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 doun tooghether too our brecfast wun morning.

"Go! Whare too?"

"Too Dartmoor; too Kingz Piland."

I wauz not cerpriazd. Indede, mi oanly 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 widh hiz chin uppon hiz chest and hiz brouz nitted,
charging and recharging hiz pipe widh 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, oanly 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 oanly whaut I had boath expected and hoapt for.

"I shood be moast happy too go doun widh 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 widh 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, widh 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 Cilver 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'gecchure, and
hipothhecis. The difficulty iz too detach the fraimwerc ov fact—ov absolute undeniyabel fact—from the embellishments ov thheyorists and repoerterz. Then,
havving establisht ourcelvz uppon this sound bacis, it iz our juty too ce whaut

inferencez ma be draun and whaut ar the speshal points uppon which the whole
mistery ternz. On Chuezda evening I receevd tellegramz from boath Cuunel Ros,
the oner ov the hors, and from Inspector Greggory, 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
ocurrens 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 thheyory, 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, widh hiz long, thhin foerfin'gher checking of the points uppon the paam
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 Wescex Cup, the
betting beying thre too wun on him. He haz aulwase, houwevver, bene a prime
favorite widh 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
himcelf too be a sellous and onnest cervant. Under him wer thre ladz; for the
establishment wauz a smaul wun, contaning oanly 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 oanly 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 roole dhat the lad on juty shood drinc nuthhing els. The made carrede a lantern widh her, az it wauz verry darc and the paath ran acros 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, widh a cloth cap. He woer gaterz, and carrede a hevvy stic widh 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 pritteyest 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
widh u.' The gherl haz swoern dhat az he spoke she notiast the corner ov the
littel paper packet protrooding 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 Wescex 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 acros 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 widh 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 widh 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 reyaliazd its troo
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 oanly 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 instrooment. 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 widh blud up too the
handel, while in hiz left he claaspt 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
bauldly az poscibel. I shal nou recapitchulate whaut the polece hav dun in the
matter.

"Inspector Greggory, too whoome the cace haz bene comitted, iz an extreemly
competent officer. Wer he but ghifted widh 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 Lundon.
An examinaishon ov hiz betting-booc shose dhat bets too the amount ov five
thouzand poundz had bene redgisterd bi him against the favorite. On beying
arested he vollunteerd dhat staitment dhat he had cum doun too Dartmoor in the
hope ov ghetting sum informaishon about the Kingz Piland horcez, and aulso about
Dezboro, the ceccond 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh the gratest interest too the staitment which Hoamz, widh

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

"Iz it not poscibel," I sugested, "dhat the inciazd 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 thheyory ov the polece
can be."

"I am afrade dhat whautevver thheyory 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, widh 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 widh hiz hevvy stic widhout receving enny injury from the smaul nife which
Straker uezd in celf-defens, and then the thhefe iather led the hors on too sum ceecret hiding-place, or els it ma hav bolted juring the strugghel, and

be nou waundering 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 widh 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, widh trim littel cide-whiskerz and an i-glaas. The latter wauz Cuunel Ros, the wel-none spoertsman; the uther, Inspector Greggory, a man whoo wauz rappidly
making hiz name in the In'glish detective cervice.

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

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

"I am sorry too sa dhat we hav made verry littel proagres," ced the Inspector.
"We hav an open carrage outcide, 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 Greggory wauz fool ov hiz cace,
and poerd out a streme ov remarx, while Hoamz throo in an ocaizhonal qweschon or intergecshon. Cuunel Ros leend bac widh hiz armz foalded and hiz
hat tilted over hiz ise, while I liscend widh interest too the diyalog ov the too detectiavz. Greggory wauz formulating hiz thheyory, 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 cercumstaanshal, 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 widh a hevvy
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 councel 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 Chuezda 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 ceccond 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 widh the
afare."

"And nuthhing too conect this man Cimpson widh 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 widh 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 oanly bi the stepelz ov Tavistoc, and bi a cluster ov housez awa too the westword which marct the Mapelton stabelz. We aul sprang out widh the exepshon ov Hoamz, whoo continnude too lene bac widh 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 widh 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 Greggory.

"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-morro."

"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 widh haaf an ouns ov
long-cut Cavvendish, a cilver wauch widh a goald chane, five sovverainz in goald,
an aluminum pencil-cace, a fu paperz, and an ivory-handeld nife widh 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 cattaract nife," ced I.

"I thaut so. A verry dellicate blade deviazd for verry dellicate werc. A strainj
thhing for a man too carry widh 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 Darbishire. Mrs. Straker telz us dhat Darbishire wauz a frend ov her
huzbandz and dhat ocaizhonaly hiz letterz wer adrest here."

"Maddam Darbishire 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 sleve. Her
face wauz haggard and thhin and egher, stampt widh 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 widh ostrich-fether trimming."

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

"Aa, dhat qwite cettelz it," ced Hoamz. And widh an apollogy he follode the
Inspector outcide. 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 widh 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 himcelf 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 widh mud
dhat it looct at ferst like a littel chip ov wood.

"I canot thhinc hou I came too overlooc it," ced the Inspector, widh 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
widh marx uppon the ground. Then he clamberd up too the rim ov the hollo, and
crauld about amung 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-morro, 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 widh 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 gregareyous 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 hipothhecis 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 doun the banc
too the rite, and he too the left, but I had not taken fifty pacez 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 oanly too pic them up wuns moer qwite cloce too Mapelton. It wauz Hoamz whoo sau them ferst, and he stood pointing widh 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, widh 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-morro 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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-morro." 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 widh," 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 astonnishment at
reccognising, from the white foerhed which haz ghivven the favorite its name,
dhat chaans had poot in hiz pouwer the oanly 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 conceeld it at Mapelton. When I toald him evvery detale he gave it up and

thaut oanly 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 oanly 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 widh 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 expens. 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 oanly 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 Chuezda, 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 Greggory, 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 Lundon 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, widh 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 atendz too them?"

"I doo, cer."

"Hav u notiast ennithhing amis widh 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 amung 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 Sherloc 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 outcide 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, widh 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 droo 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 widh 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."

"Oanly 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 cix 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 widh
a rush, paast the poast a good cix 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 oanly onerz and dhare frendz fiand admittans.
"U hav oanly 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 thouzand 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 widh 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 lescen 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 thheyorese 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 troo impoert. I went too
Devvonshire widh the convicshon dhat Fitzroi Cimpson wauz the troo 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 widh 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 monstrous a cowincidens too supose dhat he happend too cum along widh
pouderd opeyum uppon the verry nite when a dish happend too be cervd which
wood disghise the flavor. Dhat iz unthhincabel. Dhaerfoer Cimpson becumz
elimminated 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 widh 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 troo 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 disonnest 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 poolling 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, widh 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 absoluetly 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 roomatizm, 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 belongingz I wauz forchunate enuf too
discuvver not oanly 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 ceccond
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 widh 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 cauling dhare widh 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 invizsibel. Cimpson in hiz flite had dropt hiz
cravat, and Straker had pict it up—widh sum ideyaa, perhaps, dhat he mite use

it in cecuring 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 widh 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 Darbishire, whoo had a verry
dashing wife, widh a strong parshallity for expencive drescez. I hav no dout
dhat this woomman had plunjd 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 oanly 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 truith 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 obgect 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 oanly 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 widh 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 oanly 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 widh 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 widh 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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, widh an exelent cet ov teeth, caerles in hiz
habbits, and widh no nede too practice econnomy."

Mi frend throo 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 paam. "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, energettic fello, and wun widh 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, widh 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 oanly. 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 widh too men whoome I hav nevver cene befoer. Its horribel 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
trubbeld soalz. I trust dhat we ma doo az much for u. Mite I beg u, az
time ma proove too be ov importans, too fernish me widh 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,
celf-containd man, widh a dash ov pride in hiz nachure, moer liacly too hide hiz
wuindz dhan too expose them. Then suddenly, widh 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 yeerz. 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 widh 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, widh sum impaishens.

"Ile tel u whaut I no about Effese history. She wauz a widdo when I met her ferst, dho qwite yung—oanly 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 nu dres 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 oanly 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 widh 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 widh whaut came aafterwordz, but I
thaut it oanly 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 pitty, for it wauz a pritty too-stoerede place, widh 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 triying 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 widh 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 opend bi a taul, gaunt woomman widh
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, weeyl 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 ruidnes 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 projuest
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-opend ise fel uppon her face, iluminated bi the
candel-lite, and astonnishment 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 trooly 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 trubbeld 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
criying out and wincing when her one huzband spoke too her.

"U awake, Jac!' she cride, widh 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, widh mi miand fild widh 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 thheyory aafter
thheyory, 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
brecfast, 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 widh astonnishment at the cite ov her; but mi emoashonz wer
nuthhing 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh
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 oanly 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 widh me, aul wil be wel. If u foers yor wa intoo dhat cottage, aul iz over betwene us.'

"Dhare wauz such ernestnes, 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 oanly,' 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, widh a grate ci ov relefe. It shal be just az u wish. Cum awa—o, cum awa up too the hous.'

"Stil poolling 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 widh
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 droo 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh whoome I had just bene speking running
acros 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 widh an‘gher, I rusht doun and hurrede acros, 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 widh them. In
the cottage la the ceecret which wauz caasting a shaddo over mi life. I voud dhat, cum whaut mite, it shood 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, oanly 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 coppy ov a
fool-length fotograaf ov mi wife, which had bene taken at mi reqwest oanly
thre munths ago.

"I stade long enuf too make certane dhat the hous wauz absoluetly 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 widh her, and pooshing paast her, I made mi wa intoo mi studdy. She follode
me, houwevver, befoer I cood close the doer.

"'I am sorry 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 nevver 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 widh 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, widh 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 widh 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 shood clere it aul up esily. Let me advise u, then, too retern too Norbury, and too exammine
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 widh 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-morro and tauc it over widh 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 acumpaneying 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 oanly cumfortabel roome in the
place, and haz her fotograaf abuv hiz fiarplace. Uppon mi werd, Wautson, dhare
iz sumthhing verry atractive 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 ceccond 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
imbecele? 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
unscroopulous 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
widh her the fotograaf which had probbably bene demaanded from her. In the midst
ov this intervu 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 inmaits 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 canot 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 widh
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 doun. We shal cettel it nou wuns and for aul."

