

The Return of a Sherlock Holmes.

VII.-The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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the principal

the date or any other fact by which he might trace the actual occurrence. We had been out for one of our evening rambles, Holmes and I, and had returned about 6 o'clock on a cold, frosty, winter's evening. As Holmes turned up the lamp the light fell upon a card on the table. He glanced at it, and then, with an ejaculation of disgust, threw it on the floor, I picked it

up and read: CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON,

Appledore Towers, Hampstead,

Agent,

"Who is he?" I asked. "The worst man in London," Holmes answered, as he sat down and stretched his legs before the fire. "Is anything on the back of the card?"

I turned it over.
"Will call at 6:30-C, A. M.," I read. "Hum! He's about due. Do you feel a creeping, shrinking sensation, Watson, when you stand before the serpents in the Zoo, and see the slithserpents in the Zoo, and see the slither, gliding, venomous creatures, with their deadly eyes and wicked, flattened faces? Well, that's how Milverton impresses me. I've had to do with fifty murderers in my career, but the worst of them never gave me the repulsion which I have for this fellow. And yet I can't get out of doing business can't get out of doing business with him-indeed, he is here at my in-

"But who is he?" "I'll tell you, Watson. He is the king of all the blackmailers. Heaven help the man, and still more the wowhose secret and reputation come into the power of Milverton! With a smiling face and a heart of marble, he will squeeze and squeeze until he has drained them dry. The fellow is a genius in his way, and would have The fellow is made his mark in some more savory trade. His method is as follows: He allows it to be known that he is prapared to pay very high sums for letters which compromise people of wealth and position. He receives these wares not only from treacherous valets or maids, but frequently from genteel ruffians, who have gained the confidence and affection of trusting women. He deals with no niggard hand. I happen to know that he paid seven hundred pounds to a footman for a note two lines in length, and that the ruin of a noble family was the result. Everything which is in the market goes to Milverton, and there are hundreds in this great city who turn white at his name. No one knows where his grip may fall, for he is far too rich and far too cunning to work from hand to mouth. He will hold a card back for years in order to play it a the moment when the stake is bes worth winning. I have said that he is the worst man in London, and I would ask you how could one compar the rufflan, who in hot blood bludgeons his mate, with this man, who methodically and at his leisure tortures the soul and wrings the nerves in order to add to his already swollen money bags?" I had seldom heard my friend speak

with such intensity of feeling.
"But surely," said I, "the fellow must be within the grasp of the law?" Technically, no doubt, but practically not. What would it profit a woman, for example, to get him a few months' imprisonment, if her own ruin must immediately follow? His vic-tims dare not hit back. If eyer he blackmailed an innocent person, then indeed we should have him, but he is as cunning as the evil one. we must find other ways to fight him." "And why is he here?"

"Because an illustrious client has placed her piteous case in my hands. It is the Lady Eva Blackwell, the most beautiful debutante of last season. She is to be married in a fortnight to the Earl of Dovercourt. This fiend has several imprudent letters—imprudent, Watson, nothing worse-which were written to an impecunious young squire in the country. They would suffice to break off the match. Milverton will send the letters to the Earl unless a large sum of money is paid him. I have been commissioned to meet him. and-to make the best terms I can."

At that instant there was a clatter and a rattle in the street below. Looking down I saw a stately carriage and pair, the brilliant lamps gleaming on the glossy haunches of the noble chestnuts. A footman opened the door, and small, stout man in a shaggy astrachan overcoat descended. A minute later he was in the room.

