The Return of @

Sherlock Holmes.

XIII.-THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND STAIN.

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ture of the Ab-that letter?" exploits olmes, which

mmunicate to he public. This material, ties." hundreds

alluded. nterest on the guessed." eaders in the fore?" ingular peronality nique of this re-

farming on the Sussex Downs, notori- ment we caught a glimpse of the natthe times were ripe, and pointing out Holmes, I assure you." to him that it is only appropriate that this long series of episodes should cul"But abroad?"
"I believe that no one abroad has minate in the most important international case which he has ever been called upon to handle, that I at last succeeded in obtaining his consent that a carefully-guarded account of the incident should at last be laid to find the considered. Helmes considered for the constitution of the incident should at last be laid to find the considered for the constant of the con cident should at last be laid before the public. If in telling the story I seem to time, be somewhat vague in certain details, the public will readily understand that ticularly what this document is, and there is an excellent reason for my ret- why its disappearance should have

decade, that shall be nameless, that glance and the Premier's shaggy eyeupon one Tuesday morning in autumn brows gathered in a frown. we found two visitors of European fame within the walls of our humble thin one of pale blue color. There is a room in Baker street. The one, aus- seal of red wax stamped with a tere, high-nosed, eagle-eyed, and domi- crouching lion. It is addressed in nant, was none other than the illustri- large, bold handwriting to-" ous Lord Bellinger, twice Premier of "I fear, sir," said Holmes, "that, in-britain. The other, dark, clear-cut, teresting and indeed essential as these and elegant, hardly yet of middle age, details are, my inquiries must go more and endowed with every beauty of to the root of things. What was the body and mind, was the Right Honor-letter?" body and mind, was the Right Honorable Trelawney Hope, Secretary for European Affairs, and the most rising statesman in the country. They sat side by side upon our paper-littered settee, and it was easy to see from their worn and anxious faces that it find such an envelope as I describe with its inclosure for the present of the present of the word and it was easy to see from their worn and anxious faces that it find such an envelope as I describe with its inclosure for the present of the present pertance which had brought them. The served well of your country, clasped tightly, over the ivory head of power to bestow." his umbrella, and his gaunt, ascetic face looked gloomily from Holmes to "You are two of the most busy men

Holmes, which was at eight o'clock interview would be a waste of time." this morning, I at once informed the The Premier sprang to his feet with

done so, nor is it possible that we statesman shrugged his shoulders. should do so. To inform the police "We must accept your terms, Mr. "I understand you to say that your should do so. To inform the ponce we must accept your terms, and number and you to say that you number in the long run, mean to inform Helmes. No doubt you are right, and room is on the second floor, that there phin street?" "And why, sir?"

Because the document in question is of such immense importance that its statesman.

publication might very easily—I might! "Then I will tell you, relying entirely eral international spies and secret ment. It is not too much to say that your patriotism also, for I could not be said to be the heads of their profestions of fever, the sensitive mouth oner's jury brought in the obvious peace or war may hang upon the issue, in agine a greater misfortune for the son. I will begin my research by go-astonished him. He stared in amaze-was tight and drawn in an effort after "Willful Murder," but the parties re-

Hope, I should be much obliged if you herriedly and upon his own responsitive would tell me exactly the circumbility entirely. Inquiries have shown don, as likely as not."

words, Mr. Holmes. The letter—for it was a letter from a foreign potentate—was received six days ago. It was of undoubtedly lead to a most dangerous such importance that I never left it in state of feeling in this country. There is agreed would be such a few only that I have taken it agreed would be such a few only that I do the stomach. my safe, but I have taken it across would be such a ferment, sir, that I do each evening to my house in Whitehall not hesitate to say that within a week ferrace, and kept it in my bedroom in of the publication of that latter this locked dispatch box. It was there country would be involved in a great last night. Of that I am certain. I war." dressing for dinner, and saw the docu- paper and handed it to the Premier. that no one could have entered the unaccountable fashion," room during the night. And yet I repeat that the paper is gone."

What time did you dine?" "Haif-past seven."

