

The Return of a

## Sherlock Holmes.

V.-THE ADVENTURE OF THE PRIORY SCHOOL.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

Copyright, 1903, by A. Conan Doyle and Collier's Weekly.

Copyright, 1905, by McClure, Phillips & Co.



seemed too carry the weight his academic distinctions, preceded him by a few seconds, and then he en-

E have had | hunger and fatigue," said I, with my

than the first appearance of Dr. Thorney you, if I might have a glass of milk and a biscuit, I have no doubt that I should be better. I came personally, eye roft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc. His card, which seemed too "When you are quite restored—" "When you are quite restored—" "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "Tannot seemed too "Tannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "Tannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "I am quite well again. I cannot seemed too "Tannot seemed too "Ta

matic entrances and exits upon our small stage at the North of England," said Holmes, drawing it from the watch-pocket. "It baker street but I cannot recollect anything more sudden and startling than the building more sudden and startling than the first appearance of Dr. Thorney cyclor Thor

hunger and fatigue," said I, with my finger on the thready pulse, where the stream of life trickled thin and small. "Return ticket from Mackleton, in the North of Frank Wash and should be stablishment—boys, masters and servants. It was then that we ascertained that Lord Saltire had not

His which I too I his academic distinctions, preceded him by a few seconds, and then he entered himself—so large, so pompous, and so dignified that he was the very embodiment of self-possession and solidity. And yet his first action, when door closed behind him, was to stagger against the table, whence he is agger against the table, whence he is agger against the table, whence he is academic distinctions, preceded him by friend shook his head.

"My friend shook his head.

"My friend shook his head.

"My colleague, Dr. Watson, could tell you shay a prespect one, and the matter had ended in a separation by mutual consent, the Duke is greatly agitated, and, as to me, you have seen yourselves the South of France. This had occurred wery shortly before, and the boy's sympathies are known to have some sudden attack of homes that, in some sudden attack of homes is cickness, he had gone back to his father, but nothing had been heard of him. The Duke is greatly agitated, and, as to me, you have seen yourselves the South of France. This had occurred wery shortly before, and the boy's sympathies are known to have been billity have reduced me. Mr. Homes that, in some sudden attack of homes that, in some sudden attack of homes that, in some sudden attack of homes it hat, in some sudden attack of homes that, in some sudden attack of homes it hat, in some sudden attack of homes that, in some sudden attack of homes ickness, he had gone back to his father, but nothing had been heard of him. The Duke is greatly agitated, as to me, you have seen yourselves the state of nervour prostration to which the bounds that, in some sudden attack of homes that

case which is more worthy of them." Sherlock Holmes had listened with the utmost intentness to the statement of the unhappy schoolmaster. His drawn brows and the deep furrow be-tween them showed that he needed no exhortation to concentrate all his attention upon a problem which, apart in the matter can easily be remedied. from the tremendous interests involved, must appeal so directly to his

love of the complex and the unusual. He now drew out his notebook and jotted down one or two memoranda. "You have been very remiss in not coming to me sooner," said he severely. 'You start me on my investigation with a very serious handicap. It is inconceivable, for example, that this

nothing to an expert observer."
"I am not to blame, Mr. Holmes. His Grace was extremely desirous to avoid all public scandal. He was afraid of his family unhappiness being drag-ged before the world. He has a deep norror of anything of the kind." "But there has been some official in-

ivy and this lawn would have yielded

at once obtained since a boy and a young man were reported to have been seen leaving a neighboring station by an early train. Only last night we had down in Liverpool, and they prove to have no connection whatever with the have no connection whatever with the

a sleepless night, I came straight to you by the early frain." "I suppose the local investigation was relaxed while this false clue was being followed up?" "It was entirely dropped."

"So that three days have been wast-

ed. The affair has been most deplorably handled." "I feel it, and admit it."
"And yet the problem should be capable of ultimate solution. I shall be very happy to look into it. Have you

been able to trace any connection between the missing boy and this German master?" "None at all." 'Was he in the master's class?"

"No, he never exchanged a word with him, so far as I know." "That is certainly very singular. Had

"Was any other bicycle missing?" "Is that quite certain?"

"Quite."
"Well, now, you do not mean to serously suggest that this German rode off upon a bicycle in the dead of night, bearing the boy in his arms?"

