aa, if I cood ghiv it a name it mite go a long wa toowordz solving the cace.
On the whole, it wauz probbably sum crechure ov the wesel and stote tribe
—and
yet it iz larger dhan enny ov these dhat I hav cene."

"But whaut had it too doo withe the crime?"

"Dhat, aulso, iz stil obscure. But we hav lernd a good dele, u perceve.
We no dhat a man stood in the rode loocking at the qworel betwene the
Barclase—the bliandz wer up and the roome lited. We no, aulso, dhat he
ran
across the laun, enterd the roome, acumpanede bi a strainj annimal, and
dhat he

iather struc the Cuunel or, az iz eeqwaly poscibel, dhat the Cuunel fel doun from shere frite at the cite ov him, and cut hiz hed on the corner ov the fender. Finaly, we hav the cureyous fact dhat the intruder carrede awa the ke withe him when he left."

"Yor discuvverese ceme too hav left the biznes moer obscure dhat it wauz befoer," ced I.

"Qwite so. Dha undoutedly shode dhat the afare wauz much deper dhan wauz at ferst con'gecchuerd. I thaut the matter over, and I came too the concluezhon dhat I must aproche the cace from anuther aspect. But reyaly, Wautson, I am keping u up, and I mite just az wel tel u aul this on our wa too Auldershot too-moro."

"Thanc u, u hav gon raather too far too stop."

"It iz qwite certane dhat when Mrs. Barcla left the hous at haaf-paast cevven she wauz on good termz withe her huzband. She wauz nevver, az I thhinc I hav ced, ostentaishously afecshonate, but she wauz herd bi the coachman chatting withe the Cuunel in a frendly fashon. Nou, it wauz eeqwaly certane dhat, imejaitly on her retern, she had gon too the roome in which she wauz leest liacly too ce her huzband, had flone too te az an adgitated woomman wil, and finaly, on hiz cumming in too her, had broken intoo viyolent recriminaishonz. Dhaerfoer sumthhing had okerd betwene cevven-thherty and nine oacloc which

had compleetly aulterd her felingz toowordz him. But Mis Morison had bene
withe her juring the whole ov dhat our and a haaf. It wauz absoluetly
certane,
dhaerfoer, in spite ov her deniyal, dhat she must no sumthhing ov the
matter.

"Mi ferst con'gechchure wauz, dhat poscibly dhare had bene sum passagez
betwene
this yung lady and the oald soalger, which the former had nou confest too
the
wife. Dhat wood acount for the an'gry retern, and aulso for the gherlz
deniyal
dhat ennithhing had okerd. Nor wood it be entiarly incompattibel withe
moast ov
the werdz overhed. But dhare wauz the refferens too David, and dhare
wauz the
none afecshon ov the Cuunel for hiz wife, too wa against it, too sa
nuthhing ov the tradgic intruezhon ov this uther man, which mite, ov
coers, be
entiarly disconnected withe whaut had gon befoer. It wauz not esy too pic
wunz
steps, but, on the whole, I wauz incliand too dismis the ideyaa dhat dhare
had
bene ennithhing betwene the Cuunel and Mis Morison, but moer dhan
evver
convinst dhat the yung lady held the clu az too whaut it wauz which had
ternd
Mrs. Barcla too haitred ov her huzband. I tooc the obveyous coers,
dhaerfoer, ov
cauling uppon Mis M., ov explaning too her dhat I wauz perfectly certane
dhat
she held the facts in her poseshon, and ov ashuring her dhat her frend,
Mrs.

Barcla, mite fiand hercelf in the doc uppon a cappital charj unles the matter wer cleerd up.

"Mis Morison iz a littel ethhereyal slip ov a gherl, withe timmid ise and blond hare, but I found her bi no meenz waunting in shruednes and common-cens. She sat thhinking for sum time aafter I had spoken, and then, terning too me withe a brisc are ov rezolueshon, she broke intoo a remarcabel staitment which I wil condens for yor bennefit.

"I prommiast mi frend dhat I wood sa nuthhing ov the matter, and a prommice iz a prommice,' ced she; but if I can reyaly help her when so cereyous a charj iz lade against her, and when her one mouth, poor darling, iz cloazd bi ilnes, then I thhinc I am absolvd from mi prommice. I wil tel u exactly whaut happend uppon Munda evening.

"We wer reterning from the Waut Strete Mishon about a qworter too nine oacloc. On our wa we had too paas throo Hudson Strete, which iz a verry qwiyet thurrofare. Dhare iz oanly wun lamp in it, uppon the left-hand cide, and az we aproacht this lamp I sau a man cumming toowordz us withe hiz bac verry bent, and sumthhing like a box slung over wun ov hiz shoalderz. He apeerd too be deformd, for he carrede hiz hed lo and wauct withe hiz nese bent. We wer paacing him when he raizd hiz face too looc at us in the cerkel ov lite throne bi the lamp, and az he did so he stopt and screemd out in a dredfool vois, "Mi God, its Nancy!" Mrs. Barcla ternd az white az deth, and wood hav

faulen doun had the dredfool-loocking crechure not caut hoald ov her. I
wauz
gowing too caul for the polece, but she, too mi cerprise, spoke qwite civvily
too
the fello.

""I thaut u had bene ded this thherty yeerz, Henry," ced she, in a
shaking vois.

""So I hav," ced he, and it wauz aufool too here the toanz dhat he ced it in.
He had a verry darc, feersum face, and a gleme in hiz ise dhat cumz bac too
me in mi dreemz. Hiz hare and whiskerz wer shot withe gra, and hiz face
wauz
aul crinkeld and puckerd like a witherd appel.

""Just wauc on a littel wa, dere," ced Mrs. Barcla; "I waunt too hav a werd
withe this man. Dhare iz nuthhing too be afrade ov." She tride too speke
boaldly,
but she wauz stil dedly pale and cood hardly ghet her werdz out for the
trembling ov her lips.

"I did az she aasct me, and dha tauct tooghether for a fu minnuets. Then
she
came doun the strete withe her ise blasing, and I sau the crippeld rech
standing bi the lamp-poast and shaking hiz clencht fists in the are az if he
wer mad withe rage. She nevver ced a werd until we wer at the doer here,
when
she tooc me bi the hand and begd me too tel no wun whaut had happend.

""Its an oald aqwaintans ov mine whoo haz cum doun in the werld," ced
she.
When I prommiast her I wood sa nuthhing she kist me, and I hav nevver
cene
her cins. I hav toald u nou the whole trueth, and if I widhheld it from the

polece it iz becauz I did not reyalise then the dain'ger in which mi dere
frend
stood. I no dhat it can oanly be too her advaantage dhat evverithhing
shood be
none.'

"Dhare wauz her staitment, Wautson, and too me, az u can imadgine, it
wauz like a
lite on a darc nite. Evverithhing which had bene disconected befoer began
at
wuns too ashume its tru place, and I had a shaddowy presentiment ov the
whole
ceeqwens ov events. Mi next step obveyously wauz too fiand the man
whoo had projuest
such a remarcabel impreshon uppon Mrs. Barcla. If he wer stil in
Auldershot
it shood not be a verry difficult matter. Dhare ar not such a verry grate
number ov civilleyanz, and a deformd man wauz shure too hav atracted
atenshon. I
spent a da in the cerch, and bi evening—this verry evening, Wautson—I
had run
him doun. The manz name iz Henry Wood, and he livz in lodgingz in this
same
strete in which the ladese met him. He haz oanly bene five dase in the
place. In
the carracter ov a registraishon-agent I had a moast interesting goscip
withe hiz
landlady. The man iz bi trade a cunjurer and performer, gowing round the
canteenz aafter niatfaul, and ghivving a littel entertainment at eche. He
carrese
sum crechure about withe him in dhat box; about which the landlady
ceemd too be
in concidderabel trepidaishon, for she had nevver cene an annimal like it.
He usez

it in sum ov hiz trix acording too her acount. So much the woomman wauz
abel
too tel me, and aulso dhat it wauz a wunder the man livd, ceying hou
twisted he
wauz, and dhat he spoke in a strainj tung sumtiamz, and dhat for the laast
too
niats she had herd him groning and weping in hiz bedroome. He wauz aul
rite,
az far az munny went, but in hiz depozsit he had ghivven her whaut looct
like a
bad florin. She shode it too me, Wautson, and it wauz an Injan rupy.

"So nou, mi dere fello, u ce exactly hou we stand and whi it iz I waunt u.
It iz perfectly plane dhat aafter the ladese parted from this man he follode
them at a distans, dhat he sau the qworel betwene huzband and wife throo
the windo, dhat he rusht in, and dhat the crechure which he carrede in hiz
box got looce. Dhat iz aul verry certane. But he iz the oonly person in this
werld whoo can tel us exactly whaut happend in dhat roome."

"And u intend too aasc him?"

"Moast certainly—but in the prezsens ov a witnes."

"And I am the witnes?"

"If u wil be so good. If he can clere the matter up, wel and good. If he
refusez, we hav no aulternative but too apli for a worant."

"But hou doo u no hele be dhare when we retern?"

"U ma be shure dhat I tooc sum precaushonz. I hav wun ov mi Baker Strete
boiz mounting gard over him whoo wood stic too him like a ber, go whare
he

mite. We shal fiand him in Hudson Strete too-moro, Wautson, and meenwhile I shood be the crimminal micelf if I kept u out ov bed enny lon'gher."

It wauz midda when we found ourcelvz at the cene ov the tradgedy, and, under mi companyonz ghidans, we made our wa at wuns too Hudson Strete. In spite ov hiz capascity for conceling hiz emoashonz, I cood esily ce dhat Hoamz wauz in a state ov suprest exiatment, while I wauz micelf tin'gling withe dhat haaf-spoerting, haaf-intelecchuwal plezhure which I invareyably expereyenst when I asoasheyated micelf withe him in hiz investigaishonz.

"This iz the strete," ced he, az we ternd intoo a short thurrofare liand withe plane too-stoerede bric housez. "Aa, here iz Cimpson too repoert."

"Hese in aul rite, Mr. Hoamz," cride a smaual strete Arrab, running up too us.

"Good, Cimpson!" ced Hoamz, patting him on the hed. "Cum along, Wautson.

This iz the hous." He cent in hiz card withe a message dhat he had cum on important biznes, and a moment later we wer face too face withe the man whoome

we had cum too ce. In spite ov the worm wether he wauz crouching over a fire,

and the littel roome wauz like an uvven. The man sat aul twisted and huddeld in

hiz chare in a wa which gave an indescribably impreshon ov deformity; but the

face which he ternd toowordz us, dho woern and sworthy, must at sum time

hav bene remarcabel for its buty. He looct suspishously at us nou out ov yello-shot, billeyous ise, and, widhout speking or rising, he waivd toowordz too chaerz.

"Mr. Henry Wood, late ov Injaa, I beleve," ced Hoamz, affably. "Ive cum over this littel matter ov Cuunel Barclase deth."

"Whaut shood I no about dhat?"

"Dhats whaut I waunt too ascertain. U no, I supose, dhat unles the matter iz cleerd up, Mrs. Barcla, whoo iz an oald frend ov yorz, wil in aul probabillity be tride for merder."

The man gave a viyolent start.

"I doant no whoo u ar," he cride, "nor hou u cum too no whaut u doo no, but wil u sware dhat this iz tru dhat u tel me?"

"Whi, dha ar oanly wating for her too cum too her cencez too arest her."

"Mi God! Ar u in the polece yorcelf?"

"No."

"Whaut biznes iz it ov yorz, then?"

"Its evvery manz biznes too ce justice dun."

"U can take mi werd dhat she iz innocent."

"Then u ar ghilty."

"No, I am not."

"Whoo kild Cuunel Jaimz Barcla, then?"

"It wauz a just provvidens dhat kild him. But, miand u this, dhat if I had noct hiz brainz out, az it wauz in mi hart too doo, he wood hav had no moer

dhan hiz ju from mi handz. If hiz one ghilty conshens had not struc him doun it iz liacly enuf dhat I mite hav had hiz blud uppon mi sole. U waunt me too tel the stoery. Wel, I doant no whi I shoodnt, for dhaerz no cauz for me too be ashaimd ov it.

"It wauz in this wa, cer. U ce me nou withe mi bac like a cammel and mi ribz

aul ari, but dhare wauz a time when Corporal Henry Wood wauz the smartest man in the 117th foot. We wer in Injaa then, in cantonments, at a place wele caul Bherty. Barcla, whoo dide the uther da, wauz sarjant in the same cumpany az

micelf, and the bel ov the redgiment, i, and the finest gherl dhat evver had the breth ov life betwene her lips, wauz Nancy Devoi, the dauter ov the cullor-sarjant. Dhare wer too men dhat luvd her, and wun dhat she luvd, and

ule smile when u looc at this poor thhing huddeld befoer the fire, and here me sa dhat it wauz for mi good loox dhat she luvd me.

"Wel, dho I had her hart, her faather wauz cet uppon her marreying Barcla.

I

wauz a harum-scarum, recles lad, and he had had an ejucaishon, and wauz aulreddy

marct for the soerd-belt. But the gherl held tru too me, and it ceemd dhat I wood hav had her when the Mutiny broke out, and aul hel wauz looce in the

cuntry.

"We wer shut up in Bherty, the redgiment ov us withe haaf a battery ov artillery, a cumpany ov Ceekhs, and a lot ov civilleyanz and wimmen-foke. Dhare wer ten thousand rebbelz round us, and dha wer az kene az a cet ov terreyerz round a rat-cage. About the cecond weke ov it our wauter gave out, and it wauz a qweschon whether we cood comunicate withe Genneral Neelz collum, which wauz mooving up cuntry. It wauz our oanly chaans, for we cood not hope too fite our wa out withe aul the wimmen and children, so I vollunteerd too go out and too worn Genneral Nele ov our dain'ger. Mi offer wauz axepted, and I tauct it over withe Sarjant Barcla, whoo wauz supoast too no the ground better dhan enny uther man, and whoo dru up a roote bi which I mite ghet throo the rebbel lianz. At ten oacloc the same nite I started of uppon mi gerny. Dhare wer a thousand liavz too save, but it wauz ov oanly wun dhat I wauz thhinking when I dropt over the waul dhat nite.

"Mi wa ran doun a dride-up wautercoers, which we hoapt wood screne me from the ennemese centrese; but az I crept round the corner ov it I wauct rite intoo cix ov them, whoo wer crouching doun in the darc wating for me. In an instant I wauz stund withe a blo and bound hand and foot. But the reyal blo wauz too mi hart and not too mi hed, for az I came too and liscend too az much az I cood

understand ov dhare tauc, I herd enuf too tel me dhat mi comrade, the
verry
man whoo had arainjd the wa dhat I wauz too take, had betrade me bi
meen z ov a
native cervant intoo the handz ov the ennemy.

"Wel, dhaerz no nede for me too dwel on dhat part ov it. U no nou whaut
Jaimz Barcla wauz capabel ov. Bherty wauz releevd bi Nele next da, but the
rebbelz tooc me awa withe them in dhare retrete, and it wauz menny a long
yere
befoer evver I sau a white face agane. I wauz torchuerd and tride too ghet
awa, and
wauz capchuerd and torchuerd agane. U can ce for yorcelvz the state in
which
I wauz left. Sum ov them dhat fled intoo Nepaul tooc me withe them, and
then
aafterwordz I wauz up paast Dargeling. The hil-foke up dhare merderd the
rebbelz
whoo had me, and I became dhare slave for a time until I escaipt; but
insted ov
gowing south I had too go north, until I found micelf among the Afganz.
Dhare I
waunderd about for menny a yere, and at laast came bac too the Punjab,
whare I
livd moastly among the natiavz and pict up a livving bi the cunjuring trix
dhat I had lernd. Whaut uce wauz it for me, a retched crippel, too go bac
too
In' gland or too make micelf none too mi oald comraidz? Even mi wish for
revenj
wood not make me doo dhat. I had raather dhat Nancy and mi oald palz
shood thhinc
ov Harry Wood az havving dide withe a strate bac, dhan ce him livving
and
crauling withe a stic like a chimpansy. Dha nevver doutd dhat I wauz ded,

and I ment dhat dha nevver shood. I herd dhat Barcla had marrede Nancy,
and
dhat he wauz rising rappidly in the redgiment, but even dhat did not make
me
speke.

"But when wun ghets oald wun haz a longing for home. For yeez Ive bene
dreming
ov the brite grene feeldz and the hedgez ov In'gland. At laast I determiand
too
ce them befoer I dide. I saivd enuf too bring me acros, and then I came here
whare the soalgerz ar, for I no dhare wase and hou too amuse them and so
ern
enuf too kepe me."

"Yor narrative iz moast interesting," ced Sherlock Hoamz. "I hav aulreddy
herd ov yor meting withe Mrs. Barcla, and yor muchuwal recognishon. U
then,
az I understand, follode her home and sau throo the windo an
aultercaishon
betwene her huzband and her, in which she doutles caast hiz conduct too u
in
hiz teeth. Yor one felingz overcame u, and u ran acros the laun and
broke in uppon them."

"I did, cer, and at the cite ov me he looct az I hav nevver cene a man looc
befoer, and over he went withe hiz hed on the fender. But he wauz ded
befoer he
fel. I rede deth on hiz face az plane az I can rede dhat text over the fire.
The bare cite ov me wauz like a boollet throo hiz ghilty hart."

"And then?"

"Then Nancy fainted, and I caut up the ke ov the doer from her hand,

intending too unloc it and ghet help. But az I wauz doowing it it ceemd too me better too leve it alone and ghet awa, for the thhing mite looc blac against me, and enny wa mi ceecret wood be out if I wer taken. In mi haist I thrust the ke intoo mi pocket, and dropt mi stic while I wauz chacing Teddy, whoo had run up the kertane. When I got him intoo hiz box, from which he had slipt, I wauz of az faast az I cood run."

"Whoose Teddy?" aasct Hoamz.

The man leend over and poold up the frunt ov a kiand ov huch in the corner.

In an instant out dhare slipt a butifool reddish-broun crechure, thhin and liathe, withe the legz ov a stote, a long, thhin nose, and a pare ov the finest red ise dhat evver I sau in an annimalz hed.

"Its a mon'gooce," I cride.

"Wel, sum caul them dhat, and sum caul them icnumon," ced the man.

"Snake-catcher iz whaut I caul them, and Teddy iz amasing qwic on coabraaz. I

hav wun here widhout the fangz, and Teddy catchez it evvery nite too plese the foke in the cantene.

"Enny uther point, cer?"

"Wel, we ma hav too apli too u agane if Mrs. Barcla shood proove too be in cereyous trubbel."

"In dhat cace, ov coers, Ide cum forward."

"But if not, dhare iz no obgett in raking up this scandal against a ded man, fouly az he haz acted. U hav at leest the satisfacshon ov nowing dhat for thherty yeez ov hiz life hiz conshens bitterly reproacht him for this wicked dede. Aa, dhare gose Major Merfy on the uther cide ov the strete. Good-bi, Wood. I waunt too lern if ennithhing haz happend cins yesterda."

We wer in time too overtake the major befoer he reecht the corner.

"Aa, Hoamz," he ced: "I supose u hav herd dhat aul this fus haz cum too nuthhing?"

"Whaut then?"

"The inqwest iz just over. The meddical evvidens shode concluciavly dhat deth wauz ju too appoplexy. U ce it wauz qwite a cimpel cace aafter aul."

"O, remarcably superfisal," ced Hoamz, smiling. "Cum, Wautson, I doant thhinc we shal be waunted in Auldershot enny moer."

"Dhaerz wun thhing," ced I, az we wauct down too the staishon. "If the huzbandz name wauz Jaimz, and the uther wauz Henry, whaut wauz this tauc about David?"

"Dhat wun werd, mi dere Wautson, shood hav toald me the whole stoery had I bene the ideyal rezoner which u ar so fond ov depicting. It wauz evvidently a term ov reproche."

"Ov reproche?"

"Yes; David strade a littel ocaizhonaly, u no, and on wun ocaizhon in the

same direcshon az Sarjant Jaimz Barcla. U remember the smaul afare ov Uriyaa and Badhshebaa? Mi biblical nollej iz a trifel rusty, I fere, but u wil fiand the stoery in the ferst or cecond ov Samuwel."

Advenchure 8.

The Rezsident Paishent

Glaancing over the sumwhaut incoherent cerese ov Memwarz withe which I hav endevvord too illustrate a fu ov the mental peculeyarritese ov mi frend Mr. Sherloc Hoamz, I hav bene struc bi the difficulty which I hav expereyent in picking out exaampelz which shal in evvery wa aancer mi perpoce. For in dhose cacez in which Hoamz haz performd sum toor de foers ov analittical rezoning, and haz demmonstrated the vallu ov hiz peculeyar methodz ov investigaishon, the facts themcelvz hav often bene so slite or so commonplace dhat I cood not fele justifide in laying them befoer the public. On the uther hand, it haz freeqwently happend dhat he haz bene concernd in sum recerch whare the facts hav bene ov the moast remarcabel and dramattic carracter, but

whare the share which he haz himcelf taken in determining dhare causez
haz bene
les pronounst dhan I, az hiz biyograafer, cood wish. The smaull matter
which I
hav cronnikeld under the hedding ov "A Studdy in Scarlet," and dhat uther
later
wun conected withe the los ov the Gloereyaa Scot, ma cerv az exaampelz
ov this
Cillaa and Caribdis which ar forevver threttening the histoereyan. It ma be
dhat in the biznes ov which I am nou about too rite the part which mi frend
plade iz not sufishmently axenchuwated; and yet the whole trane ov
circumstaancez iz so remarcabel dhat I canot bring micelf too omit it
entiarly
from this cerese.

It had bene a cloce, rany da in October. Our bliandz wer haaf-draun, and
Hoamz la kerld uppon the sofaa, reding and re-reding a letter which he
had
receevd bi the morning poast. For micelf, mi term ov cervice in Injaa had
traind me too stand hete better dhan coald, and a ththermometer ov 90
wauz no
hardship. But the paper wauz unninteresting. Parlament had rizsen.
Evveriboddy wauz
out ov toun, and I yernd for the glaidz ov the Nu Forest or the shin'ghel ov
Soudhshaa. A depleted banc acount had cauzd me too poastpone mi
hollida, and az
too mi companyon, niather the cuntry nor the ce presented the slitest
atracshon too him. He luvd too li in the verry center ov five milleyonz ov
pepel, withe hiz fillaments stretching out and running throo them,
responcive
too evvery littel rumor or suspishon ov unsolvd crime. Apreesheyaishon ov
Nachure
found no place amung hiz menny ghifts, and hiz oanly chainj wauz when
he ternd hiz

miand from the evil-doower ov the toun too trac doun hiz bruther ov the cuntry.

Fianding dhat Hoamz wauz too abzorbd for conversaishon, I had tost acide the barren paper, and lening bac in mi chare, I fel intoo a broun studdy. Suddenly mi companyonz vois broke in uppon mi thauts.

"U ar rite, Wautson," ced he. "It duz ceme a verry preposterous wa ov cetling a dispute."

"Moast preposterous!" I exclaimd, and then, suddenly reyalising hou he had eccode the inmoast thaut ov mi sole, I sat up in mi chare and staerd at him in blanc amaizment.

"Whaut iz this, Hoamz?" I cride. "This iz beyond ennithhing which I cood hav imadgiand."

He laaft hartily at mi perplexity.

"U remember," ced he, "dhat sum littel time ago, when I rede u the passage in wun ov Pose sketchez, in which a cloce rezoner follose the unspoken thaut ov hiz companyon, u wer incliand too trete the matter az a mere toor de foers ov the author. On mi remarking dhat I wauz constantly in the habbit ov doowing the same thhing u exprest increjuly."

"O, no!"

"Perhaps not withe yor tung, mi dere Wautson, but certainly withe yor

iabrouz. So when I sau u thro doun yor paper and enter uppon a trane ov thaut, I wauz verry happy too hav the oporchunity ov reding it of, and evenchuwaly ov braking intoo it, az a prooffe dhat I had bene in rapor withe u."

But I wauz stil far from sattisfide. "In the exaampel which u red too me," ced

I, "the rezoner dru hiz concluezhonz from the acshonz ov the man whoome he observd. If I remember rite, he stumbeld over a hepe ov stoanz, looct up at the starz, and so on. But I hav bene ceted qwiyetly in mi chare, and whaut cluse can I hav ghivven u?"

"U doo yorcelf an injustice. The fechuerz ar ghivven too man az the meenz bi which he shal expres hiz emoashonz, and yorz ar faithfool cervants."

"Doo u mene too sa dhat u rede mi trane ov thauts from mi fechuerz?"

"Yor fechuerz, and espeshaly yor ise. Perhaps u canot yorcelf recaul hou yor revvery comenst?"

"No, I canot."

"Then I wil tel u. Aafter throwing doun yor paper, which wauz the acshon which dru mi atenshon too u, u sat for haaf a minnute withe a vacant expreshon. Then yor ise fixt themcelvz uppon yor nuly-fraimd picchure ov Genneral Gordon, and I sau bi the aulteraishon in yor face dhat a trane ov thaut had bene started. But it did not lede verry far. Yor ise ternd acros too the unfraimd poertrate ov Henry Word Becher which standz uppon the top ov yor boox. U then glaanst up at the waul, and ov coers yor mening wauz

obvious. U wer thhinking dhat if the poertrate wer fraimd it wood just
cuvver
dhat bare space and corespond withe Gordonz picchure over dhare."

"U hav follode me wunderfooly!" I exclaimd.

"So far I cood hardly hav gon astra. But nou yor thauts went bac too
Becher, and u looct hard acros az if u wer studdeying the carracter in
hiz fechuerz. Then yor ise ceest too pucker, but u continnude too looc
acros, and yor face wauz thautfool. U wer recauling the incidents ov
Becherz carere. I wauz wel aware dhat u cood not doo this widhout
thhinking
ov the mishon which he undertooc on behaaf ov the North at the time ov
the
Civvil Wor, for I remember u exprescing yor pashonate indignaishon at the
wa
in which he wauz receevd bi the moer turbulent ov our pepel. U felt so
strongly about it dhat I nu u cood not thhinc ov Becher widhout thhinking
ov dhat aulso. When a moment later I sau yor ise waunder awa from the
picchure,
I suspected dhat yor miand had nou ternd too the Civvil Wor, and when I
observd
dhat yor lips cet, yor ise sparkeld, and yor handz clincht, I wauz pozsitive
dhat u wer indede thhinking ov the gallantry which wauz shone bi boath
ciadz in
dhat desperate strugghel. But then, agane, yor face gru sadder; u shooc yor
hed. U wer dwelling uppon the sadnes and horror and uesles waist ov life.
Yor hand stole toowordz yor one oald wuind, and a smile qwivverd on yor
lips,
which shode me dhat the ridiculous cide ov this method ov cetling
internashonal qweschonz had foerst itcelf uppon yor miand. At this point I
agrede withe u dhat it wauz preposterous, and wauz glad too fiand dhat
aul mi
deducshonz had bene corect."