How long was it before you went of the letter."

box had lain unguarded?" "No one is ever permitted to enter come out." that room save the housemaid in the morning, and my valet, or my wife's that the letter should come out? Why maid, during the rest of the day. They should anyone desire to steal it or to are both trusty servants who have publish it?"

want

positively cure Indi-

HAD intended valuable than the ordinary department- fast as steam can take it." Adven- at papers in my dispatch box."

"Who did know of the existence of

"No one in the house." 'Surely your wife knew?"

your sense of public duty," said he. of I am convinced that in a case of a was not secret of this importance it would rise ument is recovered there will be war?" ue to any lack superior to the most intimate domestic

have The European Secretary bowed.

publication of his experiences, So long as he was in actual professional practice the records of his successes were within a few hours I should have my
The Prime Minister rose from the market I'll buy it—if it means another penny on the income tax. It is she will be kind enough to step up," of some-practical value to him, but since he has definitely retired from London and betaken himself to study and beeety has become hateful to him, and he ural man, impulsive ardent, keenly senhas percented to him, and he will man, impulsive argent, keeiny sentence has percent or it is matter should be strictly observed. It was only upon my representing to him that I had given a cabinet there are two, or possible three, presenting to him that I had given a promise that "The Adventure of the Second Stain" should be published when letter. No one else in England, Mr.

Holmes considered for some little

such momentous consequences?" It was, then, in a year, and even in a The two statesmen exchanged a quick "Mr. Holmes, the envelope is a long,

was business of the most pressing im- with its inclosure, you will have de-Premier's thin, blue-veined hands were earned any reward which it lies in our

The European Secretary pulled in the country," said he, "and in my nervously at his moustache and fid-geted with the seals of his watchingly that I can not help you in this When I discovered my loss, Mr. matter, and any continuation of this Prime Minister. It was at his suggestant quick, fierce gleam of his deep-set Mr. Holmes. I feel that the matter is it back to see what bids come from A moment later our modest apart you at lunch if I am able." tion that we both have come to you." eyes before which a cabinet has cowindeed out of our hands." "Have you informed the police?" ered. "I am not accustomed, sir," he "Let us presume, for

the public. This is what we particu- it is unreasonable for us to expect you is no entrance from without, and that

stances under which this document dis- that his ministers know nothing of the matter. At the same time it is couched dependently, and their relations with That can be done in a very few in so unfortunate a manner, and certain

actually opened the box while I was Holmes wrote a name upon a slip of reent inside. This morning it was gone, "Eactly. It was he. And it is this The dispatch box had stood beside the letter—this letter which may well mean glass upon my dressing table all night, the expenditure of a thousand millions a light sleeper, and so is my and the lives of a hundred thousand We are both prepared to swear men-which has become lost in this

"Have you informed the sender?" "Yes, sir a cipher telegram has been dispatched."

"Perhaps he desires the publication "No, sir, we have strong reason to "My wife had gone to the theater, believe that he already understands I waited up for her. It was half-past that he has acted in an indiscreet and eleven before we went to our room." "Then for four hours the dispatch greater blow to him and to his country than to us if this letter were to

been with us for some time. Besides, regions of high international poliknown that there was anything more tics. But if you consider the European situation you will have no difficulty in perceiving the motive. The whole of I want every person who is bilious double league which makes a fair balance of military power. Great Britain send for a free package of my Paw-Paw Pills. I want to the motive. The whole of Europe is an armed camp. There is a couble league which makes a fair balance of military power. Great Britain send for a free package of my Paw-Paw whether they joined in the war or pot the country of the motive. The whole of the war or pot the country of the motive. The whole of the war or pot the country of the war or pot the country of the motive. The whole of the war or pot the country of the motive. The whole of the war or pot the country of the war or pot the country of the country of the war or pot the country of the war or pot the country of the country whether they joined in the war or not.

positively cure Indigestion. Sour Stomach, Belching, Wind, Headache, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, and are an infallible cure for Constipation. To do this I am willing to give ackages. I take all the uggists for 25 cents a "Very clearly. It is then the interest of the enemies of this potentate to secure and publish this letter, so as to make a breach between his country and ours?" "Yes, sir." "And to whom would this document be sent if it fell into the hands of an enemy?" "To any of the great chancelleries of "Very clearly. It is then the interest

free packages. I take all the by druggists for 25 cents a free package address

MUNYON, Philadelphia.

