

The Return of a

Sherlock Holmes

IX-THE YELLOW FACE,

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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nd the papers uninteresting, One day in early spring he had so far relaxed as to go for a walk with me in the Park, where the first faint shoots of green were breaking out upon the elms, and the sticky spear-heads of the chestnuts were just beginning to burst into their five-fold leaves. For wo hours we rambled about together n silence for the most part, as befits wo men who know each other intinately. It was nearly five hours before we were back in Baker street once

"Beg pardon, sir," said our page-boy, as he opened the door. "There's been a gentleman here asking for you." Holmes glanced reproachfully at me "So much for afternoon walks," saic he. "Has this gentleman gone, then."

"Yes, sir."
"Didn't you ask him in?" "Yes, sir; he came in."
"How long did he wait?"

"Half an hour, sir. He was a very restless gentleman, sir, a-walkin' and a-stampin' all the time he was her-. was waitin' outside the door, sir, an. could hear him. At last he goes out into the passage and he cries, 'Is that man never goin' to come?' Those were his very words, sir. 'You'll only neen to wait a little longer says I. Then I'll wait in the open air, for I feet hat-choked,' says he. I'll be back before ong.' And with that he ups and he outs, and all I could say wouldn't hold "Well, well, you did your best," said

Holmes, as we walked into our room. "It's very annoying, though, Watson. I was badly in need of a case, and this ooks, from the man's impatience, as if it were of importance. Hullo! That's not your pipe on the table. He must have left his behind him. A nice old brier, with a good long stem of what there are in London? Some people think that a fly in it is a sign. Well. he must have been disturbed in his nind to leave a pipe behind him whice

"How do you know that he values thighly?" I asked. "Well, I should put the original cos of the pipe at seven and sixpence. Now has, you see, been twice mendeonce in the wooden stem and one the amber. Each of these mends,done, as you observe, with silver bands, mus: The man must value the plus ather than buy a new one with the

same money." "Anything else?" I asked, for Holmes was turning the pipe about in his hand, and staring at it in his peculiar

He held it up and tapped on it with his long, thin forefinger, as a professor might who was lecturing on a

ary interest," said he. "Nothing has more individuality, save, perhaps, watches and bootlaces. The indications in a dark gray suit, and carried brown wideawake in his hand. nor very important. The owner is ob- should have put him at about

smoke for half the price, he has no how I can help you?"

need to practice economy.'
"And the other points?"

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HERLOCK Holmes was a may have been the slight excitement produced by my little and the first as the first and the second between the same where there was some professional object to be served. Then he was absolutely untring and he seidon bestirred himself save where there was some professional object to be served. Then he was absolutely untring and he fall the first should have kept himself in training under such circumstances is remarkable, but his diet was suarally of the sparest, and his habits weter have some professions and saves the energy and he sparest, and he was absolutely untring and he date and service where there was some professional object to be served. Then he was absolutely untring and landstagable, but his diet was usually of the sparest, and his habits weter the may have been the slight excitement produced by my little and at little as if she were the woman who as little as if she were the woman who as little as if she were the woman who as little as if she were the woman who as little as if she were the woman who as little as if she were the woman who early the could not have dene that. Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that. Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that. Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that, Why should not have dene that. Why should not have dene that, Why should not have den



HE HELD OUT HIS OTHER HAND TO HIS WIFE.

eight-pence an ounce," Holmes an-swered, knocking out a little on his palm. "As he might get an excellent more even than pleasure. May I ask

"He has been in the habit of light- seems to have gone to pieces."

domestic affairs to strangers. It seems dreadful to discuss the conduct of one's wife with two men whom I have never seen before. It's horrible to have to do it. But I've got to the end of my tether and I must have ad-

Our visitor sprang from his chair. What." he cried, "you know my

"If you wish to preserve your incognito," said Holmes, smiling, "I would suggest that you cease to write your name upon the lining of your hat, or else that you turn the crown towards the person whom you are addressing. ""Well, said she. I want a hundred." I was about to say that my friend, pounds, and I have listened to a good many "I was strange secrets in this room, and that we have had the good fortune to bring dress or something of the kind that she peace to many troubled souls. I trust was after, that we may do as much for you.