"Certainly not?" "Then what is the theory in your "The bicycle may have been a blind It may have been hidden somewhere, and the pair gone off on foot."
"Quite so, but it seems rather an

other bicycles in this shed?" "Several."
"Would he not have hidden a couple, had he desired to give the idea that they had gone off upon them?"
"I supose he would."

absurd blind, does it not? Were there

"Of course he would. The blind the ory won't do. But the incident is an admirable starting point for an investigation. After all, a bicycle is not an easy thing to conceal or to destroy. One other question. Did anyone call to see the boy on the day before he dis-

appeared?" "Did he get any letters?" "Yes, one letter."
"From whom?"

"From his father." "Do you open the boys' letters?" "How do you know it was from the

"The coat-of-arms was on the lette

and it was addressed in the Duke's pe-

culiar stiff hand. Besides, the Duke re members having written. "When had he a letter before that?" "Not for several days." "Had he ever one from France?"

"No. never." "You see the point of my questions, of course. Either the boy was carried off by force or he went of his own free will. In the latter case, you would ex-pect that some prompting from outside would be needed to make so young a lad do such a thing. If he has had

> come in letters; hence I try to find out who were his correspondents.' "I fear I cannot help you much. His only correspondent, so far as I know, was his own father."
>
> "Who wrote to him on the very day of his disappearance? Were the rela

tions between father and son very friendly "His Grace is never very friendly with anyone. He is completely immersed in large public questions, and is rather inaccessible to all ordinary emotions. But he was always kind to the boy in his own way."
"But the sympathies of the latter were with the mother?"

"Yes."
"Did he say so?" "The Duke, then?"

"Good heavens, no!"
"Then how could you know?" "I have had some confidential talks with Mr. James Wilder, his Grace's secretary. It was he who gave me the information about Lord Saltire's feelings."

"I see. By the way, that last letter of the Duke's—was it found in the boy's room after he was gone?"
"No, he had taken it with him. I

think, Mr. Holmes, it is time that we were leaving for Euston."

"I will order a four-wheeler. In a quarter of an hour we shall be at your

service. If you are telegraphing home, Mr. Huxtable, it would be well to allow the people in your neighborhood to imagine that the inquiry is still going on in Liverpool, or wherever else that and herring led your pack. In the meantime I will do a little quiet work at your own doors, and perhaps the scent is not so cold but that two old hounds like Watson and myself may

get a sniff of it."

That evening found us in the cold, bracing atmosphere of the Peak country, in which Dr. Huxtable's famous school is situated. It was already dark when we reached it. A card was lying on the hall table, and the butler whispered something to his master, who turned to us with agitation in every

heavy feature.
"The Duke is here," said he. "The Duke and Mr. Wilder are in the study. Come, gentlemen, and I will introduce

I was, of course, familiar with the pictures of the famous statesman, but the man himself was very different from his representation. He was a tall and stately person, scrupulously dressed, with a drawn, thin face, and a nose which was grotesquely curved and long. His complexion was of a dead pallor, which was more startling

by contrast with a long dwindling beard of vivid red, which flowed down over his white waistcoat, with watch chain gleaming through its

"His Grace is by no means convinced that the police have failed." "But surely, Mr. Wilder-"

"You are well aware. Dr. Huxtable that his Grace is particularly anxious to avoid all public scandal. He prefers to take as few people as possible into said the brow-beaten doctor.

Sherlock Holmes can return to London by the morning train," "Hardly that, doctor, hardly that." said Holmes in his blandest voice. "This northern air is invigorating and pleasant, so I propose to spend a few days upon your moors, and to occupy my lage inn is, of course, for you to de-

I could see that the unfortunate doetor was in the last stage of indecision. from which he was rescued by the deep sonorous voice of the red-bearded Duke which boomed out like a dinner

ble, that you would have done wisely to consult me. But since Mr. Holmes and effects gave no further clue. In habitants until you come to the Ches-"Yes, sir, and it has proved most disappointing. An apparent clue was at once obtained since a boy and a dence it would indeed by a long of the consult me. But since Mr. Holmes has already been taken into our confi-"I thank your Grace. For the pur-

"Just as you like, Mr. Holmes, Any information which Mr. Wilder or I can give is, of course, at your disposal."