"To any of the great chancelleries of Europe. It is probably speeding on its way thither at the present instent as

Mr. Trelawney Hope dropped his head on his chest and groaned aloud. quiescence.

The Premier placed his hand kindly upon his shoulder. "No, sir. I had said nothing to my low. No one can blame you. There is think that your course of action is an dear Watson, the two events are con-

> Holmes shook his head mournfully. "I think it is very probable." Then, sir, prepare for war.'

"That is a hard saying, Mr. Holmes." probably near the earlier hour, since his feet, and laid his pipe down upon for the others to establish a counce-whoever took it evidently knew that it the mantelpiece. "Have you lost any documents whoever took it evidently knew that it was there, and would naturally secure it as early as possible. Now, sir, if a way of approaching it. The situation of this importance in the mantelpiece, was there, and would naturally secure it as early as possible. Now, sir, if a way of approaching it. The situation is desperted but not hopeless. Even compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed into a few hours it may "If he said so, I certainly can not compressed in the certainly can not compressed in the certainly can not compressed in the certainly can not com

"What you say is perfectly logical, conceivable that the fellow might hold said he.

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"I believe you are right, Mr. Holmes, was being enacted. The edds are enorbon his shoulder.

"It is your misfortune, by dear felheadquarters with his own hands. I figures could express them. No, my

walked gravely from the room.

the embassies are often strained." The Prime Minister nodded his ac-

wife until I missed the paper this no precaution which you have nemorning."

The Premier nodded approvingly, full possession of the facts. What there be any fresh developments dur- know all." Holmes shook his head mournfully. Ing the day we shall communicate with You think, sir, that unless this doc- you, and you will no doubt let us know at Godolphin street. They know — and the results of your own inquiries," shall know — nothing of Whitehall The two statesmen bowed and Terrace, Only we know of both events, walked gravely from the room.

When our illustrious visitors had dethem. There is one obvious point likely to suffer through this incident? indee of many interest secretary boxed.

"You do me no more than justice, of sir. Until this morning I have never ceivable that it was taken after 11:30 and sat for some time lost in the deepny suspicions against Lucas. Godolny suspicions against Lucas. "That is a hard saying, Mr. Holmes." When our mustrious visitors had de-"Consider the facts, sir. It is incon-parted Holmes lit his pipe in silence, which would, in any case, have turned it may certainly have a very unfortuncases to which breathed one word to my wife upon at night, since I understand that Mr. est thought. I had opened the morn-phin street, Westminster, is only a few "the street," so which breathed one word to my wife upon at night, since I understand that Mr. est thought. I had opened the morn-phin street, Westminster, is only a few "the street," so which is matter."

perand "Who is there in England who did document of this importance were is desperate, but not hopeless. Even compressed into a few hours it may taken at that hour, where can it be now, if we could be sure which of them prove essential. Halloa! what have we

hours when we know that that drama

pause.

Hope and his wife were both in the ing paper and was immersed in a senroom from that hour until the loss was sational crime which had occurred in The other secret agents whom I have ly as one whose doubts are resolved.

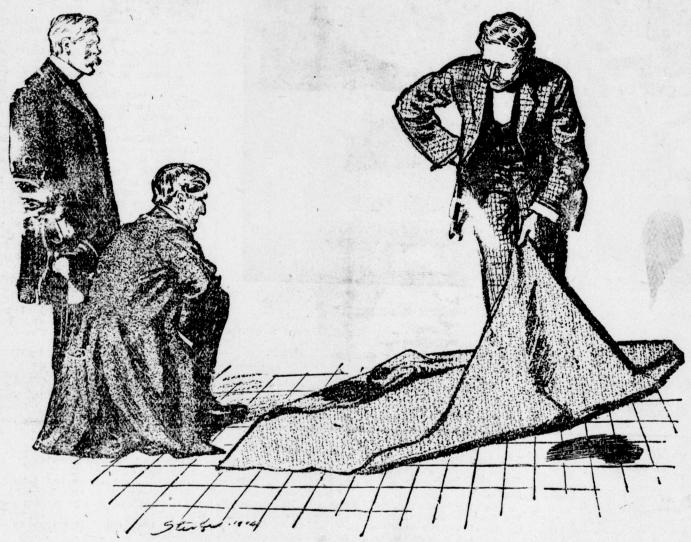
The other secret agents whom I have ly as one whose doubts are resolved.