"Whaut iz yor plan, then?" aasct Hoamz, az he wauct doun 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 boath 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 truith 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, widh hedgez on iather cide. Mr. Graant Munro poosht impaishently forword, 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
iluminated. 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
throo 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, widh too candelz berning 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 horror. 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, widh a laaf, paast hiz hand behiand the chialdz
ere, a maasc peeld of from her countenans, and dhare wauz a littel cole blac negres, widh aul her white teeth flashing in amuezment at our amaizd facez. I
berst out laafing, out ov cimpathhy widh her merriment; but Graant Munro stood
staring, widh 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 widh 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 droo 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 oanly 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 oanly 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 throo 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 widh 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 widh 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 beying a blac chiald in the
naborhood. If I had bene les caushous I mite hav bene moer wise, but I wauz haaf crasy widh fere dhat u shood lern the truith.

"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 carreying 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 creddit
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, widh 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 whoose 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 yeerz 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 recuvverd from aul the littel exiatments conected widh 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 triying."

"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 widh the
shopmanz hiyerogliffix uppon it. Damp wood ov coers hav remuivd this. U had, then, bene citting widh 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 cimpliscity 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 outcide 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 oanly just time too cach our trane."

The man whoome I found micelf facing wauz a wel bilt, fresh-complecshond yung

fello, widh 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 doun 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 evver.

"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 ritchest hous in Lundon. The advertiazment wauz too be
aancerd bi letter oanly. 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 scroo 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
widh 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 widh me; but,
ov coers, I aasct her too sho him up. In he wauct, a middel-ciazd,
darc-haerd, darc-ide, blac-beerded man, widh a tuch ov the Sheny about hiz
nose. He had a brisc kiand ov wa widh 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 extrordinary 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 widh the market while u hav bene out ov werc?' he aasct.

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

"Nou dhat shose reyal 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-aitths.'

"And Nu Seland consollidated?'

"'A hundred and foer.

"And Brittish Broken Hilz?'

"Cevven too cevven-and-cix.'

"Wunderfool!' he cride, widh hiz handz up. This qwite fits in widh 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 troo sfere. Nou,
Ile tel u hou it standz widh me. Whaut I hav too offer iz littel enuf when mezhuerd bi yor abillity, but when compaerd widh 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh.'

"Five hundred a yere!' I shouted.

"Oanly dhat at the beghinning; but u ar too hav an overiding 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 widh 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-morro 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 oanly got yor deserts. Dhare ar wun or too
smaul thhingz—mere formallitese—which I must arainj widh 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 minnimum
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 widh 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-morro 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 hugghing 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
profeshonal men. The naimz ov the occupants wer painted at the bottom on the

waul, but dhare wauz no such name az the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany,
Limmited. I stood for a fu minnuets widh mi hart in mi buits, wundering whether
the whole thhing wauz an elabborate hoax or not, when up came a man and adrest
me. He wauz verry like the chap I had cene the nite befoer, the same figgure and
vois, but he wauz clene shaven and hiz hare wauz liter.

"Ar u Mr. Haul Picroft?' he aasct.

"Yes,' ced I.

"O! I wauz expecting u, but u ar a trifel befoer yor time. I had a note
from mi bruther this morning in which he sang yor prasez verry loudly.'

"'I wauz just loocking for the officez when u came.

"We hav not got our name up yet, for we oanly cecuerd these temporary premmicez
laast weke. Cum up widh me, and we wil tauc the matter over.'

"I follode him too the top ov a verry lofty stare, and dhare, rite under the
slaits, wer a cuppel ov empty, dusty littel ruimz, uncarpeted and unkertaind,
intoo which he led me. I had thaut ov a grate office widh shining tabelz and
rose ov clarx, such az I wauz uest too, and I dare sa I staerd raather strate
at the too dele chaerz and wun littel tabel, which, widh a ledger and a waist
paper baasket, made up the whole fernichure.

"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 doun, 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 shroode 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, widh the traidz aafter the naimz ov the pepel. I waunt u too take it home widh u, and too marc of aul the hardware cellerz, widh 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 continnu too sho sele and intelligens u wil fiand the cumpany a good maaster.'

"I went bac too the hotel widh the big booc under mi arm, and widh 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 emploiyerz.
Houwevver, cum whaut mite, I had mi munny, so I cetteld doun 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 emploiyer, 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-morro 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 widh a thril dhat hiz ceccond tuith uppon the left-hand cide had bene
verry badly stuft widh goald."

Sherloc Hoamz rubd hiz handz widh delite, and I staerd widh astonnishment
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 stuft in this verry
identical fashon. The glint ov the goald in eche cace caut mi i, u ce.
When I poot dhat widh 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 stuft 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 widh me too Bermingam."

Dhare wauz a pauz aafter the stoc-brokerz clarc had concluded hiz cerprising
expereyens. Then Sherloc Hoamz coct hiz i at me, lening bac on the cooshonz widh a pleezd and yet crittical 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 widh me dhat an intervu widh Mr. Arthher Harry
Pinner in the temporary officez ov the Franco-Midland Hardware Cumpany,
Limmited, 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 droo 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 cide 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 amung 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 widh me, and Ile fix it up az esily az poscibel."

Following hiz lede, we acended five stoerese, until we found ourcelvz outcide
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, widh 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 widh 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 astonnishment depicted
uppon our conductorz face dhat this wauz bi no meenz the uezhuwal 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 widh 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 emploiment."

"Verry poscibly! Verry poscibly!" cride Mr. Pinner widh 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 caamer tone. "U ma wate here a moment; and dhare iz no rezon whi yor frendz shood not wate
widh u. I wil be entiarly at yor cervice in thre minnuets, if I mite
trespas uppon yor paishens so far." He rose widh 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 widh 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 franticaly acros the
roome and poosht at the doer. It wauz faacend on the inner cide. Following hiz
exaampel, we throo ourcelvz uppon it widh aul our wate. Wun hinj snapt,
then the uther, and doun came the doer widh 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 ceccond 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, widh 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 widh a
cla-cullord face, puffing hiz perpel lips in and out widh 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 breething groo 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 widh him," ced I, "but heeyl 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 droo a long, natchural
breth. "Its oanly a qweschon ov time nou," ced I, az I ternd awa from him.

Hoamz stood bi the tabel, widh 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 oanly 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 cumpany. 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 widh our littel
problem. Whi? Dhare can be oanly 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 ceccond 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. Supose 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 widh 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 emploiyer 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 Citty."

"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, widh 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 cride. "It iz a Lundon 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 atempted 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
cecuritese which amount in the agregate too a sum ov concidderably over a milleyon sterling. So conshous wauz the mannager ov the responcibillity 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, widh hiz bruther,
had oanly 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 vareyous 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 widh a carpet bag cum doun the steps at twenty minnuets paast wun. Hiz
suspishonz beying arouzd, the sarjant follode the man, and widh 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 thouzand poundz werth ov Amerrican railwa bondz,
widh a larj amount ov scrip in mianz and uther cumpanese, wauz discuvverd 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 discuvverd 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 widh
hiz booty. Hiz bruther, whoo uezhuwaly werx widh him, haz not apeerd in this
job az far az can at prezsent be ascertaind, auldho the polece ar making
energettic 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 forfeted. 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 doccuments in the extrordinary cace ov the Gloereyaa Scot, and this iz the message which struc
Justice ov the Pece Trevvor ded widh 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 receve 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 utherwise."

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

"U arouz mi cureyoscity," 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 widh 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 doun
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 subgects in common, and it wauz a bond ov uenyon when I found
dhat he wauz az frendles az I. Finaly, he invited me doun 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-spred, oke-beemd bric bilding, widh 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 cood
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 widh a concidderabel amount ov roode strength, boath fizsicaly 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 widh a shoc ov grizseld 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 subgect, 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 troo 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.'

"Ennithhing 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 troo.'

"And u hav bene moast intimaitly asoasheyated widh 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 widh a strainj wiald stare, and then picht forword, widh hiz face amung the nutshelz which
stroode 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, widh the exadgerated estimate ov mi abillity widh
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, widh 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 heeyl 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 droo mi vizsit too a
close. On the verry da, houwevver, befoer I left, and incident okerd which
pruivd 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 widh a crin'ging manner and a shambling stile ov wauking. He woer an open
jacket, widh 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, widh 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 widh puckerd ise, and widh 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 widh Mr. Beddose or widh u.'

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

"Bles u, cer, I no whare aul mi oald frendz ar,' ced the fello widh a cinnister smile, and he sloucht of aafter the made too the kitchen. Mr. Trevvor mumbeld sumthhing too us about havving bene shipmate widh 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 sorry 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 widh 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, horrifide at this unnexpected 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 astonnishment.

"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 clutchez 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 smuidh white cuntry rode, widh 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
complaind 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 widh 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 widh us, and this annimal Hudson became
moer and moer introocive, 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 widh 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 widh 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. Heeyl 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,
widh a taimnes which made mi blud boil.

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

"""Victor, u wil acnollej 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. Weeyl 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 recuvvering 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 droo 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 horrifi 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 widh grefe, a gentelman in blac emerjd 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.'

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

"Mi frend acended widh 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 himcelf in the pouwer
ov this ascid-faist ceman? Whi, too, shood he faint at an aluezhon too the
haaf-efaist 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, widh these verry paperz which li uppon mi ne held in hiz
graasp. He sat doun opposite too me, droo 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 Lundon iz gowing steddily up,' it ran.
Hed-keper Hudson, we beleve, haz bene nou toald too receve 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 subgect 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 widh 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 breding. 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 oanly 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 widh aul truith 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 nevver 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 widh 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 truith, 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 Lundon 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 pocibillity ov its beying mist. But the moast dredfool il-luc pershude me.
The munny which I had reccond uppon nevver came too hand, and a premachure
examinaishon ov acounts expoazd mi deficit. The cace mite hav bene delt leenyently widh, but the lauz wer moer harshly adminnisterd thherty yeerz ago
dhan nou, and on mi twenty-thherd berthda I found micelf chaind az a fellon
widh 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 croo, atene soalgerz, a captane, thre maits, 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 widh 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 widh.

""Ime Jac Prendergaast," ced he, "and bi God! Ule lern too bles mi name befoer uve dun widh 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 heeyl 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 widh 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 abord,
Prendergaast wauz the leder, and hiz munny wauz the motive pouwer.