Charles Augustus Milverton was man of fifty, with a large, intellectual head, a round, plump, hairless face, a perpetual, frozen smile, and two keen ray eyes, which gleamed from behind broad, gold from behind broad, gold-rimmed classes. There was something of Mr. Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes. His voice was as smooth and sauve as his countenance, as he

A Million Dollars Squandered It is estimated this sum was wasted last year by people trying to find a cure for catarrh. Foolish for sufferers to experiment when it's so well known that "Catarrhozone is the only remedy that cures permanently. Other treat-ments only relieve, but Catarrhozone cures and prevents the disease from ever returning. "I had catarrh in its worst form," writes G. F. Fadden, of Royan, Que., "I was so bad that ordinany medicine didn't even relieve; but Catarrhagene cured perfectly." Catarrhozone cured perfectly." No

"Then we can proceed to business

he asked.

"They are sprightly—very sprightly," bounds would have settled the whole duestion. Is it not pitiful? And here accorded to the court would fail to appreciate them. However, since you think otherwise, we will let it rest at that. It is purely a matter of business. If you think swered, "The money cannot be found."

the absurd sum of twelve hundred the whole pounds would have settled the whole pounds would have settled the whole pounds would have settled the whole tined to take."

For some days Holmes came and went at all hours in this attire, but went at all hours in this time was about terms, when your client's future and honor are at stake. You surprise me, Mr. Holmes!"

We will let it rest at that. It is purely a matter of business. If you think swered, "The money cannot be found."

The money cannot be found.

The money cannot be found. court would fail to appreciate them. However, since you think otherwise, we will let it rest at that. It is purely a matter of business. If you think that it is in the best interests of your client that these letters should be placed in the hands of the earl, then you would indeed be foolish to pay so profit you in no way?"

spent at Hampstead, and that it was not have it was not wasted, I knew nothing of what he was doing. At last, however, on a wild, tempestuous evening, when the wind screamed and rattled against the wind screamed and that it was half an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from there to Appledore towers. We shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from the tower the shall be at work before midney. It is a quarter of an hour's walk from the tower them. I you would indeed be foolish to pay so profit you in no way?"

riage is a very suitable time for her friends and relatives to make some litperson concerned is beyond the reach of human law, and with due suppression with the alternative?"

Then we can proceed to business. Friends and relatives to make some incomplete interviews this event tell effort on her behalf. They may hest tell effort on her behalf. They may here the stepped forward, took up his coat, laid his hand on his revolver the bundle of letters would give more joy than all the candelabra and butter dishes in London."

"Seven thousand pounds."

"And the alternative?"

be told in such fashion as to injure no one. It records an absolutely unique experience in the career, both of Mr. Sherlock Holmes and of myself. The reader will excuse me if I conceal

"And the alternative?"

"My dear sir, it is painful for me to discuss it, but if the money is not bulky pocketbook. "I cannot help bulky pocketbook. "I and the rattle of the wheels as he drove away.

The reader will excuse me if I conceal than ever.

"And the alternative?"

"My dear sir, it is painful for me to discuss it, but if the money is not bulky pocketbook. "I cannot help bulky pocketbook. "I cannot help bulky pocketbook. "It cannot help bulky pocketbook." "It cannot help bulky pocketbook." "It cannot help bulky pocketbook." "It canno

advanced with a plump little hand exsince the incidents of which I speak took place, and yet it is with some difference that I allude to the m. For a long time, even with the utmost discretion and reticence, it would have been impossible to make the facts public, but now the principal was call, proceed to business.

"I was sure that you would see it in that light," he purred. Holmes contact that light, "he purred. Holmes contact which is with some disregarded the outstretched hand and place it is with some difference that I allude to the m. For a long time, even with the utmost discretion and reticence, it would have been impossible to make the facts public, but now the principal was call, proceed to business."

