

## The Adventure of side. the Dancing Men

No. 3 of the Series

Copyright, 2903, by A. Conon Doyle and Collier (Cherrich: 1995, by McClure, Phillips & Co.) (Continued).

"T wrote it to bring you here." fou wrote it? There was no one on earth outside the Joint who knew the secret of the dancing men. How

came you to write it?" "What one man can invent another can discover," said Holmes. "There is a cab coming to couvey you to Norwich, Mr. Slaney. But meanwhile you have time to make some small reparation for the injury you have wrought. Are you aware that Mrs. Hilton Cubitt has herself lain under grave suspicion of the murder of her husband and that it was only my presence here and the knowledge which I happened to posees which has saved her from the accusation? The least that you owe her s to make it clear to the whole world that she was in no way, directly or indirectly, responsible for his tragic

"I ask nothing befter," said the American. "I guess the very best case I can make for myself is the absolute naked truth."

"It is my duty to warn you that it will be used against you," cried the inspector, with the magnificent fair play of the British criminal law. Slaney shrugged his shoulders.

"T'll chance that," said he. "First of all, I want you gentlemen to under stand that I have known this lady since she was a child. There were set en of us in a gang in Chicago, and El-sie's father was the boss of the Joint. He was a clever man, was old Patrick. It was he who invented that writing. which would pass as a child's scrawl unless you just happened to have the key to it. Well, Elsie learned some of our ways, but she couldn't stand the business, and she had a bit of honest oney of her own, so she gave us all the slip and got away to London. She had been engaged to me, and she would have married me, I believe, if I had taken over another profession, but she would have nothing to do with anything on the cross. It was only after ber marriage to this Englishman that I was able to find out where she was. I wrote to her, but got no auswer. After that I came over, and, as letters were no use, I put my messages where she could read them.

"Well, I have been here a month now. I lived on that farm, where I had a room down below, and could get in and out every night and no one the wiser. I tried all I could to coax Elsie away. I knew that she read the messages, for once she wrote an answer under one of them. Then my temper got the better of me, and I began to threaten her. She sent me a letter then, imploring me to go away, and saying that it would break her heart if any scandal should come upon her husband. She said that she would come down when her husband was asleep at 3 in the morning and speak with me through the end window, if I would ge away afterward and leave her in peace. came down and brought money with her, trying to bribe me to go. This made me mad, and I caught her arm and tried to pull her through the window. At that moment in rushed the husband with his revolver in his hand. Elsie had sonk down upon the floor, and we were face to face. I was

We stood at the window and watched the cab drive away. As I turned back my eye caught the pellet of paper which the prisoner had tossed upon the table. It was the note Holmes had decoyed him. was the note with which "See if you can read it, Watson," said he, with a smile. It contained no word, but this little line of daucing men: XTXXXXXXXXXXXXXX "If you use the code which I have explained," said Holmes, "you will find that it simply means 'Come here at I was convinced that it was an ouce.'

: fortune to have you by my

invitation which he would not refuse, since he could never imagine that it could come from any one but the lady. And so, my dear Watson, we have end ed by turning the dancing men to good when they have so often been the agents of evil, and I think that I have fulfilled my promise of giving you something unusual for your notebook. Three-forty is our train, and I fancy we should be back in Baker street for dinner."

Only one word of epilogue. The American, Abe Slaney, was condemned to death at the winter assizes at Norwich, but his penalty was changed to penal servitude in consideration of mit-Igating circumstances and the certainty that Hilton Cubitt had fired the first shot. Of Mrs. Hilton Cubitt I only know that I have heard she recovered entirely and that she still remains a widow, devoting her whole life to the care of the poor and to the administra-

## The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist

tion of her husband's estate

## No. 4 of the Series

(Copyright, 1985, by A. Conan Dayle and Colliar's Weekly.) (Coppright, 1905, by McClure, Phillips & Co.)