""Ide a partner," ced he, "a rare good man, az troo 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 abord widh 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 croo ar hiz, boddy and sole. He cood bi
em at so much a groce widh a cash discount, and he did it befoer evver dha
ciand on. Hese got too ov the worderz and Merere, the ceccond 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. "Weeyl 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, widh the croo 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, whoose 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 conspirracy, az the oanly
meenz ov saving ourcelvz, and befoer we had crost the Ba dhare wer oanly 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 croo 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 ceccond 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 widh hiz brainz smeerd
over the chart ov the Atlantic which wauz pind uppon the tabel, while the

chaplane stood widh a smoking pistol in hiz hand at hiz elbo. The too maits had boath bene ceezd bi the croo, 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 widh 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 eerz, 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 widh aul dhat wer left alive at hiz heelz. Out we ran, and dhare on the poope wer the leftennant and ten ov hiz men. The swing skiliats abuv the
saloone tabel had bene 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 throo 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 maits, 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 widh 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 widh him. Our
oanly chaans ov saifty la in making a clene job ov it, ced he, and he wood
not leve a tung widh pouwer too wag in a witnes-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 jumpt 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 throo 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, smuidh 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 doun 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 uppon the ski line. A fu ceccondz
later a roer like thunder berst uppon 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 widh 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 widh a man liying strecht acros it. When we poold him abord the bote he pruivd 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
intoo the twene-dex and widh hiz one handz cut the throte ov the unforchunate
cerjon. Dhare oanly remaind the ferst mate, whoo wauz a boald and active man.
When he sau the convict aproching him widh 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
widh dhare pistolz in cerch ov him, found him widh a mach-box in hiz hand

ceted becide 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, whoose 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 troo 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 yeerz 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 widh him, and u wil in sum mezhure cimpathhise widh
me in the feerz which fil me, nou dhat he haz gon from me too hiz uther victim
widh 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 boath
disapeerd utterly and compleetly. No complaint had bene lojd widh 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 widh Beddose and had fled. For micelf I beleve dhat the truith 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 widh 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 widh 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 woodden mantelpece, then I beghin too ghiv

micelf verchuwous aerz. I hav aulwase held, too, dhat pistol practice shood be
distinctly an open-are paastime; and when Hoamz, in wun ov hiz qwere humorz,
wood cit in an arm-chare widh hiz hare-triggher and a hundred Boxer cartrigez,
and procede too adorn the opposite waul widh 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 destroiying doccuments, espeshaly dhose which wer conected widh 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 widh which hiz name iz asoasheyated wer follode bi reyacshonz
ov lethargy juring which he wood li about widh 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 widh 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 widh a
raather roofool face he went of too hiz bedroome, from which he reternd prezsently
poolling 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 throo bac the lid. I cood
ce dhat it wauz aulreddy a thherd fool ov bundelz ov paper tide up widh red tape
intoo cepparate paccagez.

"Dhare ar cacez enuf here, Wautson," ced he, loocking at me widh 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 suxescez, 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 reyaly iz sumthhing a littel reshersha."

He diavd hiz arm doun too the bottom ov the chest, and braut up a smaul woodden
box widh 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
widh 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 widh 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 crimminal 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 widh
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
boath 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 Lundon 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 widh him. He wauz not genneraly poppular amung the undergradjuwaits, dho it aulwase ceemd too me dhat whaut wauz cet doun az pride
wauz reyaly an atempt too cuvver extreme natchural diffidens. In aperans he wauz
a man ov exedingly aristocrattic tipe, thhin, hi-noazd, and larj-ide, widh 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
cepparated from the northern Muzgraivz sum time in the cixteenth cenchury, and
had establisht 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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
extrordinary and inexpliccabel biznes.'

"U can imadgine widh 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 cepparate 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, widh a
splendid foerhed, and dho he haz bene widh us for twenty yeerz he canot be
moer dhan forty nou. Widh hiz personal advaantagez and hiz extrordinary ghifts—for he can speke cevveral lan'gwagez and pla neerly evvery musical
instrooment—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
vizsit 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 widh 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 ceccond hous-made; but he haz throne her over cins then and taken
up widh 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 ceccond 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 roowin, for it ceemz too hav led too an insaishabel cureyoscity about thhingz 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 caffa 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 widh 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 corridor, 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 corridorz at Herlstone hav dhare waulz
larjly deccorated widh 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, widh 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 widh
astonnishment, wauching him from the darcnes. A smaul 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 droo 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 widh minute atenshon. Mi indignaishon
at this caam examinaishon ov our fammily doccuments 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 widh fere, and he thrust intoo hiz brest the chart-like paper which he had bene oridginaly studdeying.

"""So!" ced I. "This iz hou u repa the trust which we hav repoazd in u.
U wil leve mi cervice too-morro."

"He boud widh 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 coppy ov the qweschonz and
aancerz in the cin‘gular oald observans cauld the Muzgrave Ritchuwal. It iz a sort
ov cerremony 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, widh 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 widh 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 despare. 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 widh."

"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 widh sum cureyoscity
too ce hou he wood cuvver hiz disgrace. On the thherd morning, houwevver he did
not apere, az wauz hiz custom, aafter brecfast too receve 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh shreke aafter shreke ov

laafter, while I, horrifide at this sudden histerrical atac, rusht too the
bel too summon help. The gherl wauz taken too her roome, stil screming and
sobbing, while I made inqwirese 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
increddibel too me dhat he cood hav gon awa leving aul hiz propperty behiand
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 droo our atenshon awa from the oridginal mistery.

"For too dase Rachel Houwelz had bene so il, sumtiamz delereyous, sumtiamz
histerrical, dhat a ners had bene emploid too cit up widh her at nite. On the thherd nite aafter Bruntonz disaperans, the ners, fianding her paishent sleping 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, widh 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 obgect 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, widh 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 coppy 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 proove 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 widh the mannuscript, and which he thrust intoo hiz pocket when u
apeerd.'

"Dhat iz troo. But whaut cood he hav too doo widh 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; widh yor permishon we wil take the ferst trane doun 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 descripshonz 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, hevvily-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 widh fine oald timber suroundz 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
arite I shood hoald in mi hand the clu which wood lede me too the truith
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 widh, 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 yeerz ago, and we cut doun 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 groo.'

"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 unnexpected 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 astonnishment. 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 widh sum littel argument widh 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, utherwise 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 widh Muzgrave too hiz studdy and whitteld
micelf this peg, too which I tide this long string widh a not at eche yard. Then I tooc too lengths ov a fishing-rod, which came too just cix fete, and I went bac widh 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 throo 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 widh eche foot tooc me along parralel
widh the waul ov the hous, and agane I marct mi spot widh 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 widh 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 troo place, and dhat we had not bene
the oanly 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 widh 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 poolling on the cravat. I cood oanly
moove it sliatly, and it wauz widh 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 doun the

lantern.

"A smaul chaimber about cevven fete depe and foer fete sqware la open too us. At
wun cide ov this wauz a sqwaut, braas-bound woodden box, the lid ov which wauz
hinjd upwordz, widh this cureyous oald-fashond ke progecting from the loc.
It wauz ferd outcide 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 becide it. It wauz the figgure ov a man, clad in
a sute ov blac, whoo sqwauted doun uppon hiz hamz widh hiz foerhed sunc uppon
the ej ov the box and hiz too armz throne out on eche cide ov it. The
attichude had draun aul the stagnant blud too the face, and no man cood hav
reccogniazd dhat distorted livver-cullord countenans; but hiz hite, hiz dres,
and hiz hare wer aul sufishent too sho mi cliyent, when we had draun the boddy
up, dhat it wauz indede hiz miscing butler. He had bene ded sum dase, but
dhare wauz no wuind or broose uppon hiz person too sho hou he had met hiz
dredfool end. When hiz boddy had bene carrede from the cellar we found ourcelvz
stil confrunted widh a problem which wauz aulmoast az formiddabel az dhat widh

which we had started.

"I confes dhat so far, Wautson, I had bene disapointed in mi investigaishon. I
had reccond uppon solving the matter when wuns I had found the place referd
too in the Ritchuwal; but nou I wauz dhare, and wauz aparrently az far az evver from
nowing whaut it wauz which the fammily had conceeld widh such elabborate
precaushonz. It iz troo dhat I had throne a lite uppon the fate ov Brunton, but
nou I had too ascertane hou dhat fate had cum uppon him, and whaut part had bene
plade in the matter bi the woomman whoo had disapeerd. I sat doun uppon a keg in
the corner and thaut the whole matter caerfooly over.

"U no mi methodz in such cacez, Wautson. I poot micelf in the manz place
and, havving ferst gaijd hiz intelligens, I tri too imadgine hou I shood micelf
hav proceded under the same cercumstaancez. In this cace the matter wauz
cimplifide bi Bruntonz intelligens beying qwite ferst-rate, so dhat it wauz
un'nescesary 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 finaly lost a woommanz luv, houwevver badly he ma hav treted her. He wood tri bi a fu atenshonz too make hiz pece widh 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 doun 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, oanly

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 oanly 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 doun 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,
widh her eerz ringing perhaps widh the muffeld screemz from behiand her and widh
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 histerrical laafter on the next morning. But whaut had bene in the box? Whaut had
she dun widh 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 oporchunity too remoove the laast trace ov her crime.

"For twenty minnuets I had sat moashonles, thhinking the matter out. Muzgrave
stil stood widh 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 sparc 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, widh the
intenshon ov reterning for them in moer peesfool tiamz.'

"Mi ancestor, Cer Ralf Muzgrave, wauz a promminent Cavaleyer and the rite-hand

man ov Charlz the Ceccond 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 cureyoscity.'

"Whaut iz it, then?' he gaaspt in astonnishment.

"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 Ceccond, whoose 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 widh dhat I
skecht out too him the whole long chane ov cermise and ov proofe 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 probabillity iz dhat she got awa out ov In‘gland and carrede hercelf and the
memmory ov her crime too sum land beyond the cese."

Advenchure 6.

The Rigate Puzsel

It wauz sum time befoer the helth ov mi frend Mr. Sherloc Hoamz recuvverd
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 widh 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 oporchunity ov demmonstrating the vallu ov a
fresh weppon amung the menny widh 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 widh hiz name and when hiz roome

wauz litteraly ankel-depe widh 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 oanly cum widh 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
fredom, he fel in widh 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 widh 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, widh the rezult dhat an od vollume ov Poaps Homer,' too plated candelstix, an ivory letter-wate, a smaul oke barommeter, 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 widh 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 obtrooded 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 brecfast when the Cuunelz butler rusht in widh aul hiz propriyety shaken out ov him.