"One more question, Mr. Holmes lluded, nor vas it caused "No, Mr. Holmes, she could not have by any waning guessed — nor could anyone have terday evening between 7:30 and 11:30, friend gave an exclamation, sprang to It was easier, therefore, for Lucas than dropped in the first shock of this dis-

have died instantly. The knife with which the crime had been committed was a curved Indian dagger, plucked

down from a trophy of Oriental arms

"It is an amazing coincidence."



THERE IS A SECOND STAIN, BUT IT DOESN'T CORRESPOND WITH THE OTHER.

to act unless we give you our entire from within no one could go up unob-"I agree with you," said the younger the house who has taken it. To whom

with the utmost secrecy, then it may as well not be recovered at all, for all that is aimed at by those who have taken it is that its contents should be generally known."

Is at his post. If one is missing—espetially if he has disappeared since last graph which I had been engaged in reading when he rose from his chair. The letter, then, is from a certain foreign potentate who has been ruffled by some recent colonial developments. The problem of this country. It has been written to where the document has gone."

Why should he be missing?" asked the paragraph which I had been engaged in reading when he rose from his chair. "Has my husband been holders?"

Why should he be missing?" asked the paragraph which I had been engaged in the problem of this country. It has been written to where the document has gone."

Why should he be missing?" asked the paragraph which I had been engaged in the paragraph whic

The gravity of enlargement of the stomach cannot be overestimated. One of the principal causes that produce this distressed condition is inordinate eating and drinking. Weakness of the muscles that propel the food to the intestines is also a factor in allowing the food to accumulate in the stomach, and thus stretching it to enormous size. Constipation and inactivity of the liver is also a prominent cause.

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Smith's Pineapple and Butternut Pills cure constipation as if by magic. They regulate the functions of the liver, cleanse the poisons from the blood, remove the bilious elements from the circulation and strengthen the nerves. If your one night. 25 cents, all dealers.
All genuine signed W. F. Smith.

SMITHS BUCHU LITHIA PILLS

"Have you informed the police?"
"No, sir," said the Prime Minister, with the quick, decisive manner for which he was famous, "We have not done so, nor is it possible that we like the manner shoulders, and the statesman shrugged his shoulders."

Ithis side before he tries his luck on the presume, for argument's sake, that the document was taken by the ment, aready so distinguished that we look other. There are only those three are only those three possible that we look of the most lovely woman in friends would call tacitum, and others there are Oberstein, La Rothiere, and beauty of the youngest daughter of incessantly, played snatches on his like the form of the ment, aready so distinguished that we look of the ment, aready so distinguished that are only those three are only those three are Oberstein, La Rothiere, and beauty of the youngest daughter of incessantly, played snatches on his like the form of the ment, aready so distinguished that aready so disting

"Yes." "You will not see him." "Why not?"

last night."

street, one of the old-fashioned and secluded rows of eighteenth century houses which lies between the river and the Abbey, almost in the shadow of the great Tower of the Houses of Parliament. This small but select but I fear that I can not make any his relations with women, they appeared to have been promise our promise." mansion has been inhabited for some unconditional promise."

