track of a bicycle.

"Hurrah!" I cried. "We have it!"

"The boy's, then?" cle to have been in his possession. But much in our inquiry.
this we have utterly failed to do. This "It is a little difficult to know what track, as you perceive, was made by a rider who was going from the direction of the school."

to do, Watson," said he, at last. My a rider who was going from the direction of the school."

where it has passed across and oblit- after.' erated the more shallow mark of the front one. It was undoubtedly heading away from the school. It may or may sistance. Wait a bit! There is a 1clnot be connected with our inquiry, but low cutting peat up yonder. Bring we will follow it backwards before we him over here and he will guide the

struck across the peaty, russet moor. 'Bad!' said Holmes. "Bad! Stand skull in a fall?' intersected with a thousand sheep- clear, Watson! Not an 'unnecessary 'In a morass, paths, until we came to the broad. footstep! What do I read here? He light-green belt which marked the mounted—he stood up—he remorass between us and Holdernesse mounted—he proceeded. But there is problems. At least, we have plenty of Certainly, if the lad had gone homewards, he must have passed this and
he could not pass it without leaving his
traces. But no sign of him or the German could be seen. With a darkening
wards, he must have passed this and
he could not pass it without leaving his
traces. But no sign of him or the German could be seen. With a darkening
watson. Surely, with stains as well
watson. Surely, with stains as well
We picked up the track and followed
to the patched cover has to offer us."

down yonder, and a narrow neck be- Palmer-tired, one pedal bent, and the or to a low, gray village which lay in tween. Halloa! Halloa! What whole front of it horribly smeared and front of us, and marked the position we had come on a small ribbon of side of the bushes a shoe was project
As we approached the forbid of which had been knocked out. The and his face was puzzled and expect-ant rather than joyous.

Cause of his death was a frightful of the ankle which leave a man help-in part of his skull. That he could less. With difficulty he limped up to "A bicycle, certainly, but not the have gone on after receiving such an "I am familiar with injury, said much for the vitality and man was smoking a black clay pipe. impressions left by courage of the man. He wore shoes, "How are you, Mr. Reuben Hayes?" forty-two different impressions left by courage of the man. He wore shoes, tires. This, as you perceive is a Dun- but no socks, and his open coat dislop. with a patch upon the outer cover.

Heidegger's tires were Palmer's, leaving longitudinal stripes. Aveling, the Holmes turned the body over revermathematical master, was sure upon ently, and examined it with great atthe point. Therefore, it is not Heideg-ger's track."

entry, and examined to the them sat in deep thought for a time, and I could see by his ruffled brow that this grim discovery "Possibly, if we could prove a bicy- had not, in his opinion, advanced us

"Or towards it?"

"No, no, my dear Watson. The more deeply sunk impression is, of course, the hind wheel, upon which the weight lice of the discovery, and to see that You perceive several places this poor fellow's body is looked

ready before him. A very different Holmes, this active, alert man, from the introspective and palled dreamer of Baker street. I felt, as I looked upon that supple figure, alive with nervous energy, that it was indeed a streetuage of the tire reappeared once more.

"A side-slip," I suggested.

Holmes held up a crumpled branch of flowering gorse. To my horror, I perceived that the yellow blossoms were all dabbled with crimson. On the path, too, and among the heather appointment. With high hopes were dark stains of clotted blood.

"Bad!" said Holmes, "I cried, "this is impossible."

"A most luminating remark. It is impossible as luminating remark. It is impossible as some respect have stated it wrong. Yet you saw for yourself. Can you suggest any fallacy?"

"Bad!" said Holmes, "I cried, "this is impossible."

"Exactly.

"Exactly.

"Et you saw for yourself. Can you suggest any fallacy?"

"Strange, tracks all a skull in a fall?"

"In a morass, Watson?"
"I am at my wits' end."
"Tut, tut, we have solved some worse

man could be seen. With a darkening face my friend strode along the margin, eagerly observant of every muddy stain upon the mossy surface. Sheepmarks there were in profusion, and at one place some miles down, cows had left their tracks. Nothing more.