There was an agitated knock at the door, and an instant afterwards Dr. Huxtable was in the room. In his the middle of it, he began to smoke hand he held a blue cricket cap with a "It will probably be necessary for

me to see you at the Hall," said Holmes. "I would only ask you, sir. whether you have formed any explana-tion in your mind as to the mysterious disappearance of your son?" "No. sir. I have not." "Excuse me if I allude to that which is painful to you, but I have no alter-

native. Do you think that the Duchess had anything to do with the mat-The great Minister showed perceptlble hesitation. "I do not think so," he said at

"The other most obvious explanation is that the child has been kidnapped, for the purpose of levying ransom. You have not had any demand of the

sort?"
"No. sir." "One more question, your Grace. understand that you wrote to your son upon the day when this incident oc

curred?"
"No; I wrote the day before." "Exactly. But he received it on that day?

"Was there anything in your letter which might have unbalanced him or induced him to take such a step?"
"No, sir, certainly not." "Did you post that letter yourself?"

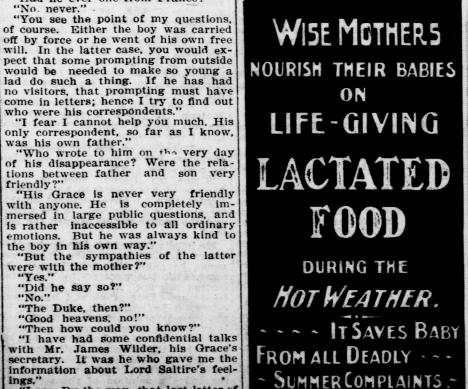
The nobleman's reply was interrupt ed by his secretary, who broke in with some heat:
"His Grace is not in the habit of posting letters himself," said he. "This

letter was laid with others upon the study table and I myself put them in the postbag." "You are sure this one was among

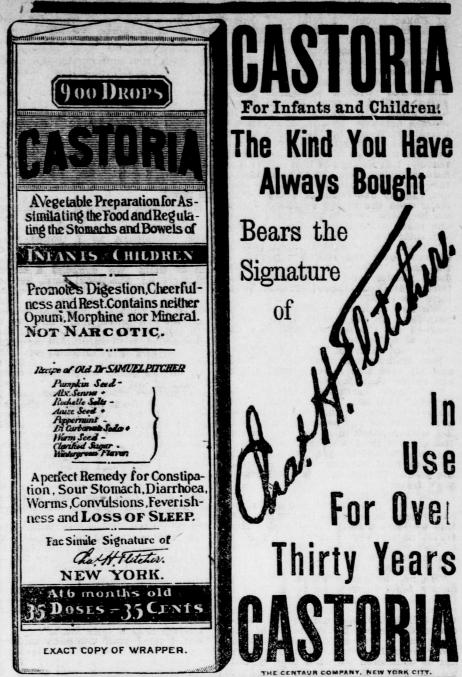
"Yes, I observed it." "How many letters did your Grace write that day?"

"Twenty or thirty. I have a large correspondence. But surely this is somewhat irrelevant?" "Not entirely," said Holmes.

uel, "I have advised the police to turn their attention to the South of France. "This case grows to her, aided and abetted by this German. I think, Dr. Huxtable that we will now return to the hall."



ALL DRUGGISTS.



I could see that there were other to the south of the house. That is cerquestions which Holmes would have tain. Let us weigh the one against the wished to put, but the nobleman's other. On the south of the house is, abrupt manner showed that the interview was at an end. It was evident that to his intensely aristocratic nature this discussion of his intimate I admit that a bicycle is impossible. family affairs with a stranger was We can dismiss the idea. We turn to most abhorrent, and that he feared the country on the north. Here there lest every fresh question would throw lies a grove of trees, marked as the mind as best I may. Whether I have lest every fresh question would throw lies a grove of trees, marked as the the shelter of your roof or of the vildowed corners of his ducal history.
When the nobleman and his secre-

The boy's chamber was carefully exsix across the moor. It is a peculiar-amined, and yielded nothing save the ly desolate plain. A few moor farmers

matter in hand. Then it was that in matter in hand. Then it was that in my despair and disappointment, after that it would be wiser for me to retained a large ordnance map of the most at the scene of the mystery."

Sherlock Holmes left the nouse alone, a ling paths, and the moon was at its and only returned after 11. He had obtained a large ordnance map of the min at the scene of the mystery."