"I was sure that you would see it in that light," he purred. Holmes contact which is that two thous of the power that you will return the light." Holmes, and that you have the said contact the said of the room and stood with his back against the wall. "Mr. Holmes, Mr. foolish. And now, gentlemen, I have one or two little interviews this even-

> than ever.
>
> Holmes thought for a little.
>
> "You appear to me," he said, at last, "to be taking matters too much for granted. I am, of course, familiar with the contents of these letters. My client will certainly do what I may advise. I shall counsel her to tell her future husband the whole story, and to trust to his generosity."
>
> Milverton chuckled.
>
> "You evidently do not know the Earl," said he.
>
> From the baffled look upon Holmes' face, I could clearly see that he did.
>
> "What harm is there in the letters?"
>
> Inthking that ladies are in-advised in not making an effort. Look at this: He held up a little note with a coat-of-arms upon the envelope. "That belongs to—well, perhaps " is hardly fair to tell the name until tomorrow morning. But at that time it will be in the hands of the lady's husband. And all because she will not find a beggarly sum which she could get by turning her diamonds into paste. It is such a pity. Now, you remember the suddened of the engagement between the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Stood that he had opened his campital and the strange was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Wedding there was a paragraph in the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking? Only two days before the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking the Honorable Miss Miles and Colonel Dorking t And why? It is almost incredible, but the absurd sum of twelve hundred shape which that campaign was des-

> > heartily in his silent inward fashion.

"No, indeed!"
"You'll be interested to hear that I'm engaged.'

dear fellow! I congrat-"To Milverton's housemaid."
"Good Heavens, Holmes!" 'Surely you have gone too far?"

wanted. I know Milverton's house as plethoric sleeper. Agatha—that's my know the palm of my hand." 'But the girl, Holmes?' He shrugged his shoulders.

You must play your cards as best you never budges from the study all day. can when such a stake is on the table. That's why we are going at night. Then However, I rejoice to say that I have he has a beast of a dog which roams a hated rival, who will certainly cut the garden. I met Agatha late the last me out the instant that my back is two evenings, and she locks the brute turned. What a splendid night it is!" up so as to give me a clear run. This

career ending in irreparable failure and and two doors. disgrace my friend lying at the mercy "That's his be of the odious Milverton.

what you are doing," I cried. "My dear fellow, I have given it every consideration. I am never pre- Come round here. There's a greenhouse cipitate in my actions, nor would I which opens into the drawing-room.

adopt so energetic, and, indeed, so dangerous a course, if any other were posly and fairly. I suppose that you will terwards he had closed the door behind admit that the action is morally jus- us, and we had become felons in the tifiable, though technically criminal. eyes of the law. The thick, warm air To burgle his house is no more than to of the conservatory and the rich, forcibly take his pocketbook—an ac-choking fragrance of exotic plants took

I turned it over in my mind. "Yes," I said, "it is morally justifiagainst our faces. Holmes had remarkable so long as our object is to take no markable powers carefully cultivated.

an illegal purpose." flable, I have only to consider the had entered a large room in which question of personal risk. Surely a gentleman should not lay such stress upon He felt his way among the furniture, this, when a lady is in most desperate opened another door, and closed it beneed of his help?" "You will be in such a false posi-

is no other possible way of regaining rushed out at us and my heart sprang these letters. The unfortunate lady has into my mouth, but I could have not the money, and there are none of her people in whom she could confide cat. A fire was burning in this new room, and again the air was heavy with unless we can get the letters tonight tobacco smoke. Holmes entered on this villain will be as good as his word tiptoe waited for me to follow, and and will bring about her ruin. I must, then very gently closed the door. We therefore, abandon my client to her were in Milverton's study, and a fate or I must play this last card. Beportiere at the farther side showed tween ouselves, Watson, it's a sporting duel between this fellow Milverton It was a good fire, and the and me. He had, as you saw, the best of the first exchanges but my self-re to fight it to a finish."

start?" "You are not coming." "Then you are not going," said I. "I give you my word of honor — and I the center, with a turning-chair of never broke it in my life—that I will shining red leather. Opposite was a shining red leather.