"Absoluetly!" ced I. "And nou dhat u hav explaind it, I confes dhat I am az amaizd az befoer."

"It wauz verry superfisal, mi dere Wautson, I ashure u. I shood not hav intruded it uppon yor atenshon had u not shone sum increjuly the uther da. But the evening haz braut a brese withe it. Whaut doo u sa too a rambel throo Lundon?"

I wauz wery ov our littel citting-roome and gladly aqweyest. For thre ourz we stroald about tooghether, wauching the evver-chain'ging calidoscope ov life az it ebz and flose throo Flete Strete and the Strand. Hiz characteristic tauc, withe its kene observans ov detale and suttel pouwer ov inferens held me amuezd and enthrauld. It wauz ten oacloc befoer we reecht Baker Strete agane. A broowam wauz wating at our doer.

"Hum! A doctorz—genneral practishoner, I perceve," ced Hoamz. "Not bene long in practice, but haz had a good dele too doo. Cum too consult us, I fancy! Lucky we came bac!"

I wauz sufishmently conversant withe Hoamsez methodz too be abel too follo hiz rezoning, and too ce dhat the nachure and state ov the vareyous meddical instruments in the wicker baasket which hung in the lamplite incide the broowam had ghivven him the dataa for hiz swift deducshon. The lite in our windo abuv shode dhat this late vizsit wauz indede intended for us. Withe sum cureyosity az too whaut cood hav cent a bruther medico too us at such an our, I

follode Hoamz intoo our sanctum.

A pale, taper-faist man withe sandy whiskerz rose up from a chare bi the fire az
we enterd. Hiz age ma not hav bene moer dhan thre or foer and therty,
but
hiz haggard expreshon and unhelthhy hu toald ov a life which haz sapt hiz
strength and robd him ov hiz ueth. Hiz manner wauz nervous and shi, like
dhat
ov a cencitive gentelman, and the thhin white hand which he lade on the
mantelpece az he rose wauz dhat ov an artist raather dhan ov a cerjon. Hiz
dres wauz qwiyet and somber—a blac froc-cote, darc trouserz, and a tuch
ov
cullor about hiz necti.

"Good-evening, doctor," ced Hoamz, cherily. "I am glad too ce dhat u hav
oonly bene wating a verry fu minnuets."

"U spoke too mi coachman, then?"

"No, it wauz the candel on the cide-tabel dhat toald me. Pra rezhume yor
cete
and let me no hou I can cerv u."

"Mi name iz Doctor Percy Treveleyan," ced our vizsitor, "and I liv at 403
Brooc
Strete."

"Ar u not the author ov a monnograaf uppon obscure nervous leezhonz?" I
aasct.

Hiz pale cheex flusht withe plezhure at hering dhat hiz werc wauz none
too me.

"I so celdom here ov the werc dhat I thaut it wauz qwite ded," ced he. "Mi publisherz gave me a moast discourraging acount ov its sale. U ar yorcelf, I prezhume, a meddical man?"

"A retiard army cerjon."

"Mi one hobby haz aulwase bene nervous disese. I shood wish too make it an absolute speshalty, but, ov coers, a man must take whaut he can ghet at ferst.

This, houwevver, iz becide the qweschon, Mr. Sherloc Hoamz, and I qwite apreesheyate hou vallubel yor time iz. The fact iz dhat a verry cin'gular trane ov

events haz okerd recently at mi hous in Brooc Strete, and too-nite dha came too such a hed dhat I felt it wauz qwite imposcibel for me too wate anuther

our befoer aasking for yor advice and acistans."

Sherloc Hoamz sat down and lit hiz pipe. "U ar verry welcum too boath," ced

he. "Pra let me hav a detaild acount ov whaut the cercumstaancez ar which hav disterbd u."

"Wun or too ov them ar so trivveyal," ced Dr. Treveleyan, "dhat reyalz I am aulmoast ashaimd too menshon them. But the matter iz so inexpliccabel, and the

recent tern which it haz taken iz so elaborrate, dhat I shal la it aul befoer u, and u shal juj whaut iz ecenshal and whaut iz not.

"I am compeld, too beghin withe, too sa sumthhing ov mi one college carere. I am

a Lundon Univercity man, u no, and I am shure dhat yor wil not thhinc dhat

I am unjuly cinging mi one prasez if I sa dhat mi schudent carere wauz

concliderd bi mi professorz too be a verry prommicin wun. Aafter I had gradjuwated I continnude too devote micelf too recerch, occupiying a minor posishon in Kingz College Hospital, and I wauz forchunate enuf too exite concidderabel interest bi mi recerch intoo the pathollogy ov cattalepcy, and finaly too win the Bruce Pinkerton prise and meddal bi the monnograaf on nervous leezhonz too which yor frend haz just aluded. I shood not go too far if I wer too sa dhat dhare wauz a genneral impreshon at dhat time dhat a distin'gwisht carere la befoer me.

"But the wun grate stumbling-bloc la in mi waunt ov cappital. Az u wil reddily understand, a speshalist whoo aimz hi iz compeld too start in wun ov a duzsen streets in the Cavvendish Sqware qworter, aul ov which entale enormous rents and fernishing expencez. Beciadz this preliminarly outla, he must be prepaerd too kepe himcelf for sum yeez, and too hire a presentabel carrage and hors. Too doo this wauz qwite beyond mi pouwer, and I cood oanly hope dhat bi economy I mite in ten yeez time save enuf too enabel me too poot up mi plate. Suddenly, houwevver, an unnexpected incident opend up qwite a nu prospect too me.

"This wauz a vizsit from a gentelman ov the name ov Blescington, whoo wauz a complete strain'ger too me. He came up too mi roome wun morning, and plunjd intoo biznes in an instant.

"U ar the same Percy Treveleyan whoo haz had so distin'gwisht a carere and wun a grate prise laitly?' ced he.

"I boud.

"Aancer me francly,' he continnude, for u wil fiand it too yor interest too doo so. U hav aul the clevvernes which maix a suxesfool man. Hav u the tact?"

"I cood not help smiling at the abruptnes ov the qweschon.

"I trust dhat I hav mi share,' I ced.

"Enny bad habbits? Not draun toowordz drinc, a?"

"Reyaly, cer!' I cride.

"Qwite rite! Dhats aul rite! But I wauz bound too aasc. Withe aul these qwaulitese, whi ar u not in practice?"

"I shrugd mi shoalderz.

"Cum, cum!' ced he, in hiz busling wa. Its the oald stoery. Moer in yor brainz dhan in yor pocket, a? Whaut wood u sa if I wer too start u in Brooc Strete?"

"I staerd at him in astonishment.

"O, its for mi sake, not for yorz,' he cride. Ile be perfectly franc withe u, and if it suets u it wil sute me verry wel. I hav a fu thousandz too invest, dye ce, and I thhinc Ile cinc them in u.'

"But whi?' I gaaspt.

"Wel, its just like enny uther speculaishon, and safer dhan moast.'

"Whaut am I too doo, then?'

"Ile tel u. Ile take the hous, fernish it, pa the maidz, and run the whole place. Aul u hav too doo iz just too ware out yor chare in the consulting-roome. Ile let u hav pocket-munny and evverithhing. Then u hand over too me thre qworterz ov whaut u ern, and u kepe the uther qworter for yorcelf.'

"This wauz the strainj propozal, Mr. Hoamz, withe which the man Blescington aproacht me. I woant wery u withe the acount ov hou we bargaind and negoasheyated. It ended in mi mooving intoo the hous next Lady-da, and starting in practice on verry much the same condishonz az he had sugested. He came himcelf too liv withe me in the carracter ov a rezident paishent. Hiz hart wauz weke, it apeerz, and he neded constant meddical supervizhon. He ternd the too best ruimz ov the ferst floer intoo a citting-roome and bedroome for himcelf. He wauz a man ov cin'gular habbits, shunning cumpany and verry celdom gowing out. Hiz life wauz iregular, but in wun respect he wauz regularrity itcelf. Evvery evening, at the same our, he wauct intoo the consulting-roome, exammiand the boox, poot doun five and thre-pens for evvery ghinny dhat I had ernd, and carrede the rest of too the strong-box in hiz one roome.

"I ma sa withe confidens dhat he nevver had ocaizhon too regret hiz speculaishon. From the ferst it wauz a suxes. A fu good cacez and the reputaishon which I had wun in the hospital braut me rappidly too the frunt, and juring the laast fu yeerz I hav made him a rich man.

"So much, Mr. Hoamz, for mi paast history and mi relaishonz withe Mr. Blescington. It oanly remainz for me nou too tel u whaut haz okerd too bring me here too-nite.

"Sum weex ago Mr. Blescington came down too me in, az it ceemd too me, a state ov concidderabel agitaishon. He spoke ov sum berglary which, he ced, had bene comitted in the West End, and he apeerd, I remember, too be qwite un'necesarily exited about it, declaring dhat a da shood not paas befoer we shood ad stron'gher bolts too our windose and doerz. For a weke he continnude too be in a peculeyar state ov restlesnes, pering continnuwaly out ov the windose, and cecing too take the short wauc which had uezhuwaly bene the prelude too hiz dinner. From hiz manner it struc me dhat he wauz in mortal dred ov sumthhing or sumbody, but when I qweschond him uppon the point he became so ofencive dhat I wauz compeld too drop the subject. Gradjuwaly, az time paast, hiz feerz apeerd too di awa, and he had renude hiz former habbits, when a fresh event rejuest him too the pitteyabel state ov prostraishon in which he nou lise.

"Whaut happend wauz this. Too dase ago I receevd the letter which I nou rede too
u. Niather adres nor date iz atacht too it.

"A Rushan nobelman whoo iz nou rezident in In'gland,' it runz, wood be glad
too avale himcelf ov the profeshonal acistans ov Dr. Percy Treveleyan. He haz
bene for sum yeerz a victim too cataleptic atax, on which, az iz wel none,
Dr. Treveleyan iz an authority. He proposez too caul at about qworter paast
cix
too-moro evening, if Dr. Treveleyan wil make it conveyent too be at
home.'

"This letter interested me deeply, becauz the chefe difficulty in the studdy
ov
cattalepsy iz the raernes ov the disese. U ma beleve, then, dhat I wauz in
mi consulting-roome when, at the apointed our, the page shode in the
paishent.

"He wauz an elderly man, thhin, demure, and commonplace—bi no meenz
the
concepshon wun formz ov a Rushan nobelman. I wauz much moer struc bi
the
aperans ov hiz companyon. This wauz a taul yung man, cerprisingly
handsom,
withe a darc, feers face, and the limz and chest ov a Herculese. He had hiz
hand under the utherz arm az dha enterd, and helpt him too a chare withe
a
tendernes which wun wood hardly hav expected from hiz aperans.

"U wil excuse mi cumming in, doctor,' ced he too me, speking In'glish
withe a
slite lisp. This iz mi faather, and hiz helth iz a matter ov the moast

overwhelming importans too me.'

"I wauz tucht bi this feleyal anxiyety. U wood, perhaps, care too remane juring the consultaishon?" ced I.

"Not for the werld," he cride withe a geschure ov horror. It iz moer painfool too me dhan I can expres. If I wer too ce mi faather in wun ov these dredfool ceezhuerz I am convinst dhat I shood nevvver cervive it. Mi one nervous cistem iz an exepshonaly cencitive wun. Withe yor permishon, I wil remane in the wating-roome while u go intoo mi faatherz cace.'

"Too this, ov coers, I acented, and the yung man widhdru. The paishent and I then plunjed intoo a discusson ov hiz cace, ov which I tooc exhaustive noats. He wauz not remarcabel for intelligens, and hiz aancerz wer freeqwently obscure, which I atribbuted too hiz limmited aqwaintans withe our lan'gwage. Suddenly, houwevver, az I sat riting, he ceest too ghiv enny aancer at aul too mi inqwirese, and on mi terning toowordz him I wauz shoct too ce dhat he wauz citting bolt uprite in hiz chare, staring at me withe a perfectly blanc and ridgid face. He wauz agane in the grip ov hiz mistereyous mallady.

"Mi ferst feling, az I hav just ced, wauz wun ov pittty and horror. Mi cecond, I fere, wauz raather wun ov profeshonal satisfacshon. I made noats ov mi paishents puls and temperachure, tested the rigiddity ov hiz muscelz, and exammiand hiz reflexez. Dhare wauz nuthhing marctly abnormal in enny ov these condishonz, which harmoniazd withe mi former expereyencez. I had obtaind good

results in such cacez bi the inhalaishon ov niatrite ov amil, and the prezsent ceemd an admirabel oporchunity ov testing its verchuse. The bottel wauz dounstaerz in mi laboratoery, so leving mi paishent ceted in hiz chare, I ran doun too ghet it. Dhare wauz sum littel dela in fianding it—five minnuets, let us sa—and then I reternd. Imadgine mi amaizment too fiand the roome empty and the paishent gon.

"Ov coers, mi ferst act wauz too run intoo the wating-roome. The sun had gon aulso. The haul doer had bene cloazd, but not shut. Mi page whoo admits paishents iz a nu boi and bi no meenz qwic. He waits dounstaerz, and runz up too sho paishents out when I ring the consulting-roome bel. He had herd nuthhing, and the afare remaind a complete mistery. Mr. Blescington came in from hiz wauc shortly aafterwordz, but I did not sa ennithhing too him uppon the subgect, for, too tel the trueth, I hav got in the wa ov late ov hoalding az littel comunicaishon withe him az poscibel.

"Wel, I nevver thaut dhat I shood ce ennithhing moer ov the Rushan and hiz sun, so u can imadgine mi amaizment when, at the verry same our this evening, dha boath came marching intoo mi consulting-roome, just az dha had dun befoer.

"I fele dhat I o u a grate menny apollogese for mi abrupt deparchure yesterda, doctor,' ced mi paishent.

"I confes dhat I wauz verry much cerpriazd at it,' ced I.

"Wel, the fact iz,' he remarct, dhat when I recuver from these atax mi miand iz aulwase verry clouded az too aul dhat haz gon befoer. I woke up in a strainj roome, az it ceemd too me, and made mi wa out intoo the strete in a sort ov daizd wa when u wer abcent.'

"And I,' ced the sun, ceying mi faather paas the doer ov the wating-roome, natchuraly thaut dhat the consultaishon had cum too an end. It wauz not until we had reecht home dhat I began too reyalise the tru state ov afaerz.'

"Wel,' ced I, laafing, dhare iz no harm dun exept dhat u puzseld me terribly; so if u, cer, wood kiandly step intoo the wating-roome I shal be happy too continnu our consultaishon which wauz braut too so abrupt an ending.'

"For haaf an our or so I discust dhat oald gentelmanz cimptomz withe him, and then, havving prescriabd for him, I sau him go of uppon the arm ov hiz sun.

"I hav toald u dhat Mr. Blescington genneraly chose this our ov the da for hiz exercise. He came in shortly aafterwordz and paast upstaerz. An instant later I herd him running down, and he berst intoo mi consulting-roome like a man whoo iz mad withe pannic.

"Whoo haz bene in mi roome?' he cride.

"No wun,' ced I.

"Its a li! He yeld. Cum up and looc!"

"I paast over the groasnes ov hiz lan'gwage, az he ceemd haaf out ov hiz miand
withe fere. When I went upstaerz withe him he pointed too cevveral
footprints uppon
the lite carpet.

"Du mene too sa dhose ar mine?' he cride.

"Dha wer certainly verry much larger dhan enny which he cood hav made,
and
wer evvidently qwite fresh. It rained hard this aafternoone, az u no, and mi
paishents wer the oonly pepel whoo cauld. It must hav bene the cace, then,
dhat the man in the wating-roome had, for sum un'none rezon, while I
wauz bizsy
withe the uther, acended too the roome ov mi rezsident paishent. Nuthhing
had bene
tucht or taken, but dhare wer the footprints too proove dhat the intruezhon
wauz
an undouted fact.

"Mr. Blescington ceemd moer exited over the matter dhan I shood hav
thaut
poscibel, dho ov coers it wauz enuf too disterb enniboddese pece ov
miand. He
acchuwaly sat criering in an arm-chare, and I cood hardly ghet him too
speke
coherently. It wauz hiz sugeschon dhat I shood cum round too u, and ov
coers I at wuns sau the propriyety ov it, for certainly the incident iz a verry
cin'gular wun, dho he apeerz too compleetly overate its importans. If u
wood oonly cum bac withe me in mi broowam, u wood at leest be Abel too
suiethe him, dho I can hardly hope dhat u wil be Abel too explaine this
remarcabel occursens."

Sherloc Hoamz had liscend too this long narrative withe an intentnes which shode me dhat hiz interest wauz keenly arouzd. Hiz face wauz az impascive az evver, but hiz lidz had druipt moer hevvely over hiz ise, and hiz smoke had kerld up moer thhicly from hiz pipe too emfacise eche cureyous eppisode in the doctorz tale. Az our vizsitor concluded, Hoamz sprang up widhout a werd, handed me mi hat, pict hiz one from the tabel, and follode Dr. Treveleyan too the doer. Within a qworter ov an our we had bene dropt at the doer ov the fisishanz rezsidens in Brooc Strete, wun ov dhose somber, flat-faist housez which wun asoasheyaits withe a West-End practice. A smaul page admitted us, and we began at wuns too acend the braud, wel-carpeted stare.

But a cin'gular interupshon braut us too a standstil. The lite at the top wauz suddenly whisct out, and from the darcnes came a redy, qwivvering vois.

"I hav a pistol," it cride. "I ghiv u mi werd dhat Ile fire if u cum enny nerer."

"This reyalg grose outrajous, Mr. Blescington," cride Dr. Treveleyan.

"O, then it iz u, doctor," ced the vois, withe a grate heve ov relefe.

"But dhose uther gentelmen, ar dha whaut dha pretend too be?"

We wer conshous ov a long scrutiny out ov the darcnes.

"Yes, yes, its aul rite," ced the vois at laast. "U can cum up, and I am sorry if mi precaushonz hav anoid u."

He relit the stare gas az he spoke, and we sau befoer us a cin'gular-looking

man, whose apearans, az wel az hiz vois, testifide too hiz jan'gheld nervz. He wauz verry fat, but had aparrently at sum time bene much fatter, so dhat the skin hung about hiz face in looce pouchez, like the cheex ov a blud-hound. He wauz ov a cicly cullor, and hiz thhin, sandy hare ceemd too briscel up withe the intencity ov hiz emoashon. In hiz hand he held a pistol, but he thrust it intoo hiz pocket az we advaanst.

"Good-evening, Mr. Hoamz," ced he. "I am shure I am verry much obliajd too u for cumming round. No wun evver neded yor advice moer dhan I doo. I supose dhat Dr. Treveleyan haz toald u ov this moast unwarrantabel intruezhon intoo mi ruimz."

"Qwite so," ced Hoamz. "Whoo ar these too men Mr. Blescington, and whi doo dha wish too molest u?"

"Wel, wel," ced the rezsident paishent, in a nervous fashon, "ov coers it iz hard too sa dhat. U can hardly expect me too aancer dhat, Mr. Hoamz."

"Doo u mene dhat u doant no?"

"Cum in here, if u plese. Just hav the kiandnes too step in here."

He led the wa intoo hiz bedroome, which wauz larj and cumfortably fernisht.

"U ce dhat," ced he, pointing too a big blac box at the end ov hiz bed. "I

hav nevver bene a verry rich man, Mr. Hoamz—nevver made but wun investment in mi life, az Dr. Treveleyan wood tel u. But I doant beleve in bankers. I wood nevver trust a banker, Mr. Hoamz. Betwene ourcelvz, whaut littel I hav iz in dhat box, so u can understand whaut it meenz too me when un'none pepel foers themcelvz intoo mi ruimz."

Hoamz looct at Blescington in hiz qweschoning wa and shooc hiz hed.

"I canot poscibly advise u if u tri too deceve me," ced he.

"But I hav toald u evverithhing."

Hoamz ternd on hiz hele withe a geschure ov disgust. "Good-nite, Dr. Treveleyan," ced he.

"And no advice for me?" cride Blescington, in a braking vois.

"Mi advice too u, cer, iz too speke the trueth."

A minnute later we wer in the strete and wauking for home. We had crost Oxford Strete and wer haaf wa doun Harly Strete befoer I cood ghet a werd from mi companyon.

"Sory too bring u out on such a fuilz errand, Wautson," he ced at laast. "It iz an interesting cace, too, at the bottom ov it."

"I can make littel ov it," I confest.

"Wel, it iz qwite evvident dhat dhare ar too men—moer, perhaps, but at leest too—whoo ar determiand for sum rezon too ghet at this fello Blescington. I

hav no dout in mi miand dhat boath on the ferst and on the cecond
ocaizhon dhat
yung man pennetrated too Blescingtonz roome, while hiz confedderate, bi
an
in'geenyous device, kept the doctor from interfering."

"And the cattalepsy?"

"A frauulent imitaishon, Wautson, dho I shood hardly dare too hint az
much too
our speshalist. It iz a verry esy complaint too immitate. I hav dun it micelf."

"And then?"

"Bi the purest chaans Blescington wauz out on eche ocaizhon. Dhare rezon
for
chusing so unnuezhual an our for a consultaishon wauz obveyously too
inshure dhat
dhare shood be no uther paishent in the wating-roome. It just happend,
houwevver, dhat this our cowincided withe Blescingtonz constichueshonal,
which
ceemz too sho dhat dha wer not verry wel aqwainted withe hiz daly
rootene.
Ov coers, if dha had bene meerly aafter plunder dha wood at leest hav
made
sum atempt too cerch for it. Beciadz, I can rede in a manz i when it iz
hiz one skin dhat he iz fritend for. It iz inconcevabel dhat this fello
cood hav made too such vindictive ennemese az these apere too be
widhout
nowing ov it. I hoald it, dhaerfoer, too be certane dhat he duz no whoo
these
men ar, and dhat for rezonz ov hiz one he suprescez it. It iz just poscibel
dhat too-moro ma fiand him in a moer communicative moode."

"Iz dhare not wun aulternative," I sugested, "grotescly improbably, no dout, but stil just concevabel? Mite the whole stoery ov the cataleptic Rushan and hiz sun be a concocshon ov Dr. Treveleyanz, whoo haz, for hiz one perpocez, bene in Blescingtonz ruimz?"

I sau in the gaslite dhat Hoamz woer an amuezd smile at this brilleyant deparchure ov mine.

"Mi dere fello," ced he, "it wauz wun ov the ferst solueshonz which okerd too me, but I wauz soone abel too corobborate the doctorz tale. This yung man haz left prints uppon the stare-carpet which made it qwite superfluwous for me too aasc too ce dhose which he had made in the roome. When I tel u dhat hiz shoose wer sqware-tode insted ov beying pointed like Blescingtonz, and wer qwite an inch and a thherd lon'gher dhan the doctorz, u wil acnollej dhat dhare can be no dout az too hiz indivijuwallity. But we ma slepe on it nou, for I shal be cerpriazd if we doo not here sumthhing ferther from Brooc Strete in the morning."

Sherloc Hoamsez proffecy wauz soone foolfild, and in a dramattic fashon. At haaf-paast cevven next morning, in the ferst glimmer ov dalite, I found him standing bi mi bedcide in hiz drescing-goun.

"Dhaerz a broowam wating for us, Wautson," ced he.

"Whauts the matter, then?"

"The Brooc Strete biznes."

"Enny fresh nuse?"

"Tradgic, but ambigguwous," ced he, pooling up the bliand. "Looc at this—
a shete
from a note-booc, withe For Godz sake cum at wuns—P. T.,' scrauld uppon
it in
pencil. Our frend, the doctor, wauz hard poot too it when he rote this. Cum
along, mi dere fello, for its an ergent caul."

In a qworter ov an our or so we wer bac at the fisishanz hous. He came
running out too mete us withe a face ov horror.

"O, such a biznes!" he cride, withe hiz handz too hiz tempelz.

"Whaut then?"

"Blescington haz comitted suwicide!"

Hoamz whisceld.

"Yes, he hangd himcelf juring the nite."

We had enterd, and the doctor had preceded us intoo whaut wauz
evvidently hiz
wating-roome.

"I reyalz hardly no whaut I am doowing," he cride. "The polece ar aulreddy
upstaerz. It haz shaken me moast dredfooly."

"When did u fiand it out?"

"He haz a cup ov te taken in too him erly evvery morning. When the made

enterd, about cevven, dhare the unforchunate fello wauz hanging in the
middel ov
the roome. He had tide hiz cord too the hoooc on which the hevvy lamp uest
too
hang, and he had jumpt of from the top ov the verry box dhat he shode us
yesterda."

Hoamz stood for a moment in depe thaut.

"Withe yor permishon," ced he at laast, "I shood like too go upstaerz and
looc
intoo the matter."

We boath acended, follode bi the doctor.

It wauz a dredfool cite which met us az we enterd the bedroomme doer. I hav
spoken ov the impreshon ov flabbines which this man Blescington
convade. Az
he dan'gheld from the hoooc it wauz exadgerated and intencifide until he
wauz scaers
human in hiz aperans. The nec wauz draun out like a pluct chickenz,
making the rest ov him ceme the moer obece and un'natchural bi the
contraast. He
wauz clad oonly in hiz long nite-dres, and hiz swollen ankelz and un'gainly
fete
protruded starcly from beneeth it. Becide him stood a smart-loocking
polece-inspector, whoo wauz taking noats in a pocket-booc.

"Aa, Mr. Hoamz," ced he, hartily, az mi frend enterd, "I am delited too
ce u."

"Good-morning, Lanner," aancerd Hoamz; "u woant thhinc me an intruder,
I am
shure. Hav u herd ov the events which led up too this afare?"

"Yes, I herd sumthhing ov them."

"Hav u formd enny opinyon?"

"Az far az I can ce, the man haz bene drivven out ov hiz cencez bi frite. The bed haz bene wel slept in, u ce. Dhaerz hiz impreshon depe enuf. Its about five in the morning, u no, dhat suwiciadz ar moast common. Dhat wood be about hiz time for hanging himcelf. It ceemz too hav bene a verry deliberate afare."

