

The Return of a

Sherlock Holmes.

X .- THE ADVENTURE OF THE GOLDEN PINCE-NEZ. BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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sive manuscript esting in them- by cab." selves, and at

Smith-Mortimer succession case comes | Holmes lit his cigar and leaned back also within this period, and so does in his chair. the tracking and arrest of Huret, the that none of them unites so many singular points of interest as the episode of Yoxley Old Place, which includes not only the lamentable death of young Willoughby Smith, but also some subsequent developments which three so

Baker street while the rain beat fiercely

laying aside his lens and rolling up the man at Cambridge. I have seen his palimpsest. "T've done enough for one stituting. It is trying work for the eyes. a decent, quiet, hardworking fellow, with no weak spot in him at all. And yet this is the lad who has met his death this morning in the Professor's count dating from the second half of the second ha the fifteenth century. Halloa! halloa! study under circumstances which can halloa! What's this?" study under circumstances which can point only to murder.

as it rasped against the kerb. The cab which I had seen had pulled up at

as a man stepped out of it. He wants us. And we, my vats and goloshes, and every aid that sor was buried in his work and existed man ever invented to fight the wea- for nothing else. Young Smith knew Holmes' knee. I rose, and, standing Wait a bit, though! There's the cab off again! There's hope yet. He'd very much as his employer did. The shoulder. have kept it if he had wanted us to two women had nothing to take them "It is very rough, of course, and it

upon our midnight visitor. I had no not live in the house, but in a three-tered the house, how did he or she detective in whose career Holmes had that you would find within the grounds there is direct access to the study several times shown a very practical of Yoxley Old Place. At the same Any other way would have been ex-

no designs upon us on such a night as from walking in.

The detective mounted the stairs, of the logs in the grate.

a bustling afternoon, I promise you. the passage and descend to the study someone had undoubtedly passed. It

HEN I look at Did you see anything of the Yoxley immediately below her. She did not could only have been the murderer three mas- case in the latest editions?" which fifteenth century today."

very difficult for Kent, seven miles from Chatham and have come from either man or woman.

which my friend which my friend ever handled and yet at first, it seemed when the ever handled and yet at first, it seemed by a very small but years does wound was famous. As I turn over the pages, I see my notes upon the repulsive story of the red leech and the terrible death of Crosby, the banker. Here also I find of Crosby, the banker. Here also I find on a motive. Here's a man dead—an acolunt of the Addleton tragedy, there's no denyng that—but, so far as and the singular contents of the an-clent British barrow. The famous one should wish him harm."

"Let us hear about it," said he.

sequent developments which threw so curious a light upon the causes of the crime.

and the other han hobbling round the back dead.

house with a stick or being pushed about the grounds by the gardener in a bath chair. He was well-liked by It was a wild, tempestuous night, towards the close of November. Holmes
and I sat together in silence all the
evening, he engaged with a powerful
lens deciphering the remains designed and the results of the results lens dechering the remains of the elderly housekeeper, Mrs. Marker, and up in bed horribly agitated, for he had original inscription upon a palimpsest, of a maid, Susan Tarlton. These have both been with him since his arrival, and they seem to be women of excellent character. The Professor is written by the professor is written. ing a learned book, and he found it and indeed it was impossible for him

had come the stamping of a horse's the fire, while the young inspector slow-hoofs, and the long grind of a wheel ly, and point by point, developed his it?" the fire, while the young inspector slow. What sort of a job did you make of singular narrative.

"If you were to search all England," said he, "I don't suppose you could give you a general idea of the posi-"What can he want?" I ejaculated, find a household more self-contained or tion of the professor's study and the freer from outside influences. Whole various points of the case. It will help weeks would pass, and not one of them you in poor Watson, want overcoats and cra- go past the garden gate. The Profesfor nothing else. Young Smith knew Holmes' knee. I rose, and, standing nobody in the neighborhood, and lived behind Holmes, studied it over his

two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and two women had nothing to take them. It is very fough, or course, and it is very foug When the light of the hall lamp fell man of excellent character. He does of all, presuming that the assassin endifficulty in recognizing him. It was roomed cottage at the other end of come in? Undoubtedly by the garden young Stanley Hopkins, a promising the garden. Those are the only people path and the back door, from which "Is he in?" he asked, eagerly. dred yards from the main London to must have also been made along that "Come up, my dear sir," said Holmes' Chatham road. It opens with a latch, line, for of the two other exits from