Might I beg you, as time may prove "'Oh' said she, in her playful way,

Our visitor again passed his hand you know.' over his forehead, as if he found it you shall have the money.' said I. bitterly hard. From every gesture and

bis casy, genial way. "That tries a man's nerves more than work, and more even than pleasure. May I ask now I can help you?"
"I want your advice, sir. I don't know what I do and my whole life seems to have gone to pieces."
"You wish to consult me as a consulting detective?"
"Not that only. I want your opinion as a judicious man—as a man of the world. I want to know what I ought to do next. I hope to God you'll be able to tell me."
He spoke in little, sharp, jerky outbursts, and it seemed to me that to speak at all was very painful to him, and that his will all through was overriding his inclinations.
"It is a very delicate thing," said he, "One does not like to speak of one's domestic affairs to strangers. It seems dreadful to discuss the conduct of one's wife with two men whon I mer feel in love with each other, and the feel mand to we week after, we fell in love with each other, and more even than pleasure. May I ask in we fell in love with each other, and we married a few weeks after, and tree feel in love with each other, and the face week after. I could not tell it the face was that of a man or woman. It had been too far man or woman. It h

I saw how awkward it would be if my business affairs went wrong. However, she would have it so, and it as done. The Right Honorable Sir Albert Well, about six weeks ago she came to

'Jack,' said she, 'when you took my

"'Certainly,' said I. 'It's all your "I was a bit staggered at this, for I

Might I beg you, as time may prove to be of importance, to furnish me with 'you said that you were only my bank-to be of importance, to furnish me with 'you said that you were only my bank-the facts of your case without further er, and bankers never ask questions, the facts of your case without further er, and bankers never ask questions, "'If you really mean it. of course

"'Oh, yes, I really mean tt."

bor very important. The owner is obtiously a muscular man, left-handed with an excellent set of teeth, careled with an excellent set of teeth, careled in his habits and with no need to practice economy."

If beg your pardon, said he, with some embarrassment. "I suppose I should have knocked. Yes, of course, should have knocked. Yes, of course, in a little unset, and you must he cocked his eye at me to see if it was following his reasoning.

"You think a man must be well-togoid if he smokes a seven shilling piper said I."

"I can see that you have not slept for a night or two," said Holmes, in his easy, genial way. "That tries a man's nerves more than work, and sweered, knocking out a little on his man's nerves more than measure. Wellow fever broke out badly in the lough he was really some vears older. It hough he was really some vears older. It hough he was really some vears older. It his stekened her of America, and she death certificate, should have with a maiden aum the cocked his eye at me to see if it should have knocked. The fact is life, and the fact is the fact is the fact is the fact is the fact

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door in my face. Annoyed at the churlish rebuff, I turned my back and walked home. All evening, though, I tried to think of other things, my mind would still turn to the apparition at the window and the rudeness of the woman. I determined to say nothing of the former to my wife, for she is a nervous, high-strung woman, and I had no wish that she should share the unpleasant impression which had been produced upon myself. I remarked to her, however, before I fell asleep, that the cottage was now occupied, to which she returned no reply,

"I am usually an extremely sound sleeper. It has been a standing jest in the family that nothing could ever wake me through the night. And yet somehow on that particular night, whether it may have been the slight

training under such circumstances is remarkable, but his diet was usually of the sparest, and his habits were simple to the verge of austerity. Save for the occasional use of cocaine, he had no vices, and he only turned to the for the occasional use of existence when cases were scanty of existence when cases were scanty of the dot that. But if I am not mistaken is diet was usually to do that. But if I am not mistaken is diet was usually of the stair, so we shall have something more interesting than his pipe to study."

Then, thinking I was still asleep, she as I looked I suddenly became award the room one of the upper windows.

Then, thinking I was still asleep, she as I looked I suddenly became award that a face was watching me out of an instant later I hear thim upon the stair, so we shall lie's history. She was a widow when his pipe to study."

Then, thinking I was still asleep, she as I looked I suddenly became award that a face was watching me out of an instant later I hear a sale of the bed as she fastened her wondered what sort of look they were windows. In the hear thim upon the stair, so we shall have something more interesting than his pipe to study."

