

it as they pleased. The villages were at the mercy of the Capita, who "beat them, mutilated them, shot them done at his pleasure. . . . The more terror the Capita inspired, the more useful he was, the more eagerly the villagers obeyed him, and the more rubber yielded its commission to the agent."

Then, in this connection, follow three chapters of horrors which Sir Conan Doyle has brought together from many and various sources: Massacres of natives, murders, mutilations, floggings with the raw-hide "chicotte," and tortures of all kinds. As a commentary are appended these words from the lips of King Leopold himself: "Our only programme, I am anxious to repeat, is the work of moral and material regeneration, and we must do this among a population whose degeneration in its inherited conditions it is difficult to measure. The many horrors and atrocities which disgrace humanity give way little by little before our intervention."

The commission on inquiry which the King was at last compelled to appoint published a report wherein may be read, behind the courtly phrases it is stuffed with a confirmation of all the most serious charges that were inquired into. Reforms were promised: how have they been accomplished? Here are some of the concluding notes from the report of Mr. Cassie Murdoch, whose journey of investigation was undertaken in that region of Congoland where lies King Leopold's private estate. "In the Congo hell," observes Sir Conan Doyle, "the most lurid glow is to be found in the Royal Domain." Mr. Murdoch says:—

Individual acts of atrocity have for the most part ceased. The state agents seem to have come to the conclusion that it is a waste of cartridges to shoot down these people. But the whole system is a vast atrocity involving the people in a state of unimaginable misery. One man said to me, "Slaves are happy compared with us. Slaves are protected by their masters; they are fed and clothed. As for us, the Capitas do with us what they like . . . No, we are not even slaves." And he is right. It is not slavery as slavery was generally understood. It is not even the uncivilized African's idea of slavery. There