ROM the years 1894 to 1901, inclusive, Mr. Sherlock Holmes was a very busy man. It is safe to say that there was no public case of any difficulty in which he was not consulted during those eight years, and there were hundreds of private

cases, some of them of the most intricate and extraordinary character, in which he played a prominent part. As I have preserved very full notes of all these cases and was myself personally engaged in many of them, it may be imagined that it is no easy task to fore the public. I shall, however, preserve my former rule and give the preference to those cases which derive their interest not so much from the brutality of the crime as from the ingenuity and dramatic quality of the solution. For this reason I will now lay before the reader the facts connected with Miss Violet Smith, the solitary cyclist of Charlington, and the curious sequel of our investigation, which culminated in unexpected tragedy.

referring to my notebook for the year 1895 I find that it was upon Saturday, the 23d of April, that we first heard of Miss Violet Smith. Her visit was, I remember, extremely unwel-come to Holmes, for he was immersed at the moment in a very abstruse and complicated problem concerning the

quatulate finger ends,

-she re

t-"wh

mate.

. 1 +

ders of Survey

lity about

ily turned the type-

his lady is

me, from

the bor

bappen

the bor-

music."

type

caused me to ask your advice today For Soft. White, Fragrant Skin, Use BABY'S SOAP ALGERT TOILET SOAP CO., Mfrs. MONTREAL. THE MASTER MECHANIC'S PURE TAR BOAP softens the skin, while promptly cleansant is oil, rust, etc. Invaluable for mechanics, portanen. Free Sample on receipt or so for albert found line in the state of the state of the ap Co., Mfr The young lady, with great clearness and composure, made the following

"My father is dead, Mr. Holmes. He was James Smith, who conducted the orchestra at the old Imperial theater. My mother and I were left without a elation in the world except one uncle. Ralph Smith, who went to Africa twenty-five years ago, and we have never had a word from him since. When father died we were left very poor, but one day we were told that there was an advertisement in the Times inquiring for our whereabouts. You can imagine how excited we were for we thought that some one had left

OWN

curious statement:

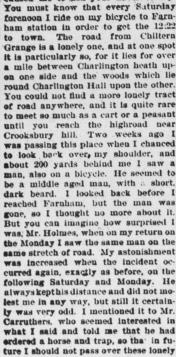
us a fortune. We went at once to the lawyer whose name was given in the paper. There we met two gentlemen, Mr. Carruthers and Mr. Woodley, were home on a visit from South Africa. They said that my uncle was a friend of theirs, that he had died some months before in great poverty in Jo-hannesburg, and that he had asked them with his last breath to hunt up his relations and see that they were in no want. It seemed strange to us that 'ncle Ralph, who took no notice of us when he was alive, should be so care ful to look after us when he was dead, but Mr. Carruthers explained that the reason was that my uncle had just heard of the death of his brother and o felt responsible for our fate." "Excuse me." said Holmes. "When as this interview?

"Last December-four months ago."

"Pray proceed." "Mr. Woodley seemed to me to be a most odious person. He was forever making eyes at me-a coarse, puffy faced, red mustached young man, with is hair plastered down on each side know which I should select to lay be : of his forehead. I thought that he was perfectly hateful, and I was sure that Cyril would not wish me to know such person."

"Oh, Cyril is his name!" said Holmes. smiling.

The young lady blushed and laughed. "Yes, Mr. Holmes, Cyril Morton, an electrical engineer, and we hope to be married at the end of the summer. Dear me, how did I get talking about him? What I wished to say was that Mr. Woodley was perfectly odious, but that Mr. Carruthers, who was a much older man, was more agreeable. He was a dark, sallow, clean shaven, silent person, but he had polite manners and a pleasant smile. He inquired how we were left, and on finding that we were was so perplexed that I felt I should very poor he suggested that I should not be happy until I had seen you and had your advice." come and teach music to his only



roads without some companion. "The horse and trap were to have come this week, but for some reason they were not delivered, and again I they were not delivered, and again 1 had to cycle to the station. That was this morning. You can think that I looked out when I came to Charlington heath, and there, sure enough, was the man, exactly as he had been the two weeks before. He always kept so far from me that I could not clearly see his face, but it was certainly some one whom I did not know. He was dressed in a dark suit with a cloth cap. The only thing about his face that I could