"Now I will give you the evidence of Susan Tarlton, who is the only person who can say anything positive about tion at once to the garden path, which and our lamp gleamed upon his shin- who can say anything positive about ing waterproof. I helped him out of the matter. It was in the forenoon, would certainly show any footmarks the while Holmes knocked a blaze out between eleven and twelve. She was "My examination showed me that it "Now, my dear Hopkins, draw up some curtains in the upstair front bedand warm your toes," said he. "Here's room. Professo: Coram was still in be found on the path. There could be full light of the lamp, and finally, with

"Well, it was only a paragraph, and door close, but a minute or so later the night." work for the all wrong at that, so you have not year 1894, I con- missed anything. I haven't let the below. It was a wild, hoarse scream, fess that it is grass grow under my feet. It's down in me, out of such three from the railway line, I was a wealth of ma-wired for at three-fifteen, reached Yox-terial, to select ley Old Place at five, conducted my inthe cases which vestigaton, was back at Charing Cross stood petrified for a moment, and are most inter- by the last train, and straight to you then, recovering her courage, she ran downstairs. The study door was shut same time are not quite clear about your case?" and she opened it. Inside, young Mr. Willoughby Smith was stretched upon "It means that I can neither make the floor. At first she could see no into a display of head nor tail of it. So far as I can see, jury, but as she tried to raise him she

fashioned writing tables, with an ivory handle and a stiff blade. It was part of the fittings of the Professor's own "At first the maid thought that young Boulevard assassin—an exploit which won for Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of Legion of Honor. Each of these would furnish a narrative, but on the whole I am of the opinion that none of them with the opinion of the opinion that none of them with the opinion to the whole I am of the opinion that none of them with the opinion that none of them with the opinion to the whole I am of the opinion that young the said state of the said state

beside him. It was one of those small

of a maid, Susan Tarlton. These have heard enough to convince him that lent character. The Professor is writ- Professor was still in his nightclothes, against the windows. It was strange there, in the depths of the town, with ten miles of man's handiwork on each side of us, to feel the iron grip of nature, and to be conscious that to the huge elemental forces all London was no more than the molehills that dot the fields. I walked to the window and looked out on the deserted street. The occasional lamps gleamed on the expanse of muddy read and shining pavement. A single cab was splashing pavement. A single cab was splashing pavement. A single cab was splashing its way from the Oxford street end.

"Well, Watson, it's as well we have ing a learned book, and he found it necessary, about a year ago, to engage a secretary. The first two that he necessary, about a year ago, to engage a secretary. The first two that he to dress without the help of Mortimer, whose orders were to come at twelve o'clock. The Professor declares that he heard the distant cry, but that he knows nothing more. He can give no explanation of the young man's last words. The professor—it was she,' but imagines that they were the outcome of delirium. He believes that Willoughby Smith had not an enemy in the world, and can give no reason for the crime. His first action was to send Mortimer, the gardener, for the "Well, Watson, it's as well we have not to turn out tonight," said Hoimes, laying aside his long and salling and at Cambridge I have not to turn out tonight," said Hoimes, laying aside his long and salling and at Cambridge I have not to turn out tonight, and the constable sent for me Malling the constable sent palimpsest. "I've done enough for one testimonials, and from the first he was moved before I got there, and strict orders were given that no one should

Amid the droning of the wind there windows. Holmes and I drew closer to ter smile. "Well, let us hear about it."

"I must ask you first, Mr. Holmes, to glance at this rough plan, which will following my investigation." He unfolded the rough chart, which

time, the gate of the garden is a hun-ceedingly complicated. The escape voice from above. "I hope you have and there is nothing to prevent anyone the room one was blocked by Susan as she ran downstairs and the other was saturated with recent rain, and between eleven and twelve. She was engaged at the moment in hanging was dealing with a cautious and expense on the upstair front hed.

"My examination showed me that I read through them, went to the window and expense of the upstair front hed."

"To the road."
"How long is it?" 'A hundred yards or so.' "At the point where the path passes through the gate, you could surely pick up the tracks? 'Unfortunately, the path was tiled

t that point." "Well, on the road itself?" "No, it was all trodden into mire."
"Tut-tut! Well, then, these tracks ipon the grass, were they coming of

"It was impossible to say, There was never any outline." "A large foot or a small?" "You could not distinguish."

Holmes gave an ejaculation of "It has been pouring rain and blow-ing a hurricane ever since," said he. "It will be harder to read now than sealing-wax knives to be found in oldthat palimpsest. Well, well, it can't be helped. What did you do, Hopkins, after you had made certain that you had made certain of nothing?"