"Hav u herd the nuse, cer?" he gaaspt. "At the Cunningamz cer!"

"Berglary!" cride the Cuunel, widh 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, weeyl step over aafterwordz," ced the Cuunel, cooly cetling doun
too hiz brecfast 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. Heeyl 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 widh boath handz."

"If its a local villane dhare shood not be much difficulty in running him doun," ced Hoamz widh a yaun. "Aul rite, Wautson, I doant intend too meddel."

"Inspector Forrester, 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 introode, 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. Cunningam sau him from the bedroome windo, and Mr. Alec
Cunningam sau him from the bac passage. It wauz qworter too twelv when the
alarm broke out. Mr. Cunningam 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 outcide. Wun ov them fiard a shot, the uther dropt, and the merderer rusht acros the garden and over the hej. Mr. Cunningam, loocking out ov hiz bedroome, sau the fello az he gaind the rode, but lost cite ov him at wuns. Mr. Alec stopt too ce if he cood help the diying 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 energettic inqwirese, 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 widh hiz muther, and az he wauz a verry

faithfool fello we imadgine dhat he wauct up too the hous widh 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 smaul 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 thheyory dhat this Willeyam Kerwan—dho he had the reputaishon ov beying an onnest man, ma hav bene in leghe widh 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 extrordinary interest," ced Hoamz, whoo had bene exammining it widh 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, prezsently, "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 widh
cullor, and hiz ise az brite az befoer hiz ilnes. He sprang too hiz fete widh 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 fascinaits me extreemly. If u wil permit me, Cuunel, I wil leve mi frend Wautson and u, and I wil step round widh the Inspector too test the truith ov wun or too littel fancese ov mine. I wil be widh 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 outcide," 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 intervu widh 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 incrimminated him. And whaut wood he doo widh 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 hou can we ghet at the crimminalz pocket befoer we cach the crimminal?"

"Wel, wel, it wauz werth thhinking over. Then dhare iz anuther obveyous point.
The note wauz cent too Willeyam. The man whoo rote it cood not hav taken it;
utherwise, ov coers, he mite hav delivverd hiz one message bi werd ov mouth.
Whoo braut the note, then? Or did it cum throo the poast?"

"I hav made inqwirese," ced the Inspector. "Willeyam receevd a letter bi the aafternoone poast yesterda. The envelope wauz destroid bi him."

"Exelent!" cride Hoamz, clapping the Inspector on the bac. "Uve cene the

poastman. It iz a plezhure too werc widh u. Wel, here iz the loj, and if u wil cum up, Cuunel, I wil sho u the cene ov the crime."

We paast the pritty cottage whare the merderd man had livd, and wauct up an
oke-liand avvenu too the fine oald Qwene An hous, which baerz the date ov
Malplaca uppon the lintel ov the doer. Hoamz and the Inspector led us round
it until we came too the cide gate, which iz cepparated bi a strech ov garden
from the hej which lianz the rode. A cunstabel wauz standing at the kitchen doer.

"Thro the doer open, officer," ced Hoamz. "Nou, it wauz on dhose staerz dhat
yung Mr. Cunningam stood and sau the too men strugling just whare we ar.
Oald Mr. Cunningam wauz at dhat windo—the ceccond on the left—and he sau the
fello ghet awa just too the left ov dhat boosh. Then Mr. Alec ran out and nelt
becide 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, widh a strong, depe-liand,
hevvy-ide face; the uther a dashing yung fello, whoose brite, smiling
expreshon and showy dres wer in strainj contraast widh 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 Cunningam. "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 riadhd in aggony, and widh a suprest grone
he dropt on hiz face uppon the ground. Horrifide at the sudden'nes and ceverrity ov the atac, we carrede him intoo the kitchen, whare he la bac in a larj chare, and breedhd hevvily for sum minnuets. Finaly, widh a shaimfaist apollogy for hiz weecnes, he rose wuns moer.

"Wautson wood tel u dhat I hav oanly just recuvverd from a cevere ilnes," he explaind. "I am liyabel too these sudden nervous atax."

"Shal I cend u home in mi trap?" aasct oald Cunningam.

"Wel, cins I am here, dhare iz wun point on which I shood like too fele shure.
We can verry esily verrifi it."

"Whaut wauz it?"

"Wel, it ceemz too me dhat it iz just poscibel dhat the arival ov this poor fello Willeyam wauz not befoer, but aafter, the entrans ov the berglary intoo the
hous. U apere too take it for graanted dhat, auldho the doer wauz foerst,

the robber nevver got in."

"I fancy dhat iz qwite obveyous," ced Mr. Cunningam, graivly. "Whi, mi sun
Alec had not yet gon too bed, and he wood certainly hav herd enny wun mooving
about."

"Whare wauz he citting?"

"I wauz smoking in mi drescing-roome."

"Which windo iz dhat?"

"The laast on the left next mi faatherz."

"Boath ov yor lamps wer lit, ov coers?"

"Undoutedly."

"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 widh 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. "Ennithhing
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 doccument.

"I rote it raather hurreedly."

"U ce u beghin, Wharaz, at about a qworter too wun on Chuezda 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 widh 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 widh 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 particcular 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, widh the kitchenz braanching awa from it, led bi a woodden staercace directly too the ferst floer ov the hous. It came out uppon the
landing opposite too a ceccond moer ornamental stare which came up from the frunt
haul. Out ov this landing opend the drauwing-roome and cevveral 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 widh sum impaishens, "this iz shuerly verry
un'nescesary. 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 widh 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 thouzand pecez and the froote 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 froote, understanding for
sum rezon mi companyon desiard me too take the blame uppon micelf. The utherz
did the same, and cet the tabel on its legz agane.

"Hullo!" cride the Inspector, "whaerz he got too?"

Hoamz had disapeerd.

"Wate here an instant," ced yung Alec Cunningam. "The fello iz of hiz hed, in mi opinyon. Cum widh me, faather, and ce whare he haz got too!"

Dha rusht out ov the roome, leving the Inspector, the Cuunel, and me staring
at eche uther.

"Pon mi werd, I am incliand too agry widh Maaster Alec," ced the ofishal. "It
ma be the efect ov this ilnes, but it ceemz too me dhat—"

Hiz werdz wer cut short bi a sudden screme ov "Help! Help! Merder!" Widh a
thril I reccogniazd the vois ov dhat ov mi frend. I rusht madly from the
roome on too the landing. The crise, which had sunc doun intoo a hoers,
inarticculate shouting, came from the roome which we had ferst vizsited. I dasht
in, and on intoo the drescing-roome beyond. The too Cunningamz wer bending over
the prostrate figgure ov Sherloc Hoamz, the yun'gher clutching hiz throte widh
boath handz, while the elder ceemd too be twisting wun ov hiz rists. In an
instant the thre ov us had toern them awa from him, and Hoamz staggherd too
hiz fete, verry pale and evvidently graitly exausted.

"Arest these men, Inspector," he gaaspt.

"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, kertly.

Nevver certainly hav I cene a planer confeshon ov ghilt uppon human
countenancez. The oalder man ceemd numd and daizd widh 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

feroscity ov a dain‘gerous wiald beest gleemd in hiz darc ise and distorted hiz
handsum 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 widh 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 prezsently. I thhinc, Cuunel, dhat u and Wautson mite retern nou, and I wil be widh u agane in an our at the ferthest. The Inspector and I must hav a werd widh 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 smaul 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
overlooct it becauz he had started widh the suposishon dhat these county magnaits had had nuthhing too doo widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh
the uther. But we hav moer ashuerd rezonz dhan dhat for suposing it. If u exammine this scrap widh atenshon u wil cum too the concluezhon dhat the man
widh 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 ceccond 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 troo deccade widh tollerabel confidens. I sa
normal cacez, becauz il-helth and fizsical 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
croscing, we can sa dhat the wun wauz a yung man and the uther wauz advaanst in
yeerz widhout beying pozsitiavly decreppit."

"Exelent!" cride Mr. Acton agane.

"Dhare iz a ferther point, houwevver, which iz sutler and ov grater interest.
Dhare iz sumthhing in common betwene these handz. Dha belong too men whoo ar
blud-rellatiavz. It ma be moast obveyous too u in the Greke e'z, but too me
dhare ar menny smaul points which indicate the same thhing. I hav no dout at
aul dhat a fammily mannerizm can be traist in these too spescimenz ov riting. I

am oanly, ov coers, ghivving u the leding rezults nou ov mi examinaishon ov the
paper. Dhare wer twenty-thre uther deducshonz which wood be ov moer interest
too experts dhan too u. Dha aul tend too depen the impreshon uppon mi miand
dhat the Cunningamz, faather and sun, had ritten this letter.

"Havving got so far, mi next step wauz, ov coers, too exammine intoo the detailz ov
the crime, and too ce hou far dha wood help us. I went up too the hous widh
the Inspector, and sau aul dhat wauz too be cene. The wuind uppon the ded man
wauz, az I wauz abel too determine widh absolute confidens, fiard from a revolver
at the distans ov sumthhing over foer yardz. Dhare wauz no pouder-blackening on
the cloadhz. Evvidently, dhaerfoer, Alec Cunningam had lide when he ced dhat
the too men wer strugling when the shot wauz fiard. Agane, boath faather and sun
agrede az too the place whare the man escaipt intoo the rode. At dhat point,
houwevver, az it happenz, dhare iz a braudish dich, moist at the bottom. Az
dhare wer no indicaishonz ov bootmarx about this dich, I wauz absoluetly shure
not oanly dhat the Cunningamz had agane lide, but dhat dhare had nevver bene enny
un‘none man uppon the cene at aul.

"And nou I hav too concidder the motive ov this cin‘gular crime. Too ghet at this,

I endevvord ferst ov aul too solv the rezon ov the oridginal berglary at Mr. Actonz. I understood, from sumthhing which the Cuunel toald us, dhat a lausute
had bene gowing on betwene u, Mr. Acton, and the Cunningamz. Ov coers, it
instantly okerd too me dhat dha had broken intoo yor liabrary widh the intenshon ov ghetting at sum doccument which mite be ov importans in the
cace."