clearly see was his dark beard. "Today I was not alarmed, but I was filled with curiosity, and I determined to find out who he was and what he wanted.' I slowed down my machine, but he slowed down his. Then I stopped altogether, but he stopped also. Then I laid a trap for him. There is a sharp turning of the road, and I pedaled very quickly round this, and then I stopped and waited. I expected him to shoot round and pass me before he could stop. But he never appeared. Then I went back and looked round the corner. I could see a mile of road, but he was not on it. To make it the more extraordinary, there was no side road at this point down which he could have rone.

Holmes chuckled and rubbed his hands. "This case certainly presents some features of its own," said he. "How much time elapsed between your turning the corner and your discovery that the road was clear?

"Two or three minutes." "Then he could not have retreated down the road, and you say that there are no side roads?"

'None. "Then he certainly took a footpath on one side or the other."

"It could not have been on the side of the heath or I should have seen him." "So by the process of exclusion we arrive at the fact that he made his way toward Charlington Hall, which, as I understand, is situated in its own grounds on one side of the road. Any thing else?"

"Nothing, Mr. Holmes, save that I



and warmon when when my service and

A Time When Women Are Susceptible to Many Dread Diseases-Intelligent Women Prepare

## THE GNION ADVOCATE, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23 1905

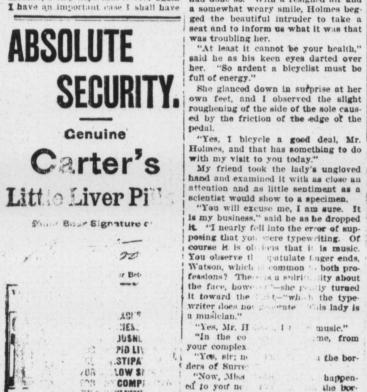
scare him off and let me get away. He fired and missed me. I pulled off al-most at the same justant, and down he dropped. I made away across the garand as I went I heard the window shut behind me. That's God's truth. gentlemen, every word of it; and I heard no more about it until that lad came riding up with a note which made me walk in here like a jay and give myself into your hands"

A cab had driven up while the American had been talking. Two uniformed policemen sat inside. Inspector Martin rose and touched his prisoner on the shoulder

"It is time for us to go."

"Can I see her first?" 'No, she is not conscious. Sherlock

Holmes, I only hope that if ever again I have an important case I shall have



SK HEADACHE

VE BUGHAT

daughter, aged ten. I said that I did cent Harden, the well known tobacco not like to leave my mother, on which millionaire, had been subjected. My friend, who loved above all things prehe suggested that I should go home to her every week end, and he offered me cision and concentration of thought, rea hundred a year, which was certainly sented anything which distracted his splendid pay. So it ended by my ac-cepting, and I went down to Chiltern attention from the matter in hand. And yet, without a harshness which Grange, about six miles from Farnham. Mr. Carruthers was a widower, was foreign to his nature, it was impossible to refuse to listen to the story but he had engaged a lady housekeepof the young and beautiful woman, tall. graceful and queenly, who presented herself at Baker street late in the evening and implored his assistance and advice. It was vain to urge that his time was already fully occupied, for the young lady had come with the

er, a very respectable, elderly person, called Mrs. Dixon, to look after his establishment. The child was a dear, and everything promised well. Mr. Carruthers was very kind and very music al, and we had most pleasant evenings together. Every week end I went home determination to tell her story, and it to my mother in town. was evident that nothing short of force

"The first flaw in my happiness was could get her out of the room until she had done so. With a resigned air and the arrival of the red mustached Mr. Woodley. He came for a visit of a week, and, oh, it seemed three months to me. He was a dreadful person-a bully to every one else, but to me something infinitely worse. He made odious love to me, boasted of his wealth, said that if I married him I could have the finest diamonds in London, and finally "So ardent a blevclist must be when I would have nothing to do with him he seized me in his arms one day after dinner-he was hideously strongand swore that he would not let me go until I had kissed him. Mr. Carruthers came in and tore him from nie, on "Yes, I blevele a good deal, Mr. which he turned upon his own host.