years by Mr. Eduardo Lucas, well She swept across the room and seatunmarried man, 34 years of age, and clasped as she spoke—"I will speak his establishment consists of Mrs. Frankly to you in the hopes that it Pringle, an elderly housekeeper, and of may induce you to speak frankly in alternative to absolute inaction. But Mitton, his valet. The former retires return. There is complete confidence no case could be sustained against him. early and sleeps at the top of the between my husband and me on all He had visited friends in Hammerhouse. The valet was out for the even- matters save one. That one is politics, smith that night. The alibi was coming, visiting a friend at Hammersmith.
From 10 o'clock onward Mr. Lucas had the house to himself. What occurred there was a most deplorable occurduring that time has not yet trans- rence in our house last night. I know when the crime was discovered, but ired, but at a quarter to twelve Po- that a paper has disappeared. But be- his lice-Constable Barrett, passing along cause the matter is political my hus- walked part of the way seemed probdoor of No. 16 was ajar. He knocked, plete confidence. Now it is essential — the night. He had actually arrived at but received no answer. Perceiving a essential, I say - that I should thor- 12 o'clock, and appeared to be overlight in the front room, he advanced oughly understand it. You are the whelmed by the unexpected tragedy. but without reply. He then pushed ticians, who know the true facts. I with his master. Several of the dead one and entered. The room has you then Mr. Helman to tall the property of the dead of the facts. open the door and entered. The room beg you then, Mr. Holmes, to tell me man's possessions — notably a small was in a state of wild disorder, the furniture being all swept to one side, and one chair lying on its back in the Holmes. Let no regard for your clithey had been presents from the de-

You Are Ailing.

Not quite sick-but robbed of am-impossible."

"Yes, madam, he has been here."

center. Beside this chair, and still ent's interests keep you silent, for I ceased, and the housekeeper was able grasping one of its legs, lay the unassure you that his interests, if he to corroborate the story. Mitton had

was stolen?" "Madam, what you ask me is really for three months on end, but Mitton

Not quite sick—but robbed of ambition to work—find it hard to think of clearly. Not ill enough to think of dying, but bad enough for life to be pretty dull. There is a remedy—Fermands.

"You must see that this is so, the crime. If her master had a visitor rozone makes you feel good; it sharpens the dullest appetite, makes it keen as a razor.

BLOOD? Ferrozone makes lots of it, the rich nourishing kind that vitalizes is him whom you must ask."

"Was left in charge of the Godolphin street house, As to the housekeeper, she had heard nothing on the night of the crime. If her master had a visitor he had himself admitted him. So for three mornings the mystery remained, so far as I could follow it in the papers. If Holmes knew more, he sional secrecy, to tell what he has kept his own counsel, but, as he told the rich nourishing kind that vitalizes is him whom you must ask."

"Was left in charge of the Godolphin street house, As to the housekeeper, she had heard nothing on the night of the rich head himself admitted him.

So for three mornings the mystery remained, so far as I could follow it in the papers. If Holmes knew more, he kept his own counsel, but, as he told the rich nourishing kind that vitalizes is him whom you must ask."

"You must see that this is so, the crime. If her master had a visitor he had himself admitted him.

So for three mornings the mystery remained, so far as I could follow it in the papers. If Holmes knew more, he kept his own counsel, but, as he told buy a tract of land at Milwaukee, while the interview of the country wrapper.

Compelled to close their places, the gamblers of Portland, Orc., are trying to buy a tract of land at Milwaukee, him into his confidence in the case, I knew that he was in close touch with him tention of establishing a "Monte Carlo" the country wrapper.

which adorned one of the walls. Robbery does not appear to have been the motive of the crime, for there had been no attempt to remove the valuable contents of the room. Mr. Eduardo Lucas Was recommended to us by one of TORONTO'S JUDGES as a valuable household remed. Thus writes a prominent citize of that place. was so well known and popular that his violent and mysterious fate will arouse painful interest and intense sympathy in a widespread circle of friends. Radway's Ready Relief "Well, Watson, what do you make of this?" asked Holmes, after a long "A coincidence! Here is one of the three men whom we had named as possible actor in this drama, and he Caughs meets a violent death during the very Pneumonia Good for Pain in the Chest Lumbage Pain in the Kidneys Sciatica Athletes For over FIFTY YEARS this wen-ierful Ramedy has proved itself the best safest and surest antidote for pain in the Dear Sire: R. R. has had a place in ear home for the past twenty years and would not be without is for five times its cost. Yours very truly, Feb. 94, 1904. R. B. O'FLYNN, Trenton, Ont. Dr. Radway: Having been an old patron of your R. R. R. and other medicines in raising a family of 7 children to manhood and womanhood, I am pleased to recommend it to others, as I do now, and have always done. Respectfully, MRS. LUCY BINNS, The control of RADWAY & CO. Jacques Cartler Square, Montres

Holmes, for having refused to speak more freely, and you on your side will not, I am sure, think the worse of me because I desire, even against his will to share my husband's anxieties. Once more I beg that you will say nothing of my visit."