"Check No. 1," said Holmes, looking gloomily over the rolling expanse of the moor. "There is another morass gloomily over the rolling expanse of the moor. "There is another morass down yonder, and a narrow neck be
marks of the tire began to curve fantastically upon the wet and shining path. Suddenly, as I looked ahead, the gleam of metal caught my eye from amid the thick gorse-bushes. Out of them we dragegd a bicycle, palmer-tired, one pedal bent, and the properties of which rose some miles to our left, or to a low, gray village which lay in some distance, but soon the moor some distance, but soon the moor rose into a long, heather-tufted curve, and we left the water-course behind us. No further help from tracks could be hoped for. At the spot where we saw the last of the Dunlop tire it might equally have led to Holdernesse Hall, the stately towers of which rose some miles to our left, or to a low, gray village which lay in

less. With difficulty he limped up to the door, where a squat, dark, elderly said Holmes.

"Who are you, and how do you get swered, with a suspicious flash of a pair of cunning eyes. "Well, it's printed on the board above suppose you haven't such a thing as a carriage in your stables?"

"I can hardly put my foot to the ground." "Don't put it to the ground." "But I can't walk." "Well, then, hop."

rom gracious, but Holmes took it with admirable good-humor.
"Look here, my man," said he. "This is really rather an awkward fix for me. I don't mind how I get on." "Neither do I," said the morose

landlord. "The matter is very important. "Well, everywhere. They were at the bethan doorway and into his grace's morass, and again on the path, and again near where poor Heidegger met Wilder, demure and courtly, but with "Exactly. Well, now, Watson, how many cows did yuo see on the moor?"

"Yes, it is strange."
"Now, Watson, make an effort, throw your mind back. Can you see

those tracks upon the path?"
"Yes, I can." "Can you recall that the tracks were sometimese like that, Watson"—he arranged a number of bread crumbs in

"And what is your conclusion?" "Only that it is a remarkable cow As we approached the forbidding and squalid inn, with the sign of the game-George! Watson, it was no brain of a pathway. In the middle of it, clearly ing. We ran round, and there lay the marked on the sodden soil, was the unfortunate rider. He was a tall man, cock above the door, Holmes gave a country publican that thought out such full-bearded, with spectacles, one glass sudden groan, and clutched me by the a blind as that. The coast seems to shoulder to save himself from falling. be clear save for that lad in the smithy But Holmes was shaking his head cause of his death was a frightful He had had one of those violent strains —let us slip out and see what we can There were two rough-haired, un-

kempt horses in the tumble-down stable Holmes raised the hind leg of one of them and laughed aloud. "Old shoes, but newly shod - old shoes, but new nails This case deserves my name so pat?" the countryman an- to be a classic. Let us go across to the smithy.'

The lad continued his work without regarding us. I saw Holmes' eye your head. It's easy to see a man darting to right and left among the who is master of his own house. I litter of iron and wood which was suppose you haven't such a thing as scattered about the floor. Suddenly, however, we heard a step behind us, and there was the landlord, his heavy eyebrows drawn down over his savage eyes, his swarthy features convulsed with passion. He held a short, metalheaded stick in his hand, and he advanced in so menacing a fashion that Mr. Reuben Hayes' manner was far I was right glad to feel the revolver in my pocket

You infernal spies!" the men cried. "What are you doing there?"
"Why, Mr. Reuben Hayes," said Holmes, coolly, "one might think that you were afraid of our finding somehing out.' The man mastered himself with a

violent effort, and his grim mouth

loosened into a false laugh, which was more menacing than his frown. "You're welcome to all you can find out in my smithy," said he. "But look here, mister, I don't care for folk poking about my place without my leave so the sooner you pay your score and get out of this the better I shall be

"All right, Mr. Hayes, no harm meant," said Holmes. "We have beer having a look at your horses, but I think I'll walk, after all. It's not far, believe. "Not more than two miles to

Hall gates That's the road to the left." He watched us with sullen eves until we had left his premises. We did not go very far along the road, for Holmes stopped the instant that the curve hid us from the landlord's view.