knocking him down and cutting his face open. That was the end of his visit, as you can imagine. Mr. Carruthers apologized to me next day and assured me that I should never be exposed to such an insult again. I have not seen Mr. Woodley since. "And now, Mr. Holmes, I come at

last to the special thing which has



If you, your friends or relatives suffer with Fits, Epilepsy, St. Vitus' Dance, or Falling Sickness, write for a trial bottle and valuable For . ful, rej treatise on such diseases to THE LEIBIG CO., 179 King Street, W., Toronto, Canada. All druggists seller can obtain for you Beca Beca have m EIB' O'S FITCURE go bio

Holmes sat in silence for some little time

The "change of life" is the most critical period of a woman's existence, and the anxiety felt by "Where is the gentleman to whom he asked at last. you are engaged?' "He is in the Midland Electrical company, at Coventry." is not without reason, "He would not pay you a surprise Every woman who neglects the care of her health at this time invisit?" "Oh, Mr. Holmes! As if I should not know him!" vites disease and pain. "Have you had any other admirers?" When her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy, or congestion of any organ, the ten-'Several before I knew Cyril." "And since?" "There was this dreadful man, Woodley, if you can call him an admirer." dency is at this period likely to become active —and with a host of ner-vous irritations. make life a burden. At this "No one else?" Our fair client seemed a little con-

fused "Who was he?" asked Holmes. "Oh, it may be a mere fancy of mine,

time, also, cancers and but it had seemed to me sometimes tumors are more liable to form and begin their destructive work. Such warning symp-toms as sense of suffo-cation, hot flashes, headthat my employer, Mr. Carruthers, takes a great deal of interest in me He has never said anything. He is a perfect gentleman. But a girl always knows. aches backaches, dread of impending evil, timid-ity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, "Ha!" Holmes looked grave. "What

does he do for a living?' "He is a rich man." "No carriages or horses?" "Well, at least he is fairly well to do. But he goes into the city two or three times a week. He is deeply interested

in South African gold shares." "You will let me know any fresh decoopment, Miss Smith. I am very ousy just now, but I will find time to ake some inquirles into your case. In the meantime take no step without letting me know. Goodby, and I trust that we shall have nothing but good news from you."

"It is part of the settled order of nature that such a girl should have fol-lowers," said Holmes as he pulled at his meditative pipe, "but for choice not on bleyc'ra in lonely country roads. Some secretive lover, beyond all doubt.

To be continued.

As a

wave 1.

with n

..... roller, remarked the ally, you are not in it

you should be thank-

he beach. y ? queried the wave wered the beach, you

for It. Two Relate their Experience.



approaching the period. in life when woman's great change period had passed, and it restored me to per-ect health. My advice to suffering women to try your Vegetable Compound, and they will not be disappointed."-Mrs. E. Powless. nay be expected. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Com-

may be expected.
Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was prepared to meet the needs of woman's system at this trying period of her life. It invigorates and strengthens the female organism and the verse of the second of the second period of her life. It invigorates and the protant period women are invited in the transmission of the second period of her life.
For special advice regarding this important period women are invited women are invited to write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn. Mass., and it will be furnished absolutely free Read what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I am very pleased to write and tell you my experiences the to live what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I would be change of life, and heave safely passed to write and tell you my experience with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I would be change of life, and heave safely passed to write and at the sine of change of life. I took it, off and on, for four years, and had but little trable irrational and nervous that I was so triment to myself and others. I surgly thought that I would life. The second where the life. I took it for five months and then off and on until the critical Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I would here the life. I took it, off to live write. I was so that I would here the life. I thas conquered pain, restored health, and prolonged life in cases that baffed physicians.
Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Succeeds Where Charge of life. If the stored pain, restored pain.

il back on when you Lydin E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Succeeds Where Others Fall,