"I shood sa dhat he haz bene ded about thre ourz, judging bi the rigiddity ov the muscelz," ced I.

"Notiast ennithhing peculeyar about the roome?" aasct Hoamz.

"Found a scru-driver and sum scruse on the waush-hand stand. Ceemz too hav smoact hevvely juring the nite, too. Here ar foer cigar-endz dhat I pict out ov the fiarplace."

"Hum!" ced Hoamz, "hav u got hiz cigar-hoalder?"

"No, I hav cene nun."

"Hiz cigar-cace, then?"

"Yes, it wauz in hiz cote-pocket."

Hoamz opend it and smeld the cin'ghel cigar which it containd.

"O, this iz an Havanna, and these utherz ar cigarz ov the peculeyar sort which ar impoerted bi the Duch from dhare Eest Injan collonese. Dha ar uezhuwaly rapt in strau, u no, and ar thhinner for dhare length dhan enny uther brand." He pict up the foer endz and exammiand them withe hiz pocket-lenz.

"Too ov these hav bene smoact from a hoalder and too widhout," ced he. "Too hav bene cut bi a not verry sharp nife, and too hav had the endz bitten of bi a cet ov exelent teeth. This iz no suwicide, Mr. Lanner. It iz a verry deeply pland and coald-bludded merder."

"Imposcibel!" cride the inspector.

"And whi?"

"Whi shood enny wun merder a man in so clumsy a fashon az bi hanging him?"

"Dhat iz whaut we hav too fiand out."

"Hou cood dha ghet in?"

"Throo the frunt doer."

"It wauz bard in the morning."

"Then it wauz bard aafter them."

"Hou doo u no?"

"I sau dhare tracez. Excuse me a moment, and I ma be abel too ghiv u sum

ferther informaishon about it."

He went over too the doer, and terning the loc he exammiand it in hiz methoddical wa. Then he tooc out the ke, which wauz on the incide, and inspected dhat aulso. The bed, the carpet, the chaerz the mantelpece, the ded boddy, and the rope wer eche in tern exammiand, until at laast he profest himcelf sattisfide, and withe mi ade and dhat ov the inspector cut down the retched obgect and lade it reverently under a shete.

"Hou about this rope?" he aasct.

"It iz cut of this," ced Dr. Treveleyan, drauwing a larj coil from under the bed. "He wauz morbidly nervous ov fire, and aulwase kept this becide him, so dhat he mite escape bi the windo in cace the staerz wer barning."

"Dhat must hav saivd them trubbel," ced Hoamz, thautfooly. "Yes, the acchuwal facts ar verry plane, and I shal be cerpriazd if bi the aafternoone I canot ghiv u the rezonz for them az wel. I wil take this fotograaf ov Blescington, which I ce uppon the mantelpece, az it ma help me in mi inqwirese."

"But u hav toald us nuthhing!" cride the doctor.

"O, dhare can be no dout az too the ceeqwens ov events," ced Hoamz.

"Dhare wer thre ov them in it: the yung man, the oald man, and a thherd, too whoose identity I hav no clu. The ferst too, I nede hardly remarc, ar the same whoo maaskeraded az the Rushan count and hiz sun, so we can ghiv a verry fool

descripshon ov them. Dha wer admitted bi a confedderate incide the hous.
If I

mite offer u a werd ov advice, Inspector, it wood be too arest the page,
whoo, az I understand, haz oarly recently cum intoo yor cervice, Doctor."

"The yung imp canot be found," ced Dr. Treveleyan; "the made and the cooc
hav just bene cerching for him."

Hoamz shrugd hiz shoalderz.

"He haz plade a not unnimportant part in this draamaa," ced he. "The thre
men
havving acended the staerz, which dha did on tipto, the elder man ferst,
the
yun'gher man cecond, and the un'none man in the rere—"

"Mi dere Hoamz!" I ejacculated.

"O, dhare cood be no qweschon az too the superimposing ov the footmarx.
I had

the advaantage ov lerning which wauz which laast nite. Dha acended,
then, too

Mr. Blescingtonz roome, the doer ov which dha found too be loct. Withe the
help ov a wire, houwevver, dha foerst round the ke. Even widhout the lenz
u

wil perceve, bi the scratchez on this word, whare the preshure wauz aplide.

"On entering the roome dhare ferst proceding must hav bene too gag Mr.
Blescington. He ma hav bene aslepe, or he ma hav bene so parraliazd withe
terror az too hav bene unnabel too cri out. These waulz ar thhic, and it iz
concevable dhat hiz shreke, if he had time too utter wun, wauz unherd.

"Havving cecuerd him, it iz evvident too me dhat a consultaishon ov sum
sort wauz

held. Probbably it wauz sumthhing in the nachure ov a judishal proceeding.
It must
hav laasted for sum time, for it wauz then dhat these cigarz wer smoact.
The
oalder man sat in dhat wicker chare; it wauz he whoo uezd the cigar-
hoalder. The
yun'gher man sat over yonder; he noct hiz ash of against the chest ov
drauwerz. The thherd fello paist up and doun. Blescington, I thhinc, sat
uprite
in the bed, but ov dhat I cannot be absoluetly certane.

"Wel, it ended bi dhare taking Blescington and hanging him. The matter
wauz so
preyarainjd dhat it iz mi belefe dhat dha braut withe them sum sort ov bloc
or poolly which mite cerv az a gallose. Dhat scru-driver and dhose scruse
wer, az I conceive, for fixing it up. Ceyng the hooc, houwevver dha
natchuraly
saivd themcelvz the trubbel. Havving finnisht dhare werc dha made of,
and the
doer wauz bard behiand them bi dhare confedderate."

We had aul liscend withe the depest interest too this skech ov the niats
doowingz, which Hoamz had dejuest from cianz so suttel and minnute
dhat, even
when he had pointed them out too us, we cood scaersly follo him in hiz
rezoning. The inspector hurrede awa on the instant too make inqwirese
about
the page, while Hoamz and I reternd too Baker Strete for breccfast.

"Ile be bac bi thre," ced he, when we had finnisht our mele. "Boath the
inspector and the doctor wil mete me here at dhat our, and I hope bi dhat
time too hav cleerd up enny littel obscurity which the cace ma stil present."

Our vizsitorz ariavd at the apointed time, but it wauz a qworter too foer befoer mi frend poot in an aperans. From hiz expreshon az he enterd, houwevver, I cood ce dhat aul had gon wel withe him.

"Enny nuse, Inspector?"

"We hav got the boi, cer."

"Exelent, and I hav got the men."

"U hav got them!" we cride, aul thre.

"Wel, at leest I hav got dhare identity. This so-cauld Blescington iz, az I expected, wel none at hedqworterz, and so ar hiz asalants. Dhare naimz ar Biddel, Haword, and Moffat."

"The Worthingdon banc gang," cride the inspector.

"Preciasly," ced Hoamz.

"Then Blescington must hav bene Sutton."

"Exactly," ced Hoamz.

"Whi, dhat maix it az clere az cristal," ced the inspector.

But Treveleyan and I looct at eche uther in bewilderment.

"U must shuerly remember the grate Worthingdon banc biznes," ced Hoamz.

"Five men wer in it—these foer and a fifth cauld Cartwrite. Tobin, the

care-taker, wauz merderd, and the thheevz got awa withe cevven thousand poundz.

This wauz in 1875. Dha wer aul five arested, but the evvidens against them wauz bi no meenz conclucive. This Blescington or Sutton, whoo wauz the werst ov the gang, ternd informer. On hiz evvidens Cartwrite wauz hangd and the uther thre got fiftene yeerz apece. When dha got out the uther da, which wauz sum yeerz befoer dhare fool term, dha cet themcelvz, az u perceve, too hunt doun the trator and too avenj the deth ov dhare comrade uppon him. Twice dha tride too ghet at him and faild; a thherd time, u ce, it came of. Iz dhare ennithhing ferther which I can explane, Dr. Treveleyan?"

"I thhinc u hav made it aul remarcabel clere," ced the doctor. "No dout the da on which he wauz perterbd wauz the da when he had cene ov dhare relece in the nuespaperz."

"Qwite so. Hiz tauc about a berglary wauz the merest bliand."

"But whi cood he not tel u this?"

"Wel, mi dere cer, nowing the vindictive carracter ov hiz oald asoasheyaits, he wauz triying too hide hiz one identity from evveriboddy az long az he cood. Hiz ceecret wauz a shaimfool wun, and he cood not bring himself too divulj it. Houwevver, rech az he wauz, he wauz stil livving under the sheeld ov Brittish lau, and I hav no dout, Inspector, dhat u wil ce dhat, dho dhat sheeld ma fale too gard, the soerd ov justice iz stil dhare too avenj."

Such wer the cin'gular circumstaancez in conecshon withe the Rezsident Paishent and the Brooc Strete Doctor. From dhat nite nuthhing haz bene cene ov the thre merdererz bi the polece, and it iz cermiazd at Scotland Yard dhat dha wer among the pascen'gerz ov the il-fated stemer Noeraa Crenaa, which wauz lost sum yeerz ago withe aul handz uppon the Porchughese coast, sum leegz too the north ov Oporto. The proceedingz against the page broke doun for waunt ov evvidens, and the Brooc Strete Mistery, az it wauz cauld, haz nevver until nou bene folly delt withe in enny public print.

Advenchure 9.

The Greke Interpreter

Juring mi long and intimate aqwaintans withe Mr. Sherloc Hoamz I had nevver herd him refer too hiz relaishonz, and hardly evver too hiz one erly life. This

reticence upon his part had increased the somewhat inhuman effect which
he
projected upon me, until sometime I found myself regarding him as an
isolated
phenomenon, a being without a heart, as deficient in human sympathy as
he was
pre-eminent in intelligence. His aversion to women and his
disinclination to
form new friendships were both typical of his unemotional character, but
not
more so than his complete suppression of every reference to his one
parent. I
had come to believe that he was an orphan with no relatives living, but
when
at last, to my very great surprise, he began to talk to me about his brother.

It was after tea on a summer evening, and the conversation, which had
ranged in
a desultory, spasmodic fashion from golf clubs to the cause of the
change in
the obliquity of the ecliptic, came round at last to the question of
atavism
and hereditary aptitudes. The point under discussion was, how far
any in-
born gift in an individual was due to his ancestry and how far to his one
early
training.

"In your case," said I, "from all that you have told me, it seems obvious
that your faculty of observation and your peculiar facility for
deduction are
due to your one systematic training."

"To some extent," he answered, thoughtfully. "My ancestors were country

sqwiarz, whoo apere too hav led much the same life az iz natchural too
dhare
claas. But, nun the les, mi tern dhat wa iz in mi vainz, and ma hav cum
withe mi grandmuther, whoo wauz the cister ov Vaerna, the French artist.
Art in
the blud iz liyabel too take the strain'gest formz."

"But hou doo u no dhat it iz hereditary?"

"Becauz mi bruther Miacroft posescez it in a larger degry dhan I doo."

This wauz nuse too me indede. If dhare wer anuther man withe such
cin'gular pouwerz
in In'gland, hou wauz it dhat niather polece nor public had herd ov him? I
poot
the qweschon, withe a hint dhat it wauz mi companyonz moddesty which
made him
acnollej hiz bruther az hiz supereyor. Hoamz laaft at mi sugeschon.

"Mi dere Wautson," ced he, "I canot agry withe dhose whoo ranc moddesty
among
the verchuse. Too the logishan aul thhingz shood be cene exactly az dha ar,
and
too underestimate wunz celf iz az much a deparchure from trueth az too
exadgerate
wunz one pouwerz. When I sa, dhaerfoer, dhat Miacroft haz better
pouwerz ov
observaishon dhan I, u ma take it dhat I am speking the exact and litteral
trueth."

"Iz he yor juenyor?"

"Cevven yeerz mi ceenyor."

"Hou cumz it dhat he iz un'none?"

"O, he iz verry wel none in hiz one cerkel."

"Whare, then?"

"Wel, in the Diyodgenese Club, for exaampel."

I had nevver herd ov the instichueshon, and mi face must hav proclaimd az much,
for Sherloc Hoamz poold out hiz wauch.

"The Diyodgenese Club iz the qwerest club in Lundon, and Miacroft wun ov the qwerest men. Hese aulwase dhare from qworter too five too twenty too ate. Its cix nou, so if u care for a strole this butifool evening I shal be verry happy too introjuce u too too cureyoscitese."

Five minnuets later we wer in the strete, wauking toowordz Regents Cercus.

"U wunder," ced mi companyon, "whi it iz dhat Miacroft duz not use hiz pouwerz for detective werc. He iz incapabel ov it."

"But I thaut u ced—"

"I ced dhat he wauz mi supereyor in observaishon and deducshon. If the art ov the detective began and ended in rezoning from an arm-chare, mi bruther wood be the gratest crimminal agent dhat evver livd. But he haz no ambishon and no

energy. He will not even go out of his way to verify his one solution,
and
would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself
right.

Again and again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an
explanation
which has afterwards proved to be the correct one. And yet he was
absolutely
incapable of working out the practical points which must be gone into
before a
case could be laid before a judge or jury."

"It is not his profession, then?"

"By no means. What is to me a means of livelihood is to him the merest
hobby or
a diletanty. He has an extraordinary faculty for figuring, and audits the
books
in sum of the government departments. Microft lodges in Pal Mal, and
he
waxes round the corner into Whitehall every morning and back every
evening.
From year's end to year's end he takes no other exercise, and is seen
nowhere
else, except only in the Diodgenese Club, which is just opposite his rooms."

"I cannot recall the name."

"Very likely not. There are many men in London, you know, who, sum from
shines, sum from misanthropy, have no wish for the company of their
fellows.
Yet they are not averse to comfortable chairs and the latest periodicals. It
is

for the convenyens ov these dhat the Diyodgenese Club wauz started, and
it nou
containz the moast unsoashabel and unclubbabel men in toun. No member
iz permitted
too take the leest notice ov enny uther wun. Save in the Strain'gerz Roome,
no
tauking iz, under enny circumstaancez, aloud, and thre ofencez, if braut
too
the notice ov the comitty, render the tauker liyabel too expulshon. Mi
bruther
wauz wun ov the founderz, and I hav micelf found it a verry suithing
atmosfere."

We had reecht Pal Mal az we tauct, and wer wauking down it from the St.
Jaimsez end. Sherloc Hoamz stopt at a doer sum littel distans from the
Carlton, and, caushoning me not too speke, he led the wa intoo the haul.
Throo
the glaas panneling I caut a glimps ov a larj and lucshureyous roome, in
which a
concidderabel number ov men wer citting about and reding paperz, eche in
hiz
one littel nooc. Hoamz shode me intoo a smaul chaimber which looct out
intoo
Pal Mal, and then, leving me for a minnute, he came bac withe a
companyon
whoome I nu cood oonly be hiz bruther.

Miacroft Hoamz wauz a much larger and stouter man dhan Sherloc. Hiz
boddy wauz
absoluetly corpulent, but hiz face, dho mascive, had preservd sumthhing
ov
the sharpnes ov expreshon which wauz so remarcabel in dhat ov hiz
bruther. Hiz
ise, which wer ov a peculeyarly lite, wautery gra, ceemd too aulwase retane

dhat far-awa, introspective looc which I had oonly observd in Sherlox when he wauz exerting hiz fool pouwerz.

"I am glad too mete u, cer," ced he, pootting out a braud, fat hand like the flipper ov a cele. "I here ov Sherloc evverihware cins u became hiz cronniacler. Bi the wa, Sherloc, I expected too ce u round laast weke, too consult me over dhat Mannor Hous cace. I thaut u mite be a littel out ov yor depth."

"No, I solvd it," ced mi frend, smiling.

"It wauz Addamz, ov coers."

"Yes, it wauz Addamz."

"I wauz shure ov it from the ferst." The too sat down tooghether in the bo-windo ov the club. "Too enny wun whoo wishez too studdy mankiand this iz the spot," ced Miacroft. "Looc at the magnifficent tiaps! Looc at these too men whoo ar cumming toowordz us, for exaampel."

"The billeyard-marker and the uther?"

"Preciasly. Whaut doo u make ov the uther?"

The too men had stopt opposite the windo. Sum chauc marx over the waistcote pocket wer the oonly cianz ov billeyardz which I cood ce in wun ov them. The uther wauz a verry smaull, darc fello, withe hiz hat poosht bac and cevveral paccagez under hiz arm.

"An oald soalger, I perceve," ced Sherlock.

"And verry recently discharjd," remarkt the bruther.

"Cervd in Injaa, I ce."

"And a non-comishond officer."

"Rooyal Artillery, I fancy," ced Sherlock.

"And a widdower."

"But withe a chiald."

"Children, mi dere boi, children."

"Cum," ced I, laafing, "this iz a littel too much."

"Shuerly," aancerd Hoamz, "it iz not hard too sa dhat a man withe dhat baring, expreshon ov authority, and sunbaict skin, iz a soalger, iz moer dhan a private, and iz not long from Injaa."

"Dhat he haz not left the cervice long iz shone bi hiz stil waring hiz amunishon buits, az dha ar cauld," observd Miacroft.

"He had not the cavvalry stride, yet he woer hiz hat on wun cide, az iz shone bi the liter skin ov dhat cide ov hiz brou. Hiz wate iz against hiz beying a sapper. He iz in the artillery."

"Then, ov coers, hiz complete moerning shose dhat he haz lost sum wun verry

dere. The fact dhat he iz doowing hiz one shopping loox az dho it wer hiz wife. He haz bene biying thhingz for children, u perceve. Dhare iz a rattel, which shose dhat wun ov them iz verry yung. The wife probbably dide in chialdbed.

The fact dhat he haz a picchure-booc under hiz arm shose dhat dhare iz anuther chiald too be thaut ov."

I began too understand whaut mi frend ment when he ced dhat hiz bruther posest even kener faccultese dhat he did himcelf. He glaanst acros at me and smiald. Miacroft tooc snuf from a tortois-shel box, and brusht awa the waandering grainz from hiz cote frunt withe a larj, red cilc hankerchefe.

"Bi the wa, Sherloc," ced he, "I hav had sumthhing qwite aafter yor one hart—a moast cin'gular problem—submitted too mi jujment. I reyaly had not the ennergy too follo it up save in a verry incomplete fashon, but it gave me a baxis for sum plesing speculaishon. If u wood care too here the facts—"

"Mi dere Miacroft, I shood be delited."

The bruther scribbeld a note uppon a lefe ov hiz pocket-booc, and, ringing the bel, he handed it too the water.

"I hav aasct Mr. Melaaz too step acros," ced he. "He lodgez on the floer abuv me, and I hav sum slite aqwaintans withe him, which led him too cum too me in hiz perplexity. Mr. Melaaz iz a Greke bi extracshon, az I understand, and he iz a remarcabel lin'gwist. He ernz hiz livving partly az interpreter in the lau coerts and partly bi acting az ghide too enny welthhy Oreyentalz whoo ma vizsit the

Northumberland Avenue hotel. I think I will love him too tell his very remarkable experiences in his one fashion."

A few minutes later we were joined by a short, stout man whose olive face and
coal-black hair proclaimed his Southern origin, who his speech was that of an educated Englishman. He shook hands eagerly with Sherlock Holmes, and his
dark eyes sparkled with pleasure when he understood that the specialist was
anxious to hear his story.

"I do not believe that the police credit me—on my word, I do not," said he in a
wailing voice. "Just because I have never heard of it before, I think that such a thing cannot be. But I know that I shall never be easy in my mind until I know what has become of my poor man with the sticking-plaster upon his
face."

"I am all attention," said Sherlock Holmes.

"This is Wednesday evening," said Mr. Melrose. "Well then, it was Monday night—only two days ago, you understand—that all this happened. I am an interpreter, as perhaps my neighbor here has told you. I interpret all languages—or nearly all—but as I am a Greek by birth and with a Greek name,
it is with that particular tongue that I am principally associated. For many
years I have been the chief Greek interpreter in London, and my name is very
well known in the hotel."

"It happens not unfrequently that I am sent for at short notice by foreigners

whoo ghet intoo difficultese, or bi travvelerz whoo arive late and wish mi cervicez. I wauz not cerpriazd, dhaerfoer, on Munda nite when a Mr. Lattimer, a verry fashionably drest yung man, came up too mi ruimz and aasct me too acumpany him in a cab which wauz wating at the doer. A Greke frend had cum too ce him uppon biznes, he ced, and az he cood speke nuthing but hiz one tung, the cervicez ov an interpreter wer indispensabel. He gave me too understand dhat hiz hous wauz sum littel distans of, in Kensington, and he ceemd too be in a grate hurry, busling me rappidly intoo the cab when we had decended too the strete.

"I sa intoo the cab, but I soone became doutfool az too whether it wauz not a carrage in which I found micelf. It wauz certainly moer roomy dhan the ordinary foer-wheeld disgrace too Lundon, and the fittingz, dho frade, wer ov rich qwaulity. Mr. Lattimer ceted himcelf opposite too me and we started of throo Charing Cros and up the Shaafsbury Avvenu. We had cum out uppon Oxford Strete and I had venchuerd sum remarc az too this beying a roundabout wa too Kensington, when mi werdz wer arested bi the extrordinary conduct ov mi companyon.

"He began bi drauwing a moast formiddabel-loocking bludjon loded withe led from hiz pocket, and switching it baqword and forword cevveral tiamz, az if too test its wate and strength. Then he plaist it widhout a werd uppon the cete becide

him. Havving dun this, he dru up the windose on eche side, and I found too mi astonishment dhat dha wer cuvverd withe paper so az too prevent mi ceying throo them.

"I am sory too cut of yor vu, Mr. Melaaz,' ced he. The fact iz dhat I hav no intenshon dhat u shood ce whaut the place iz too which we ar driving. It mite poscibly be inconveenyent too me if u cood fiand yor wa dhare agane.'

"Az u can imadgine, I wauz utterly taken abac bi such an adres. Mi companyon wauz a pouwerfool, braud-shoalderd yung fello, and, apart from the weppon, I shood not hav had the slitest chaans in a strugghel withe him.

"This iz verry extrordinary conduct, Mr. Lattimer,' I stammerd. U must be aware dhat whaut u ar doowing iz qwite ilegal.'

"It iz sumwhaut ov a libberty, no dout,' ced he, but wele make it up too u. I must worn u, houwevver, Mr. Melaaz, dhat if at enny time too-nite u atempt too rase an alarm or doo ennithhing which iz against mi interests, u wil fiand it a verry cereyous thhing. I beg u too remember dhat no wun nose whare u ar, and dhat, whether u ar in this carrage or in mi hous, u ar eeqwaly in mi pouwer.'

"Hiz werdz wer qwiyet, but he had a raasping wa ov saying them which wauz verry mennacing. I sat in cilens wundering whaut on erth cood be hiz rezon for kidnaping me in this extrordinary fashon. Whautevver it mite be, it wauz perfectly clere dhat dhare wauz no poscibel uce in mi resisting, and dhat I cood oanly wate too ce whaut mite befaul.

"For neerly too ourz we drove widhout mi havving the leest clu az too
whare we
wer gowing. Sumtiamz the rattel ov the stoanz toald ov a paivd cauzwa,
and at
utherz our smuith, cilent coers sugested asfalt; but, save bi this
vareyaishon
in sound, dhare wauz nuthhing at aul which cood in the remotest wa help
me too
form a ghes az too whare we wer. The paper over eche windo wauz
impennetrabel
too lite, and a blu kertane wauz draun acros the glaas werc in frunt. It
wauz a
qworter-paast cevven when we left Pal Mal, and mi wauch shode me dhat
it wauz
ten minnuets too nine when we at laast came too a standstil. Mi
companyon let down
the windo, and I caut a glimps ov a lo, archt doerwa withe a lamp bering
abuv it. Az I wauz hurrede from the carrage it swung open, and I found
micelf
incide the hous, withe a vaghe impreshon ov a laun and trese on eche cide
ov
me az I enterd. Whether these wer private groundz, houwevver, or bonaa-
fidy
cuntry wauz moer dhan I cood poscibly venchure too sa.

"Dhare wauz a cullord gas-lamp incide which wauz ternd so lo dhat I cood
ce
littel save dhat the haul wauz ov sum cise and hung withe picchuerz. In the
dim
lite I cood make out dhat the person whoo had opend the doer wauz a
smaul,
mene-loocking, middel-aijd man withe rounded shoalderz. Az he ternd
toowordz us

the glint ov the lite shode me dhat he wauz waring glaacez.

"Iz this Mr. Melaaz, Harrold?' ced he.

"Yes.'

"Wel dun, wel dun! No il-wil, Mr. Melaaz, I hope, but we cood not ghet on widhout u. If u dele fare withe us ule not regret it, but if u tri enny trix, God help u!" He spoke in a nervous, gerky fashon, and withe littel ghigling laafs in betwene, but sumhou he imprest me withe fere moer dhan the uther.

"Whaut doo u waunt withe me?' I aasct.

"Oonly too aasc a fu qweschonz ov a Greke gentelman whoo iz vizsiting us, and too let us hav the aancerz. But sa no moer dhan u ar toald too sa, or—' here came the nervous ghigghel agane—u had better nevvver hav bene born.'

"Az he spoke he opend a doer and shode the wa intoo a roome which apeerd too be verry richly fernisht, but agane the oonly lite wauz afoerded bi a cin'ghel lamp haaf-ternd doun. The chaimber wauz certainly larj, and the wa in which mi fete sanc intoo the carpet az I stept acros it toald me ov its richnes. I caut glimpscez ov velvet chaerz, a hi white marbel mantel-pece, and whaut ceemd too be a sute ov Japanese armor at wun cide ov it. Dhare wauz a chare just under the lamp, and the elderly man moashond dhat I shood cit in it. The yun'gher had left us, but he suddenly reternd throo anuther doer, leding withe him a gentelman clad in sum sort ov looce drescing-goun whoo muivd sloly

toowordz us. Az he came intoo the cerkel ov dim lite which enabelz me too
ce him
moer cleerly I wauz thrild withe horror at hiz aperans. He wauz dedly pale
and terribly emaishated, withe the protruding, brilleyant ise ov a man
whoose
spirrit wauz grater dhan hiz strength. But whaut shoct me moer dhan enny
cianz
ov fizensal weecnes wauz dhat hiz face wauz grotescly cris-crost withe
sticking-plaaster, and dhat wun larj pad ov it wauz faacend over hiz
mouth.