You can't help me." "How do you know that? You can't tell what may happen. Anyway, my resolution is taken. Other people be-side you have self-respect, and even Holmes had looked annoyed, but his

Five Years' Dyspepsia Cured. "No one knows what I suffered from stomach trouble and dyspepsia," writes Mr. A. B. Agnew, of Bridgewater, "For the last five years I have been unable to digest and assimilate food. I had no color, my strength ran down and I miserable and nervous all the felt miserable and nervous all the time. I always had a heavy feeling after meals and was much troubled with dizziness and specks before my eyes. Dr. Hamilton's Pills were just what I needed. They have cured every sympton of my old trouble. My health is now all that can be desired." By all means use Dr. Hamilton's Pills; 25

brow cleared and he clapped me on the brow cleared and he ciapped me on the shoulder.

"Well, well, my dear fellow, be it so. We have shared this same room for some years, and it would be amusing if we ended by sharing the same cell. You know, Watson, I don't mind confessing to you that I have always had an idea that I would have made a highly efficient criminal. This is the chance of my lifetime in that direction. See here!" he took a neat little leather case out of a drawer, and, opening it, he exhibited a number of shining instruments. "This is a first-class upto-date, burgling kit, with nickel-plated jemmy, diamond-tipped glass-cutter, adaptable keys, and every modern improvement which the march of civilization demands. Here, too, is my lantern. Everything is in order. Have you a pair of silent shoes?"

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you a pair of silent shoes?"
"I have rubber-soled tennis shoes.



drove to an address in Hampstead. mechanic. Finally I heard a click, th

"It's a business that needs delicate "It was a most necessary step. I treatment," said Holmes. "These docuam a plumber with a rising business. ments are contained in a safe in the am a plumber with a rising business. ments are contained in a sate in the sate of the sate fiancee—says it is a joke in the servants' hall that it's impossible to me to do the same. He shrugged his shoulders.

'You can't help it, my dear Watson. wake the master. He has a secretary there that I heard what had alarmed who is devoted to his interests, and his quicker senses. There was a noise is the house, this big one in its own "You like this weather?"

"It suits my purpose. Watson, mean to burgle Milverton's house toput on our masks here, I think. You I had a catching of the breath, and see there is not a glimmer of light in my skin went cold at the words, which were slowly uttered in a tone of con-

centrated resolution. As a flash of With our black silk face-coverings, lightning in the night shows up in an instant every detail of a wild land-scape, so at one glance I seemed to see up to the silent gloomy house. A sort every posible result of such an action of tiled veranda extended along one -the detection the capture, the honored side of it, lined by several windows

"That's his bedroom," Holmes whis-"This door opens straight into pered. "For heaven's sake, Holmes, think the study. It would suit us best, but it is bolted as well as locked, and we should make too much noise getting in The place was locked, but Holmes re moved a circle of glass and turned the sible. Let us look at the matter clear- key from the inside. An instant aftion in which you were prepared to aid in the darkness and led me swiftly me." past banks of shrubs which brushed articles save those which are used for of seeing in the dark. Still holding my hand in one of his, he opened a door, "Exactly. Since it is morally justi- and I was vaguely conscious that we cigar had been smoked not long before.

hind us, and I understood I was in a passage. We passed along it, and "Well, that is part of the risk. There on the right-hand side. Something

spect and my reputation are concerned to fight it to a finish." been safe, to turn it on. At one side of "Well, I don't like it, but I suppose the fireplace was a heavy curtain, it must be," said I. "When do we which covered the bay window we had seen from outside. On the other side was the door which communicated with the veranda. A desk stood in take a cab straight to the police station and give you away, unless you let me share this adventure with you."

"You can't help me."

large bookcase, with a marble bust of Athene on the top. In the corner, between the bookcase and the wall, there stood a tall, green safe, the firelight flashing back from the polished brass knobs upon its face. Holmes stole across and looked at it. Then he crept to the door of the bedroom and stood with slanting head listening intently. No sound came from withn. Meanwhile it had struck me that it would be wise to secure our retreat through the outer door, so I examined it. To my amazement it was neither locked nor bolted. I touched Holmes on the arm and he turned his masked face in that direction. I saw him start, and he was evidently as surprised as I.