'We were warm, as the children say, at that inn," said he. "I seem to grow colder every step that I take away from it. No, no, I can't possibly leave

"I am convinced," said I, "that this Reuben Hayes knows all about it. A more self-evident villain I never saw." he impressed you in that way, did he? There are the horses, there is the smithy. Yes, it is an interesting place, this Fighting Cock. I think we shall have another look at it in ar

A long, sloping hillside, dotted with gray limestone boulders, stretched behind us. We had turned off the road, and were making our way up the when, looking in the direction of Holdernesse Hall, I saw a cyclist coming

swiftly along.
"Get down, Watson!" cried Holmes, with a heavy hand upon my shoulder. We had hardly sunk from view when the man flew past us on the road Amid a rolling cloud of dust. I caught glimpse of a pale, agitated face-a face with horror in every lineament the mouth open, the eyes staring wildly in front. It was like some strange caricature of the dapper James Wilder whom we had seen the night before. "The duke's secretary!" cried Holmes. "Come, Watson, let us see what he

We scrambled from rock to rock, until in a few moments we had made our way to a point from which we could see the front door of the inn. Wilder's bicycle was leaning against the wall beside it. No one was moving about the house, nor could we catch a glimpse of any faces at the windows. Slowly the twilight crept down as the check, however unwelcome the infor-sun sank behind the high towers of mation which you have gained may be Holdernesse Hall. Then, in the gloom, to me. When the offer was first made, we saw the two side lamps of a trap ight up in the stable yard of the inn, and shortly afterwards heard the rattle of hoofs, as it wheeled out into the road and tore off at a furious pace in the direction of Chesterfield.
"What do you make of that, Wat-

on?" Holmes whispered. "It looks like a flight." "A single man in a dogcart, so far as could see. Well, it certainly was not Mr. James Wilder, for there he is at

A red square of light had sprung out of the darkness. In the middle of it was the black figure of the secretary, his head advanced, peering out into the night. It was evident that he was expecting someone. Then at last there were steps in the road, a second figure was visible for an instant against the light, the door shut, and all was black employ." once more. Five minutes later a lamp was lit in a room upon the first floor.

Cock." said Holmes. "The bar is on the other side."
"Quite so. These are what one may call the private guests. Now, what in the world is Mr. James Wilder doing in that den at this hour of night, and who is the companion who comes to meet him there? Come, Watson, we must really take a risk, and try to investigate this a little more closely."

Together we stole down to the road and crept across to the door of the The bicycle still leaned against

the wall. Holmes struck a match and held it to the back wheel, and I heard "Thank you," said Holmes. "We'll him chuckle as the light fell upon patched Dunlop tire. Up above us was the lighted window. "I must have a peep through that,

that I can manage." An instant later, his feet were on my shoulders, but he was hardly up before

he was down again. "Come, my friend," said he, "our When we were left alone in the day's work has been quite long enough. by absolute frankness between us. I day's work has been quite long enough. by absolute frankness between us. I day's work has been quite long enough. and disposed to help your grace to the sent a telegram. James was so overlock. I think that we have gathered all that am disposed to help your grace to the best of my ability, but, in order to do whelmed with grief and agitation that am a poor man," said he, as he patted whelmed with grief and agitation that it affectionately, and thrust it into the ecovered. It was nearly nightfall and and the sooner we get started the bet-He hardly opened his lips during that

weary trudge across the moor, nor would be enter the school when he derer." reached it. but went on to Mackleton station, whence he could send some telegrams. Late at night I heard him consoling Dr. Huxtable, prostrated by the tragedy of his master's death, and later still he entered my room as alert and vigorous as he had been when he started in the morning. "All goes well, my friend," said he. "I promise that before tomorrow evening we shall have reached the solution of the mystery."