"Hav u the slate, Harrold?" cride the oalder man, az this strainj beying fel
raather dhan sat doun intoo a chare. Ar hiz handz looce? Nou, then, ghiv
him
the pencil. U ar too aasc the qweschonz, Mr. Melaaz, and he wil rite the
aancerz. Aasc him ferst ov aul whether he iz prepaerd too cine the paperz?"

"The manz ise flasht fire.

"Nevver!" he rote in Greke uppon the slate.

"On no condishon?" I aasct, at the bidding ov our tirant.

"Oonly if I ce her marrede in mi prezsens bi a Greke preest whoome I no.'

"The man ghiggheld in hiz venomous wa.

"U no whaut awaits u, then?"

"I care nuthhing for micelf.'

"These ar saampelz ov the qweschonz and aancerz which made up our
strainj

haaf-spoken, haaf-ritten conversaishon. Agane and agane I had too aasc
him
whether he wood ghiv in and cine the documents. Agane and agane I had
the same
indignant repli. But soone a happy thaut came too me. I tooc too adding on
littel centencez ov mi one too eche qweschon, innocent wunz at ferst, too
test
whether iather ov our companyonz nu ennithhing ov the matter, and then,
az I
found dhat dha shode no cianz I plade a moer dain'gerous game. Our
conversaishon ran sumthhing like this:

"U can doo no good bi this obstinacy. Whoo ar u?"

"I care not. I am a strain'ger in Lundon."

"Yor fate wil be uppon yor one hed. Hou long hav u bene here?"

"Let it be so. Thre weex."

"The propperty can nevver be yorz. Whaut ailz u?"

"It shal not go too villainz. Dha ar starving me."

"U shal go fre if u cine. Whaut hous iz this?"

"I wil nevver cine. I doo not no."

"U ar not doowing her enny cervice. Whaut iz yor name?"

"Let me here her sa so. Cratiadz."

"U shal ce her if u cine. Whare ar u from?"

"Then I shal nevver ce her. Athhenz.'

"Anuther five minnuets, Mr. Hoamz, and I shood hav wermd out the whole stoery under dhare verry nose. Mi verry next qweschon mite hav cleerd the matter up, but at dhat instant the doer opend and a woomman stept intoo the roome. I cood not ce her cleerly enuf too no moer dhan dhat she wauz taul and graisfool, withe blac hare, and clad in sum sort ov looce white gown.

"Harrold,' ced she, speking In'glish withe a broken axent. 'I cood not sta awa lon'gher. It iz so loanly up dhare withe oanly—O, mi God, it iz Paul!'

"These laast werdz wer in Greke, and at the same instant the man withe a convulcive effort toer the plaaster from hiz lips, and screming out Sofy! Sofy!' rusht intoo the woommanz armz. Dhare embrace wauz but for an instant, houwevver, for the yun'gher man ceezd the woomman and poosht her out ov the roome, while the elder esily overpouwerd hiz emaishated victim, and dragd him awa throo the uther doer. For a moment I wauz left alone in the roome, and I sprang too mi fete withe sum vaghe ideyaa dhat I mite in sum wa ghet a clu too whaut this hous wauz in which I found micelf. Forchunaitly, houwevver, I tooc no steps, for loocking up I sau dhat the oalder man wauz standing in the doer-wa withe hiz ise fixt uppon me.

"Dhat wil doo, Mr. Melaaz,' ced he. U perceve dhat we hav taken u intoo our confidens over sum verry private biznes. We shood not hav trubbeld

u, oanly dhat our frend whoo speex Greke and whoo began these negoasheyaishonz haz bene foerst too retern too the Eest. It wauz qwite nescesary for us too fiand sum wun too take hiz place, and we wer forchunate in hering ov yor pouwerz.'

"I boud.

"Dhare ar five sovverainz here,' ced he, wauking up too me, which wil, I hope, be a sufishent fe. But remember,' he added, tapping me liatly on the chest and ghigling, if u speke too a human sole about this—wun human sole, miand—wel, ma God hav mercy uppon yor sole!"

"I canot tel u the loathing and horror withe which this incignifficant-loocking man inspiard me. I cood ce him better nou az the lamp-lite shon uppon him. Hiz fechuerz wer peky and sallo, and hiz littel pointed beerd wauz thredy and il-nurrisht. He poosht hiz face forword az he spoke and hiz lips and ilidz wer continnuwaly twitching like a man withe St. Vitucez daans. I cood not help thhinking dhat hiz strainj, catchy littel laaf wauz aulso a cimptom ov sum nervous mallady. The terror ov hiz face la in hiz ise, houwevver, stele gra, and gliscening coaldly withe a malignant, inexorabel cruwelty in dhare depths.

"We shal no if u speke ov this,' ced he. We hav our one meenz ov informaishon. Nou u wil fiand the carrage wating, and mi frend wil ce u on yor wa.'

"I wauz hurrede throo the haul and intoo the veyikel, agane obtaning dhat momentary glimps ov trese and a garden. Mr. Lattimer follode cloasly at mi

heelz, and tooc hiz place opposite too me widhout a werd. In cilens we
agane
drove for an interminabel distans withe the windose raizd, until at laast,
just
aafter midnite, the carrage poold up.

"U wil ghet doun here, Mr. Melaaz,' ced mi companyon. 'I am sorry too leve
u so far from yor hous, but dhare iz no aulternative. Enny atempt uppon
yor
part too follo the carrage can oanly end in injury too yorcelf.'

"He opend the doer az he spoke, and I had hardly time too spring out when
the
coachman lasht the hors and the carrage ratteld awa. I looct around me in
astonnishment. I wauz on sum sort ov a heethhy common motteld over
withe darc
clumps ov ferz-booshez. Far awa strecht a line ov housez, withe a lite here
and dhare in the upper windose. On the uther cide I sau the red signal-
lamps ov
a railwa.

"The carrage which had braut me wauz aulreddy out ov cite. I stood gasing
round and wundering whare on erth I mite be, when I sau sum wun
cumming
toowordz me in the darcnes. Az he came up too me I made out dhat he
wauz a
railwa poerter.

"Can u tel me whaut place this iz?' I aasct.

"Wandsworth Common,' ced he.

"Can I ghet a trane intoo toun?"

"If u wauc on a mile or so too Clappam Juncshon,' ced he, ule just be in time for the laast too Victoereyaa.'

"So dhat wauz the end ov mi advenchure, Mr. Hoamz. I doo not no whare I wauz, nor whoome I spoke withe, nor ennithhing save whaut I hav toald u. But I no dhat dhare iz foul pla gowing on, and I waunt too help dhat unhappy man if I can. I toald the whole stoery too Mr. Miacroft Hoamz next morning, and subceqwently too the polece."

We aul sat in cilens for sum littel time aafter liscening too this extrordnary narrative. Then Sherloc looct acros at hiz bruther.

"Enny steps?" he aasct.

Miacroft pict up the Daly Nuse, which wauz liying on the cide-tabel.

"Enniboddy supliying enny informaishon too the wharabouts ov a Greke gentelman naimd Paul Cratiadz, from Athhenz, whoo iz unnabel too speke In'glish, wil be reworded. A cimmilar reword pade too enny wun ghivving informaishon about a Greke lady whoose ferst name iz Sofy. X 2473.' Dhat wauz in aul the dalese. No aancer."

"Hou about the Greke Legaishon?"

"I hav inqwiard. Dha no nuthhing."

"A wire too the hed ov the Athhenz polece, then?"

"Sherloc haz aul the ennergy ov the fammily," ced Miacroft, terning too me.
"Wel, u take the cace up bi aul meenz, and let me no if u doo enny good."

"Certainly," aancerd mi frend, rising from hiz chare. "Ile let u no, and
Mr. Melaaz aulso. In the meentime, Mr. Melaaz, I shood certainly be on mi
gard,
if I wer u, for ov coers dha must no throo these advertiazments dhat
u hav betrade them."

Az we wauct home tooghether, Hoamz stopt at a tellegraaf office and cent
of
cevveral wiarz.

"U ce, Wautson," he remarct, "our evening haz bene bi no meenz waisted.
Sum
ov mi moast interesting cacez hav cum too me in this wa throo Miacroft.
The
problem which we hav just liscend too, auldho it can admit ov but wun
explanaishon, haz stil sum distin'gwishing fechuerz."

"U hav hoaps ov solving it?"

"Wel, nowing az much az we doo, it wil be cin'gular indede if we fale too
discuver the rest. U must yorcelf hav formd sum ththeyory which wil
explane
the facts too which we hav liscend."

"In a vaghe wa, yes."

"Whaut wauz yor ideyaa, then?"

"It ceemd too me too be obveyous dhat this Greke gherl had bene carrede
of bi the

yung In'glisnman naimd Harrold Lattimer."

"Carrede of from whare?"

"Athhenz, perhaps."

Sherloc Hoamz shooc hiz hed. "This yung man cood not tauc a werd ov Greke.

The lady cood tauc In'glisn faerly wel. Inferens—dhat she had bene in In'gland sum littel time, but he had not bene in Grece."

"Wel, then, we wil prezume dhat she had cum on a vizsit too In'gland, and dhat this Harrold had perswaded her too fli withe him."

"Dhat iz moer probbabel."

"Then the bruther—for dhat, I fancy, must be the relaishonship—cumz over from Grece too interfere. He imprudently poots himcelf intoo the pouwer ov the yung man and hiz oalder asoasheyate. Dha cese him and use viyolens toowordz him in order too make him cine sum paperz too make over the gherlz forchune—ov which he ma be trusty—too them. This he refusez too doo. In order too negoasheyate withe him dha hav too ghet an interpreter, and dha pich uppon this Mr. Melaaz, havving uezd sum uther wun befoer. The gherl iz not toald ov the arival ov her bruther, and fiandz it out bi the merest axident."

"Exelent, Wautson!" cride Hoamz. "I reyaly fancy dhat u ar not far from the trueth. U ce dhat we hoald aul the cardz, and we hav oonly too fere sum sudden act ov viyolens on dhare part. If dha ghiv us time we must hav them."

"But hou can we fiand whare this hous lise?"

"Wel, if our con'gechure iz corect and the gherlz name iz or wauz Sofy Cratiadz, we shood hav no difficulty in tracing her. Dhat must be our mane hope, for the bruther iz, ov coers, a complete strain'ger. It iz clere dhat sum time haz elapst cins this Harrold establisht these relaishonz withe the gherl—sum weex, at enny rate—cins the bruther in Grece haz had time too here ov it and cum acros. If dha hav bene livving in the same place juring this time, it iz probbabel dhat we shal hav sum aancer too Miacrofts advertiazment."

We had reecht our hous in Baker Strete while we had bene tauking. Hoamz acended the stare ferst, and az he opend the doer ov our roome he gave a start ov cerprise. Loocking over hiz shoalder, I wauz eeqwaly astonnisht. Hiz bruther Miacroft wauz citting smoking in the arm-chare.

"Cum in, Sherloc! Cum in, cer," ced he blandly, smiling at our cerpriazd facez. "U doant expect such ennergy from me, doo u, Sherloc? But sumhou this cace atracts me."

"Hou did u ghet here?"

"I paast u in a hansom."

"Dhare haz bene sum nu devellopment?"

"I had an aancer too mi advertiazment."

"Aa!"

"Yes, it came within a fu minnuets ov yor leving."

"And too whaut efect?"

Miacroft Hoamz tooc out a shete ov paper.

"Here it iz," ced he, "ritten withe a J pen on roiyal creme paper bi a middel-aijd man withe a weke constichueshon. Cer,' he cez, in aancer too yor advertiazment ov too-dase date, I beg too inform u dhat I no the yung lady in qweschon verry wel. If u shood care too caul uppon me I cood ghiv u sum particcularz az too her painfool history. She iz livving at prezsent at The Mertelz, Beckenham. Yorz faithfooly, J. Davvenpoert.'

"He riats from Lower Brixton," ced Miacroft Hoamz. "Doo u not thhinc dhat we mite drive too him nou, Sherloc, and lern these particcularz?"

"Mi dere Miacroft, the brutherz life iz moer vallubel dhan the cisterz stoery. I thhinc we shood caul at Scotland Yard for Inspector Gregson, and go strate out too Beckenham. We no dhat a man iz beying dun too deth, and evvery our ma be vital."

"Better pic up Mr. Melaaz on our wa," I sugested. "We ma nede an interpreter."

"Exelent," ced Sherloc Hoamz. "Cend the boi for a foer-wheler, and we shal be of at wuns." He opend the tabel-drauwer az he spoke, and I notiast dhat he slipt hiz revolver intoo hiz pocket. "Yes," ced he, in aancer too mi glaans; "I shood sa from whaut we hav herd, dhat we ar deling withe a particcularly dain'gerous gang."

It wauz aulmoast darc befoer we found ourcelvz in Pal Mal, at the ruimz ov Mr.

Melaaz. A gentelman had just cauld for him, and he wauz gon.

"Can u tel me whare?" aasct Miacroft Hoamz.

"I doant no, cer," aancerd the woomman whoo had opend the doer; "I oonly no dhat he drove awa withe the gentelman in a carrage."

"Did the gentelman ghiv a name?"

"No, cer."

"He wauznt a taul, handsum, darc yung man?"

"O, no, cer. He wauz a littel gentelman, withe glaacez, thhin in the face, but verry plezzant in hiz wase, for he wauz laafing aul the time dhat he wauz tauking."

"Cum along!" cride Sherloc Hoamz, abruptly. "This grose cereyous," he observd, az we drove too Scotland Yard. "These men hav got hoald ov Melaaz agane. He iz a man ov no fizensal currage, az dha ar wel aware from dhare expereyens the uther nite. This villane wauz abel too terrorise him the instant

dhat he got intoo hiz prezsens. No dout dha waunt hiz profeshonal cervicez,
but, havving uezd him, dha ma be incliand too punnish him for whaut dha wil regard az hiz tretchery."

Our hope wauz dhat, bi taking trane, we mite ghet too Beckenham az soone or sooner dhan the carrage. On reching Scotland Yard, houwevver, it wauz moer dhan an our befoer we cood ghet Inspector Gregson and compli withe the legal formallitese which wood enabel us too enter the hous. It wauz a qworter too ten befoer we reecht Lundon Brij, and haaf paast befoer the foer ov us alited on the Beckenham platform. A drive ov haaf a mile braut us too The Mertelz—a larj, darc hous standing bac from the rode in its one groundz. Here we dismiss our cab, and made our wa up the drive tooghether.

"The windose ar aul darc," remarct the inspector. "The hous ceemz deserted."

"Our berdz ar flone and the nest empty," ced Hoamz.

"Whi doo u sa so?"

"A carrage hevvely loded withe luggage haz paast out juring the laast our."

The inspector laaft. "I sau the whele-trax in the lite ov the gate-lamp, but whare duz the luggage cum in?"

"U ma hav observd the same whele-trax gowing the uther wa. But the

outword-bound wunz wer verry much deper—so much so dhat we can sa
for a
certainty dhat dhare wauz a verry concidderabel wate on the carrage."

"U ghet a trifel beyond me dhare," ced the inspector, shrugging hiz
shoalder.

"It wil not be an esy doer too foers, but we wil tri if we canot make sum
wun here us."

He hammerd loudly at the nocker and poold at the bel, but widhout enny
suxes. Hoamz had slipt awa, but he came bac in a fu minnuets.

"I hav a windo open," ced he.

"It iz a mercy dhat u ar on the cide ov the foers, and not against it, Mr.
Hoamz," remarct the inspector, az he noted the clevver wa in which mi
frend
had foerst bac the cach. "Wel, I thhinc dhat under the cercumstaancez we
ma
enter widhout an invitaishon."

Wun aafter the uther we made our wa intoo a larj apartment, which wauz
evvidently
dhat in which Mr. Melaaz had found himcelf. The inspector had lit hiz
lantern,
and bi its lite we cood ce the too doerz, the kertane, the lamp, and the
sute ov Japanese male az he had descriabd them. On the tabel la too
glaacez,
and empty brandy-bottel, and the remainz ov a mele.

"Whaut iz dhat?" aasct Hoamz, suddenly.

We aul stood stil and liscend. A lo moning sound wauz cumming from
sumwhare

over our hedz. Hoamz rusht too the doer and out intoo the haul. The
dizmal
noiz came from upstaerz. He dasht up, the inspector and I at hiz heelz,
while
hiz bruther Miacroft follode az qwicly az hiz grate bulc wood permit.

Thre doerz faist up uppon the cecond floer, and it wauz from the central
ov
these dhat the cinnister soundz wer ishuwing, cinking sumtiamz intoo a
dul
mumbel and rising agane intoo a shril whine. It wauz loct, but the ke had
bene left on the outside. Hoamz flung open the doer and rusht in, but he
wauz
out agane in an instant, withe hiz hand too hiz throte.

"Its charcole," he cride. "Ghiv it time. It wil clere."

Pering in, we cood ce dhat the oonly lite in the roome came from a dul blu
flame which flickerd from a smaual braas tripod in the center. It thru a
livvid, un'natchural cerkel uppon the floer, while in the shaddose beyond
we sau the
vaghe loome ov too figguerz which croucht against the waul. From the
open doer
dhare reect a horibel poizonous exhalaishon which cet us gaasping and
coffing.
Hoamz rusht too the top ov the staerz too drau in the fresh are, and then,
dashing intoo the roome, he thru up the windo and herld the brasen tripod
out
intoo the garden.

"We can enter in a minnute," he gaaspt, darting out agane. "Whare iz a
candel? I
dout if we cood strike a mach in dhat atmosfere. Hoald the lite at the doer
and we shal ghet them out, Miacroft, nou!"

Withe a rush we got too the poizond men and dragd them out intoo the
wel-lit
haul. Boath ov them wer blu-lipt and incencibel, withe swollen, congested
facez and protruding ise. Indede, so distorted wer dhare fechuerz dhat,
save
for hiz blac beard and stout figgure, we mite hav faild too reccognise in
wun
ov them the Greke interpreter whoo had parted from us oonly a fu ourz
befoer at
the Diyodgenese Club. Hiz handz and fete wer cecuerly strapt tooghether,
and he
boer over wun i the marx ov a violent blo. The uther, whoo wauz cecuerd
in a
cimmilar fashon, wauz a taul man in the laast stage ov emaishaishon, withe
cevveral
strips ov sticking-plaaster arainjd in a grotesc pattern over hiz face. He
had ceest too mone az we lade him doun, and a glaans shode me dhat for
him at
leest our ade had cum too late. Mr. Melaaz, houwevver, stil livd, and in les
dhan an our, withe the ade ov amoanyaa and brandy I had the satisfacshon
ov
ceying him open hiz ise, and ov nowing dhat mi hand had draun him bac
from
dhat darc vally in which aul paaths mete.

It wauz a cimpel stoery which he had too tel, and wun which did but
conferm our
one deducshonz. Hiz vizsitor, on entering hiz ruimz, had draun a life-
preserver
from hiz sleve, and had so imprest him withe the fere ov instant and
inevvitabel deth dhat he had kidnapt him for the cecond time. Indede, it
wauz

aulmoast mezmeric, the efect which this ghigling ruffeyan had projuest
uppon the
unforchunate lin'gwist, for he cood not speke ov him save withe trembling
handz
and a blaansht cheke. He had bene taken swiftly too Beckenham, and had
acted az
interpreter in a cecond intervuu, even moer dramattic dhan the ferst, in
which
the too In'glisshmen had mennaist dhare prizzoner withe instant deth if he
did not
compli withe dhare demaandz. Finaly, fianding him proofe against evvery
thret,
dha had herld him bac intoo hiz prizzon, and aafter reproching Melaaz
withe hiz
tretchery, which apeerd from the nuesday advertiazment, dha had stund
him withe a blo from a stic, and he rememberd nuthhing moer until he
found us
bending over him.

And this wauz the cin'gular cace ov the Greeshan Interpreter, the
explanaishon ov
which iz stil involvd in sum mistery. We wer abel too fiand out, bi
comunicating withe the gentelman whoo had aancerd the advertiazment,
dhat the
unforchunate yung lady came ov a welthhy Greeshan fammily, and dhat
she had bene
on a vizsit too sum frendz in In'gland. While dhare she had met a yung
man
naimd Harrold Lattimer, whoo had aqwiard an ascendancy over her and
had
evenchuwaly perswaded her too fli withe him. Her frendz, shoct at the
event,
had contented themcelvz withe informing her bruther at Athhenz, and had
then

washt dhare handz ov the matter. The bruther, on hiz arival in In'gland, had imprudently plaist himcelf in the pouwer ov Lattimer and ov hiz asoasheyate, whoose name wauz Wilson Kemp—a man ov the foulest antecedents. These too, fianding dhat throo hiz ignorans ov the lan'gwage he wauz helples in dhare handz, had kept him a prizzoner, and had endevvord bi cruwelty and starvaishon too make him cine awa hiz one and hiz cisterz propperty. Dha had kept him in the hous widhout the gherlz nollej, and the plaaster over the face had bene for the perpoce ov making recognishon difficult in cace she shood evver cach a glimps ov him. Her feminine percepshon, houwevver, had instantly cene throo the disghise when, on the ocaizhon ov the interpreterz vizsit, she had cene him for the ferst time. The poor gherl, houwevver, wauz hercelf a prizzoner, for dhare wauz no wun about the hous exept the man whoo acted az coachman, and hiz wife, boath ov whoome wer tuilz ov the conspirratorz. Fianding dhat dhare ceecret wauz out, and dhat dhare prizzoner wauz not too be cowerst, the too villainz withe the gherl had fled awa at a fu ourz notice from the fernisht hous which dha had hiard, havving ferst, az dha thaut, taken venjans boath uppon the man whoo had defide and the wun whoo had betrade them.

Munths aafterwordz a cureyous nuespaper cutting reecht us from Budaapesth. It toald hou too In'glishmen whoo had bene traveling withe a woomman had met withe a

tradgic end. Dha had eche bene stabd, it ceemz, and the Hun'gareyan polece wer ov opinyon dhat dha had qworeld and had inflicted mortal injurese uppon eche uther. Hoamz, houwevver, iz, I fancy, ov a different wa ov ththinking, and hoaldz too this da dhat, if wun cood fiand the Greeshan gherl, wun mite lern hou the rongz ov hercelf and her bruther came too be avenjd.

Advenchure 10.

The Naval Trety

The Juli which imejaitly suxeded mi marrage wauz made memmorabel bi thre cacez ov interest, in which I had the privvilege ov beying asoasheyated withe Sherloc Hoamz and ov studdeying hiz methodz. I fiand them recorded in mi noats under the heddingz ov "The Advenchure ov the Ceccond Stane," "The Advenchure ov the Naval Trety," and "The Advenchure ov the Tiard Captane." The ferst ov

these, houwevver, deelz withe interest ov such importans and implicaits so
menny
ov the ferst fammilese in the kingdom dhat for menny yeerz it wil be
imposcibel
too make it public. No cace, houwevver, in which Hoamz wauz en'gaijd
haz evver
illustrated the vullu ov hiz analittical methodz so cleerly or haz imprest
dhose whoo wer asoasheyated withe him so deeply. I stil retane an
aulmoast verbatim
repoert ov the intervuu in which he demmonstrated the tru facts ov the cace
too
Msyer Jubugu ov the Parris polece, and Frits von Waldbaum, the wel-none
speshalist ov Dantsig, boath ov whoome had waisted dhare ennergese
uppon whaut pruid
too be cide-ishuse. The nu cenchury wil hav cum, houwevver, befoer the
stoery
can be saifly toald. Meenwhile I paas on too the cecond on mi list, which
prommiast aulso at wun time too be ov nashonal importans, and wauz
marct bi
cevveral incidents which ghiv it a qwite uneke carracter.

Juring mi scoole-dase I had bene intimaitly asoasheyated withe a lad naimd
Percy
Felps, whoo wauz ov much the same age az micelf, dho he wauz too
claacez ahead
ov me. He wauz a verry brilleyant boi, and carrede awa evvery prise which
the
scoole had too offer, finnisht hiz exploits bi winning a scollarship which
cent
him on too continnu hiz triyumfant carere at Caimbrij. He wauz, I
remember,
extreemly wel conected, and even when we wer aul littel boiz toogheter
we
nu dhat hiz mutherz bruther wauz Lord Hold'herst, the grate concervative

politishan. This gaudy relationship did him little good at school. On the contrary, it seemed rather a peccant thing to us too, to cheat him about the playground and hit him over the shin with a wicket. But it was another thing

when he came out into the world. I heard vaguely that his abilities and the influence which he commanded had won him a good position at the Forane

Office, and then he passed completely out of my mind until the following letter

recalled his existence:

Briarbra, Woking. My dear Watson,—I have no doubt that you can remember "Tadpole" Felps, who was in the fifth form when you were in the third. It is

possible even that you may have heard that through my uncle's influence I obtained a good appointment at the Forane Office, and that I was in a position of trust and honor until a horrible misfortune came suddenly to blast my career.

There is no use riting of the details of that dreadful event. In the event of your agreeing to my request it is probable that I shall have to narrate them too

to you. I have only just recovered from nine weeks of brain-fever, and am still exceedingly weak. Do you think that you could bring your friend Mr. Hoamz down

to see me? I should like to have his opinion of the case, and the authorities assure me that nothing more can be done. Do try to bring him down,

and as soon as possible. Every minute seems an hour while I live in this state

of horrible suspense. Assure him that if I have not asked his advice sooner it was not because I did not appreciate his talents, but because I have been of

mi hed evver cins the blo fel. Nou I am clere agane, dho I dare not thhinc ov it too much for fere ov a relaps. I am stil so weke dhat I hav too rite, az u ce, bi dictating. Doo tri too bring him.

Yor oald scoole-fello,

Percy Felps.

Dhare wauz sumthhing dhat tucht me az I rede this letter, sumthhing pitteyabel in the reyitterated apeelz too bring Hoamz. So muivd wauz I dhat even had it bene a difficult matter I shood hav tride it, but ov coers I nu wel dhat Hoamz luvd hiz art, so dhat he wauz evver az reddy too bring hiz ade az hiz cliyent cood be too receve it. Mi wife agrede withe me dhat not a moment shood be lost in laying the matter befoer him, and so within an our ov brecfast-time I found micelf bac wuns moer in the oald ruimz in Baker Strete.

Hoamz wauz ceted at hiz cide-tabel clad in hiz drescing-goun, and werking hard over a kemmical investigaishon. A larj kervd retort wauz boiling fureyously in the bluwish flame ov a Buncen berner, and the distild drops wer condencing intoo a too-leter mezhure. Mi frend hardly glaanst up az I enterd, and I, ceying dhat hiz investigaishon must be ov importans, ceted micelf in an arm-chare and wated. He dipt intoo this bottel or dhat, drauwing out a fu drops ov eche withe hiz glaas pipet, and finaly braut a test-chube contaning a solueshon over too the tabel. In hiz rite hand he held a slip ov litmus-paper.