"Preciasly so," ced Mr. Acton. "Dhare can be no poscibel dout az too dhare intenshonz. I hav the clerest clame uppon haaf ov dhare prezsent estate, and if
dha cood hav found a cin'ghel paper—which, forchunaitly, wauz in the strong-box
ov mi soliscitorz—dha wood undoutedly hav crippeld our cace."

"Dhare u ar," ced Hoamz, smiling. "It wauz a dain'gerous, recles atempt, in which I ceme too trace the influwens ov yung Alec. Havving found nuthhing dha
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
oanly qweschon wauz whether it wauz stil dhare. It wauz werth an effort too fiand

out, and for dhat obgect we aul went up too the hous.

"The Cunningamz joind us, az u doutles remember, outcide the kitchen doer. It wauz, ov coers, ov the verry ferst importans dhat dha shood not be remianded ov the existens ov this paper, utherwise 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 cimpathhy 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 widh 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 widh 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 sorry 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 despare made them perfectly desperate.

"I had a littel tauc widh 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 Cunningam sau dhat the cace against him wauz so strong he lost aul hart
and made a clene brest ov evverithhing. It ceemz dhat Willeyam had ceecretly
follode hiz too maasterz on the nite when dha made dhare rade uppon Mr. Actonz, and havving dhus got them intoo hiz pouwer, proceded, under threts ov
expoazhure, too levvy blacmale uppon them. Mr. Alec, houwevver, wauz a dain‘gerous man
too pla gaimz ov dhat sort widh. It wauz a stroke ov pozsitive geenyus on hiz part
too ce in the berglary scare which wauz convulcing the cuntry cide an oporchunity ov plausibly ghetting rid ov the man whoome he feerd.
Willeyam wauz

decoid up and shot, and had dha oanly got the whole ov the note and pade a
littel moer atenshon too detale in the axessorese, it iz verry poscibel dhat suspishon mite nevver hav bene arouzd."

"And the note?" I aasct.

Sherloc Hoamz plaist the subjoind paper befoer us.

If u wil oanly cum around too the eest gate u it wil

verry much cerprise u and be ov the gratest cervice too u

and aulso too Anny Morison. But sa nuthhing too enniwun uppon

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 widh 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 caracteristic. 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-morro."

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
exausting 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 rizsen 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.
Widh a ri face I went out intoo the haul and opend the doer. Too mi
astonnishment 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?"

"Widh 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. Sorry 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 widh u widh 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 dejuest 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 remarcabel too hiz nabor, becauz the latter
haz mist the wun littel point which iz the bacis 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
thheyory. 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-morro?"

"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 oanly 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 suroundingz. Dha apere, houwevver, too hav qwicly adapted themcelvz, and Mrs. Barcla haz aulwase, I understand, bene az
poppular widh the ladese ov the redgiment az her huzband wauz widh 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 thherty 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 obtroociavly afecshonate. But dha wer

regarded in the redgiment az the verry moddel ov a middel-aijd cuppel. Dhare wauz
absoluetly nuthhing 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 widh 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
invizsibel 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 unnuezhuwal
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'gecchure.

"The ferst batalleyon ov the Roiyal Munsterz (which iz the oald 117th) haz bene
staishond at Auldershot for sum yeerz. 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 widh dhare maaster and mistres wer the sole occupants ov Lashene, for the Barclase
had no children, nor wauz it uezhuwal for them too hav rezsident 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 widh the Waut Strete Chappel for the perpoce ov
supliying the poor widh 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 oanly divided from the hiwa bi a lo waul widh 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 joind 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 oanly too fiand dhat the doer wauz loct
uppon the incide. Natchuraly enuf she ran doun too tel the cooc, and the too
wimmen widh the coachman came up intoo the haul and liscend too the dispute which
wauz stil raging. Dha aul agrede dhat oanly 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 breedh the same are widh u agane! U couward! U couward!' Dhose wer scraps ov her conversaishon,
ending in a sudden dredfool cri in the manz vois, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 unnexpected 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 widh 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 Chuezda morning I, at the
reqwest ov Major Merfy, went doun 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 truith much
moer extrordinary dhan wood at ferst cite apere.

"Befoer exammining the roome I cros-qweschond the cervants, but oanly 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 widh 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
ennithhing, 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 widh 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 widh 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 cruishal from utherz which wer meerly incidental.
Dhare cood be no qweschon dhat the moast distinctive and sugestive point in
the cace wauz the cin'gular disaperans ov the doer-ke. A moast caerfool cerch
had faild too discuvver 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
discuvvering 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 acros 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 widh he tracingz ov the foot-marx ov sum smaul 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 widh. 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 oanly about thre inchez.
U hav an indicaishon, u ce, ov a long boddy widh 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 widh 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
acros 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 introoder carrede awa the ke widh 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-morro."

"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 widh her huzband. She wauz nevver, az I thhinc I hav ced,
ostentaishously afecshonate, but she wauz herd bi the coachman chatting widh
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
widh 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'gecchure 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 widh 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 intruizhon ov this uther man, which mite, ov coers, be
entiarly disconected widh 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, widh timmid ise and blond
hare, but I found her bi no meenz waunting in shruidnes and common-cens. She
sat thhinking for sum time aafter I had spoken, and then, terning too me widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 truith, 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 troo 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 widh 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 widh 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 roopy.

"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 oanly 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 heeyl 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-morro, 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 widh dhat haaf-spoerting, haaf-intelecchuwal plezhure which I invareyably expereyenst when I
asoasheyated micelf widh him in hiz investigaishonz.

"This iz the strete," ced he, az we ternd intoo a short thurrofare liand widh plane too-stoerede bric housez. "Aa, here iz Cimpson too repoert."

"Hese in aul rite, Mr. Hoamz," cride a smaul 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 widh a message dhat he had cum on important biznes, and a moment later we wer face too face widh 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 ascertane. 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 troo 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 widh 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 weeyl 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 troo 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 widh haaf a battery ov artillery, a cumpany ov Ceekhs, and a lot ov civilleyanz and wimmen-foke. Dhare
wer ten thouzand rebbelz round us, and dha wer az kene az a cet ov terreyerz
round a rat-cage. About the ceccond weke ov it our wauter gave out, and it wauz a
qweschon whether we cood comunicate widh Genneral Neelz collum, which wauz
mooving up cuntry. It wauz our oanly chaans, for we cood not hope too fite our
wa out widh 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 widh

Sarjant Barcla, whoo wauz supoast too no the ground better dhan enny uther
man, and whoo droo 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 thouzand
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 widh 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 meenz 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 widh 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 widh 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 amung the Afganz. Dhare I
waunderd about for menny a yere, and at laast came bac too the Punjab, whare I
livd moastly amung 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 widh a strate bac, dhan ce him livving and
crauling widh a stic like a chimpansy. Dha nevver douted 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 yeerz 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 Sherloc Hoamz. "I hav aulreddy herd ov yor meting widh 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 widh 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

liadh, widh 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 forword."

"But if not, dhare iz no obgect 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 yeerz 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 superfishal," ced Hoamz, smiling. "Cum, Wautson, I doant thhinc we shal be waunted in Auldershot enny moer."

"Dhaerz wun thhing," ced I, az we wauct doun 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 ceccond ov Samuwel."

Advenchure 8.

The Rezsident Paishent

Glaancing over the sumwhaut incoherent cerese ov Memwarz widh 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 expereyenst 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 smaul matter which I
hav cronnikeld under the hedding ov "A Studdy in Scarlet," and dhat uther later
wun conected widh 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 sufishently axenchuwated; and yet the whole trane ov cercumstaancez 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 thhermommeter 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 Forrest 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, widh hiz fillaments stretching out and running throo them, responcive
too evvery littel roomor 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 increjulity."

"O, no!"

"Perhaps not widh yor tung, mi dere Wautson, but certainly widh 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 proofe dhat I had bene in rapor widh u."

But I wauz stil far from sattisfide. "In the exaampel which u red too me," ced
I, "the rezoner droo 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 droo mi atenshon too u, u sat for haaf a minnute widh 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
obveyous. U wer thhinking dhat if the poertrate wer fraimd it wood just cuvver
dhat bare space and corespond widh 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 terbulent 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 groo 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 ridicculous cide ov this method ov cetling internashonal qweschonz had foerst itcelf uppon yor miand. At this point I agrede widh 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 superfishal, mi dere Wautson, I ashure u. I shood not hav introoded it uppon yor atenshon had u not shone sum increjulity the uther da. But the evening haz braut a brese widh 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 caracteristic tauc,

widh 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 sufishently conversant widh Hoamsez methodz too be abel too follo hiz
rezoning, and too ce dhat the nachure and state ov the vareyous meddical instrooments 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. Widh sum
cureyoscity 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 widh 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 thherty, 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 oanly 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 widh 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 discurraging 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 doun 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 reyaly I am aulmoast ashaimd too menshon them. But the matter iz so inexpliccabel, and the
recent tern which it haz taken iz so elabborate, dhat I shal la it aul befoer u, and u shal juj whaut iz ecenshal and whaut iz not.

"I am compeld, too beghin widh, 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 concidderd bi mi professorz too be a verry prommicing 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 Brooce 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 prelimminary outla, he must be prepaerd too kepe himcelf for sum yeerz, and too hire a presentabel carrage and
hors. Too doo this wauz qwite beyond mi pouwer, and I cood oanly hope dhat bi
econnomy I mite in ten yeerz 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. Widh 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 astonnishment.

"O, its for mi sake, not for yorz,' he cride. Ile be perfectly franc widh u, and if it suets u it wil sute me verry wel. I hav a fu thouzandz 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, widh which the man Blescington
aproacht me. I woant wery u widh 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 widh me in the carracter ov a rezsident 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 ireggular, 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 widh 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 widh 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 doun 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 subgect. 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 rezsident 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 authorrity. He proposez too caul at about qworter paast cix

too-morro evening, if Dr. Treveleyan wil make it conveenyent too be at home.'