Hayes was arrested at Chesterfield, on my information, at 11 o'clock last night. I had a telegram from the head of the local police before I left the school this morning." At 11 o'clock next morning my friend and I were walking up the famous yew

some trace of that wild terror of the night before still lurking in his furtive

many cows did yuo see on the moor?"

"I don't remember seeing any."

"Strange, Watson, that we should see tracks all along our line, but never a cow on the whole moor. Very strange, Watson, eh?"

"Yes, it is strange."

"Intring in his furtive eyes and in his twitching features.

"You have come to see his grace? I am sorry, but the fact is that the duke is far from well. He has been very much upset by the tragic news. We received a telegram from Dr. Huxtable vesterday afternoon, which told table yesterday afternoon, which told us of your discovery."

"I must see the duke, Mr. Wilder."
"But he is in his room." 'Then I must go to his room,'

"I believe he is in his bed."
"I will see him there." Holmes' cold and inexorable manner howed the secretary that it was useess to argue with him.
"Very good, Mr. Holmes, I will tell him that you are here."

After an hour's delay, the great nobleman appeared. His face was more cadaverous than ever, his shoulders had rounded, and he seemed ever, his to me to be an altogether older man than he had been the morning before He greeted us with a stately courtesy and seated himself at his desk, his rec beard streaming down on the table. "Well, Mr. Holmes?" said he.

But my friend's eyes were fixed up on the secretary, who stood by his master's chair. "I think, your grace, that I could speak more freely in Mr. Wilder's ab-The man turned a shade paler and

ast a malignant glance at Holmes. "If your grace wishes-'Yes, yes, you had better go. Now Mr. Holmes, what have you to say?"
My friend waited until the door had closed behind the retreating secretary. "The fact is, your grace," said he, that my colleague, Dr. Watson, and myself had an assurance from Dr. Huxtable that a reward had been offered in this case. I should like to have this confirmed from your own lips.'

"Certainly, Mr. Holmes." "It amounts if I am correctly in-formed, to five thousand pounds to anyone who will tell you where your son

"And another thousand to the man who keep him in custody?" "Exactly."

"Under the latter heading is inluded, no doubt, not only those who nay have taken him away, but also those who conspire to keep him in his present position?" "Yes, yes," cried the duke, impatiently. "If you do your work well, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, you will have no reason to complain of niggardly treat-

for you to cross it. The Capital and have married anyone else. She died, Counties Bank, Oxford street branch, and left this one child, whom for her re my agents." friend

hardly a subject for pleasantry." "Not at all, your grace. I was never more earnest in my life.' "What do you mean, then?"

"I mean that I have earned the reward. I know where your son is, and I know some, at least, of those who are holding him."
The duke's beard had turned more aggressively red than ever against his ghastly white face.
"Where is he?" he gasped.

Fighting Cock Inn, about two miles from your park gate. The duke fell back in his chair. "And whom do you accuse?" Sherlock Holmes' answer was an astounding one. He stepped swiftly forward and touched the duke upon the

shoulder. "I accuse you," said he. "And now, your, grace, I'll trouble you for that check. Never shall I forget the duke's appearance as he sprang up and clawed with his hands, like one who is sinking into an abyss. Then, with an extraordinary effort of aristocratic self-command, he sat down and sank his face in his hands. It was some minutes be-

fore he spoke. "How much do you know?" he asked at last, without raising his head." "I saw you together last night." "Does anyone else beside your friend

"I have spoken to no one." The duke took a pen in his quivering ingers and opened his check-book. "I shall be as good as my word, Mr. Holmes. I am about to write your check, however unwelcome the inforlittle thought the turn which events might take. But you and your friend are men of discretion, Mr. Holmes?"

"I hardly understand your grace." "I must put it plainly, Mr. Holmes. If only you two know of this incident, there is no reason why it should go any farther. I think twelve thousand ounds is the sum that I owe you, is not?