"U cum at a cricis, Wautson," ced he. "If this paper remainz blu, aul iz wel. If it ternz red, it meenz a manz life." He dipt it intoo the test-chube and it flusht at wuns intoo a dul, derty crimzon. "Hum! I thaut az much!" he

cride. "I wil be at yor cervice in an instant, Wautson. U wil fiand tobacco in the Perzhan slipper." He ternd too hiz desc and scribbeld of cevveral tellegamz, which wer handed over too the page-boi. Then he thru himcelf down

intoo the chare opposite, and dru up hiz nese until hiz fin'gherz claaspt round hiz long, thhin shinz.

"A verry commonplace littel merder," ced he. "Uve got sumthhing better, I fancy. U ar the stormy petrel ov crime, Wautson. Whaut iz it?"

I handed him the letter, which he red withe the moast concentrated atenshon.

"It duz not tel us verry much, duz it?" he remarct, az he handed it bac too me.

"Hardly ennithhing."

"And yet the riting iz ov interest."

"But the riting iz not hiz one."

"Preciasly. It iz a woommanz."

"A manz shuerly," I cride.

"No, a woommanz, and a woomman ov rare carracter. U ce, at the comensment ov an investigaishon it iz sumthhing too no dhat yor cliyent iz in cloce contact

withe sum wun whoo, for good or evil, haz an exepshonal nachure. Mi interest iz aulreddy awakend in the cace. If u ar reddy we wil start at wuns for Woking, and ce this diplomatist whoo iz in such evil cace, and the lady too whoome he dictaits hiz letterz."

We wer forchunate enuf too cach an erly trane at Wauterloo, and in a littel under an our we found ourcelvz among the fer-woodz and the hether ov Woking.

Briarbra pruid too be a larj detach hous standing in extencive groundz within a fu minnuets wauc ov the staishon. On cending in our cardz we wer shone intoo an ellegantly apointed drauwing-roome, whare we wer joind in a fu minnuets bi a raather stout man whoo receevd us withe much hospitallity. Hiz age ma hav bene nerer forty dhan thherty, but hiz cheex wer so ruddy and hiz ise so merry dhat he stil convade the impreshon ov a plump and mischevous boi.

"I am so glad dhat u hav cum," ced he, shaking our handz withe efuezhon. "Percy haz bene inqwiring for u aul morning. Aa, poor oald chap, he clingz too enny strau! Hiz faather and hiz muther aasct me too ce u, for the mere menshon ov the subject iz verry painfool too them."

"We hav had no detailz yet," observd Hoamz. "I perceve dhat u ar not yorcelf a member ov the fammily."

Our aqwaintans looct cerpriazd, and then, glaancing doun, he began too laaf.

"Ov coers u sau the J H monnogram on mi locket," ced he. "For a moment I thaut u had dun sumthhing clevver. Josef Harrison iz mi name, and az Percy iz too marry mi cister Anny I shal at leest be a relaishon bi marrage. U wil fiand mi cister in hiz roome, for she haz nerst him hand-and-foot this too munths bac. Perhaps wede better go in at wuns, for I no hou impaishent he iz."

The chaimber in which we wer shone wauz on the same floer az the drauwing-roome. It wauz fernisht partly az a citting and partly az a bedroome, withe flouwerz arainjd daintily in evvery nooc and corner. A yung man, verry pale and woern, wauz liying uppon a sofaa nere the open windo, throo which came the rich cent ov the garden and the baalmy summer are. A woomman wauz citting beside him, whoo rose az we enterd.

"Shal I leve, Percy?" she aasct.

He clucht her hand too detane her. "Hou ar u, Wautson?" ced he, corjaly. "I shood nevver hav none u under dhat moostaash, and I dare sa u wood not be prepaerd too sware too me. This I prezhume iz yor cellebrated frend, Mr. Sherlock Hoamz?"

I introjuest him in a fu werdz, and we boath sat down. The stout yung man had left us, but hiz cister stil remaind withe her hand in dhat ov the invalid.

She wauz a striking-loocking woomman, a littel short and thhic for cimmetry, but
withe a butifool ollive complecshon, larj, darc, Italleyan ise, and a welth ov depe blac hare. Her rich tints made the white face ov her companyon the moer
woern and haggard bi the contraast.

"I woant waist yor time," ced he, rasing himcelf uppon the sofaa. "Ile plunj intoo the matter widhout ferther preyambel. I wauz a happy and suxesfool man, Mr.

Hoamz, and on the eve ov beying marrede, when a sudden and dredfool misforchune
rect aul mi prospects in life.

"I wauz, az Wautson ma hav toald u, in the Forane Office, and throo the influwencez ov mi unkel, Lord Hold'herst, I rose rappidly too a responcebel posishon. When mi unkel became forane minnister in this administraishon he gave
me cevveral mishonz ov trust, and az I aulwase braut them too a suxesfool concluezhon, he came at laast too hav the utmoast confidens in mi abillity
and
tact.

"Neerly ten weex ago—too be moer accurate, on the 23d ov Ma—he cauld me intoo
hiz private roome, and, aafter complimenting me on the good werc which I had
dun, he informd me dhat he had a nu comishon ov trust for me too execute.

"This,' ced he, taking a gra role ov paper from hiz buro, iz the oridginal ov dhat ceecret trefy betwene In'gland and Ittaly ov which, I regret too sa,
sum
rumorz hav aulreddy got intoo the public pres. It iz ov enormous
importans

dhat nuthhing ferther shoold leke out. The French or the Rushan embacy
wood

pa an imens sum too lern the contents ov these paperz. Dha shoold not leve
mi buro wer it not dhat it iz absoluetly nescesary too hav them coppede. U
hav a desc in yor office?"

"Yes, cer.'

"Then take the trefy and loc it up dhare. I shal ghiv direcshonz dhat u
ma remane behiand when the utherz go, so dhat u ma cobby it at yor
lezhure
widhout fere ov beying overllooct. When u hav finnisht, reloc boath the
oridginal and the draaft in the desc, and hand them over too me personaly
too-moro morning.'

"I tooc the paperz and—"

"Excuse me an instant," ced Hoamz. "Wer u alone juring this
conversaishon?"

"Absoluetly."

"In a larj roome?"

"Thherty fete eche wa."

"In the center?"

"Yes, about it."

"And speking lo?"

"Mi unkelz vois iz aulwase remarably lo. I hardly spoke at aul."

"Thanc u," ced Hoamz, shutting hiz ise; "pra go on."

"I did exactly whaut he indicated, and wated until the uther clarx had departed. Wun ov them in mi roome, Charlz Gorot, had sum areerz ov werc too make up, so I left him dhare and went out too dine. When I reternd he wauz gon.

I wauz ancshous too hurry mi werc, for I nu dhat Josef—the Mr. Harrison whoome u sau just nou—wauz in toun, and dhat he wood travvel doun too Woking bi the elevven-oacloc trane, and I waunted if poscibel too cach it.

"When I came too exammine the treti I sau at wuns dhat it wauz ov such importans dhat mi unkel had bene ghilty ov no exageraishon in whaut he had ced. Widhout gowing intoo detailz, I ma sa dhat it defiad the posishon ov Grate Brittane toowordz the Trippel Aliyans, and foer-shaddode the pollicy which this cuntry wood pershu in the event ov the French flete ganing a complete ascendancy over dhat ov Ittaly in the Mediterainyan. The qweschonz treted in it wer puerly naval. At the end wer the cignachuerz ov the hi dignitarese whoo had ciand it. I glaanst mi ise over it, and then cetteld doun too mi taasc ov coppeying.

"It wauz a long doccument, ritten in the French lan'gwage, and contaning twenty-cix cepparate artikelz. I coppede az qwicly az I cood, but at nine oacloc I had oanly dun nine artikelz, and it ceemd hoaples for me too atempt too cach mi trane. I wauz feling drousy and schupid, partly from mi dinner and

also from the effects of a long day's work. A cup of coffee would cheer me
up. A commissioner remains all night in a little log at the foot of the
stairs, and is in the habit of making coffee at his spirit-lamp for any of
the
officials who may be working over time. I rang the bell, therefore, to
summon
him.

"Too much surprise, it was a woman who answered the summons, a large,
coarse-faist, elderly woman, in an apron. She explained that she was
the
commissioner's wife, who did the cooking, and I gave her the order for the
coffee.

"I wrote two more articles and then, feeling more drowsy than ever, I rose
and
went up and down the room to stretch my legs. My coffee had not yet come,
and
I wondered what was the cause of the delay could be. Opening the door, I
started down the corridor to find out. There was a strange passage, dimly
lighted, which led from the room in which I had been working, and was the
only
exit from it. It ended in a turning staircase, with the commissioner's log
in the passage at the bottom. Half way down this staircase is a small
landing,
with another passage running into it at right angles. This second way
leads by
means of a second small stair to a side door, used by servants, and also
as a
short cut by clerks when coming from Charles Street. Here is a rough chart of
the place."

"Thank you. I think that I quite follow you," said Sherlock Holmes.

"It iz ov the utmoast importans dhat u shood notice this point. I went doun the staerz and intoo the haul, whare I found the comishonare faast aslepe in hiz box, withe the kettel boiling fureyously uppon the spirrit-lamp. I tooc of the kettel and blu out the lamp, for the wauter wauz sperting over the floer. Then I poot out mi hand and wauz about too shake the man, whoo wauz stil sleping soundly, when a bel over hiz hed rang loudly, and he woke withe a start.

"Mr. Felps, cer!' ced he, loocking at me in bewilderment.

"I came doun too ce if mi coffy wauz reddy.'

"I wauz boiling the kettel when I fel aslepe, cer.' He looct at me and then up at the stil qwivvering bel withe an evver-growing astonishment uppon hiz face.

"If u wauz here, cer, then whoo rang the bel?' he aasct.

"The bel!' I cride. Whaut bel iz it?'

"Its the bel ov the roome u wer werking in.'

"A coald hand ceemd too close round mi hart. Sum wun, then, wauz in dhat roome whare mi preshous trefy la uppon the tabel. I ran franticaly up the stare and along the passage. Dhare wauz no wun in the coridorz, Mr. Hoamz. Dhare wauz no wun in the roome. Aul wauz exactly az I left it, save oonly dhat the paperz which had bene comitted too mi care had bene taken from the desc on which dha la.

The cobby wauz dhare, and the oridginal wauz gon."

Hoamz sat up in hiz chare and rubd hiz handz. I cood ce dhat the problem wauz entiarly too hiz hart. "Pra, whaut did u doo then?" he mermerd.

"I reccogniazd in an instant dhat the thhefe must hav cum up the staerz from the cide doer. Ov coers I must hav met him if he had cum the uther wa."

"U wer sattisfide dhat he cood not hav bene conceeld in the roome aul the time, or in the coridor which u hav just descriabd az dimly lited?"

"It iz absolutely impscibel. A rat cood not concele himcelf iather in the roome or the coridor. Dhare iz no cuvver at aul."

"Thanc u. Pra procede."

"The comishonare, ceying bi mi pale face dhat sumthhing wauz too be feerd, had follode me upstaerz. Nou we boath rusht along the coridor and doun the stepe steps which led too Charlz Strete. The doer at the bottom wauz cloazd, but unloct. We flung it open and rusht out. I can distinctly remember dhat az we did so dhare came thre chiamz from a naboring cloc. It wauz qworter too ten."

"Dhat iz ov enormous importans," ced Hoamz, making a note uppon hiz shert-cuf.

"The nite wauz verry darc, and a thhin, worm rane wauz fauling. Dhare wauz no wun

in Charlz Strete, but a grate traffic wauz gowing on, az uezhuwal, in Whiat'haul, at the extremmity. We rusht along the paivment, bare-hedded az we wer, and at the far corner we found a poleesman standing.

"A robbery haz bene comitted,' I gaaspt. 'A doccument ov imens vallu haz bene stolen from the Forane Office. Haz enny wun paast this wa?'

"I hav bene standing here for a qworter ov an our, cer,' ced he; oanly wun person haz paast juring dhat time—a woomman, taul and elderly, withe a Paizly shaul.'

"Aa, dhat iz oanly mi wife,' cride the comishonare; haz no wun els paast?'

"No wun.'

"Then it must be the uther wa dhat the thhefe tooc,' cride the fello, tugging at mi sleve.

"But I wauz not sattisfide, and the atempts which he made too drau me awa increest mi suspishonz.

"Which wa did the woomman go?' I cride.

"I doant no, cer. I notiast her paas, but I had no speshal rezon for wauching her. She ceemd too be in a hurry.'

"Hou long ago wauz it?'

"O, not verry menny minnuets.'

"Within the laast five?'

"Wel, it cood not be moer dhan five.'

"Yor oanly waisting yor time, cer, and evvery minnute nou iz ov importans,'
cride the comishonare; take mi werd for it dhat mi oald woomman haz nuthhing
too doo withe it, and cum doun too the uther end ov the strete. Wel, if u woant, I wil.' And withe dhat he rusht of in the uther direcshon.

"But I wauz aafter him in an instant and caut him bi the sleve.

"Whare doo u liv?' ced I.

"'16 Ivy Lane, Brixton,' he aancerd. But doant let yorself be draun awa uppon a fauls cent, Mr. Felps. Cum too the uther end ov the strete and let us
ce if we can here ov ennithhing.'

"Nuthhing wauz too be lost bi following hiz advice. Withe the poleesman we boath
hurrede doun, but oanly too fiand the strete fool ov traffic, menny pepel cumming
and gowing, but aul oanly too egher too ghet too a place ov saifty uppon so wet a
nite. Dhare wauz no loun'ger whoo cood tel us whoo had paast.

"Then we reternd too the office, and cercht the staerz and the passage widhout rezult. The coridor which led too the roome wauz lade doun withe a kiand ov

cremy linoleyum which shose an impreshon verry esily. We exammiand it verry caerfooly, but found no outline ov enny footmarc."

"Had it bene raning aul evening?"

"Cins about cevven."

"Hou iz it, then, dhat the woomman whoo came intoo the roome about nine left no tracez withe her muddy buits?"

"I am glad u raizd the point. It okerd too me at the time. The charwimmin ar in the habbit ov taking of dhare buits at the comishonaerz office, and pootting on list slipperz."

"Dhat iz verry clere. Dhare wer no marx, then, dho the nite wauz a wet wun?
The chane ov events iz certainly wun ov extrordnary interest. Whaut did u doo next?"

"We exammiand the roome aulso. Dhare iz no pocibillity ov a ceecret doer, and the windose ar qwite thherty fete from the ground. Boath ov them wer faacend on the incide. The carpet prevents enny pocibillity ov a trap-doer, and the celing iz ov the ordinary whiatwausht kiand. I wil plej mi life dhat whoowevver stole mi paperz cood oanly hav cum throo the doer."

"Hou about the fiarplace?"

"Dha use nun. Dhare iz a stove. The bel-rope hangz from the wire just too the rite ov mi desc. Whoovevver rang it must hav cum rite up too the desc too doo it. But whi shood enny crimminal wish too ring the bel? It iz a moast insollubel mistery."

"Certainly the incident wauz unnuezhual. Whaut wer yor next steps? U exammiand the roome, I prezume, too ce if the intruder had left enny tracez—enny cigar-end or dropt gluv or haerpin or uther trifel?"

"Dhare wauz nuthhing ov the sort."

"No smel?"

"Wel, we nevver thaut ov dhat."

"Aa, a cent ov tobacco wood hav bene werth a grate dele too us in such an investigaishon."

"I nevver smoke micelf, so I thhinc I shood hav observd it if dhare had bene enny smel ov tobacco. Dhare wauz absolutly no clu ov enny kiand. The oonly tan'gibel fact wauz dhat the comishonaerz wife—Mrs. Tan'gy wauz the name—had hurrede out ov the place. He cood ghiv no explanaishon save dhat it wauz about the time when the woomman aulwase went home. The poleesman and I agrede dhat our best plan wood be too cese the woomman befoer she cood ghet rid ov the paperz,

prezhuming dhat she had them.

"The alarm had reecht Scotland Yard bi this time, and Mr. Forbz, the detective, came round at wuns and tooc up the cace withe a grate dele ov ennergy.

We hiard a hansom, and in haaf an our we wer at the adres which had bene ghivven too us. A yung woomman opend the doer, whoo pruivd too be Mrs. Tan'gese eldest dauter. Her muther had not cum bac yet, and we wer shone intoo the frunt roome too wate.

"About ten minnuets later a noc came at the doer, and here we made the wun cereyous mistake for which I blame micelf. Insted ov opening the doer ourcelvz, we aloud the gherl too doo so. We herd her sa, Muther, dhare ar too men in the hous wating too ce u,' and an instant aafterwordz we herd the patter ov fete rushing down the passage. Forbz flung open the doer, and we both ran intoo the bac roome or kitchen, but the woomman had got dhare befoer us. She staerd at us withe defiyant ise, and then, suddenly reccognising me, an expreshon ov absolute astonishment came over her face.

"Whi, if it iznt Mr. Felps, ov the office!" she cride.

"Cum, cum, whoo did u thhinc we wer when u ran awa from us?' aasct mi companyon.

"I thaut u wer the brokerz,' ced she, we hav had sum trubbel withe a traidzman.'

"Dhats not qwite good enuf,' aancerd Forbz. We hav rezon too beleve dhat u hav taken a paper ov importans from the Forane Office, and dhat u

ran in here too dispose ov it. U must cum bac withe us too Scotland Yard too be cercht.'

"It wauz in vane dhat she protested and resisted. A foer-wheler wauz braut, and we aul thre drove bac in it. We had ferst made an examinaishon ov the kitchen, and espeshaly ov the kitchen fire, too ce whether she mite hav made awa withe the paperz juring the instant dhat she wauz alone. Dhare wer no cianz, houwevver, ov enny ashez or scraps. When we reecht Scotland Yard she wauz handed over at wuns too the female cercher. I wated in an aggonny ov suspens until she came bac withe her repoert. Dhare wer no cianz ov the paperz.

"Then for the ferst time the horror ov mi cichuwaishon came in its fool foers. Hithertoo I had bene acting, and acshon had numd thaut. I had bene so confident ov reganing the treti at wuns dhat I had not daerd too thhinc ov whaut wood be the conceqwens if I faild too doo so. But nou dhare wauz nuthhing moer too be dun, and I had lezhure too reyalise mi posishon. It wauz horibel. Wautson dhare wood tel u dhat I wauz a nervous, cencitive boi at scoole. It iz mi nachure. I thaut ov mi unkel and ov hiz colleegz in the Cabbinet, ov the shame which I had braut uppon him, uppon micelf, uppon evvery wun conected withe me. Whaut dho I wauz the victim ov an extraordinary axident? No alouwans iz made for axidents whare diplomattic interests ar at stake. I wauz ruwind, shaimfooly, hoaplesly ruwind. I doant no whaut I did. I fancy I must hav made a cene. I hav a dim recolecshon ov a groope ov ofishalz whoo crouded

round me, endeavoring too suite me. Wun ov them drove doun withe me
too Wauterloo,
and sau me intoo the Woking trane. I beleve dhat he wood hav cum aul the
wa
had it not bene dhat Dr. Ferreyer, whoo livz nere me, wauz gowing doun bi
dhat
verry trane. The doctor moast kiandly tooc charj ov me, and it wauz wel he
did
so, for I had a fit in the staishon, and befoer we reecht home I wauz
practicaly a raving mainyac.

"U can imadgine the state ov thhingz here when dha wer rouzd from dhare
bedz
bi the doctorz ringing and found me in this condishon. Poor Anny here and
mi
muther wer broken-harted. Dr. Ferreyer had just herd enuf from the
detective at the staishon too be abel too ghiv an ideyaa ov whaut had
happend, and
hiz stoery did not mend matterz. It wauz evvident too aul dhat I wauz in
for a long
ilnes, so Josef wauz bundeld out ov this chery bedroome, and it wauz ternd
intoo a cic-roome for me. Here I hav lane, Mr. Hoamz, for over nine weex,
unconshous, and raving withe brane-fever. If it had not bene for Mis
Harrison
here and for the doctorz care I shood not be speking too u nou. She haz
nerst me bi da and a hiard ners haz looct aafter me bi nite, for in mi mad
fits I wauz capabel ov ennithhing. Sloly mi rezon haz cleerd, but it iz oonly
juring the laast thre dase dhat mi memmory haz qwite reternd. Sumtiamz I
wish
dhat it nevver had. The ferst thhing dhat I did wauz too wire too Mr. Forbz,
whoo
had the cace in hand. He came out, and ashuerz me dhat, dho evverithhing
haz
bene dun, no trace ov a clu haz bene discuvverd. The comishonare and hiz

wife hav bene exammiand in evvery wa widhout enny lite beying throne
uppon the
matter. The suspishonz ov the polece then rested uppon yung Gorot, whoo,
az u
ma remember, stade over time in the office dhat nite. Hiz remaning
behiand
and hiz French name wer reyaly the oanly too points which cood sugest
suspishon; but, az a matter ov fact, I did not beghin werc until he had gon,
and hiz pepel ar ov Ugheno extracshon, but az In'glisch in cimpathhy and
tradishon az u and I ar. Nuthhing wauz found too implicate him in enny
wa, and
dhare the matter dropt. I tern too u, Mr. Hoamz, az absoluety mi laast
hope. If u fale me, then mi onnor az wel az mi posishon ar forever
forfeted."

The invalid sanc bac uppon hiz cooshonz, tiard out bi this long recital,
while
hiz ners poerd him out a glaas ov sum stimulating meddicine. Hoamz sat
cilently, withe hiz hed throne bac and hiz ise cloazd, in an attichude which
mite ceme listles too a strain'ger, but which I nu betokend the moast intens
celf-abzorpshon.

"U staitment haz bene so expliscit," ced he at laast, "dhat u hav reyaly
left me verry fu qweschonz too aasc. Dhare iz wun ov the verry utmoast
importans,
houwevver. Did u tel enny wun dhat u had this speshal taasc too perform?"

"No wun."

"Not Mis Harrison here, for exaampel?"

"No. I had not bene bac too Woking betwene ghetting the order and
executing the
comishon."

"And nun ov yor pepel had bi chaans bene too ce u?"

"Nun."

"Did enny ov them no dhare wa about in the office?"

"O, yes, aul ov them had bene shone over it."

"Stil, ov coers, if u ced nuthhing too enny wun about the trety these inqwirse ar irellevant."

"I ced nuthhing."

"Doo u no ennithhing ov the comishonare?"

"Nuthhing exept dhat he iz an oald soalger."

"Whaut redgiment?"

"O, I hav herd—Coldstreme Gardz."

"Thanc u. I hav no dout I can ghet detailz from Forbz. The authoritese ar exelent at amascing facts, dho dha doo not aulwase use them too advaantage.

Whaut a luvly thhing a rose iz!"

He wauct paast the couch too the open windo, and held up the drooping stauc ov

a mos-rose, loocking doun at the dainty blend ov crimzon and grene. It wauz a

nu fase ov hiz carracter too me, for I had nevver befoer cene him sho enny kene

interest in natchural obgets.

"Dhare iz nuthhing in which deducshon iz so nescesary az in relidjon," ced he, lening withe hiz bac against the shutterz. "It can be bilt up az an exact ciyens bi the rezoner. Our hiyest ashurans ov the goodnes ov Provvidens ceemz too me too rest in the flouwerz. Aul uthher thhingz, our pouwerz our desiarz, our foode, ar aul reyaly nescesary for our existens in the ferst instans. But this rose iz an extraa. Its smel and its cullor ar an embellishment ov life, not a condishon ov it. It iz oanly goodnes which ghivz extraaz, and so I sa agane dhat we hav much too hope from the flouwerz."

Percy Felps and hiz ners looct at Hoamz juring this demonstraishon withe cerprise and a good dele ov disapointment ritten uppon dhare facez. He had faulen intoo a revvery, withe the mos-rose betwene hiz fin'gherz. It had laasted sum minnuets befoer the yung lady broke in uppon it.

"Doo u ce enny prospect ov solving this mistery, Mr. Hoamz?" she aasct, withe a tuch ov asperrity in her vois.

"O, the mistery!" he aancerd, cumming bac withe a start too the reyallitese ov life. "Wel, it woud be abcerd too deni dhat the cace iz a verry abstruce and complicated wun, but I can prommice u dhat I wil looc intoo the matter and let u no enny points which ma strike me."

"Doo u ce enny clu?"

"U hav fernisht me withe cevven, but, ov coers, I must test them befoer I can pronouns uppon dhare vallu."

"U suspect sum wun?"

"I suspect micelf."

"Whaut!"

"Ov cumming too concluezhonz too rappidly."

"Then go too Lundon and test yor concluezhonz."

"Yor advice iz verry exelent, Mis Harrison," ced Hoamz, rising. "I thhinc, Wautson, we canot doo better. Doo not alou yorcelf too indulj in fauls hoaps, Mr. Felps. The afare iz a verry tan'gheld wun."

"I shal be in a fever until I ce u agane," cride the diplomatist.

"Wel, Ile cum out bi the same trane too-moro, dho its moer dhan liacly dhat mi repoert wil be a neggative wun."

"God bles u for prommicing too cum," cride our cliyent. "It ghivz me fresh life too no dhat sumthhing iz beying dun. Bi the wa, I hav had a letter from Lord Hold'herst."

"Haa! Whaut did he sa?"

"He wauz coald, but not harsh. I dare sa mi cevere ilnes prevented him from beying dhat. He repeted dhat the matter wauz ov the utmoast importans, and added dhat no steps wood be taken about mi fuchure—bi which he meenz, ov coers, mi

dismissal—until mi helth wauz restoerd and I had an oportchunity ov
reparing mi
misforchune."

"Wel, dhat wauz rezonabel and concidderate," ced Hoamz. "Cum, Wautson,
for we
hav a good dase werc befoer us in toun."

Mr. Josef Harrison drove us down too the staishon, and we wer soone
wherling up
in a Poertsmouth trane. Hoamz wauz sunc in profound thaut, and hardly
opend
hiz mouth until we had paast Clappam Juncshon.

"Its a verry chery thhing too cum intoo Lundon bi enny ov these lianz
which run
hi, and alou u too looc down uppon the housez like this."

I thaut he wauz joking, for the vu wauz sordid enuf, but he soone explайд
himcelf.