She looked back at us from the door, and I had a last impression of that beautiful haunted face, the startled eyes, and the drawn mouth. Then she

"Now, Watson, the fair sex is your department," said Holmes, with a smile, when the dwindling frou-frou of skirts had ended in the slam of the frent door. "What was the fair lady's game? What did she really want?" "Surely her own statement is clear and her anxiety very natural." "Hum! Think of her appearance Watson - her manner, her suppressed

excitement, her restlessness, her tenacity in asking questions. Remember that she comes of a caste who do not lightly show emotion. "She was certainly much moved." "Remember also the curious earnest-

ness with which she assured us that it was best for her husband that she should know all. What did she mean by that? And you must have observed, Watson, how she maneuvered to have the light at her back She ala no wish us to read her expression." "Yes, she chose the one chair in the

"And yet the motives of women are so inscrutable. You remember the woman at Margate whom I suspected for he same reason. No powder on her nose—that proved to be the correct solution. How can you build on such a quicksand? Their most trivial action may mean volumes, or their most extraordinary conduct may depend upon a hairpin or a curling tongs. Good

"You are off?" "Yes, I will while away the morning it Godolphin street with our friends of the regular establishment, With Eduardo Lucas lies the solution of our problem, though I must admit that I have not an inkling as to what form it may take. It is a capital mistake to theorize in advance of the facts. Do you stay on guard, my good Watson.

them."

The Duke of Belminster, but no description of sandwiches at irregular hours, and colorless photographs, had prepared bardly answered the casual questions me for the subtle, delicate charm and which I put to him. It was evident to the beautiful coloring of that exquisite me that things were not going well read. And yet as we saw it that au- with him or his quest. He would say "He was murdered in his own house tumn morning, it was not its beauty nothing of the case, and it was from publication might very easily—I might I men I will ten you, relying entirely eral international spies and secret pean complications of the utmost moleague, Dr. Watson. I may appeal to miliar to me, There are three who may that it was with a sense of exultation the eyes were bright, but it was the the valet of the decease of John Mitton, that it was with a sense of fever the sensitive mouth over the decease of their profes. Unless its recovery can be attended with the utmost secrecy, then it may safely trust us."

In agine a greater mistortune for the sign. I will begin my research by gourness at this post, if one is missing—especiably the parties regarded at all, for all the parties regarded at all the parties rega taken. The dead man's papers had not "Has my husband been here, Mr. been tampered with. They were carefully examined, and showed that he A crime of mysterious character was committed last night at 16, Godolphin tell him that I came here."

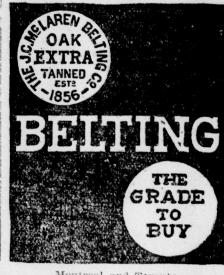
Was a keen student of international politics, an indefatigible gossip, a remarkable linguist, and an untiring let-"I fancy not. These agents work in- street, one of the old-fashioned and se- bowed coldly, and motioned the lady ter writer. He had been on intimate

superficial. He had many acquaint-down in society circles both on account of his charming personality and because he has the well-deserved reputation of being one of the best amateur tenors in the country. Mr. Lucas is an white-gloved hands clasped and unances among them, but few friends, and no one whom he loved. His habits were regular, his conduct inoffensive. His death was an absolute mystery, and likely to remain so.

fortunate tenant of the house. He had would only see it, would be best served been in Lucas' employment for three been stabbed to the heart and must by taking me into his complete confi- years. It was noticeable that Lucas dence. What was this paper which did not take Mitton on the continent with him. Sometimes he visited Paris

the rich nourishing kind that vitalizes the whole body. You'll be wonderfully quickened, impensely strengthened, feel hearty and vigorous after using Ferrozone. By oyant health, surplus vigor and reserve energy all come from this great resource. But without your may do a great service if from Portland, across the him into his confidence in the case, I line in Clarkamas County, with the intention of establishing a "Monte Carlo" tention of establishing a "Monte Carlo" there.

23 minutes from Portland, across the line in Clarkamas County, with the intention of establishing a "Monte Carlo" tention of es



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