But Holmes smiled and shook his "I fear, your grace, that matter can hardly be arranged so easily. There is the death of this schoolmaster to be

counted for." "But James knew nothing of that. You cannot hold him responsible for that. It was the work of this brutal ruffian whom he had the misfortune to

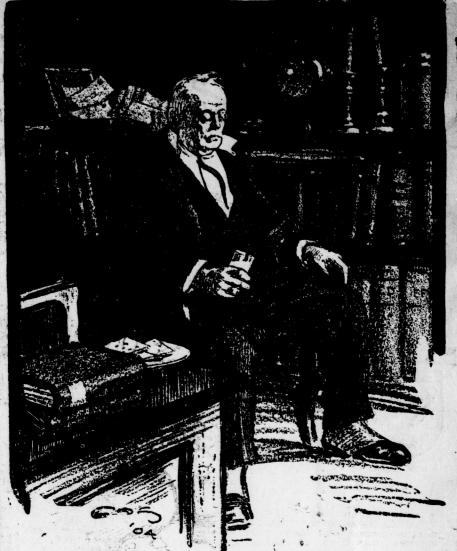
"I must take the view, your grace was lit in a room upon the first floor. that when a man embarks upon a "It seems to be a curious class of crime, he is morally guilty of any custom that is done by the Fighting other crime which may spring from it. "Morally, Mr. Holmes. No doubt you are right. But surely not in the eyes of the law. A man cannot be condemned for a murder at which he was not present, and which he loathes and abhors as much as you do. The instant that he heard of it he made a complete confession to me, so filled was he with horror and remorse. He lost not an hour in breaking entirely with the murderer. Oh, Mr. Holmes, you must save him-you must save him! I tell

you that you must save him! The duke had dropped the last attempt at selfcommand, and was pacing the room with a convulsed face and with his clenched hands raving in the air. At last he mastered himself, and sat down once more at his desk. "I appreciate support yourself upon the wall, I think your conduct in coming here before you he had not time to put his plans into spoke to anyone else," said he. least we may take counsel how far we can minimize this hideous scandal."

> "Exactly," said Holmes. "I think your grace, that this can only be done tail how the matter stands. I realize that your words applied to Mr. James Wilder, and that he is not the mur-

"No, the murderer has escaped." Sherlock Holmes smiled demurely. "Your grace can hardly have heard of any small reputation which I posis so easy to escape me. Mr. Reuben Hayes was arrested at Chesterfield, on

ushered through the magnificent Eliza- friend.



"I CANNOT IMAGINE HOW I CAME TO BE SO WEAK"

"You seem to have powers that are consented to leave him there for three hardly human," said he. "So Reuben days, under the charge of Mrs. Hayes, Hayes is taken? I am right glad to since it was evident that it was imposwho will name the person or persons hear it, if it will not react upon the sible to inform the police where he fate of James.'

"No, sir, my son,"

"Your secretary?"

be more explicit." "I will conceal nothing from you. I cealment. Do grape with you that complete frankness, however painful it may be to me, place, your grace, I am bound to tell My friend rubbed his thin hands together with an appearance of avidity
which was a surprise to me, who knew

is the best policy in this desperate situation to which James' folly and jealousy have reduced us. When I was a
the law You position in the eyes of which was a surprise to me, who knew his frugal tastes.

"I fancy that I see your grace's with such a love as comes only once in and you have aided the escape of a lifetime." "I fancy that I see your grace's with such a love as comes only once in check book upon the table," said he. "I should be glad if you would make but she refused it on the grounds that such a match might mar my career. Padd the lived, I would certainly never sake I have cherished and cared for. I ter. Even more culpable in my opinion His grace sat very stern and upright could not acknowledge the paternity to your grace, is your attitude towards his chair, and looked stonily at my the world, but I gave him the best of your younger son. You leave him in educations, and since he came to man- this den for three days." "Is this a joke, Mr. Holmes? It is hood I have kept him near my person. He surprised my secret, and has presumed ever since upon the claim which he has upon me, and upon his power of provoking a scandal which would be humor your guilty elder son, you have abhorrent to me. His presence had something to do with the unhappy issue of my marriage. Above all, he hated my ways a finite would be exposed your innocent younger son to imminent and unnecessary danger. I was a most unjustifiable action." hated my young legitimate heir from not accustomed to be so rated in his the first with a persistent hatred. You may well ask me why, under these circumstances, I still kept James under where is he?" he gasped.