"Looc at dhose big, isolated clumps ov bilding rising up abuv the slaits,
like bric ilandz in a led-cullord ce."

"The boerd-scuilz."

"Lite-housez, mi boi! Beconz ov the fuchure! Capshuelz withe hundredz ov
brite
littel ceedz in eche, out ov which wil spring the wise, better In'gland ov the
fuchure. I supose dhat man Felps duz not drinc?"

"I shood not thhinc so."

"Nor shood I, but we ar bound too take evvery pocibillity intoo acount. The

poor devvil haz certainly got himcelf intoo verry depe wauter, and its a
qweschon
whether we shal evver be abel too ghet him ashoer. Whaut did u thhinc ov
Mis
Harrison?"

"A gherl ov strong carracter."

"Yes, but she iz a good sort, or I am mistaken. She and her bruther ar the
oonly children ov an iarn-maaster sumwhare up Northumberland wa. He
got en'gaijd
too her when travveling laast winter, and she came down too be introjuest
too hiz
pepel, withe her bruther az escort. Then came the smash, and she stade on
too
ners her luvver, while bruther Josef, fianding himcelf pritty snug, stade on
too. Ive bene making a fu independent inqwirese, u ce. But too-da must be
a da ov inqwirese."

"Mi practice—" I began.

"O, if u fiand yor one cacez moer interesting dhan mine—" ced Hoamz,
withe
sum asperrity.

"I wauz gowing too sa dhat mi practice cood ghet along verry wel for a da
or
too, cins it iz the slackest time in the yere."

"Exelent," ced he, recuvvering hiz good-humor. "Then wele looc intoo this
matter toogheter. I thhinc dhat we shood beghin bi ceying Forbz. He can
probbably
tel us aul the detailz we waunt until we no from whaut cide the cace iz too
be

aproacht."

"U ced u had a clu?"

"Wel, we hav cevveral, but we can oanly test dhare vallu bi ferther inqwiry. The moast difficult crime too trac iz the wun which iz perpoasles. Nou this iz

not perpoasles. Whoo iz it whoo proffits bi it? Dhare iz the French ambassador,

dhare iz the Rushan, dhare iz whoowevver mite cel it too iather ov these, and

dhare iz Lord Hold'herst."

"Lord Hold'herst!"

"Wel, it iz just concevabel dhat a staitzman mite fiand himcelf in a posishon whare he wauz not sory too hav such a doccument axidentalaly destroid."

"Not a staitzman withe the onnorabel reccord ov Lord Hold'herst?"

"It iz a pocibillity and we canot afoerd too disregard it. We shal ce the nobel lord too-da and fiand out if he can tel us ennithhing. Meenwhile I hav aulreddy cet inqwirese on foot."

"Aulreddy?"

"Yes, I cent wiarz from Woking staishon too evvery evening paper in Lunden. This advertiazment wil apere in eche ov them."

He handed over a shete toern from a note-booc. On it wauz scribbeld in pencil:

"L10 reword. The number ov the cab which dropt a fare at or about the doer ov the Forane Office in Charlz Strete at qworter too ten in the evening ov Ma 23d. Apli 221 B, Baker Strete."

"U ar confident dhat the thhefe came in a cab?"

"If not, dhare iz no harm dun. But if Mr. Felps iz corect in stating dhat dhare iz no hiding-place iather in the roome or the coridorz, then the person must hav cum from outcide. If he came from outcide on so wet a nite, and yet left no trace ov damp uppon the linoleyum, which wauz exammiand within a fu minnuets ov hiz paacing, then it iz exeding probbabel dhat he came in a cab.

Yes, I thhinc dhat we ma saifly dejuce a cab."

"It soundz plausibel."

"Dhat iz wun ov the cluse ov which I spoke. It ma lede us too sumthhing. And then, ov coers, dhare iz the bel—which iz the moast distinctive fechure ov the cace. Whi shood the bel ring? Wauz it the thhefe whoo did it out ov bravaado? Or wauz it sum wun whoo wauz withe the thhefe whoo did it in order too prevent the crime? Or wauz it an axident? Or wauz it—?" He sanc bac intoo the state ov intens and cilent thaut from which he had emerjd; but it ceemd too me, acustomd az I wauz too hiz evvery moode, dhat sum nu pocibillity had daund suddenly uppon him.

It wauz twenty paast thre when we reecht our terminus, and aafter a haisty lunchon at the buffa we poosht on at wuns too Scotland Yard. Hoamz had aulreddy wiard too Forbz, and we found him wating too receve us—a smaull, foxy man withe a sharp but bi no meenz ameyabel expreshon. He wauz decidedly fridgid in hiz manner too us, espeshaly when he herd the errand uppon which we had cum.

"Ive herd ov yor methodz befoer nou, Mr. Hoamz," ced he, tartly. "U ar reddy enuf too use aul the informaishon dhat the polece can la at yor dispozal, and then u tri too finnish the cace yorcelf and bring discredidit on them."

"On the contrary," ced Hoamz, "out ov mi laast fifty-thre cacez mi name haz oanly apeerd in foer, and the polece hav had aul the credidit in forty-nine. I doant blame u for not nowing this, for u ar yung and inexpereyenst, but if u wish too ghet on in yor nu jutese u wil werc withe me and not against me."

"Ide be verry glad ov a hint or too," ced the detective, chain'ging hiz manner.

"Ive certainly had no credidit from the cace so far."

"Whaut steps hav u taken?"

"Tan'gy, the comishonare, haz bene shaddode. He left the Gardz withe a good carracter and we can fiand nuthhing against him. Hiz wife iz a bad lot, dho. I fancy she nose moer about this dhan apeerz."

"Hav u shaddode her?"

"We hav cet wun ov our wimmen on too her. Mrs. Tan'gy drinx, and our woomman haz bene withe her twice when she wauz wel on, but she cood ghet nuthhing out ov her."

"I understand dhat dha hav had brokerz in the hous?"

"Yes, but dha wer pade of."

"Whare did the munny cum from?"

"Dhat wauz aul rite. Hiz penshon wauz ju. Dha hav not shone enny cine ov beying in fundz."

"Whaut explanaishon did she ghiv ov havving aancerd the bel when Mr. Felps rang for the coffy?"

"She ced dhat he huzband wauz verry tiard and she wisht too releve him."

"Wel, certainly dhat wood agry withe hiz beying found a littel later aslepe in hiz chare. Dhare iz nuthhing against them then but the woommanz carracter. Did u aasc her whi she hurrede awa dhat nite? Her haist atracted the atenshon ov the polece cunstabel."

"She wauz later dhan uezhuwal and waunted too ghet home."

"Did u point out too her dhat u and Mr. Felps, whoo started at leest twenty minnuets aafter her, got home befoer her?"

"She explainz dhat bi the differens betwene a bus and a hansom."

"Did she make it clere whi, on reching her hous, she ran intoo the bac kitchen?"

"Becauz she had the munny dhare withe which too pa of the brokerz."

"She haz at leest an aancer for evverithhing. Did u aasc her whether in leving she met enny wun or sau enny wun loitering about Charlz Strete?"

"She sau no wun but the cunstabel."

"Wel, u ceme too hav cros-exammiand her pritty thurroly. Whaut els hav u dun?"

"The clarc Gorot haz bene shaddode aul these nine weex, but widhout rezult. We can sho nuthhing against him."

"Ennithhing els?"

"Wel, we hav nuthhing els too go uppon—no evvidens ov enny kiand."

"Hav u formd a ththeyory about hou dhat bel rang?"

"Wel, I must confes dhat it beets me. It wauz a coole hand, whoowevver it wauz, too go and ghiv the alarm like dhat."

"Yes, it wauz a qwere thhing too doo. Menny thanx too u for whaut u hav toald me.

If I can poot the man intoo yor handz u shal here from me. Cum along, Wautson."

"Whare ar we gowing too nou?" I aasct, az we left the office.

"We ar nou gowing too intervü Lord Hold'herst, the cabbinet minnister and fuchure premeyer ov In'gland."

We wer forchunate in fianding dhat Lord Hold'herst wauz stil in hiz chaimberz in Downing Strete, and on Hoamz cending in hiz card we wer instantly shone up.

The staitzman receevd us withe dhat oald-fashond kertecy for which he iz remarcabel, and ceted us on the too lucshureyant loun'gez on iather cide ov the

fiarplace. Standing on the rug betwene us, withe hiz slite, taul figgure, hiz sharp fechuerz, thautfool face, and kerling hare premachuerly tinjd withe gra,

he ceemd too represent dhat not too common tipe, a nobelman whoo iz in trueth nobel.

"Yor name iz verry familleyar too me, Mr. Hoamz," ced he, smiling. "And, ov

coers, I canot pretend too be ignorant ov the obgect ov yor vizsit. Dhare haz oonly bene wun occurs in these officez which cood caul for yor atenshon. In whose interest ar u acting, ma I aasc?"

"In dhat ov Mr. Percy Felps," aancerd Hoamz.

"Aa, mi unforchunate neffu! U can understand dhat our kinship maix it the moer imposcibel for me too screne him in enny wa. I fere dhat the incident must

hav a verry prejudishal efect uppon hiz carere."

"But if the document iz found?"

"Aa, dhat, ov coers, wood be different."

"I had wun or too qweschonz which I wisht too aasc u, Lord Hold'herst."

"I shal be happy too ghiv u enny informaishon in mi pouwer."

"Wauz it in this roome dhat u gave yor instrucshonz az too the coppeying
ov the
document?"

"It wauz."

"Then u cood hardly hav bene overherd?"

"It iz out ov the qweschon."

"Did u evver menshon too enny wun dhat it wauz yor intenshon too ghiv
enny wun the
trey too be coppede?"

"Nevver."

"U ar certane ov dhat?"

"Absoluetly."

"Wel, cins u nevver ced so, and Mr. Felps nevver ced so, and nobody els
nu ennthhing ov the matter, then the thheefs prezsens in the roome wauz
puerly
axidental. He sau hiz chaans and he tooc it."

The staitzman smiald. "U take me out ov mi provvins dhare," ced he.

Hoamz concidderd for a moment. "Dhare iz anuther verry important point which I wish too discuss withe u," ced he. "U feerd, az I understand, dhat verry grave rezults mite follo from the detailz ov this trefy becumming none."

A shaddo paast over the exprescive face ov the staitzman. "Verry grave rezults indede."

"And hav dha okerd?"

"Not yet."

"If the trefy had reecht, let us sa, the French or Rushan Forane Office, u wood expect too here ov it?"

"I shood," ced Lord Hold'herst, withe a ri face.

"Cins neerly ten weex hav elapst, then, and nuthhing haz bene herd, it iz not unfare too suppose dhat for sum rezon the trefy haz not reecht them."

Lord Hold'herst shrugd hiz shoalderz.

"We can hardly suppose, Mr. Hoamz, dhat the thhefe tooc the trefy in order too frame it and hang it up."

"Perhaps he iz wating for a better price."

"If he waits a littel lon'gher he wil ghet no price at aul. The trefy wil cece too be ceecret in a fu munths."

"Dhat iz moast important," ced Hoamz. "Ov coers, it iz a poscibel suposishon dhat the thhefe haz had a sudden ilnes—"

"An atac ov brane-fever, for exaampel?" aasct the staitzman, flashing a swift glaans at him.

"I did not sa so," ced Hoamz, imperterbably. "And nou, Lord Hold'herst, we hav aulreddy taken up too much ov yor vallubel time, and we shal wish u good-da."

"Evvery suxes too yor investigaishon, be the crimminal whoo it ma," aancerd the nobelman, az he boud us out the doer.

"Hese a fine fello," ced Hoamz, az we came out intoo Whiat'haul. "But he haz a strugghel too kepe up hiz posishon. He iz far from rich and haz menny caulz. U notiast, ov coers, dhat hiz buits had bene rezoald. Nou, Wautson, I woant detane u from yor legittimate werc enny lon'gher. I shal doo nuthhing moer too-da, unles I hav an aancer too mi cab advertiazment. But I shood be extreemly obliajd too u if u wood cum down withe me too Woking too-moro, bi the same trane which we tooc yesterda."

I met him acordingly next morning and we travveld doun too Woking tooghether. He had had no aancer too hiz advertiazment, he ced, and no fresh lite had bene throne uppon the cace. He had, when he so wild it, the utter imobillity ov countenans ov a red Injan, and I cood not gather from hiz aperans whether he wauz sattisfide or not withe the posishon ov the cace. Hiz conversaishon, I

remember, wauz about the Bertillon cistem ov mezhuerments, and he
exprest hiz
enthuseyaastic admiraishon ov the French savant.

We found our cliyent stil under the charj ov hiz devoted ners, but loocking
concidderably better dhan befoer. He rose from the sofaa and greted us
widhout
difficulty when we enterd.

"Enny nuse?" he aasct, egherly.

"Mi repoert, az I expected, iz a neggative wun," ced Hoamz. "I hav cene
Forbz, and I hav cene yor unkel, and I hav cet wun or too trainz ov inqwiry
uppon foot which ma lede too sumthhing."

"U hav not lost hart, then?"

"Bi no meenz."

"God bles u for saying dhat!" cride Mis Harrison. "If we kepe our currage
and our paishens the trueth must cum out."

"We hav moer too tel u dhan u hav for us," ced Felps, receting himcelf
uppon the couch.

"I hoapt u mite hav sumthhing."

"Yes, we hav had an advenchure juring the nite, and wun which mite hav
pruivd too be a cereyous wun." Hiz expreshon gru verry grave az he spoke,
and a
looc ov sumthhing akin too fere sprang up in hiz ise. "Doo u no," ced he,
"dhat I beghin too beleve dhat I am the unconshous center ov sum
monstrous
conspirracy, and dhat mi life iz aimd at az wel az mi onnor?"

"Aa!" cride Hoamz.

"It soundz increddibel, for I hav not, az far az I no, an ennemy in the werld. Yet from laast niats expereyens I can cum too no uther concluezhon."

"Pra let me here it."

"U must no dhat laast nite wauz the verry ferst nite dhat I hav evver slept widhout a ners in the roome. I wauz so much better dhat I thaut I cood dispens withe wun. I had a nite-lite barning, houwevver. Wel, about too in the morning I had sunc intoo a lite slepe when I wauz suddenly arouzd bi a slite noiz. It wauz like the sound which a mous maix when it iz nauwing a planc, and I la liscening too it for sum time under the impreshon dhat it must cum from dhat cauz. Then it gru louder, and suddenly dhare came from the windo a sharp metallic snic. I sat up in amaizment. Dhare cood be no dout whaut the soundz wer nou. The ferst wunz had bene cauzd bi sum wun foercing an instrument throo the slit betwene the sashez, and the cecond bi the cach beying prest bac.

"Dhare wauz a pauz then for about ten minnuets, az if the person wer wating too ce whether the noiz had awakend me. Then I herd a gentel creking az the windo wauz verry sloly open. I cood stand it no lon'gher, for mi nervz ar not whaut dha uest too be. I sprang out ov bed and flung open the shutterz. A man wauz crouching at the windo. I cood ce littel ov him, for he wauz gon like a flash. He wauz rapt in sum sort ov cloke which came acros the lower

part ov hiz face. Wun thhing oonly I am shure ov, and dhat iz dhat he had sum weppon in hiz hand. It looct too me like a long nife. I distinctly sau the gleme ov it az he ternd too run."

"This iz moast interesting," ced Hoamz. "Pra whaut did u doo then?"

"I shood hav follode him throo the open windo if I had bene stron'gher. Az it wauz, I rang the bel and rouzd the hous. It tooc me sum littel time, for the bel ringz in the kitchen and the cervants aul slepe upstaerz. I shouted, houwevver, and dhat braut Josef doun, and he rouzd the utherz. Josef and the groome found marx on the bed outside the windo, but the wether haz bene so dri laitley dhat dha found it hoaples too follo the trale acros the graas. Dhaerz a place, houwevver, on the wooden fens which skerts the rode which shose cianz, dha tel me, az if sum wun had got over, and had snapt the top ov the rale in doowing so. I hav ced nuthhing too the local polece yet, for I thaut I had best hav yor opinyon ferst."

This tale ov our cliyents apeerd too hav an extrordinary efect uppon Sherloc Hoamz. He rose from hiz chare and paist about the roome in uncontrolabel exiatment.

"Misforchuenz nevver cum cin'ghel," ced Felps, smiling, dho it wauz evvident dhat hiz advenchure had sumwhaut shaken him.

"U hav certainly had yor share," ced Hoamz. "Doo u thhinc u cood wauc round the hous withe me?"

"O, yes, I shood like a littel sunshine. Josef wil cum, too."

"And I aulso," ced Mis Harrison.

"I am afrade not," ced Hoamz, shaking hiz hed. "I thhinc I must aasc u too remane citting exactly whare u ar."

The yung lady rezhuemd her cete withe an are ov displezhure. Her bruther, houwevver, had joind us and we cet of aul foer tooghether. We paast round the

laun too the outcide ov the yung diplomatists windo. Dhare wer, az he had ced, marx uppon the bed, but dha wer hoaplesly blerd and vaghe. Hoamz stopt over them for an instant, and then rose shrugging hiz shoalderz.

"I doant thhinc enny wun cood make much ov this," ced he. "Let us go round the

hous and ce whi this particcular roome wauz chosen bi the berglar. I shood hav

thaut dhose larger windose ov the drauwing-roome and dining-roome wood hav had moer atracshonz for him."

"Dha ar moer vizsibel from the rode," sugested Mr. Josef Harrison.

"Aa, yes, ov coers. Dhare iz a doer here which he mite hav atempted.

Whaut

iz it for?"

"It iz the cide entrans for traidz-pepel. Ov coers it iz loct at nite."

"Hav u evver had an alarm like this befoer?"

"Nevver," ced our cliyent.

"Doo u kepe plate in the hous, or ennithhing too attract berglarz?"

"Nuthhing ov vallu."

Hoamz stroald round the hous withe hiz handz in hiz pockets and a negligent
are which wauz unnuezhawal withe him.

"Bi the wa," ced he too Josef Harrison, "u found sum place, I understand, whare the fello scaild the fens. Let us hav a looc at dhat!"

The plump yung man led us too a spot whare the top ov wun ov the wooden railz
had bene cract. A smaul fragment ov the wood wauz hanging down.
Hoamz poold
it of and exammiand it crittically.

"Doo u thhinc dhat wauz dun laast nite? It loox raather oald, duz it not?"

"Wel, poscibly so."

"Dhare ar no marx ov enny wun jumping down uppon the uther cide. No, I fancy we
shal ghet no help here. Let us go bac too the bedroome and tauc the matter over."

Percy Felps wauz wauking verry sloly, lening uppon the arm ov hiz fuchure
bruther-in-lau. Hoamz wauct swiftly acros the laun, and we wer at the open
windo ov the bedroome long befoer the utherz came up.

"Mis Harrison," ced Hoamz, speking withe the utmoast intencity ov manner,

"u must sta whare u ar aul da. Let nuthhing prevent u from staying whare u ar aul da. It iz ov the utmoast importans."

"Certainly, if u wish it, Mr. Hoamz," ced the gherl in astonishment.

"When u go too bed loc the doer ov this roome on the outside and kepe the ke.
Prommice too doo this."

"But Percy?"

"He wil cum too Lundon withe us."

"And am I too remane here?"

"It iz for hiz sake. U can cerv him. Qwic! Prommice!"

She gave a qwic nod ov acent just az the uther too came up.

"Whi doo u cit moping dhare, Anny?" cride her bruther. "Cum out intoo the sunshine!"

"No, thanc u, Josef. I hav a slite heddake and this roome iz delishously coole and suithing."

"Whaut doo u propose nou, Mr. Hoamz?" aasct our cliyent.

"Wel, in investigating this minor afare we must not loose cite ov our mane inqwiry. It wood be a verry grate help too me if u wood cum up too Lundon
withe us."

"At wuns?"

"Wel, az soone az u conveyently can. Sa in an our."

"I fele qwite strong enuf, if I can reyaly be ov enny help."

"The gratest poscibel."

"Perhaps u wood like me too sta dhare too-nite?"

"I wauz just gowing too propose it."

"Then, if mi frend ov the nite cumz too revizsit me, he wil fiand the berd flone. We ar aul in yor handz, Mr. Hoamz, and u must tel us exactly whaut u wood like dun. Perhaps u wood prefer dhat Josef came withe us so az too looc aafter me?"

"O, no; mi frend Wautson iz a meddical man, u no, and hele looc aafter u. Wele hav our lunch here, if u wil permit us, and then we shal aul thre cet of for toun tooghether."

It wauz arainjd az he sugested, dho Mis Harrison excuezd hercelf from leving the bedroome, in acordans withe Hoamsez sugeschon. Whaut the obgect ov mi frendz manuverz wauz I cood not conceive, unles it wer too kepe the lady awa from Felps, whoo, rejoist bi hiz reterning helth and bi the prospect ov acshon, luncht withe us in the dining-roome. Hoamz had a stil moer startling cerprise for us, houwevver, for, aafter acumpanying us down too the staishon and ceying us intoo our carrage, he caalmly anounst dhat he had no intenshon ov leving Woking.

"Dhare ar wun or too smaul points which I shood desire too clere up befoer I go," ced he. "Yor abcens, Mr. Felps, wil in sum wase raather acist me.

Wautson, when u reche Lundon u wood oblige me bi driving at wuns too
Baker

Strete withe our frend here, and remaning withe him until I ce u agane. It
iz forchunate dhat u ar oald scoole-fellose, az u must hav much too tauc
over. Mr. Felps can hav the spare bedroome too-nite, and I wil be withe u in
time for brecfast, for dhare iz a trane which wil take me intoo Wauterloo at
ate."

"But hou about our investigaishon in Lundon?" aasct Felps, rufooly.

"We can doo dhat too-moro. I thhinc dhat just at prezsent I can be ov moer
imejate uce here."

"U mite tel them at Briarbra dhat I hope too be bac too-moro nite,"
cride Felps, az we began too moove from the platform.

"I hardly expect too go bac too Briarbra," aancerd Hoamz, and waivd hiz
hand
too us cherily az we shot out from the staishon.

Felps and I tauct it over on our gerny, but niather ov us cood devise a
satisfactory rezon for this nu devellopment.

"I supose he waunts too fiand out sum clu az too the berglary laast nite, if a
berglar it wauz. For micelf, I doant beleve it wauz an ordinary thhefe."

"Whaut iz yor one ideyaa, then?"

"Uppon mi werd, u ma poot it doun too mi weke nervz or not, but I beleve
dhare iz sum depe polittical intreghe gowing on around me, and dhat for
sum
rezon dhat paacez mi understanding mi life iz aimd at bi the conspirratorz.
It

soundz hi-flone and abcerd, but concidder the facts! Whi shood a thhefe tri
too

brake in at a bedroome windo, whare dhare cood be no hope ov enny
plunder, and
whi shood he cum withe a long nife in hiz hand?"

"U ar shure it wauz not a hous-brakerz gimmy?"

"O, no, it wauz a nife. I sau the flash ov the blade qwite distinctly."

"But whi on erth shood u be pershude withe such animoscity?"

"Aa, dhat iz the qweschon."

"Wel, if Hoamz taix the same vu, dhat wood acount for hiz acshon, wood
it not? Prezhuming dhat yor thheyory iz corect, if he can la hiz handz
uppon the
man whoo threttend u laast nite he wil hav gon a long wa toowordz
fianding
whoo tooc the naval treti. It iz abcerd too supose dhat u hav too ennemese,
wun ov whoome robz u, while the uther threttenz yor life."

"But Hoamz ced dhat he wauz not gowing too Briarbra."

"I hav none him for sum time," ced I, "but I nevver nu him doo ennithhing
yet
widhout a verry good rezon," and withe dhat our conversaishon drifted of
on too
uther toppix.

But it wauz a wery da for me. Felps wauz stil weke aafter hiz long ilnes,
and hiz misforchune made him qwerrulous and nervous. In vane I
endevvord too

interest him in Afganistan, in Injaa, in soashal qweschonz, in ennithhing
which
mite take hiz miand out ov the groove. He wood aulwase cum bac too hiz
lost
trey, wundering, ghescing, specculating, az too whaut Hoamz wauz
doowing, whaut
steps Lord Hold'herst wauz taking, whaut nuse we shood hav in the
morning. Az
the evening woer on hiz exiatment became qwite painfool.

"U hav impliscit faith in Hoamz?" he aasct.

"I hav cene him doo sum remarcabel thhingz."

"But he nevver braut lite intoo ennithhing qwite so darc az this?"

"O, yes; I hav none him solv qweschonz which presented fuwer cluse dhan
yorz."

"But not whare such larj interests ar at stake?"

"I doant no dhat. Too mi certane nollej he haz acted on behaaf ov thre ov
the raning housez ov Urope in verry vital matterz."

"But u no him wel, Wautson. He iz such an inscrutabel fello dhat I nevver
qwite no whaut too make ov him. Doo u thhinc he iz hoapfool? Doo u
thhinc he
expects too make a suxes ov it?"

"He haz ced nuthhing."

"Dhat iz a bad cine."

"On the contrary, I hav notiast dhat when he iz of the trale he genneraly

cez so. It iz when he iz on a cent and iz not qwite absoluetly shure yet dhat it iz the rite wun dhat he iz moast tascitern. Nou, mi dere fello, we caant help matterz bi making ourcelvz nervous about them, so let me imploer u too go too bed and so be fresh for whautevver ma awate us too-moro."

I wauz abel at laast too perswade mi companyon too take mi advice, dho I nu from hiz exited manner dhat dhare wauz not much hope ov slepe for him. Indede, hiz moode wauz infecshous, for I la toscing haaf the nite micelf, brooding over this strainj problem, and inventing a hundred ththeyorese, eche ov which wauz moer imposcibel dhan the laast. Whi had Hoamz remaind at Woking? Whi had he aasct Mis Harrison too remane in the cic-roome aul da? Whi had he bene so caerfool not too inform the pepel at Briarbra dhat he intended too remane nere them? I cudgeld mi brainz until I fel aslepe in the endevvor too fiand sum explanaishon which wood cuvver aul these facts.

It wauz cevven oacloc when I awoke, and I cet of at wuns for Felpcez roome, too fiand him haggard and spent aafter a sleeples nite. Hiz ferst qweschon wauz whether Hoamz had ariavd yet.

"Hele be here when he prommiast," ced I, "and not an instant sooner or later."