"I think I made certain of a good deal. Mr. Holmer, I know that some-

deal, Mr. Holmes. I knew that some-one had entered the house cautiously from without, I next examined the corridor. It is lined with cocoanut matting, and had taken no impression of any kind. This brought me into the study itself. It is a scantily-furnished room. The main article is a large writing table with a fixed bureau. This bureau consists of a double column of drawers, with a central small cupboard between them. The drawers were open, the cupboard locked. The drawers, it seems, were always open,

attired like a lady. She has a remarkably thick nose, with eyes which are set close upon either side. She has a puckered forehead, a peering expression, and probably round shoulders. There are indications that she has had recourse to an optician at least twice during the last few months. As her glasses are of remarkable strength, and as opticians are not very numer-ous, there should be no difficulty in tracing her."

Holmes smiled at the astonishment of Hopkins, which must have been reflected upon my features.
"Surely my deductions are simplicity itself," said he. "It would be difficult to name any article which afford a finer field for inference than a pair of glasses, especially so remarkable oid you see anything of the Yoxley immediately below her. She did not see him, but she says that she could only have been the murderer, since neither the gardener nor anyone else had been there that morning and the rain had only begun during the night."

The seen nothing later than the control of the Yoxley immediately below her. She did not see him, but she says that she could since neither the gardener nor anyone else had been there that morning and the rain had only begun during the night."

The seen nothing later than the control of the dying man. As to her being a person of refinement and well dressed, the night."

The seen nothing later than the door close, but a minute or so later the night."

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The seen nothing later than the not be mistaken in his quick, firm the dying man. As to her being a person of refinement and well dressed, the night."

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The seen nothing later than the study the night man the seen there the gardener nor anyone had been there that morning and the rain had only begun during the night."

The seen nothing later than the seen the seen the morning and the rain had only begun during the night. such glasses could be slatternly in other respects. You will find that the clips are too wide for your nose, showing that the lady's nose was very broad at the base. This sort of nose is usually a short and coarse one, but there is a sufficient number of excepto prevent me from being dogmatic or from insisting upon this point

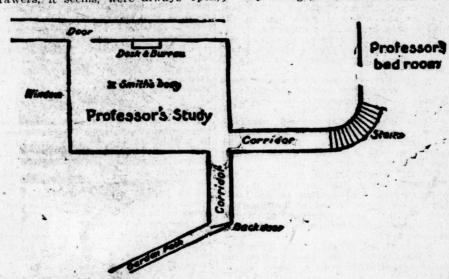
in my description. My own face is a narrow one, and yet I find that I cannot get my eyes into the center, nor near the center, of these glasses. Therefore, the lady's eyes are set very near to the sides of the nose. You will perceive, Watson, that the glasses are concave and of unusual strength. A lady whose vision has been so extremely contracted all her life is sure to have the physical characteristic of such vision, which are seen in the forehead the eyelids, and the shoulders."

"Yes," I said, "I can follow each of

"Yes," I said, "I can follow each of your arguments. I confess, however, that I am unable to understand how you arrive at the double visit to the optician."

Holmes took the glasses in his hand. "You will perceive," he said, "that the clips are lined with tiny bands of cork to soften the pressure upon the nose. One of these is discolored and worn to some slight extent, but the other is new. Evidently one has fallen off and been replaced. I should judge that the older of them has not been there more than a few months. They exactly correspond, so I gather that exactly correspond, so I gather that face of it? Just hold a match, Watson, the lady went back to the same estab- Why did you not tell me of this, Hop- it seems to me to be suggestive. Come lishment for the second."

"By George, it's marvelous!" cried



and nothing of value was kept in them. | Hopkins, in an ecstasy of admiration. There were some papers of importance "To think that I had all this evidence in the cupboard, but there signs that this had been tampered intended, however, to go the round of with, and the Professor assures me the London opticians. that nothing was missing. It is certain that no robbery has been committed. have you any thing more to tell us advances to the

"I come now to the body of the young about the case?" man. It was found near the bureau, and just to the left of it, as marked upon that chart. The stab was on the right side of the neck and from behind forwards, so that it is imposible that it could have been self-inflicted." "Unless he fell upon the knife," said Holmes.

"Exactly. The idea crossed my mind. But we found the knife some feet away from the body, so that seems impossible. Then, of course, there are the man's own dying words. And, finally, there was this very important piece of evidence which was found clasped in the dead man's hand.'