"This letter interested me deeply, becauz the chefe difficulty in the studdy ov
cattalepcy 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 handsum,
widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 nevver cervive it. Mi one nervous cistem
iz an exepshonaly cencitive wun. Widh 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 widhdroo. The paishent and I
then plunjd intoo a discushon ov hiz cace, ov which I tooc exaustive noats. He wauz not remarcabel for intelligens, and hiz aancerz wer freeqwently obscure, which I atribbuted too hiz limmited aqwaintans widh 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 widh 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 pitty and horror. Mi ceccond,
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 widh mi former expereyencez. I had obtaind good
rezults 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 truith, I hav got in the wa ov late ov hoalding az littel comunicaishon widh 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 recuvver 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 troo 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 widh 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 doun, and he berst intoo mi consulting-roome like a man
whoo iz mad widh 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
widh fere. When I went upstaerz widh 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 raind hard this aafternoone, az u no, and mi paishents wer the oanly 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
widh 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 intruizhon 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 criying 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 oanly cum bac widh me in mi broowam, u wood at leest be abel too suidh him, dho I can hardly hope dhat u wil be abel too explane this remarcabel ocurrens."

Sherloc Hoamz had liscend too this long narrative widh an intentnes which shode me dhat hiz interest wauz keenly arouzd. Hiz face wauz az impascive az
evver, but hiz lidz had druipt moer hevvily 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 widh 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 reyaly grose outrajous, Mr. Blescington," cride Dr. Treveleyan.

"O, then it iz u, doctor," ced the vois, widh a grate heve ov relefe. "But dhose uther gentelmen, ar dha whaut dha pretend too be?"

We wer conshous ov a long scrootiny 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-loocking man, whoose aperans, 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 widh 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 intruizhon 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 bankerz. 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 widh 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 truith."

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.

"Sorry 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 ceccond ocaizhon dhat
yung man pennetrated too Blescingtonz roome, while hiz confedderate, bi an
in'geenyous device, kept the doctor from interfering."

"And the cattalepcy?"

"A fraujulent 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 unnuezhuwal 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 widh Blescingtonz constichueshonal, which
ceemz too sho dhat dha wer not verry wel aqwainted widh 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-morro ma fiand him in a moer comunicative moode."

"Iz dhare not wun aulternative," I sugested, "grotescly improbbably, 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, poolling up the bliand. "Looc at this—a shete
from a note-booc, widh 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 widh a face ov horror.

"O, such a biznes!" he cride, widh 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 reyaly 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 hooc 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.

"Widh 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 bedroome doer. I hav spoken ov the impreshon ov flabbines which this man Blescington convade. Az
he dan'gheld from the hooc 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 oanly in hiz long nite-dres, and hiz swolen ankelz and un'gainly fete
protrooded 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 introoder, 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 delibberate
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 scroo-driver and sum scroose on the waush-hand stand. Ceemz too hav
smoact hevvily 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 Havannaa, 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 widh 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 widh mi ade and dhat ov the inspector cut doun 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 berning."

"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 oanly 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 ceccond, 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. Widh 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 widh
terror az too hav bene unnabel too cri out. These waulz ar thhic, and it iz
concevabel 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 proceding. 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 canot 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 widh them sum sort ov bloc
or poolly which mite cerv az a gallose. Dhat scroo-driver and dhose scroose
wer, az I conceve, for fixing it up. Ceying 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 widh 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 brecfast.

"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 widh 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 widh cevven thouzand 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 himcelf 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 cercumstaancez in conecshon widh 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
amung the pascen'gerz ov the il-fated stemer Noeraa Crenaa, which wauz lost sum
yeerz ago widh aul handz uppon the Porchughese coast, sum leegz too the north

ov Oporto. The procedingz against the page broke doun for waunt ov evvidens,
and the Brooc Strete Mistery, az it wauz cauld, haz nevver until nou bene foolly
delt widh in enny public print.

Advenchure 9.

The Greke Interpreter

Juring mi long and intimate aqwaintans widh Mr. Sherloc Hoamz I had nevver
herd him refer too hiz relaishonz, and hardly evver too hiz one erly life. This
retticens uppon hiz part had increest the sumwhaut inhuman efect which he
projuest uppon me, until sumtiamz I found micelf regarding him az an isolated
fenommenon, a brane widhout a hart, az defishent in human cimpathhy az he wauz
pre-emminent in intelligens. Hiz averzhon too wimmen and hiz dicinclinaishon too
form nu frendships wer boath tippical ov hiz unnemoashonal carracter, but not

moer so dhan hiz complete supreshon ov evvery refferens too hiz one pepel. I
had cum too beleve dhat he wauz an orfan widh no rellatiavz livving, but wun
da, too mi verry grate cerprise, he began too tauc too me about hiz bruther.

It wauz aafter te on a summer evening, and the conversaishon, which had roamd in
a dezultory, spazmoddic fashon from golf clubz too the causez ov the chainj in
the obliqwity ov the ecliptic, came round at laast too the qweschon ov attavizm
and heredditary aptichuedz. The point under discushon wauz, hou far enny cin'gular
ghift in an individjuwal wauz ju too hiz ancestry and hou far too hiz one erly
traning.

"In yor one cace," ced I, "from aul dhat u hav toald me, it ceemz obveyous
dhat yor facculty ov observaishon and yor peculeyar facillity for deducshon ar
ju too yor one cistemattic traning."

"Too sum extent," he aancerd, thautfooly. "Mi ancestorz wer cuntry
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
widh 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 heredditary?"

"Becauz mi bruther Miacroft posescez it in a larger degry dhan I doo."

This wauz nuse too me indede. If dhare wer anuther man widh such cin‘gular pouwerz
in In‘gland, hou wauz it dhat niather polece nor public had herd ov him? I poot
the qweschon, widh 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 widh dhose whoo ranc moddesty amung
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 truith 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 truith."

"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
ennergy. He wil not even go out ov hiz wa too verrifi hiz one solueshonz, and
wood raather be concidderd rong dhan take the trubbel too proove himcelf rite.
Agane and agane I hav taken a problem too him, and hav receevd an explanaishon
which haz aafterwordz pruivd too be the corect wun. And yet he wauz absoluetly
incapabel ov werking out the practical points which must be gon intoo befoer a
cace cood be lade befoer a juj or jury."

"It iz not hiz profeshon, then?"

"Bi no meenz. Whaut iz too me a meenz ov liavlihood iz too him the merest hobby ov
a diletanty. He haz an extrordinary facculty for figguerz, and audits the boox
in sum ov the guvvernment departments. Miacroft lodgez in Pal Mal, and he
waux round the corner intoo Whiat'haul evvery morning and bac evvery evening.
From yeerz end too yeerz end he taix no uther exercise, and iz cene noawhare
els, exept oanly in the Diyodgenese Club, which iz just opposite hiz ruimz."

"I canot recaul the name."

"Verry liacly not. Dhare ar menny men in Lundon, u no, whoo, sum from shines, sum from misanthropy, hav no wish for the cumpany ov dhare fellose.
Yet dha ar not avers too cumfortabel chaerz and the latest pereyoddicalz. It iz
for the conveenyens 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 cercumstaancez, 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 doun 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 widh a companyon
whoome I nu cood oanly 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 oanly 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 evveriwhare 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 doun 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 oanly cianz ov billeyardz which I cood ce in wun ov
them. The uther wauz a verry smaul, darc fello, widh hiz hat poosht bac and
cevveral paccagez under hiz arm.

"An oald soalger, I perceve," ced Sherloc.

"And verry recently discharjd," remarct the bruther.

"Cervd in Injaa, I ce."

"And a non-comishond officer."

"Roiyal Artillery, I fancy," ced Sherloc.

"And a widdower."

"But widh 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 widh dhat baring,
expreshon ov authorrity, 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 waundering grainz from hiz cote frunt widh 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 bacis 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 widh 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 Avvenu hotelz. I thhinc I wil leve him too tel hiz verry remarcabel expereyens in hiz one fashon."

A fu minnuets later we wer joind bi a short, stout man whoose ollive face and
cole-blac hare proclaimd hiz Suthern origin, dho hiz speche wauz dhat ov an edjucated In'glishman. He shooc handz egherly widh Sherloc Hoamz, and hiz
darc ise sparkeld widh plezhure when he understood dhat the speshalist wauz
ancshous too here hiz stoery.

"I doo not beleve dhat the polece creddit me—on mi werd, I doo not," ced he in a
waling vois. "Just becauz dha hav nevver herd ov it befoer, dha thhinc dhat such a thhing canot be. But I no dhat I shal nevver be esy in mi miand until I no whaut haz becum ov mi poor man widh the sticking-plaaster uppon hiz
face."

"I am aul atenshon," ced Sherloc Hoamz.

"This iz Wednzda evening," ced Mr. Melaaz. "Wel then, it wauz Munda nite—oanly too dase ago, u understand—dhat aul this happend. I am an interpreter, az perhaps mi nabor dhare haz toald u. I interpret aul lan'gwagez—or neerly aul—but az I am a Greke bi berth and widh a Greeshan name,
it iz widh dhat particcular tung dhat I am principaly asoasheyated. For menny
yeerz I hav bene the chefe Greke interpreter in Lundon, and mi name iz verry
wel none in the hotelz.

"It happenz not unfreeqwently dhat I am cent for at strainj ourz bi foranerz 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 fashonably 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 nuthhing 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 Shaaftsbery 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 widh 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 droo up the windose on eche cide, and I found too mi
astonnishment dhat dha wer cuvverd widh paper so az too prevent mi ceying
throo them.

"'I am sorry 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 widh 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 weeyl 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 smuidh, 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 doun
the windo, and I caut a glimps ov a lo, archt doerwa widh a lamp berning
abuv it. Az I wauz hurrede from the carrage it swung open, and I found micelf
incide the hous, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh us ule not regret it, but if u tri enny
trix, God help u!' He spoke in a nervous, gerky fashon, and widh littel
ghigling laafs in betwene, but sumhou he imprest me widh fere moer dhan the
uther.

"Whaut doo u waunt widh me?' I aasct.

"Oanly 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 nevver 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 oanly 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 glimpcez 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
widh 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 widh horror at hiz aperans. He wauz dedly pale
and terribly emaishated, widh the protrooding, brilleyant ise ov a man whoose
spirrit wauz grater dhan hiz strength. But whaut shoct me moer dhan enny cianz
ov fizsical weecnes wauz dhat hiz face wauz grotescly cris-crost widh
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.

"Oanly if I ce her marrede in mi prezsens bi a Greke preest whoome I no.'

"The man ghiggheld in hiz vennomous 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 doccuments. 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 nosez. 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, widh blac hare, and clad in sum sort ov looce white goun.