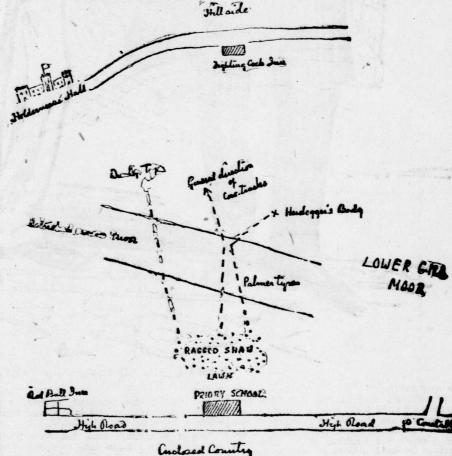
There was an agitated knock at the

stretches a great rolling moor, Lower Gill Moor, extending for ten miles and tary had left, my friend flung himself at once with characteristic eagerness into the investigation.

sloping gradually upwards. Here, at one side of this wilderness, is Holdernesse Hall ten miles by road, but only absolute conviction that it was only have small holdings, where they rear through the window that he could have sheep and cattle. Except these, the

Sherlock Holmes left the house alone, a high road. The moor is intersected

There was an agitated knock at the



HOLMES' MAP OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE SCHOOL.

over it, and occasionally to point out white chevron on the peak. "For my own part," the Duke contin- objects of interest with the reeking

I have already said that I do not believe that the Duchess would encourage so monstrous an action, but the lad had the most wrong-headed opinions, and it is possible that he may have fled to her, aided and abetted by this Ger-"This case grows upon me, Watson," investigation." "Look at this map. This dark square

is the priory school. I'll put a pin in it.

Now this line is the main road. You see that runs east and west past the rascals!

"They shuffled and lied—said that they found it on the moor on Tuesday morning. They know where he is, the rascals!

Thank goodness they are all see that runs east and west past the school, and you see also that there is no side road for a mile either way. If these two folk passed away by road, it was this road."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"Exactly."

"One of the law or the Duke's purse will certainly get out of them all that they know."

are able to some extent to check what passed along this road during the night in question. At this point, where my pipe is now resting, a county constable was on duty from 12 to 6. It is, as you perceive, the first cross-road on the east side. This man declares that he was not absent from his post for an instant, and he is positive that neither boy nor man could have gone that way unseen. I have spoken with this policeman tonight, and he appears to me to be a perfectly reliable person. That blocks this end. We have now to deal with the other. There is an inn here, with the other. There is an inn here, the Red Bull, the landlady of which was ill. She had sent to Mackleton for a doctor, but he did not arrive unclassed and the statement of the red blocks this end. We have now to deal the blocks this end. We have now to deal the blocks this end. We have now to deal the blocks this end. We have now to deal the blocks this end there is certainly a chance of some record being left. I will call you early tomorrow morning, and you and I will try if we can throw some little light upon the til morning, being absent at another mystery." case. The people at the inn were alert all night, awaiting his coming and one or other of them seems to have continually had an eye upon the road. They dressed and had apparently already declare that no one passed. If their been out. evidence is good, then we are fortunate enough to be able to block the west, and also to be able to say that the fugitives did not use the road at all."

"But the bicycle?" I objected.

"But the bicycle?" I objected.

"Oute as We will come to the bicycle shed." Shaw. Now. Watson, there is cocoa ready in the next room. I must beg

"Quite so. We will come to the bicycle presently. To continue our rea- before us."

"At last we have a clue!" he cried.
"Thank heaven! At last we are on the

"How do they account for it?"
"They shuffled and lied-said that

"So far, so good," said Holmes, when "So far, so good," said Holmes, when the doctor had at last left the room. "It are able to some extent to check what the doctor had at last left the room. "It

The day was just breaking when I

"I have done the lawn and the bi-cycle shed," said he. "I have also you to hurry, for we have a great day

His eyes shone and his cheek wa soning: if these people did not go by the road, they must have traversed the flushed with the exhilaration of the country to the north of the house, or master workman who sees his work lie

SMITH'S "Acted Like BUCHU LITHIA PILLS.

SICK KIDNEYS, The Bladder, Rheumatism and the Blood—all these discases yield at once and are quickly and fully cured. Price only 25 cents a box.

life. Then Holmes hurried with a cush- ears.' ion for his head and I with brandy for

The Bladder, Rheumatism and the Blood—all these diseases yield at once and are quickly and fully cured. Price only 25 cents a box.