"He is, or was last night, at the my roof. I answer that it was because the large of the I could see his mother's face in his, tion only. It is that you will ring for and that for her dear sake there was no end to my long-suffering. All her ders as I like."

bring back to my memory. I could not send him away. But I feared so much Holmes, "that our young master Saltire—a mischief, that I dispatched carriage shall go at once to the Fighthim for safety to Dr. Huxtable's school. "James came into contact with this fellow, Hayes, because the man was a tenant of mine, and James acted as joicing lackey had disappeared, "havagent. The fellow was a rascal from the beginning but, in some extraordinto be more lenient with the past. I the beginning, but, in some extraordin-

was awaiting him on the moor, and hold can only lead to misfortune.' that if he would come back into the wood at midnight he would find a man with a horse, who would take him to her. Poor Arthur fell into the trap, He in Australia."

"In that case your Grace, since you "In that case your Grace, since you "In that case your Grace, since you whancame to the appointment, and found have yourself stated that any unhapthis fellow Hayes with a led pony. | nave yourself stated that any unhappiness in your married life was caused Arthur mounted, and they set off together. It appears—though this James you make such amends as you can to pursued, that Hayes struck the pursuer sume those relations which have been with his stick, and that the man died so unhappily interrupted." of his injuries. Hayes brought Arthur to his public-house, the Fighting Holmes. I wrote to the Duchess this Cock, where he was confined in an upper room, under the care of Mrs. Hayes, who is a kindly woman, but

entirely under the control of her brutal husband. deal which was unreasoning and fanat- ary a device?" which made it impossible. At the same furnished as a museum. was eager that I should break the en- pointed to the inscription. tail, and he was of opinion that it lay of the police against him. I say that he ons of Holdernesse in the Middle would have proposed such a bargain to Ages." me; but he did not actually do so, for events moved too quickly for him, and ening his finger he passed it along the "What brought all his wicked scheme

to wreck was your discovery of this man, Heidegger's, dead body. James teresting object that I have seen in the was seized with horror at the news. It came to us vesterday, as we sat tomy suspicions, which had never been entirely absent, rose instantly to a cer- depths of his inner pocket. tainty, and I taxed him with the deed He made a complete voluntary confession. Then he implored me to keep his secret for three days longer, so as to give his wretched accomplice a chance have always yielded—to his prayers, Use only "Putnam's." sess, or you would not imagine that it and instantly James hurried off to the Fighting Cock to warn Hayes and give is finally found, that you have been is finally found, that you have been him the means of flight. I could not go looking too far away? It is the same there by daylight without provoking with your opportunities. The comment, but as soon as night fell I local police before I left the school this morning."

The duke leaned back in his chair and stared with amazement at my friend.

The duke leaned back in his chair and stared with amazement at my friend.

Close about you and at home.

IT IS ONLY NECESSARY to read the testimonials to be convinced that Holl way's Corn Cure is unequaled for the had witnessed. In deference to my promise, and much against my will, I complete extinguisher.

was without telling them also who was the murderer, and I could not see how that murderer could be punished with-It was Holmes' turn to look aston- out ruin to my unfortunate James, You asked for frankness, Mr. Holmes, and I "I confess that this is entirely new to me, your grace. I must beg you to have now told you everything without an attempt at circumlocution or concealment. Do you in your turn be as

money which was taken by James Wilder to aid his accomplice in his flight came from your grace's purse.