"Harrold,' ced she, speking In‘glish widh a broken axent. 'I cood not sta awa lon‘gher. It iz so loanly up dhare widh oanly—O, mi God, it iz Paul!'

"These laast werdz wer in Greke, and at the same instant the man widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh a malignant, inexorabel
croowelty 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 widh 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 widh darc
clumps ov ferz-booshez. Far awa strecht a line ov housez, widh a lite here and dhare in the upper windose. On the uther cide I sau the red cignal-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 widh, 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 extrordinary 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
discuvver the rest. U must yorcelf hav formd sum thheyory 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‘glishman 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‘glish faerly wel. Inferens—dhat she had bene in In‘gland
sum littel time, but he had not bene in Grece."

"Wel, then, we wil prezhume dhat she had cum on a vizsit too In‘gland, and dhat
this Harrold had perswaded her too fli widh him."

"Dhat iz moer probbabel."

"Then the bruther—for dhat, I fancy, must be the relaishonship—cumz over from
Grece too interfere. He improodently 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 widh 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 truith. U ce dhat we hoald aul the cardz, and we hav oanly 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‘gecchure 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 widh 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 widh a J pen on roiyal creme paper bi a

middel-aijd man widh 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 widh 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 oanly no
dhat he drove awa widh 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, widh 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 fizsical 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 widh 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 dismist 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 hevvily loded widh 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, shrugghing 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 ceccond 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 outcide. Hoamz flung open the doer and rusht in, but he wauz

out agane in an instant, widh hiz hand too hiz throte.

"Its charcole," he cride. "Ghiv it time. It wil clere."

Pering in, we cood ce dhat the oanly lite in the roome came from a dul blu flame which flickerd from a smaul braas tripod in the center. It throo 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 horribel 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 throo 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!"

Widh 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, widh swolen, congested facez and protrooding ise. Indede, so distorted wer dhare fechuerz dhat, save
for hiz blac beerd and stout figgure, we mite hav faild too reccognise in wun
ov them the Greke interpreter whoo had parted from us oanly 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 viyolent blo. The uther, whoo wauz cecuerd in a
cimmilar fashon, wauz a taul man in the laast stage ov emaishaishon, widh 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, widh 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 widh the fere ov instant and
inevvitabel deth dhat he had kidnapt him for the ceccond 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 widh trembling handz
and a blaansht cheke. He had bene taken swiftly too Beckenham, and had acted az
interpreter in a ceccond intervu, even moer dramattic dhan the ferst, in which
the too In'glishmen had mennaist dhare prizzoner widh instant deth if he did not
compli widh dhare demaandz. Finaly, fianding him proofe against evvery thret,

dha had herld him bac intoo hiz prizzon, and aafter reproching Melaaz widh hiz
tretchery, which apeerd from the nuespaper advertiazment, dha had stund him widh 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 widh 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 widh him. Her frendz, shoct at the event,
had contented themcelvz widh informing her bruther at Athhenz, and had then
wausht dhare handz ov the matter. The bruther, on hiz arival in In'gland, had
improodently 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 croowelty 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 femminine 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 widh 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 Budaa-Pesth. It
toald hou too In'glishmen whoo had bene travveling widh a woomman had met widh 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 thhinking, 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 widh
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 widh 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 vallu ov hiz analittical methodz so cleerly or haz imprest
dhose whoo wer asoasheyated widh him so deeply. I stil retane an aulmoast verbatim
repoert ov the intervu in which he demmonstrated the troo 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 pruivd
too be cide-ishuse. The nu cenchury wil hav cum, houwevver, befoer the stoery
can be saifly toald. Meenwhile I paas on too the ceccond 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 widh a lad naimd Percy
Felps, whoo wauz ov much the same age az micelf, dho he wauz too claacez ahed
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 tooghether we
nu dhat hiz mutherz bruther wauz Lord Hold'herst, the grate concervative
politishan. This gaudy relaishonship did him littel good at scoole. On the
contrary, it ceemd raather a pecaant thhing too us too chevy him about the
plaiground and hit him over the shinz widh a wicket. But it wauz anuther thhing
when he came out intoo the werld. I herd vaigly dhat hiz abillitese and the
influwencez which he comaanded had wun him a good posishon at the Forane
Office, and then he paast compleetly out ov mi miand until the following letter
recauld hiz existens:

Briarbra, Woking. Mi dere Wautson,—I hav no dout dhat u can remember

"Tadpole" Felps, whoo wauz in the fifth form when u wer in the thherd. It iz
poscibel even dhat u ma hav herd dhat throo mi unkelz influwens I obtaind a good apointment at the Forane Office, and dhat I wauz in a cichuwaishon ov trust and onnor until a horribel misforchune came suddenly too blaast
mi carere.

Dhare iz no uce riting ov the detailz ov dhat dredfool event. In the event ov yor axeding too mi reqwest it iz probbabel dhat I shal hav too narate them too
u. I hav oanly just recuvverd from nine weex ov brane-fever, and am stil exedingly weke. Doo u thhinc dhat u cood bring yor frend Mr. Hoamz doun
too ce me? I shood like too hav hiz opinyon ov the cace, dho the authorritese ashure me dhat nuthhing moer can be dun. Doo tri too bring him doun,
and az soone az poscibel. Evvery minnute ceemz an our while I liv in this state
ov horribel suspens. Ashure him dhat if I hav not aasct hiz advice sooner it wauz not becauz I did not apreesheyate hiz tallents, but becauz I hav bene 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 widh 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 widh 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
tellegramz, which wer handed over too the page-boi. Then he throo himcelf doun
intoo the chare opposite, and droo 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 widh 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 widh 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 amung the fer-woodz and the hether ov Woking.
Briarbra pruivd too be a larj detacht 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 widh 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 widh 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 subgect 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, widh 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 baamy summer are. A woomman wauz citting becide 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.
Sherloc Hoamz?"

I introjuest him in a fu werdz, and we boath sat doun. The stout yung man had
left us, but hiz cister stil remaind widh her hand in dhat ov the invalid.
She wauz a striking-loocking woomman, a littel short and thhic for cimmetry, but
widh 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 responcibel 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 trety betwene In'gland and Ittaly ov which, I regret too sa, sum
roomorz hav aulreddy got intoo the public pres. It iz ov enormous importans
dhat nuthhing ferther shood leke out. The French or the Rushan embacy wood
pa an imens sum too lern the contents ov these paperz. Dha shood 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 trety and loc it up dhare. I shal ghiv direcshonz dhat u

ma remane behiand when the utherz go, so dhat u ma coppy it at yor lezhure
widhout fere ov beying overlooct. When u hav finnisht, reloc boath the oridginal and the draaft in the desc, and hand them over too me personaly too-morro 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 remarcably 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 trety 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 defiand 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
aulso from the efects ov a long dase werc. A cup ov coffy wood clere mi
brane. A comishonare remainz aul nite in a littel loj at the foot ov the
staerz, and iz in the habbit ov making coffy at hiz spirrit-lamp for enny ov the
ofishalz whoo ma be werking over time. I rang the bel, dhaerfoer, too summon
him.

"Too mi cerprise, it wauz a woomman whoo aancerd the summonz, a larj,

coers-faist, elderly woomman, in an aipron. She explaind dhat she wauz the
comishonaerz wife, whoo did the charing, and I gave her the order for the coffy.

"I rote too moer artikelz and then, feling moer drousy dhan evver, I rose and
wauct up and doun the roome too strech mi legz. Mi coffy had not yet cum, and
I wunderd whaut wauz the cauz ov the dela cood be. Opening the doer, I
started doun the corridor too fiand out. Dhare wauz a strate passage, dimly
lited, which led from the roome in which I had bene werking, and wauz the oanly
exit from it. It ended in a kerving staercace, widh the comishonaerz loj
in the passage at the bottom. Haaf wa doun this staercace iz a smaul landing,
widh anuther passage running intoo it at rite an'ghelz. This ceccond wun leedz bi
meenz ov a ceccond smaul stare too a cide doer, uezd bi cervants, and aulso az a
short cut bi clarx when cumming from Charlz Strete. Here iz a ruf chart ov the place."

"Thanc u. I thhinc dhat I qwite follo u," ced Sherloc Hoamz.

"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, widh 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 widh 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 widh an evver-growing astonnishment 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 trety la uppon the tabel. I ran franticaly up the stare and
along the passage. Dhare wauz no wun in the corridorz, Mr. Hoamz. Dhare wauz no
wun in the roome. Aul wauz exactly az I left it, save oanly dhat the paperz which
had bene comitted too mi care had bene taken from the desc on which dha la.
The coppy 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 corridor which u hav just descriabd az dimly lited?"

"It iz absoluetly imposcibel. A rat cood not concele himcelf iather in the roome or the corridor. 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 corridor 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, widh 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, tugghing
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 widh it, and cum doun too the uther end ov the strete. Wel, if u woant, I wil.' And widh 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 yorcelf 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. Widh 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 corridor which led too the roome wauz lade doun widh 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 widh 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 extrordinary 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. Whoowevver 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 unnuezhuwal. Whaut wer yor next steps? U exammiand

the roome, I prezhume, too ce if the introoder 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 absoluetly no clu ov enny kiand. The oanly
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 widh 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 doun the passage. Forbz flung open the doer, and we
boath ran intoo the bac roome or kitchen, but the woomman had got dhare befoer us.
She staerd at us widh defiyant ise, and then, suddenly reccognising me, an expreshon ov absolute astonnishment 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 aggony ov suspens
until she came bac widh 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 trety 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 horribel. 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 widh
me. Whaut dho I wauz the victim ov an extrordinary axident? No alouwans iz
made for axidents whare diplomattic interests ar at stake. I wauz roowind,
shaimfooly, hoaplesly roowind. 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, endevvoring too suidh me. Wun ov them drove doun widh 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 widh 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 oanly
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'glish 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 absoluetly mi laast hope. If u fale me, then mi onnor az wel az mi posishon ar forevver forfeted."

The invalid sanc bac uppon hiz cooshonz, tiard out bi this long recital, while
hiz ners poerd him out a glaas ov sum stimmulating meddicine. Hoamz sat cilently, widh 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 inqwirese 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 authorritese 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 obgects.

"Dhare iz nuthhing in which deducshon iz so nescesary az in relidjon," ced he,
lening widh 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 uther 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 widh cerprise and a good dele ov disapointment ritten uppon dhare facez. He had
faulen intoo a revvery, widh 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, widh
a tuch ov asperrity in her vois.