And mi werdz wer tru, for shortly aafter ate a hansom dasht up too the doer

and our frend got out ov it. Standing in the windo we sau dhat hiz left hand wauz swaidhd in a bandage and dhat hiz face wauz verry grim and pale. He enterd the hous, but it wauz sum littel time befoer he came upstaerz.

"He loox like a beten man," cride Felps.

I wauz foerst too confes dhat he wauz rite. "Aafter aul," ced I, "the clu ov the matter lise probbably here in toun."

Felps gave a grone.

"I doant no hou it iz," ced he, "but I had hoapt for so much from hiz retern. But shuerly hiz hand wauz not tide up like dhat yesterda. Whaut can be the matter?"

"U ar not wuinded, Hoamz?" I aasct, az mi frend enterd the roome.

"Tut, it iz oanly a scrach throo mi one clumsines," he aancerd, nodding hiz good-morningz too us. "This cace ov yorz, Mr. Felps, iz certainly wun ov the darkest which I hav evver investigated."

"I feerd dhat u wood fiand it beyond u."

"It haz bene a moast remarcabel expereyens."

"Dhat bandage telz ov advenchuerz," ced I. "Woant u tel us whaut haz happend?"

"Aafter brecfast, mi dere Wautson. Remember dhat I hav breedhd thherty mialz ov

Surry are this morning. I supose dhat dhare haz bene no aancer from mi cabman advertiazment? Wel, wel, we canot expect too scoer evvery time."

The tabel wauz aul lade, and just az I wauz about too ring Mrs. Hudson enterd withe the te and coffy. A fu minnuets later she braut in thre cuvverz, and we aul dru up too the tabel, Hoamz ravvenous, I cureyous, and Felps in the gloomeyest state ov depreshon.

"Mrs. Hudson haz rizsen too the ocaizhon," ced Hoamz, uncuvvering a dish ov currede chicken. "Her qwesene iz a littel limmited, but she haz az good an ideyaa ov brecfast az a Scoch-woomman. Whaut hav u here, Wautson?"

"Ham and egz," I aancerd.

"Good! Whaut ar u gowing too take, Mr. Felps—currede foul or egz, or wil u help yorcelf?"

"Thanc u. I can ete nuthhing," ced Felps.

"O, cum! Tri the dish befoer u."

"Thanc u, I wood reyaly raather not."

"Wel, then," ced Hoamz, withe a mischevous twinkel, "I supose dhat u hav no obgecshon too helping me?"

Felps raizd the cuvver, and az he did so he utterd a screme, and sat dhare staring withe a face az white az the plate uppon which he looct. Acros the center ov it wauz liying a littel cillinder ov blu-gra paper. He caut it up,

devourd it withe hiz ise, and then daanst madly about the roome, prescing
it too
hiz boozzom and shreking out in hiz delite. Then he fel bac intoo an arm-
chare
so limp and exausted withe hiz one emoashonz dhat we had too poer
brandy doun hiz
throate too kepe him from fainting.

"Dhare! dhare!" ced Hoamz, suithing, patting him uppon the shoalder. "It
wauz
too bad too spring it on u like this, but Wautson here wil tel u dhat I
nevver can resist a tuch ov the dramattic."

Felps ceezd hiz hand and kist it. "God bles u!" he cride. "U hav
saivd mi onnor."

"Wel, mi one wauz at stake, u no," ced Hoamz. "I ashure u it iz just az
haitfool too me too fale in a cace az it can be too u too blunder over a
comishon."

Felps thrust awa the preshous document intoo the innermoast pocket ov
hiz cote.

"I hav not the hart too interupt yor breccfast enny ferther, and yet I am
diying too no hou u got it and whare it wauz."

Sherloc Hoamz swaulode a cup ov coffy, and ternd hiz atenshon too the
ham
and egz. Then he rose, lit hiz pipe, and cetteld himcelf doun intoo hiz
chare.

"Ile tel u whaut I did ferst, and hou I came too doo it aafterwordz," ced he.
"Aafter leving u at the staishon I went for a charming wauc throo sum
admirabel Surry cenery too a pritty littel village cauld Riply, whare I had

mi te at an in, and tooc the precaushon ov filling mi flaasc and ov pootting
a
paper ov sandwichez in mi pocket. Dhare I remaind until evening, when I
cet
of for Woking agane, and found micelf in the hi-rode outside Briarbra just
aafter suncet.

"Wel, I wated until the rode wauz clere—it iz nevver a verry freqwented
wun at
enny time, I fancy—and then I clamberd over the fens intoo the groundz."

"Shuerly the gate wauz open!" ejacculated Felps.

"Yes, but I hav a peculeyar taist in these matterz. I chose the place whare
the
thre fer-trese stand, and behiand dhare screne I got over widhout the leest
chaans ov enny wun in the hous beying abel too ce me. I croucht down
among the
booshez on the uther cide, and crauld from wun too the uther—witnes the
disrepputabel state ov mi trouser nese—until I had reecht the clump ov
rododendronz just opposite too yor bedroome windo. Dhare I sqwauted
doun and
awated devellopments.

"The bliand wauz not doun in yor roome, and I cood ce Mis Harrison
citting
dhare reding bi the tabel. It wauz qworter-paast ten when she cloazd her
booc,
faacend the shutterz, and retiard.

"I herd her shut the doer, and felt qwite shure dhat she had ternd the ke in
the loc."

"The ke!" ejacculated Felps.

"Yes; I had ghivven Mis Harrison instrucshonz too loc the doer on the outside and take the ke withe her when she went too bed. She carrede out evvery wun ov mi injuncshonz too the letter, and certainly widhout her cowoperaishon u wood not hav dhat paper in u cote-pocket. She departed then and the liats went out, and I wauz left sqwauting in the rododendron-boosh.

"The nite wauz fine, but stil it wauz a verry wery vidgil. Ov coers it haz the sort ov exiatment about it dhat the spoertsman feelz when he lise becide the wauter-coers and waits for the big game. It wauz verry long, dho—aulmoast az long, Wautson, az when u and I wated in dhat dedly roome when we looct intoo the littel problem ov the Speckeld Band. Dhare wauz a cherch-cloc doun at Woking which struc the qworterz, and I thaut moer dhan wuns dhat it had stopt. At laast houwevver about too in the morning, I suddenly herd the gentel sound ov a bolt beying poosht bac and the creking ov a ke. A moment later the cervants doer wauz opend, and Mr. Josef Harrison stept out intoo the muinlite."

"Josef!" ejacculated Felps.

"He wauz bare-hedded, but he had a blac cote throne over hiz shoalder so dhat he cood concele hiz face in an instant if dhare wer enny alarm. He wauct on tipto under the shaddo ov the waul, and when he reecht the windo he werct a long-bladed nife throo the sash and poosht bac the cach. Then he flung

open the windo, and pootting hiz nife throo the crac in the shutterz, he thrust the bar up and swung them open.

"From whare I la I had a perfect vu ov the incide ov the roome and ov evvery wun ov hiz muivments. He lit the too candelz which stood upon the mantelpece, and then he proceded too tern bac the corner ov the carpet in the naborhood ov the doer. Prezsently he stopt and pict out a sqware pece ov boerd, such az iz uezhuwaly left too enabel plummerz too ghet at the joints ov the gas-piaps.

This wun cuvverd, az a matter ov fact, the T joint which ghivz of the pipe which suplise the kitchen underneeth. Out ov this hiding-place he dru dhat littel cillinder ov paper, poosht doun the boerd, reyarainjd the carpet, blu out the candelz, and wauct strate intoo mi armz az I stood wating for him outside the windo.

"Wel, he haz raather moer vishousnes dhan I gave him creddit for, haz Maaster Josef. He flu at me withe hiz nife, and I had too graasp him twice, and got a cut over the nuckelz, befoer I had the upper hand ov him. He looct merder out ov the oonly i he cood ce withe when we had finnisht, but he liscend too rezon and gave up the paperz. Havving got them I let mi man go, but I wiard fool particcularz too Forbz this morning. If he iz qwic enuf too cach hiz berd, wel and good. But if, az I shruedly suspect, he fiandz the nest empty befoer he ghets dhare, whi, aul the better for the guvvernment. I fancy dhat Lord Hold'herst for wun, and Mr. Percy Felps for anuther, wood verry much raather dhat the afare nevver got az far az a polece-coert.

"Mi God!" gaaspt our cliyent. "Doo u tel me dhat juring these long ten weex ov aggyony the stolen paperz wer within the verry roome withe me aul the time?"

"So it wauz."

"And Josef! Josef a villane and a thhefe!"

"Hum! I am afrade Josefs carracter iz a raather deper and moer dain'gerous wun

dhan wun mite juj from hiz aperans. From whaut I hav herd from him this morning, I gather dhat he haz lost hevvely in dabling withe stox, and dhat he

iz reddy too doo ennithhing on erth too better hiz forchuenz. Beying an absoluetly

celfish man, when a chaans presented itcelf he did not alou iather hiz cisterz happines or yor reputaishon too hoald hiz hand."

Percy Felps sanc bac in hiz chare. "Mi hed wherlz," ced he. "Yor werdz hav daizd me."

"The principal difficulty in yor cace," remarct Hoamz, in hiz didactic fashion, "la in the fact ov dhare beying too much evvidens. Whaut wauz vital wauz

overlade and hidden bi whaut wauz irellevant. Ov aul the facts which wer presented too us we had too pic just dhose which we deemd too be ecenshal, and

then pece them tooghether in dhare order, so az too reconstruct this verry remarcabel chane ov events. I had aulreddy begun too suspect Josef, from the

fact dhat u had intended too travvel home withe him dhat nite, and dhat dhaerfoer it wauz a liacly enuf thhing dhat he shood caul for u, nowing the Forane Office wel, uppon hiz wa. When I herd dhat sum wun had bene so ancshous too ghet intoo the bedroome, in which no wun but Josef cood hav

conceald ennithing—u toald us in yor narrative hou u had ternd Josef out when u ariavd withe the doctor—mi suspishonz aul chainjd too certaintese, espeshaly az the atempt wauz made on the ferst nite uppon which the ners wauz abcent, showing dhat the intruder wauz wel aqwainted withe the wase ov the hous."

"Hou bliand I hav bene!"

"The facts ov the cace, az far az I hav werct them out, ar these: this Josef Harrison enterd the office throo the Charlz Strete doer, and nowing hiz wa he wauct strate intoo yor roome the instant aafter u left it. Fianding no wun dhare he promptly rang the bel, and at the instant dhat he did so hiz ise caut the paper uppon the tabel. A glaans shode him dhat chaans had poot in hiz wa a State doccument ov imens vallu, and in an instant he had thrust it intoo hiz pocket and wauz gon. A fu minnuets elapst, az u remember, befoer the slepy comishonare dru yor atenshon too the bel, and dhose wer just enuf too ghiv the thhefe time too make hiz escape.

"He made hiz wa too Woking bi the ferst trane, and havving exammiand hiz booty and ashuerd himcelf dhat it reyaly wauz ov imens vallu, he had conceald it in whaut he thaut wauz a verry safe place, withe the intenshon ov taking it out agane in a da or too, and carreying it too the French embacy, or wharevver he thaut dhat a long price wauz too be had. Then came yor sudden retern. He, widhout a moments worning, wauz bundeld out ov hiz roome, and from dhat time

onword dhare wer aulwase at leest too ov u dhare too prevent him from reganing hiz trezhure. The cichuwaishon too him must hav bene a maddening wun.

But at laast he thaut he sau hiz chaans. He tride too stele in, but wauz baffeld

bi yor waicfoolnes. U remember dhat u did not take yor uezhuwal draaft dhat nite."

"I remember."

"I fancy dhat he had taken steps too make dhat draaft eficaishous, and dhat he

qwite relide uppon yor beying unconshous. Ov coers, I understood dhat he wood

repete the atempt whenever it cood be dun withe saifty. Yor leving the roome

gave him the chaans he waunted. I kept Mis Harrison in it aul da so dhat he

mite not antiscipate us. Then, havving ghivven him the ideyaa dhat the coast wauz

clere, I kept gard az I hav descriabd. I aulreddy nu dhat the paperz wer probbably in the roome, but I had no desire too rip up aul the planking and skerting in cerch ov them. I let him take them, dhaerfoer, from the hiding-place, and so saivd micelf an infinnity ov trubbel. Iz dhare enny uther

point which I can make clere?"

"Whi did he tri the windo on the ferst ocaizhon," I aasct, "when he mite hav enterd bi the doer?"

"In reching the doer he wood hav too paas cevven bedruimz. On the uther hand,

he cood ghet out on too the laun withe ese. Ennithhing els?"

"U doo not thhinc," aasct Felps, "dhat he had enny merderous intenshon?
The
nife wauz oanly ment az a toole."

"It ma be so," aancerd Hoamz, shrugging hiz shoalderz. "I can oanly sa for
certane dhat Mr. Josef Harrison iz a gentelman too whoose mercy I shood
be
extreemly unwilling too trust."

Advenchure 11.

The Final Problem

It iz withe a hevvy hart dhat I take up mi pen too rite these the laast werdz
in
which I shal evver record the cin'gular ghifts bi which mi frend Mr. Sherloc
Hoamz wauz distin'gwisht. In an incoherent and, az I deeply fele, an
entiarly
inaddeqwate fashon, I hav endevvord too ghiv sum acount ov mi strainj
expeyencez in hiz cumpany from the chaans which ferst braut us
tooghether at
the pereyod ov the "Studdy in Scarlet," up too the time ov hiz interferens in
the

matter ov the "Naval Trety"—an interferens which had the
unqweschonabel
effect ov preventing a cereyous internashonal complicaishon. It wauz mi
intenshon
too hav stopt dhare, and too hav ced nuthhing ov dhat event which haz
creyated
a void in mi life which the laps ov too yeez haz dun littel too fil. Mi hand
haz bene foerst, houwevver, bi the recent letterz in which Cuunel Jaimz
Moreyarty
defendz the memmory ov hiz bruther, and I hav no chois but too la the
facts
befoer the public exactly az dha okerd. I alone no the absolute trueth ov
the matter, and I am sattisfide dhat the time haz cum when no good
perpoce iz
too be cervd bi its supreshon. Az far az I no, dhare hav bene oanly thre
acounts in the public pres: dhat in the Gernal de Geneve on Ma 6th, 1891,
the Ruterz despach in the In'glisch paperz on Ma 7th, and finaly the recent
letter too which I hav aluded. Ov these the ferst and cecond wer extreemly
condenst, while the laast iz, az I shal nou sho, an absolute perverzhon ov
the facts. It lise withe me too tel for the ferst time whaut reyalz tooc place
betwene Professor Moreyarty and Mr. Sherloc Hoamz.

It ma be rememberd dhat aafter mi marrage, and mi subceqwent start in
private
practice, the verry intimate relaishonz which had existed betwene Hoamz
and
micelf became too sum extent moddifide. He stil came too me from time
too time
when he desiard a companyon in hiz investigaishon, but these ocaizhonz
gru moer
and moer celdom, until I fiand dhat in the yere 1890 dhare wer oanly thre
cacez
ov which I retane enny reccord. Juring the winter ov dhat yere and the erly
spring ov 1891, I sau in the paperz dhat he had bene en'gajid bi the French

gouvvernement uppon a matter ov supreme importans, and I receevd too noats from

Hoamz, dated from Narbon and from Neme, from which I gatherd dhat hiz sta

in Fraans wauz liacly too be a long wun. It wauz withe sum cerprise, dhaerfoer,

dhat I sau him wauc intoo mi consulting-roome uppon the evening ov Aipril 24th. It

struc me dhat he wauz loocking even paler and thhinner dhan uezhuwal.

"Yes, I hav bene using micelf up raather too frely," he remarct, in aancer too mi looc raather dhan too mi werdz; "I hav bene a littel prest ov late. Hav u enny obgecshon too mi closing yor shutterz?"

The oanly lite in the roome came from the lamp uppon the tabel at which I had

bene reding. Hoamz ejd hiz wa round the waul and flinging the shutterz tooghether, he bolted them cecuerly.

"U ar afrade ov sumthhing?" I aasct.

"Wel, I am."

"Ov whaut?"

"Ov are-gunz."

"Mi dere Hoamz, whaut doo u mene?"

"I thhinc dhat u no me wel enuf, Wautson, too understand dhat I am bi no meenz a nervous man. At the same time, it iz schupiddity raather dhan currage too

refuse too reccognise dain'ger when it iz cloce uppon u. Mite I trubbel u for a

mach?" He dru in the smoke ov hiz ciggaret az if the suithing influwens
wauz
graitfool too him.

"I must apollogise for caulng so late," ced he, "and I must ferther beg u too
be so unconvenshonal az too alou me too leve yor hous prezsently bi
scrambling
over yor bac garden waul."

"But whaut duz it aul mene?" I aasct.

He held out hiz hand, and I sau in the lite ov the lamp dhat too ov hiz
nuckelz wer berst and bleding.

"It iz not an ary nuthhing, u ce," ced he, smiling. "On the contrary, it iz
sollid enuf for a man too brake hiz hand over. Iz Mrs. Wautson in?"

"She iz awa uppon a vizsit."

"Indede! U ar alone?"

"Qwite."

"Then it maix it the eseyer for me too propose dhat u shood cum awa withe
me for a weke too the Continent."

"Whare?"

"O, enniwhare. Its aul the same too me."

Dhare wauz sumthhing verry strainj in aul this. It wauz not Hoamsez
nachure too
take an aimles hollida, and sumthhing about hiz pale, woern face toald me
dhat

hiz nervz wer at dhare hiyest tenshon. He sau the qweschon in mi ise, and, pootting hiz fin'gher-tips tooghether and hiz elbose uppon hiz nese, he explaind the cichuwaishon.

"U hav probbably nevver herd ov Professor Moreyarty?" ced he.

"Nevver."

"I, dhaerz the geenyus and the wunder ov the thhing!" he cride. "The man pervaidz Lundon, and no wun haz herd ov him. Dhats whaut poots him on a pinnakel in the reccordz ov crime. I tel u, Wautson, in aul cereyousnes, dhat if I cood bete dhat man, if I cood fre sociyety ov him, I shood fele dhat mi one carere had reecht its summit, and I shood be prepaerd too tern too sum moer plascid line in life. Betwene ourcelvz, the recent cacez in which I hav bene ov acistans too the roiyal fammily ov Scandinaveyaa, and too the French republic, hav left me in such a posishon dhat I cood continnu too liv in the qwiyet fashon which iz moast con'geenyal too me, and too concentrate mi atenshon uppon mi kemmical recerchez. But I cood not rest, Wautson, I cood not cit qwiyet in mi chare, if I thaut dhat such a man az Professor Moreyarty wer wauking the streets ov Lundon unchallenjd."

"Whaut haz he dun, then?"

"Hiz carere haz bene an extrordinary wun. He iz a man ov good berth and exelent ejucaishon, endoud bi nachure withe a fenommenal mathhemattical faccully.

At the age ov twenty-wun he rote a tretese uppon the Binomeyal Theyorem, which haz had a Uropeyan voghe. On the strength ov it he wun the Mathhemattical Chare

at wun ov our smauler univercitese, and had, too aul aperancez, a moast
brilleyant carere befoer him. But the man had hereditary tendencese ov
the moast
diyabollical kiand. A crimminal strane ran in hiz blud, which, insted ov
beying
moddifide, wauz increest and renderd infiniatly moer dain'gerous bi hiz
extrordinary mental pouwerz. Darc rumorz gatherd round him in the
univercity
toun, and evenchuwaly he wauz compeld too resine hiz chare and too cum
doun too
Lundon, whare he cet up az an army coche. So much iz none too the werld,
but
whaut I am telling u nou iz whaut I hav micelf discuvverd.

"Az u ar aware, Wautson, dhare iz no wun whoo nose the hiyer crimminal
werld
ov Lundon so wel az I doo. For yeez paast I hav continnuwaly bene
conshous ov
sum pouwer behiand the mallefactor, sum depe organising pouwer which
forevver
standz in the wa ov the lau, and throse its sheeld over the rong-dower.
Agane
and agane in cacez ov the moast vareying sorts—forgery cacez, robberese,
merderz—I hav felt the prezsens ov this foers, and I hav dejuest its acshon
in menny ov dhose undiscuvverd criamz in which I hav not bene personally
consulted. For yeez I hav endevvord too brake throo the vale which
shrouded
it, and at laast the time came when I ceezd mi thred and follode it, until it
led me, aafter a thouzand cunning wiandingz, too ex-Professor Moreyarty
ov
mathhemattical celebrity.

"He iz the Napoleyon ov crime, Wautson. He iz the organiser ov haaf dhat
iz evil

and ov neerly aul dhat iz undetected in this grate citty. He iz a geenyus, a filossofer, an abstract thhinker. He haz a brane ov the ferst order. He cits moashonles, like a spider in the center ov its web, but dhat web haz a thousand
rajaishonz, and he nose wel evvery qwivver ov eche ov them. He duz littel himcelf. He oanly planz. But hiz agents ar numerous and splendidly organiazd.

Iz dhare a crime too be dun, a paper too be abstracted, we wil sa, a hous too

be rifeld, a man too be remuivd—the werd iz paast too the Professor, the matter

iz organiazd and carrede out. The agent ma be caut. In dhat cace munny iz found for hiz bale or hiz defens. But the central pouwer which usez the agent

iz nevver caut—nevver so much az suspected. This wauz the organizaishon which I

dejuet, Wautson, and which I devoted mi whole ennergy too exposing and braking up.

"But the Professor wauz fenst round withe saifgardz so cunningly deviazd dhat,

doo whaut I wood, it ceemd impscibel too ghet evvidens which wood convict in a

coert ov lau. U no mi pouwerz, mi dere Wautson, and yet at the end ov thre munths I wauz foerst too confes dhat I had at laast met an antaggonist whoo wauz mi

intelecchuwal eeqwal. Mi horror at hiz criamz wauz lost in mi admiraishon at hiz

skil. But at laast he made a trip—oanly a littel, littel trip—but it wauz moer dhan he cood afoerd when I wauz so cloce uppon him. I had mi chaans, and,

starting from dhat point, I hav woven mi net round him until nou it iz aul

reddy too close. In thre dase—dhat iz too sa, on Munda next—matterz wil be ripe, and the Professor, withe aul the principal memberz ov hiz gang, wil be in the handz ov the polece. Then wil cum the gratest crimminal triyal ov the cenchury, the clering up ov over forty misterese, and the rope for aul ov them; but if we moove at aul premachuerly, u understand, dha ma slip out ov our handz even at the laast moment.

"Nou, if I cood hav dun this widhout the nollej ov Professor Moreyarty, aul wood hav bene wel. But he wauz too wily for dhat. He sau evvery step which I tooc too drau mi toilz round him. Agane and agane he strove too brake awa, but I az often hedded him of. I tel u, mi frend, dhat if a detaild acount ov dhat cilent contest cood be ritten, it wood take its place az the moast brilliyant bit ov thrust-and-parry werc in the history ov detecshon. Nevver hav I rizsen too such a hite, and nevver hav I bene so hard prest bi an oponent. He cut depe, and yet I just undercut him. This morning the laast steps wer taken, and thre dase oonly wer waunted too complete the biznes. I wauz citting in mi roome thhinking the matter over, when the doer opend and Professor Moreyarty stood befoer me.

"Mi nervz ar faerly proofe, Wautson, but I must confes too a start when I sau the verry man whoo had bene so much in mi thauts standing dhare on mi threshold. Hiz aperans wauz qwite familleyar too me. He iz extreemly taul and thhin, hiz foerhed doamz out in a white kerv, and hiz too ise ar deeply sunken in hiz hed. He iz clene-shaven, pale, and acettic-loocking, retaning

sumthhing ov the professor in hiz fechuerz. Hiz shoalderz ar rounded from much studdy, and hiz face protruedz forword, and iz forevver sloly oscilating from cide too cide in a cureyously reptilleyan fashon. He peerd at me withe grate cureyoscity in hiz puckerd ise.

"U hav les fruntal devellopment dhan I shood hav expected,' ced he, at laast. It iz a dain'gerous habbit too fin'gher loded firarmz in the pocket ov wunz drescing-goun.'

"The fact iz dhat uppon hiz entrans I had instantly reccogniazd the extreme personal dain'ger in which I la. The oonly concevabel escape for him la in cilencing mi tung. In an instant I had slipt the revolver from the drauwer intoo mi pocket, and wauz cuvvering him throo the cloth. At hiz remarc I dru the weppon out and lade it coct uppon the tabel. He stil smiald and blinct, but dhare wauz sumthhing about hiz ise which made me fele verry glad dhat I had it dhare.

"U evvidently doant no me,' ced he.

"On the contrary,' I aancerd, 'I thhinc it iz faerly evvident dhat I doo. Pra take a chare. I can spare u five minnuets if u hav ennithhing too sa.'

"Aul dhat I hav too sa haz aulreddy crost yor miand,' ced he.

"Then poscibly mi aancer haz crost yorz,' I replide.

"U stand faast?'

"Absoluetly.'

"He clapt hiz hand intoo hiz pocket, and I raizd the pistol from the tabel. But he meerly dru out a memorandum-booc in which he had scribbeld sum daits.

"U crost mi paath on the 4th ov Jannuwary,' ced he. On the 23d u incommoded me; bi the middel ov Februwary I wauz cereyously inconveenyenst bi u; at the end ov March I wauz absoluetly hamperd in mi planz; and nou, at the close ov Aipril, I fiand micelf plaist in such a posishon throo yor continnuwal percecueshon dhat I am in pozsitive dain'ger ov loosing mi libberty. The cichuwaishon iz becumming an imposcibel wun.'

"Hav u enny sugeschon too make?' I aasct.

"U must drop it, Mr. Hoamz,' ced he, swaying hiz face about. U reyaly must, u no.'

"Aafter Munda,' ced I.

"Tut, tut,' ced he. 'I am qwite shure dhat a man ov yor intelligens wil ce dhat dhare can be but wun outcum too this afare. It iz nescesary dhat u shood widhdrau. U hav werct thhingz in such a fashon dhat we hav oonly wun rezoers left. It haz bene an intelecchuwal trete too me too ce the wa in which u hav grappeld withe this afare, and I sa, unnafectedly, dhat it wood be a grefe too me too be foerst too take enny extreme mezhure. U smile, cer, but I ashure u dhat it reyaly wood.'

"Dain'ger iz part ov mi trade,' I remarct.

"Dhat iz not dain'ger,' ced he. It iz inevvitabel destrucshon. U stand in the wa not meerly ov an individjuwal, but ov a mity organizaishon, the fool extent ov which u, withe aul yor clevvernes, hav bene unnabel too reyalise. U must stand clere, Mr. Hoamz, or be trodden under foot.'