The duke bowed his assent "This is, indeed, a most serious mat-

"Under solemn promises-" "What are promises to such people

pretty ways, too—there was not one of them which he could not suggest and bring back to my memory. I could not "You will be glad to hear," said lest he should do Arthur-that it, Lord found. It is the Duke's desire that the ing Cock Inn to bring Lord Saktire

"Now," said Holmes, when the rethe beginning, but, in some extraordinary way, James became intimate with him. He had always a taste for low company. When James determined to kidnap Lord Saltire, it was of this man's service that he availed himself. You remember that I wrote to Arthur upon that last day. Well James opened the letter and inserted a note asking Grace could make him understand that the letter and inserted a note asking Grace could make him understand that Arthur to meet him in a little wood called the Ragged Shaw, which is near to the school. He used the duchess kidnapped the boy for the purpose of name, and in that way got the boy to ransom. If they do not themselves find come. That evening James bioycled over—I am telling you what he has prompt them to take a broader point himself confessed to me and he told of view. I would warn your Grace, Arthur, whom he met in the wood, that his mother longed to see him, that she of Mr. James Wilder in your house-"I understand that, Mr. Holmes, and it is already settled that he shall leave

only heard yesterday—that they were the Duchess, and that you try to re-"That also I have arranged, M

morning." "In that case," said Holmes, rising, "I think that my friends and I can congratulate ourselves upon several most happy results from "Well, Mr. Holmes, that was the visit to the North. There is one other state of affairs when I first saw you small point upon which I desire some two days ago. I had no more idea of light. This fellow Hayes has shod his the truth than you, You will ask me horses with shoes which counterfeited what was James' motive in doing such the tracks of cows. Was it from Mr. a deed. I answer that there was a great Wilder that he learned so extraordin-

ical in the hatred which he bore my The Duke stood in thought for a heir. In his view he should himself moment, with a look of intense surhave been heir of all my estates, and prise on his face. Then he opened a he deeply resented those social laws door and showed us into a large room, time, he had a definite motive also. He way to a glass case in a corner, and

"These shoes," it ran, "were dug up in my power to do so. He intended to in the moat of Holdernesse Hall. They make a bargain with me—to restore are for the use of horses, but they are Arthur if I would break the entail, and shaped below with a cloven foot of so make it possible for the estate to be iron, so as to throw pursuers off the left to him by will. He knew well that track. They are supposed to have be-I should never willingly invoke the aid longed to some of the marauding bar-

> Holmes opened the case, and moistshoe. A thin film of recent mud was left upon his skin. "Thank you," said he, as he replace be glass. "It is the second most in

"And the first?" it affectionately, and thrust it into the

Even the Doctors Say So. Ask them about your corns-the prescription is invariably one bottle of saving his guilty life. I yielded as I Fifty years in use, certain and prompt. of Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor.



hundred yards lost the tracks as we Holmes dispatched the frightened man emerged from the boggy portion of the with a note to Dr. Huxtable. moor. Following the path backwards, spring trickled across it. Here, once is the bicycle with the Palmer tire, again, was the mark of the bicycle, and we see what that has led to. The of cows. After that there was no Dunlop. Before we start to investi sign, but the path ran right out into Ragged Shaw, the wood which backed we do know, so as to make the most we do know, so as to make the most of the second the companied with the path of the second the seco cycle must have emerged. Holmes sat from the accidental." down on a boulder, and rested his chin in his hands. I had smoked two cigar-

ettes before he moved. "Well, well," said he, at last. "It is. of course, possible that a cunning man or with someone. That is sure." might change the tyre of his bicycle in order to leave unfamiliar tracks. A criminal who is capable of such a thought is a man whom I should be proud to do business with. We eave this question undecided and hark back to our morass again, for we have

left a good deal unexplored." We continued our systematic survey of the edge of the sodden portion of the moor, and soon our perseverance was gloriously rewarded. Right across the lower part of the bog lay a miry path. Holmes gave a cry of delight as he approached it. An impression like a fine bundle of tele-

graph wires ran down the center of it. was the Palmer tire. "Here is Herr Heidegger pretty sound, Watson.