"O, the mistery!" he aancerd, cumming bac widh a start too the reyallitese ov
life. "Wel, it wood be abcerd too deni dhat the cace iz a verry abstrooce 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 widh 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-morro, 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 oporchunity 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 doun 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 doun uppon the housez like this."

I thaut he wauz joking, for the vu wauz sordid enuf, but he soone explaind 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 widh 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 oanly children ov an iarn-maaster sumwhare up Northumberland wa. He got en'gaijd

too her when travveling laast winter, and she came doun too be introjuest too hiz
pepel, widh 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, widh
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 weeyl looc intoo this
matter tooghether. 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 staitsman mite fiand himcelf in a posishon whare he wauz not sorry too hav such a doccument axidentaly destroid."

"Not a staitsman widh 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 Lundon. 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 corridorz, 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 widh 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 smaul, foxy
man widh 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 discreddit 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 creddit 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 widh 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 creddit from the cace so far."

"Whaut steps hav u taken?"

"Tan'gy, the comishonare, haz bene shaddode. He left the Gardz widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 thheyory 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 intervu 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
Douning Strete, and on Hoamz cending in hiz card we wer instantly shone up.
The staitsman receevd us widh 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, widh hiz slite, taul figgure, hiz sharp fechuerz, thautfool face, and kerling hare premachuerly tinjd widh gra,
he ceemd too represent dhat not too common tipe, a nobelman whoo iz in truith
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 oanly bene wun ocurrens in these officez which cood caul for yor atenshon. In whoose 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 doccument 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
doccument?"

"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
trety 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 ennithhing ov the matter, then the thheefs prezsens in the roome wauz puerly
axidental. He sau hiz chaans and he tooc it."

The staitsman 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 discus widh u," ced he. "U feerd, az I understand, dhat verry grave rezults mite follo from the detailz ov this trety becumming none."

A shaddo paast over the exprescive face ov the staitsman. "Verry grave rezults
indede."

"And hav dha okerd?"

"Not yet."

"If the trety had reecht, let us sa, the French or Rushan Forane Office, u wood expect too here ov it?"

"I shood," ced Lord Hold'herst, widh a ri face.

"Cins neerly ten weex hav elapst, then, and nuthhing haz bene herd, it iz not unfare too supose dhat for sum rezon the trety haz not reecht them."

Lord Hold'herst shrugd hiz shoalderz.

"We can hardly supose, Mr. Hoamz, dhat the thhefe tooc the trety 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 trety 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 staitsman, 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 doun widh me too Woking too-morro, 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 widh 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 truith 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 groo 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 widh wun. I had a nite-lite berning, 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 groo 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
instrooment throo the slit betwene the sashez, and the ceccond 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 opend. 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 oanly 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 outcide the windo, but the wether haz bene so
dri laitly dhat dha found it hoaples too follo the trale acros the graas. Dhaerz a place, houwevver, on the woodden 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 widh 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 widh 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 shrugghing 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 atract berglarz?"

"Nuthhing ov vallu."

Hoamz stroald round the hous widh hiz handz in hiz pockets and a negligent
are which wauz unnuezhuwal widh 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 woodden railz

had bene cract. A smaul fragment ov the wood wauz hanging doun. Hoamz poold
it of and exammiand it critticaly.

"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 doun 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 widh 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 astonnishment.

"When u go too bed loc the doer ov this roome on the outcide and kepe the ke.
Prommice too doo this."

"But Percy?"

"He wil cum too Lundon widh 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
widh us."

"At wuns?"

"Wel, az soone az u conveenyently 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 widh us so az too

looc aafter me?"

"O, no; mi frend Wautson iz a meddical man, u no, and heeyl looc aafter u. Weeyl 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 widh Hoamsez sugeschon. Whaut the obgect ov
mi frendz manuverz wauz I cood not conceve, unles it wer too kepe the lady awa from Felps, whoo, rejoist bi hiz reterning helth and bi the prospect ov acshon, luncht widh us in the dining-roome. Hoamz had a stil moer
startling cerprise for us, houwevver, for, aafter acumpaneying us doun too the
staishon and ceying us intoo our carrage, he caamly 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 widh our frend here, and remaning widh 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 widh 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, roofooly.

"We can doo dhat too-morro. 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-morro 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 widh 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 widh 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 trety. 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 widh 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 qwerroolous 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
trety, 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 inscrootabel 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-morro."

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 thheyorese, 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.

"Heeyl be here when he prommiast," ced I, "and not an instant sooner or later."

And mi werdz wer troo, 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
widh the te and coffy. A fu minnuets later she braut in thre cuvverz, and we aul droo 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 widh hiz one emoashonz dhat we had too poer brandy doun hiz
throte 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 doccument intoo the innermoast pocket ov hiz cote.

"I hav not the hart too interupt yor brecfast 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 outcide 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 doun amung 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 outcide
and take the ke widh 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 uppon 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 droo 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 outcide the windo.

"Wel, he haz raather moer vishousnes dhan I gave him creddit for, haz Maaster
Josef. He flu at me widh 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 oanly i he cood ce widh 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 shruidly 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 aggony the stolen paperz wer within the verry roome widh 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 hevvily in dabling widh 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 fashon, "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 widh 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 conceeld ennithhing—u toald us in yor narrative hou u had ternd Josef out when u ariavd widh 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 introoder wauz wel aqwainted widh 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 droo 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 conceeld it in whaut he thaut wauz a verry safe place, widh 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 whenevver it cood be dun widh 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 widh 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, shrugghing 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 widh 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
expereyencez 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
efect 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 yeerz 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 truith 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 Rooterz despach in the In'glish paperz on Ma 7th, and finaly the recent
letter too which I hav aluded. Ov these the ferst and ceccond wer extreemly
condenst, while the laast iz, az I shal nou sho, an absolute perverzhon ov
the facts. It lise widh me too tel for the ferst time whaut reyaly 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 groo 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'gaijd bi the French
guvvernment 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 widh 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 droo in the smoke ov hiz ciggaret az if the suithing influwens wauz
graitfool too him.

"I must apollogise for cauling 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 widh 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 widh a fenommenal mathhemattical facculty.
At the age ov twenty-wun he rote a tretese uppon the Binomeyal Thheyorem, 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 heredditary 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 roomorz 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 yeerz 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-doower. 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 personaly consulted. For yeerz 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 thouzand
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
dejuest, Wautson, and which I devoted mi whole ennergy too exposing and braking
up.

"But the Professor wauz fenst round widh saifgardz so cunningly deviazd dhat,
doo whaut I wood, it ceemd imposcibel 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, widh 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 brilleyant 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 oanly 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 threshhold. 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 protruidz forword, and iz forevver sloly oscilating from
cide too cide in a cureyously reptilleyan fashon. He peerd at me widh 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 oanly 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 droo
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 droo 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 Febroowary 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 oanly wun
rezoers left. It haz bene an intelecchuwal trete too me too ce the wa in which
u hav grappeld widh 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, widh 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 evenchuwallity 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 intervu widh 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 asaulted?"

"Mi dere Wautson, Professor Moreyarty 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 croscing 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 ceccond. 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 shatterd 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 widh a bludjon. I
noct him doun, and the polece hav him in custody; but I can tel u widh 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 widh
me."

"The practice iz qwiyet," ced I, "and I hav an acommodating nabor. I
shood be glad too cum."

"And too start too-morro morning?"

"If nescesary."

"O yes, it iz moast nescesary. 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 widh me against the clevverest roghe and the moast pouwerfool
cindicate ov crimminalz in Urope. Nou liscen! U wil dispach 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 ceccond which ma present itcelf. Intoo this hansom u
wil jump, and u wil drive too the Strand end ov the Louther Arcade, handing
the adres too the cabman uppon a slip ov paper, widh 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 widh a hevvy blac cloke tipt at the collar widh 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 ceccond 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. Widh a fu hurrede werdz az too
our planz for the morro he rose and came out widh 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 widh such precaushon az wood prevent its beying wun which wauz plaist
reddy for us, and I drove imejaitly aafter brecfast too the Louther Arcade, throo which I hurrede at the top ov mi spede. A broowam wauz wating widh 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 oanly wun in the trane which wauz marct "En'gaijd." Mi oanly soers ov
anxiyety nou wauz the non-aperans ov Hoamz. The staishon cloc marct oanly
cevven minnuets from the time when we wer ju too start. In vane I cercht amung
the gruips ov travvelerz and leve-takerz for the liadh 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
intruizhon, 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 droo
awa from the chin, the lower lip ceest too protroode 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 nescesary," 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.

"Widh 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 widh 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 roowin 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 Luxemberg 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 roofooly 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 amung 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 behiand a pile
ov luggage when it paast widh 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 widh 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 widh the exepshon ov him. He haz ghivven them
the slip. Ov coers, when I had left the cuntry dhare wauz no wun too cope widh
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 intervu, 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 widh 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 scrootiny 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 widh 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 wholy in vane," he remarct. "If mi reccord wer cloazd too-nite I cood stil cerva it widh eqwanimmity. The are ov Lundon 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
cide. Ov late I hav bene tempted too looc intoo the problemz fernisht bi nachure
raather dhan dhose moer superfishal wunz for which our artifishal 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 subgect on which I wood willingly dwel, and yet I am conshous 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'glish, 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, widh the intenshon ov croscing 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 torrent, swolen bi the melting sno,
plun'gez intoo a tremendous abis, from which the spra roalz up like the smoke
from a berning 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 doun,
and the thhic flickering kertane ov spra hiscing forevver upword, tern a man
ghiddy widh dhare constant wherl and clammor. We stood nere the ej pering doun
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 widh 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 widh 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 responcibillity.

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 scroopelz
about leving Hoamz. It wauz finaly agrede, houwevver, dhat he shood retane the
yung Swis mescen'ger widh 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, widh hiz bac against a roc and
hiz armz foalded, gasing doun at the rush ov the wauterz. It wauz the laast dhat I
wauz evver 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 widh 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, poolling 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 clifs 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, widh 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 widh 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 widh 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 jutted 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 cilver 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 caracteristic 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 doun in dhat dredfool caldron ov swerling
wauter and ceething fome, wil li for aul time the moast dain‘gerous crimminal and
the foermoast 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.