A CURE at the PEOPLE'S PRICE.

My Kidney book and a Sample Package sent Tree to any address.

W.F. SMITH CO.

185 St. James St., Kontral

the bladder and complete stoppage of water. I was entirely unable to pass even a drop of urine, and then with intense pain. I had two doctors attending me, but they did no good, and gave me no relief at all. I then tried Smith's Buchu Lithia Pills, and they acted on me like a charm. They gave me instant relief and cured me completely. They are surely a wonderful remedy."

LIZZIE J. ALBEE.

in one night, use Smith's Pineapple and ernut Pills. Only 25 cents at dealers.

seamed with lines of trouble, the hang- cyclopedia of reference.

"The greatest and perhaps the wealthiest. I am aware, Mr. Holmes, hat you take a very high line in pro-236 Dorchester St., o. Boston, Oct. 2, 1901.
"About a month ago was taken verybadly ith inflammation of the bladder and comfessional matters, and that you are prepared to work for work's sake. I may tell you, however, that his Grace has already intimated that a check for five thousand pounds will be handed over to the person who can tell him where his son is, and another thousand to him who can name the man or men

who have taken him." "It is a princely offer," said Holmes. "Watson, I think that we shall acompany Dr. Huxtable back to the North of England, And now, Dr. Huxtable, when you have consumed that milk, you will kindly tell me what has happened, when it happened, how it happened, and, finally, what Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable, of the Priory School near Mackleton, has to do with the matter, and why he comes three days after an event—the state of your chin gives the late-to ask for my

Crown!

humble services."
Our visitor had consumed his milk and biscuits. The light had come back to his eyes and the color to his cheeks, as he set himself with great vigor and lucidity to explain the situation.

"YOU INFERNAL SPIES!" THE MAN CRIED. slipped down upon the floor, and there | "Important!" Our visitor threw up | strongly with his mother. He moped was that majestic figure prostrate and his hands. "Have you heard nothing of the abduction of the only son of the Duke of Holdernesse?"

In the large with t "What! The late Cabinet Minister?"
"Exactly. We had tried to keep it was quite at home with us, and was a few moments we stared in silent amazement at this ponderous piece of out of the papers, but there was some amazement at this ponderous piece of out of the papers, but there was some apparently absolutely happy.

"Exactly. We had tried to keep it apparently absolutely happy."

"He was last seen on the night of least Mon-

wreckage, which told of some sudden rumor in the Globe last night. I "He was last seen on the night of and fatal storm far out on the ocean of thought it might have reached your May 13-that is, the night of last Monday. His room was on the second floor. Holmes shot out his long, thin arm, and was approached through another his lips. The heavy, white face was seamed with lines of trouble, the hangcyclopedia of reference.

large room, in which two boys were sleeping. These boys saw and heard ing pouches under the closed eyes "'Holdernesse, 6th Duke, K. G., P. C.' nothing, so that it is certain that were leaden in color, the loose mouth drooped dolorously at the corners, the Earl of Carston'—Dear me, what a list! way. His window was open and there rolling chins were unshaven. Collar and shirt bore the grime of a long journey, and the hair bristled unkempt Charles Appledore 1888. Heir and only below, but it is sure that this is the

from the well-shaped head. It was a sorely stricken man who lay before us.
"What is it, Watson?" asked Holmes.
"Absolute exhaustion—possibly mere "Absolute exhaustion—possibly mere" Charles Appledore 1888. Heir and only possible exit.

Charles Appledore 1888. Heir and only possible exit.

Charles Appledore 1888. Heir and only possible exit.

Only possible exit.

"His absence was discovered at 7 o'clock on Tuesday morning. His bed dress: Carlton House Terrace; Holder had been slept in. He had dressed nesse Hall, Hallamshire; Carston Cashile, Bangor, Wales, Lord of the Admiralty, 1872; Chief Secretary of State for—' Well, well, this man is certainly one of the greatest subjects of the Crown!" anything in the nature of cries or a struggle would have been heard, since Caunter, the elder boy in the inner

"When Lord Saltire's disappearance

room is a very light sleeper.

WILLS **ENGLISH PILLS** QUICKLY CURE CONSTIPATION. HEADACHE 200 STOMACH TROUBLES 25 CENTS. ALL DRUGGISTS. WELLS & RICHARDSON CO. LIMITED

MONTREAL, P.Q.