"I congratulate you." Now let us follow the trail. I fear some swift means of escape." that it will not lead very far.' We found, however, as we advanced that this portion of the moor is in-tersected with soft patches, and, school-not by a bullet, mark you tersected with soft patches, and, school—not by a bullet. mark you though we frequently lost sight of the which even a lad might conceivable

ing it up once more. "Do you observe," said Holmes, then, had a companion in his flight "that the rider is now undoubtedly And the flight was a swift one, since i forcing the pace? There can be no took five miles before an expert cyclis doubt of it. Look at this impression, could overtake them. Yet we surve where you get both tires clear. The the ground round the scene of the tra one is as deep as the other. That can gedy. What do we find? A few cattle only mean that the rider is throwing tracks, nothing more. I took a wid

There was a broad, irregular smudge actual number, nor were there any covering some yards of the track. human footmarks."

I brought the peasant across, and of a bicycle.

"Now, Watson," said he, "we have we picked out another spot, where a picked up two clues this morning. One though nearly obliterated by the hoofs other is the bicycle with the patche on to the school. From this wood the of it, and to separate the essentia

"First of all I wish to impress upo you that the boy certainly left of hi own free-will. He got down from hi window, and he went off either alon

"Well, now, let us turn to this unfor tunate German master. The boy was fully dressed when he fled. Therefor foresaw what he would do. Bu the German went without his socks He certainly acted on very short no

"Undoubtedly." "Why did he go? Because, from h bedroom window, he saw the flight the boy; because he wished to over take him and bring him back. H seized his bicycle, pursued the lad, and

in pursuing him met his death." "So it would seem."
"Now I come to the critical part of my argument. The natural action of a man in pursuing a little boy woul cried Holmes exultantly, be to run after him. He would know "My reasoning seems to have been that he could overtake him. But th German does not do so. He turns to his bicycle. I am told that he was a "But we have a long way still to excellent cyclist. He would not do this Kindly walk clear of the path. If he did not see that the boy ha

"The other bicycle."
"Let us continue our reconstruction track, we always succeeded in pick-discharge, but by a savage dealt by a vigorous arm. The lac his weight on the handle bars, as a sweep round, and there is no path man does when he is sprinting. By within fifty yards. Another cyclis Jove! he has had a fall."

would offer you a sovereign for the use The landlord pricked up his ears.

"Where do you want to go?"
"To Holdernesse Hall." "Pals of the Dook, I suppose?" said the landlord, surveying our mud-stained garments with ironical eyes. Holmes laughed good-naturedly. "He'll be glad to see us, anyhow."

"Why?"

"Because we bring him news of his ost son." The landlord gave a very visible "What, you're on his track?" "He has been heard of in Liverpool, They expect to get him every hour."

Again a swift change passed over he heavy, unshaven face. His manner was suddenly genial. "I've less reason to wish the Dook well than most men," said he, "for I vas his coachman once, and cruel bad ne treated me. It was him that sacked me without a character on the word of

lying corn-chandler. But I'm glad o hear that the young lord was heard inn.
of in Liverpool, and I'll help you to the ake the news to the Hall." have some food first. Then you can

oring round the bicycle."
"I haven't got a bicycle." Holmes held up a sovereign "I tell you, man, that I haven't got one. I'll let you have two horses as ar as the Hall."
"Well, well," said Holmes, "we'll alk about it when we've had some-

hing to eat." ng how rapidly that sprained ankle ve had eaten nothing since early in the norning, so that we spent some time over our meal. Holmes was lost in weal hought, and once or twice he walked over to the window and stared earnestly out. It opened on to a squalid courtyard. In the far corner was a mithy, where a grimy lad was at work. In the other side were the stables. Holmes had sat down again after one of these excursions, when he suddenly prang out of his chair with a loud exclamation.

"By heaven, Watson, I believe that "ye got it!" he cried. "Yes, yes, it nust be so. Watson, do you rememper seeing any cow-tracks today?"
"Yes, several."