"I don't like it," he whispered, putting his lips to my very ear. "I can't make it out. Anyhow, we have no time

"Can I do anything?"
"Yes, stand by the door. If you hear anyone come, bolt it on the inside, and we can get away as we came. If they come the other way we can get through the door if our job is done, or hide behind these window curtains if

to lose

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is not. Do you understand?" I nodded and stood by the door. M first feeling of fear had passed awa and I thrilled now with a keener ze than I had ever enjoyed when were the defenders of the law instead of its defiers. The high object of our mission, the consciousness that it was unselfish and chivalrous, the villainous character of our opponent, all added to the sporting interest of the adventure. Far from feeling guilty, I rejoiced and exulted in our dangers. With a glow of admiration I watched Holmes unrolling his case of instruments and choosing his tool with the calm, scien tific accuracy of a surgeon who performs a delicate operation. I knew that the opening of safes was a particular hobby with him, and I understood the joy which it gave him to be confronted with this green and gold monster the dragon which held in its maw the reputations of many fair ladies. Turning up the cuffs of his dress-coat -he had placed his overcoat on a chair -Holmes laid out two drills, a jemmy,

Holmes and I put on our dress- half an hour Holmes worked with con-"You would not call me a marrying man, Watson?"

"No, indeed!"
"You would not call me a marrying man, was not me a marrying man, Here we paid off our cab, and with our great coats buttoned up, for it was bitterly cold, and the wind seemed to blow through us, we walked along the edge of the heath.

In echanic. Finally I heard a click, the broad green door swung open, and inside I had a glimpse of a number of paper packets, each tied, sealed and inscribed. Holmes picked one out, but it was hard to read by the flickering fire, and he drew out his little dark land and he drew out

tern, for it was too dangerous, with Milverton in the next room, to switch on the electric light. Suddenly I say It was only when I had joined him his quicker senses. There was a noise somewhere within the house. A door slammed in the distance. fused, dull murmur broke itself into

the measured thud of heavy footsteps rapidly approaching. They were in the passage outside the room. They paused at the door. The door opened. There was a sharp snick as the electric light was turned on. The door closed once more, and the pungent reek of a strong cigar was borne to our nostrils. Then the footsteps continued backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards, within a few yards of us. there was a cleak from a chair and the footsteps ceased. clicked in a lock and I heard the rustle

vations. Right in front of us, and al- returned.



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LEE HING LAUNDRY

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So far I had not dared to look out, but now I gently parted the division of the curtains in front of me, and peeped through. From the pressure of Holmes' shoulder against mine, I knew that he was sharing my obser-tentions. Pick the form of the property of the collars ironed without being broken in the wing. Ties done to look like new. Give me a call. If you are not satisfied, no pay. Washing returned in 24 hours. All hand work. Best in the city. Parcels called for and returned.

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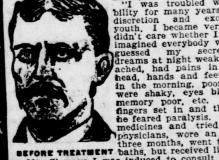
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THREATENED WITH PARALYSIS. Peter E. Summers, of Kalamazoo, lich., relates his experience:



Mich., relates his experience:

"I was troubled with Nervous Debility for many years. I lay it to indiscretion and excesses in early youth. I became very despondent and didn't care whether I worked or not. I imagined everybody who looked at me, guessed my secret. Imaginative dreams at night weakened me—my back ached, had pains in the back of my head, hands and feet were cold, tired in the morning, poor appetite, fingers were shaky, eyes blurred, hair loose, memory poor, etc. Numbness in the fingers set in and the doctor told me

at Mt. Clemens I was induced to consult Drs. Kennedy & Kergan, though I had lost all faith in doctors. Like a drowning man I commenced the New Method lost all faith in doctors. Like a drowning man I commenced the New Method Treatment and it saved my life. The improvement was like magic—I could feel the vigor going through my nerves. I was cured mentally, physically and sexually. I have sent them many patients and will continue to do so."

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