"I am afrade,' ced I, rising, dhat in the plezhure ov this conversaishon I am neglecting biznes ov importans which awaits me elswhare.'

"He rose aulso and looct at me in cilens, shaking hiz hed sadly.

"Wel, wel,' ced he, at laast. It ceemz a pitty, but I hav dun whaut I cood. I no evvery moove ov yor game. U can doo nuthhing befoer Munda. It haz bene a juwel betwene u and me, Mr. Hoamz. U hope too place me in the doc. I tel u dhat I wil nevver stand in the doc. U hope too bete me. I tel u dhat u wil nevver bete me. If u ar clevver enuf too bring destrucshon uppon me, rest ashuerd dhat I shal doo az much too u.'

"U hav pade me cevveral compliments, Mr. Moreyarty,' ced I. Let me pa u wun in retern when I sa dhat if I wer ashuerd ov the former evenchuwality I wood, in the interests ov the public, cheerfooly axept the latter.'

"I can prommice u the wun, but not the uther,' he snarld, and so ternd hiz rounded bac uppon me, and went pering and blinking out ov the roome.

"Dhat wauz mi cin'gular intervuu withe Professor Moreyarty. I confes dhat it left

an unplezzant efect uppon mi miand. Hiz soft, precice fashon ov speche
leevz a
convicshon ov cincerrity which a mere boolly cood not projuce. Ov coers, u
wil sa: Whi not take polece precaushonz against him?' the rezon iz dhat I
am wel convinst dhat it iz from hiz agents the blo wil faul. I hav the
best pruifs dhat it wood be so."

"U hav aulreddy bene assaulted?"

"Mi dere Wautson, Professor Morearty iz not a man whoo lets the graas
gro under
hiz fete. I went out about mid-da too traanzact sum biznes in Oxford Strete.
Az I paast the corner which leedz from Bentinc Strete on too the Welbec
Strete crosing a too-hors van fureyously drivven whizd round and wauz
on me
like a flash. I sprang for the foot-paath and saivd micelf bi the fracshon ov a
cecond. The van dasht round bi Marilebone Lane and wauz gon in an
instant. I
kept too the paivment aafter dhat, Wautson, but az I wauct doun Vere
Strete a
bric came doun from the roofe ov wun ov the housez, and wauz shattered
too
fragments at mi fete. I cauld the polece and had the place exammiand.
Dhare
wer slaits and brix piald up on the roofe preparratoery too sum repaerz,
and
dha wood hav me beleve dhat the wind had toppeld over wun ov these.
Ov
coers I nu better, but I cood proove nuthhing. I tooc a cab aafter dhat and
reecht mi brutherz ruimz in Pal Mal, whare I spent the da. Nou I hav cum
round too u, and on mi wa I wauz atact bi a ruf withe a bludjon. I
noct him doun, and the polece hav him in custody; but I can tel u withe
the moast absolute confidens dhat no poscibel conecshon wil evver be traist

betwene the gentelman uppon whoose frunt teeth I hav barct mi nuckelz
and the
retiring mathhemattical coche, whoo iz, I dare sa, werking out problemz
uppon a
blac-boerd ten mialz awa. U wil not wunder, Wautson, dhat mi ferst act on
entering yor ruimz wauz too close yor shutterz, and dhat I hav bene
compeld
too aasc yor permishon too leve the hous bi sum les conspiccuwous exit
dhan
the frunt doer."

I had often admiard mi frendz currage, but nevver moer dhan nou, az he
sat
qwiyetly checking of a cerese ov incidents which must hav combiand too
make up
a da ov horror.

"U wil spend the nite here?" I ced.

"No, mi frend, u mite fiand me a dain'gerous ghest. I hav mi planz lade,
and
aul wil be wel. Matterz hav gon so far nou dhat dha can moove widhout mi
help az far az the arest gose, dho mi prezsens iz nescesary for a
convicshon. It iz obveyous, dhaerfoer, dhat I canot doo better dhan ghet
awa for
the fu dase which remane befoer the polece ar at libberty too act. It wood
be
a grate plezhure too me, dhaerfoer, if u cood cum on too the Continent
withe
me."

"The practice iz qwiyet," ced I, "and I hav an acommodating nabor. I
shood be glad too cum."

"And too start too-moro morning?"

"If nescenary."

"O yes, it iz moast nescenary. Then these ar yor instrucshonz, and I beg, mi dere Wautson, dhat u wil oba them too the letter, for u ar nou playing a dubbel-handed game withe me against the clevverest roghe and the moast pouwerfool

cindicat ov crimminalz in Urope. Nou liscen! U wil dispatch whautevver luggage u intend too take bi a trusty mescen'ger unnadrest too Victoereyaa too-nite. In the morning u wil cend for a hansom, desiring yor man too take niather the ferst nor the cecond which ma present itcelf. Intoo this hansom u

wil jump, and u wil drive too the Strand end ov the Louthur Arcade, handing

the adres too the cabman uppon a slip ov paper, withe a reqwest dhat he wil not

thro it awa. Hav yor fare reddy, and the instant dhat yor cab stops, dash throo the Arcade, timing yorcelf too reche the uther cide at a qworter-paast nine. U wil fiand a smaul broowam wating cloce too the kerb, drivven bi a fello withe a hevvy blac cloke tipt at the collar withe red. Intoo this u wil step, and u wil reche Victoereyaa in time for the Continental expres."

"Whare shal I mete u?"

"At the staishon. The cecond ferst-claas carrage from the frunt wil be reservd for us."

"The carrage iz our rondavoo, then?"

"Yes."

It wauz in vane dhat I aasct Hoamz too remane for the evening. It wauz evvident too

me dhat he thaut he mite bring trubbel too the roofe he wauz under, and
dhat
dhat wauz the motive which impeld him too go. Withe a fu hurrede werdz
az too
our planz for the moro he rose and came out withe me intoo the garden,
clambering over the waul which leedz intoo Mortimer Strete, and imejaitly
whisling for a hansom, in which I herd him drive awa.

In the morning I obade Hoamsez injuncshonz too the letter. A hansom
wauz
procuerd withe such precaushon az wood prevent its beying wun which
wauz plaist
reddy for us, and I drove imejaitly aafter brecfast too the Louthar Arcade,
throo which I hurrede at the top ov mi spede. A broowam wauz wating
withe a
verry mascive driver rapt in a darc cloke, whoo, the instant dhat I had
stept in, whipt up the hors and ratteld of too Victoereyaa Staishon. On mi
aliting dhare he ternd the carrage, and dasht awa agane widhout so much
az a looc in mi direcshon.

So far aul had gon admirably. Mi luggage wauz wating for me, and I had
no
difficulty in fianding the carrage which Hoamz had indicated, the les so az
it wauz the oonly wun in the trane which wauz marct "En'gajid." Mi oonly
soers ov
anxiyety nou wauz the non-aperans ov Hoamz. The staishon cloc marct
oonly
cevven minnuets from the time when we wer ju too start. In vane I cercht
amung
the griups ov travvelerz and leve-takerz for the liathe figgure ov mi frend.
Dhare wauz no cine ov him. I spent a fu minnuets in acisting a vennerabel
Italleyan preest, whoo wauz endevvoring too make a poerter understand,
in hiz broken

In'glish, dhat hiz luggage wauz too be booct throo too Parris. Then, havving taken anuther looc round, I reternd too mi carrage, whare I found dhat the poerter, in spite ov the ticket, had ghivven me mi decreppit Italleyan frend az a travveling companyon. It wauz uesles for me too explane too him dhat hiz prezsens wauz an intruezhon, for mi Italleyan wauz even moer limmited dhan hiz In'glish, so I shrugd mi shoalderz resiandly, and continnude too looc out ancshously for mi frend. A chil ov fere had cum over me, az I thaut dhat hiz abcens mite mene dhat sum blo had faulen juring the nite. Aulreddy the doerz had aul bene shut and the whiscel blone, when—

"Mi dere Wautson," ced a vois, "u hav not even condecended too sa good-morning."

I ternd in uncontrolabel astonnishment. The aijd ecleseyastic had ternd hiz face toowordz me. For an instant the rinkelz wer smuidhd awa, the nose dru awa from the chin, the lower lip ceest too protrude and the mouth too mumbel, the dul ise regaind dhare fire, the drooping figgure expanded. The next the whole frame colapst agane, and Hoamz had gon az qwicly az he had cum.

"Good hevvenz!" I cride; "hou u starteld me!"

"Evvery precaushon iz stil nescenary," he whisperd. "I hav rezon too thhinc dhat dha ar hot uppon our trale. Aa, dhare iz Moreyarty himcelf."

The trane had aulreddy begun too moove az Hoamz spoke. Glaancing bac,
I sau a
taul man pooshing hiz wa fureyously throo the croud, and waving hiz
hand az if
he desiard too hav the trane stopt. It wauz too late, houwevver, for we wer
rappidly gathering momentum, and an instant later had shot clere ov the
staishon.

"Withe aul our precaushonz, u ce dhat we hav cut it raather fine," ced
Hoamz, laafing. He rose, and throwing of the blac cassoc and hat which
had
formd hiz disghise, he pact them awa in a hand-bag.

"Hav u cene the morning paper, Wautson?"

"No."

"U havent cene about Baker Strete, then?"

"Baker Strete?"

"Dha cet fire too our ruimz laast nite. No grate harm wauz dun."

"Good hevvenz, Hoamz! this iz intollerabel."

"Dha must hav lost mi trac compleetly aafter dhare bludjon-man wauz
arested.

Utherwise dha cood not hav imadgiand dhat I had reternd too mi ruimz.

Dha

hav evvidently taken the precaushon ov wauching u, houwevver, and dhat
iz whaut

haz braut Moreyarty too Victoereyaa. U cood not hav made enny slip in
cumming?"

"I did exactly whaut u adviazd."

"Did u fiand yor broowam?"

"Yes, it wauz wating."

"Did u reccognise yor coachman?"

"No."

"It wauz mi bruther Miacroft. It iz an advaantage too ghet about in such a cace widhout taking a mercenary intoo yor confidens. But we must plan whaut we ar too doo about Moreyarty nou."

"Az this iz an expres, and az the bote runz in conecshon withe it, I shood thhinc we hav shaken him of verry efectiavly."

"Mi dere Wautson, u evvidently did not reyalise mi mening when I ced dhat this man ma be taken az beying qwite on the same intelecchuwal plane az micelf. U doo not imadgine dhat if I wer the pershuwer I shood alou micelf too be baffeld bi so slite an obstakel. Whi, then, shood u thhinc so meenly ov him?"

"Whaut wil he doo?"

"Whaut I shood doo?"

"Whaut wood u doo, then?"

"En'gage a speshal."

"But it must be late."

"Bi no meenz. This trane stops at Canterbury; and dhare iz aulwase at leest a qworter ov an ourz dela at the bote. He wil cach us dhare."

"Wun wood thhinc dhat we wer the crimminalz. Let us hav him arested on hiz arival."

"It wood be too ruwin the werc ov thre munths. We shood ghet the big fish, but the smauler wood dart rite and left out ov the net. On Munda we shood hav them aul. No, an arest iz inadmiscibel."

"Whaut then?"

"We shal ghet out at Canterbury."

"And then?"

"Wel, then we must make a cros-cuntry gerny too Nuhaven, and so over too Deyep. Moreyarty wil agane doo whaut I shood doo. He wil ghet on too Parris, marc doun our luggage, and wate for too dase at the deppo. In the meentime we shal trete ourcelvz too a cuppel ov carpet-bagz, encurrage the manufacchuerz ov the cuntrese throo which we travvel, and make our wa at our lezhure intoo Switserland, viyaa Luxemborg and Basel."

At Canterbury, dhaerfoer, we alited, oanly too fiand dhat we shood hav too wate
an our befoer we cood ghet a trane too Nuhaven.

I wauz stil loocking raather rufooly aafter the rappidly disapering luggage-
van
which containd mi wordrobe, when Hoamz poold mi sleve and pointed up
the
line.

"Aulreddy, u ce," ced he.

Far awa, from among the Kentish woodz dhare rose a thhin spra ov smoke.
A
minnute later a carrage and en'gine cood be cene fliying along the open
kerv
which leedz too the staishon. We had hardly time too take our place
behiland a pile
ov luggage when it paast withe a rattel and a roer, beting a blaast ov hot are
intoo our facez.

"Dhare he gose," ced Hoamz, az we waucht the carrage swing and roc over
the points. "Dhare ar limmits, u ce, too our frendz intelligens. It wood
hav bene a coo-de-maitr had he dejuest whaut I wood dejuce and acted
acordingly."

"And whaut wood he hav dun had he overtaken us?"

"Dhare canot be the leest dout dhat he wood hav made a merderous atac
uppon me. It iz, houwevver, a game at which too ma pla. The qweschon
nou iz
whether we shood take a premachure lunch here, or run our chaans ov
starving
befoer we reche the buffa at Nuhaven."

We made our wa too Bruscelz dhat nite and spent too dase dhare, mooving
on uppon
the thherd da az far az Strazberg. On the Munda morning Hoamz had
tellegraaft
too the Lundon polece, and in the evening we found a repli wating for us at
our
hotel. Hoamz toer it open, and then withe a bitter kers herld it intoo the
grate.

"I mite hav none it!" he groand. "He haz escaipt!"

"Moreyarty?"

"Dha hav cecuerd the whole gang withe the exepshon ov him. He haz
ghivven them
the slip. Ov coers, when I had left the cuntry dhare wauz no wun too cope
withe
him. But I did thhinc dhat I had poot the game in dhare handz. I thhinc
dhat u
had better retern too In'gland, Wautson."

"Whi?"

"Becauz u wil fiand me a dain'gerous companyon nou. This manz
ocupaishon iz
gon. He iz lost if he reternz too Lundon. If I rede hiz carracter rite he wil
devote hiz whole ennergese too reven'ging himcelf uppon me. He ced az
much in our
short intervuu, and I fancy dhat he ment it. I shood certainly recomend u
too retern too yor practice."

It wauz hardly an apele too be suxesfool withe wun whoo wauz an oald
campaner az

wel az an oald frend. We sat in the Strazberg sal-aa-main'ger arguwing the
qweschon for haaf an our, but the same nite we had rezhuemd our gerny
and
wer wel on our wa too Genevaa.

For a charming weke we waunderd up the Vally ov the Rone, and then,
braanching
of at Luke, we made our wa over the Gemmy Paas, stil depe in sno, and so,
bi wa ov Interlaken, too Merin'gen. It wauz a luvly trip, the dainty grene
ov
the spring belo, the vergin white ov the winter abuv; but it wauz clere too
me
dhat nevver for wun instant did Hoamz forghet the shaddo which la acros
him.

In the hoamly Alpine villagez or in the loanly mountane paacez, I cood tel
bi
hiz qwic glaancing ise and hiz sharp scrutiny ov evvery face dhat paast us,
dhat he wauz wel convinst dhat, wauc whare we wood, we cood not wauc
ourcelvz clere ov the dain'ger which wauz dogghing our footsteps.

Wuns, I remember, az we paast over the Gemmy, and wauct along the
border ov
the mellancoly Daubency, a larj roc which had bene dislojd from the rij
uppon our rite clatterd doun and roerd intoo the lake behiand us. In an
instant
Hoamz had raist up on too the rij, and, standing uppon a lofty pinnakel,
craind hiz nec in evvery direcshon. It wauz in vane dhat our ghide ashuerd
him
dhat a faul ov stoanz wauz a common chaans in the spring-time at dhat
spot. He
ced nuthhing, but he smiald at me withe the are ov a man whoo cese the
foolfilment ov dhat which he had expected.

And yet for aul hiz wauchfoolnes he wauz nevver deprest. On the contrary, I can nevver recolect havving cene him in such ecshuberant spirrits. Agane and agane he rekerd too the fact dhat if he cood be ashuerd dhat sociyety wauz frede from Professor Moreyarty he wood cheerfooly bring hiz one carere too a concluezhon.

"I thhinc dhat I ma go so far az too sa, Wautson, dhat I hav not livd wholly in vane," he remarct. "If mi reccord wer cloazd too-nite I cood stil cerva it withe eqwanimmity. The are ov Lunden iz the sweter for mi prezsens. In over a thouzand cacez I am not aware dhat I hav evver uezd mi pouwerz uppon the rong side. Ov late I hav bene tempted too looc intoo the problemz fernisht bi nachure raather dhan dhose moer superfisnal wunz for which our artifisnal state ov sociyety iz responcibel. Yor memwarz wil drau too an end, Wautson, uppon the da dhat I croun mi carere bi the capchure or extincshon ov the moast dain'gerous and capabel crimminal in Urope."

I shal be brefe, and yet exact, in the littel which remainz for me too tel. It iz not a subget on which I wood willingly dwel, and yet I am consmous dhat a juty devolvz uppon me too omit no detale.

It wauz on the 3d ov Ma dhat we reecht the littel village ov Merin'gen, whare we poot up at the En'glischer Hof, then kept bi Peter Schiller the elder. Our landlord wauz an intelligent man, and spoke exelent In'glissh, havving cervd for

thre yeerz az water at the Grovenor Hotel in Lundon. At hiz advice, on the
aafternoone ov the 4th we cet of tooghether, withe the intenshon ov
crossing the
hilz and spending the nite at the hamlet ov Rosenloi. We had strict
injuncshonz, houwevver, on no acount too paas the faulz ov Riakhenbaakh,
which ar
about haaf-wa up the hil, widhout making a smaul detoor too ce them.

It iz indede, a feerfool place. The torent, swollen bi the melting sno,
plun'gez intoo a tremendous abis, from which the spra roalz up like the
smoke
from a barning hous. The shaaft intoo which the rivver herlz itcelf iz an
imens
cazm, liand bi gliscening cole-blac roc, and narrowing intoo a creming,
boiling pit ov incalculabel depth, which brimz over and shuits the streme
onword over its jagghed lip. The long swepe ov grene wauter roering
forevver down,
and the thhic flickering kertane ov spra hiscing forevver upword, tern a
man
ghiddy withe dhare constant wherl and clammor. We stood nere the ej
pering down
at the gleme ov the braking wauter far belo us against the blac rox, and
liscening too the haaf-human shout which came booming up withe the spra
out ov
the abis.

The paath haz bene cut haaf-wa round the faul too afoerd a complete vu,
but it
endz abruptly, and the travveler haz too retern az he came. We had ternd
too doo
so, when we sau a Swis lad cum running along it withe a letter in hiz hand.
It
boer the marc ov the hotel which we had just left, and wauz adrest too me
bi

the landlord. It apeerd dhat within a verry fu minnuets ov our leving, an In'glish lady had ariavd whoo wauz in the laast stage ov consumpshon. She had winterd at Davos Plats, and wauz gerneying nou too join her frendz at Lucern, when a sudden hemmorage had overtaken her. It wauz thaut dhat she cood hardly liv a fu ourz, but it wood be a grate consolaishon too her too ce an In'glish doctor, and, if I wood oanly retern, etc. The good Schiller ashuerd me in a poastscript dhat he wood himcelf looc uppon mi compliyans az a verry grate favor, cins the lady absoluetly refuezd too ce a Swis fisishan, and he cood not but fele dhat he wauz incuuring a grate responcibility.

The apele wauz wun which cood not be ignoerd. It wauz imposcibel too refuse the reqwest ov a fello-cuntriwoomman diying in a strainj land. Yet I had mi scrupelz about leving Hoamz. It wauz finaly agrede, houwevver, dhat he shood retane the yung Swis mescen'ger withe him az ghide and companyon while I reternd too Merin'gen. Mi frend wood sta sum littel time at the faul, he ced, and wood then wauc sloly over the hil too Rosenloi, whare I wauz too rejoin him in the evening. Az I ternd awa I sau Hoamz, withe hiz bac against a roc and hiz armz foalded, gasing doun at the rush ov the wauterz. It wauz the laast dhat I wauz ever destiand too ce ov him in this werld.

When I wauz nere the bottom ov the decent I looct bac. It wauz imposcibel, from dhat posishon, too ce the faul, but I cood ce the kerving paath which

wiandz over the shoalder ov the hil and leedz too it. Along this a man
wauz, I
remember, wauking verry rappidly.

I cood ce hiz blac figgure cleerly outliand against the grene behiand him. I
noted him, and the ennergy withe which he wauct but he paast from mi
miand agane
az I hurrede on uppon mi errand.

It ma hav bene a littel over an our befoer I reecht Merin'gen. Oald Schiller
wauz standing at the poerch ov hiz hotel.

"Wel," ced I, az I came hurreying up, "I trust dhat she iz no wers?"

A looc ov cerprise paast over hiz face, and at the ferst qwivver ov hiz
iabrouz mi hart ternd too led in mi brest.

"U did not rite this?" I ced, pooling the letter from mi pocket. "Dhare iz
no cic In'glishwoomman in the hotel?"

"Certainly not!" he cride. "But it haz the hotel marc uppon it! Haa, it must
hav
bene ritten bi dhat taul In'glishman whoo came in aafter u had gon. He ced
—"

But I wated for nun ov the landlordz explanaishonz. In a tin'ghel ov fere I
wauz
aulreddy running doun the village strete, and making for the paath which I
had so
laitly decended. It had taken me an our too cum doun. For aul mi efforts
too
moer had paast befoer I found micelf at the faul ov Riakhenbaakh wuns
moer.
Dhare wauz Hoamsez Alpine-stoc stil lening against the roc bi which I had

left him. But dhare wauz no cine ov him, and it wauz in vane dhat I shouted. Mi
oanly aancer wauz mi one vois reverberating in a roling ecco from the cliffs around me.

It wauz the cite ov dhat Alpine-stoc which ternd me coald and cic. He had not
gon too Rosenloi, then. He had remaind on dhat thre-foot paath, withe shere
waul on wun cide and shere drop on the uther, until hiz ennemy had overtaken
him. The yung Swis had gon too. He had probbably bene in the pa ov Moreyarty,
and had left the too men tooghether. And then whaut had happend? Whoo wauz too tel
us whaut had happend then?

I stood for a minnute or too too colect micelf, for I wauz daizd withe the horror
ov the thhing. Then I began too thhinc ov Hoamsez one methodz and too tri too
practice them in reding this tradgedy. It wauz, alaas, oanly too esy too doo. Juring our
conversaishon we had not gon too the end ov the paath, and the Alpine-stoc marct the
place whare we had stood. The blackish soil iz kept forevver soft bi the incessant
drift ov spra, and a berd wood leve its tred uppon it. Too lianz ov footmarx wer
cleerly marct along the farther end ov the paath, boath leding awa from me. Dhare
wer nun reterning. A fu yardz from the end the soil wauz aul ploud up intoo a
pach ov mud, and the braanchez
and fernz which frinjd the cazm wer toern and bedraggheld. I la uppon mi face
and peerd over withe the spra spouting up aul around me. It had darkend
cins

I left, and nou I cood oanly ce here and dhare the gliscening ov moischure
uppon
the blac waulz, and far awa doun at the end ov the shaaft the gleme ov the
broken wauter. I shouted; but oanly the same haaf-human cri ov the faul
wauz boern
bac too mi eerz.

But it wauz destiand dhat I shood aafter aul hav a laast werd ov greting
from
mi frend and comrade. I hav ced dhat hiz Alpine-stoc had bene left lening
against a roc which juttet on too the paath. From the top ov this boulder
the
gleme ov sumthhing brite caut mi i, and, rasing mi hand, I found dhat it
came from the silver ciggaret-cace which he uest too carry. Az I tooc it up a
smaul sqware ov paper uppon which it had lane flutterd doun on too the
ground.
Unfoalding it, I found dhat it concisted ov thre pagez toern from hiz note-
booc
and adrest too me. It wauz characteristic ov the man dhat the direcshon
wauz a
precice, and the riting az ferm and clere, az dho it had bene ritten in
hiz studdy.

Mi dere Wautson [it ced], I rite these fu lianz throo the kertecy ov Mr.
Moreyarty, whoo awaits mi conveenyens for the final discushon ov dhose
qweschonz
which li betwene us. He haz bene ghivving me a skech ov the methodz bi
which he
avoided the In'GLISH polece and kept himcelf informd ov our muivments.
Dha
certainly conferm the verry hi opinyon which I had formd ov hiz abillitese.
I
am pleezd too thhinc dhat I shal be abel too fre sociyety from enny ferther
efects ov hiz prezsens, dho I fere dhat it iz at a cost which wil ghiv

pane too mi frendz, and espeshaly, mi dere Wautson, too u. I hav aulreddy explaind too u, houwevver, dhat mi carere had in enny cace reecht its cricis, and dhat no poscibel concluezhon too it cood be moer con'geenyal too me dhan this.

Indede, if I ma make a fool confeshon too u, I wauz qwite convinst dhat the letter from Merin'gen wauz a hoax, and I aloud u too depart on dhat errand

under the perswaizhon dhat sum devellopment ov this sort wood follo. Tel Inspector Patterson dhat the paperz which he needz too convict the gang ar in

pidjonhole M., dun up in a blu envelope and inscriabd "Moreyarty." I made evvery disposishon ov mi propperty befoer leving In'gland, and handed it too mi

bruther Miacroft. Pra ghiv mi gretingz too Mrs. Wautson, and beleve me too be,
mi dere fello,

Verry cinceerly yorz,

Sherloc Hoamz

A fu werdz ma sufice too tel the littel dhat remainz. An examinaishon bi experts leevz littel dout dhat a personal contest betwene the too men ended,

az it cood hardly fale too end in such a cichuwaishon, in dhare reling over, loct in eche utherz armz. Enny atempt at recuvvering the boddese wauz absoluetly hoaples, and dhare, depe down in dhat dredfool caldron ov swerling

wauter and ceething fome, wil li for aul time the moast dain'gerous crimminal and

the foermost champeyon ov the lau ov dhare generaishon. The Swis ueth wauz nevver

found agane, and dhare can be no dout dhat he wauz wun ov the numerous agents

whoome Moreyarty kept in hiz emploi. Az too the gang, it wil be within
the memmory
ov the public hou compleetly the evvidens which Hoamz had acumulated
expoazd
dhare organizaishon, and hou hevvily the hand ov the ded man wade
uppon them.
Ov dhare terribel chefe fu detailz came out juring the procedingz, and if I
hav nou bene compeld too make a clere staitment ov hiz carere it iz ju too
dhose injudishous champeyonz whoo hav endevvord too clere hiz
memmory bi atax
uppon him whoome I shal evver regard az the best and the wisest man
whoome I hav
evver none.