Then, thinking I was still asleep, she as I looked I suddenly became award that a face was watching me out of an instant later I hear thim upon the stair, so we shall have something more interesting than his pipe to study. Then, thinking I was still asleep, she as I looked I suddenly became award that a face was watching me out of an instant later I hear thim upon the stair, so we shall have something more interesting than habits were the wondered what sort of look they were wondered what sort of look was a widow when had come to live something more interesting than might, I ran my eye over it, and then stopping as an idle man might, I ran my eye over it, and then stopping as an idle man might, I ran my eye over it, and then stopping as an idle

bed and rapped my knuckles against the rail to make certain that I was truly awake. Then I took my watch from under the pillow. It was three in the morning. What on this earth could my wife be doing 'out on the country road at three in the morning?
"I had sat for about twenty minutes

turning the thing over in my mind and trying to find some possible explanation. The more I thought the more extraordinary and inexplicable did it appear. I was still puzzling over it when I heard the door gently close again, and her footsteps coming up the stairs.

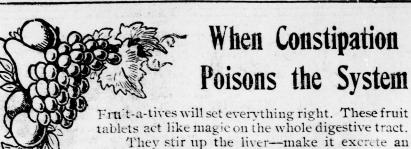
'Where in the world have you been Effie?" I asked as she entered. She gave a violent start and kind of gasping cry when I spoke, and that cry and start troubled me more than all the rest, for there was something indescribably guilty about them. My wife had always been a woman of a frank, open nature, and it gave me a chill to see her slinking into her own room, and crying out and wincing when her own husband spoke to her "'You awake, Jack!' she cried, with a nervous laugh. Why, I thought

that nothing could awake you 'Where have you been?' I asked, more sternly.
"'I don't wonder that you are surprised,' said she, and I could see that her fingers were trembling as she undid the fastenings of her mantle. Why thing in my life before. The fact is that I felt as though I were choking. and had a perfect longing for a breath

I never remember having done such a of fresh air. I really think that I should have fainted if I had not gone out. I stood at the door for a few minutes and now I am quit.

me this story she never once looked in my direction, and her voice was quite who are these people, that you should well. If you force your way into that unlike her usual tones. It was evident visit them at such an hour?' to me that she was saying what was false. I said nothing in reply, but turned my face to the wall, sick at heart, with my mind filled with a thousand venomous doubts and susplicions. What was it that my wife picions. What was it that my wife was concealing from me? Where had she been during that strange expedition? I felt that I should have no peace until I know, and yet I shrank had told me what was false. All the rest of the night I tossed and tumbled.

be as upset as myself, and I could see from the little questioning glances which she kept shooting at me that she understood that I disbelieved her stateof Atlanta, where she married this is don't know what there was about the form. Who was a lawyer with a good that face, Mr. Holmes, but it seemed exchanged a word during breakfast, practice. They had one child, but the to send a chill right down my back, and immediately afterwards I went out der, yellow fever broke out badly in the I was some little way off, so that I for a walk, that I might think the ment, and that she was at her wits'



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"'What do you mean?' she cried. whole lives are at "'You came here. I am sure of it. you come home

"'I have not been here before." shall enter that cottage, and I shall and on one condition only, said I at probe the matter to the bottom. last. 'It is that this mystery comes

convulsive strength. rest of the night I tossed and tumbled, framing theory after theory, each more unlikely than the last.

"I should have gone to the city that day, but I was too disturbed in my mind to be able to pay attention to business matters. My wife seemed to be as upset as myself, and I could see

"'Trust me, Jack!' she cried. 'Trust house.'

"'No, no Jack. for God's sake!' she to an end from now. You are at liberty gasped, in incontrollable emotion. Then, to preserve your secret, but you must peace until I know, and yet I shrank as I approached the door, she seized promise me that there shall be no from asking her again after once she my sleeve and pulled me back with more nightly visits, no more doings had told me what was false. All the

"There was such carnestness, such

me only this once. You know that I "Still pulling at my sleeve, she led

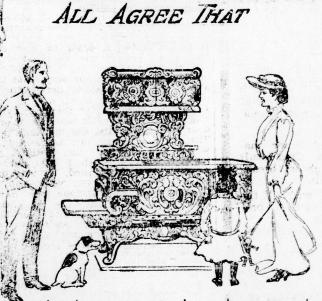


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