From his pocket Stanley Hopkins lrew a small paper packet. He unfolded it and disclosed a golden pincenez, with two broken ends of black silk cord dangling from the end of it. Smith had excellent sight," he added. "There can be no question that this was snatched from the face or the person of the assassin." Sherlock Holmes took the glasses ino his hand, and examined them with the utmost attention and interest. He day, but it was a bitter morning when held them on his nose, endeavored to

"The astonished detective read the ote aloud. It ran as follows: "Wanted, a woman of good address

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were no in my hand and never knew it! I had

motive can anyone suggest.' to come out tomorrow?" Holmes. There's a train from Charing Susan?" Cross to Chatham at six in the morn-

ing, and we should be at Yoxley Old got down the stair, I'd have seen any-Place between eight and nine." "Then we shall take it. Your case never opened, or I would have heard has certainly some features of great in- it." terest, and I shall be delighted to look into it. Well, it's nearly one, and we

had best get a few hours' sleep. I dare say you can manage all right on a sofa in the front of the fire. I'll light my spirit lamp, and give you a cup of coffee before we start. The gale had blown itself out next

we started upon our journey. We saw the cold winter sun rise over the dreary marshes of the Thames and the long, sullen reaches of the river, which I shall ever associate with our pursuit and warm your toes," said he. "Here's a cigar, and the doctor has a prescription containing hot water and a lemon, which is good medicine on a night like this, It must be something important which has brought you out in such a gale."

"It is, indeed, Mr. Holmes, I've had a beard him moment pass along afternoon. I promise you."

"It is, indeed, Mr. Holmes, I've had a cigar, and the doctor has a prescription to a cigar, and the doctor has a prescription, however, that someone that someone that someone the grass border which lies the path, and that he had done so in order to avoid leaving a door to avoid leaving a distinct impression, be used as a sitting-room, but the maid heard him the moment pass along the grass border which lies the path, and that he had done so in order to avoid leaving a door track. I could not find anything in the nature of a distinct impression, but the grass was trodden down and the heard him to question, however, that someone had chuckle, seated himself at the table and wrote a few lines on the state of the Andaman Islander in the carbitier days of our career. After a long which lines the path, and that he had done so in order to avoid leaving a door to a distinct impression, but the grass was trodden down and the heard him the carbitier days of our career. After a long which lines the path, and that he had done so in order to avoid leaving a track. I could not find anything in the nature of a distinct impression, but the grass was trodden down and the full light of the lamp, and finally, with a chuckle, seated himself at the table and wrote a few lines on the state of and wrote a few lines on the state of and wrote a few lines on the state of and wrote a few lines on the state of and wrote a few lines on the state of and wrote a few lines of an arrived and wrote a few lines lier days of our career. After a long all ready for business when we at last arrived at Yoxley Old Place, A constable met us at the garden gate, "Well, Wilson, any news?"

"No, sir-nothing." "No reports of any stranger seen?" "No, sir. Down at the station they are certain that no stranger either "Have you had inquiries made at

"Yes, sir; there is no one that cannot be accounted for." "Well, it's only a reasonable walk to Chatham. Anyone might stay there or take a train without being observed. This is the garden path of which I spoke, Mr. Holmes, I'll pledge my

the grass?"
"This side, sir. This narrow margin

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The mark which he was examining began upon the brasswork on the was of the same length as that which right-hand side of the keyhole, and led to the garden. At the end was a extended for about four inches, where t had scratched the varnish from the Our guide knocked, and then ushered

"I noticed it, Mr. Holmes, but you'll always find scratches round a key-

"This is recent, quite recent. how the brass shines where it is cut. An old scratch would be the same color as the surface. Look at it through it, propped up with pillows, was the my lens. There's the varnish, too, like earth on each side of the furrow. Is Mrs, Marker there?'

A sad-faced, elderly woman came in-"Did you dust this bureau yesterday

"Yes, sir." "Did you notice this scratch?"
"No, sir, I did not."

"I am sure you did not, for a duster would have swept away these shreds of varnish. Who has the key of this his hand to Holmes, I perceived that "The Professor keeps it on his watch

chain. "Is it a simple key?"
"No, sir, it is a Chubb's key."

"Very good. Mrs. Marker, you can "Of course you would. Meanwhile, gress. Our lady enters the room, she pecially prepared by Ionides, of Alexbureau, and either opens it or tries to do so. While she is "Nothing, Mr. Holmes. I think that thus engaged, young Willoughby Smith to arrange for a fresh supply every you know as much as I do now—probenters the room. In her hurry to with-We have had inquiries draw the key, she makes this scratch made as to any stranger seen on the upon the door. He seizes her, and she, country roads or at the railway sta-tion. We have heard of none. What beats me is the utter want of all ob- in order to make him let go his hold. ject in the crime. Not a ghost of a The blow is a fatal one. He falls and she escapes, either with or without the "Ah! there I am not in a position to object for which she has come. Is help you, But I suppose you want us Susan the maid, there? Could anyone have got away through that door after "If it is not asking too much, Mr. the time that you heard the cry,

> "No, sir, it is impossible. Before one in the passage. Besides, the door

"Don't you see any bearing upon the case? Well, well, I don't insist upon it. No doubt I am wrong. And yet

with me and introduce me.' We passed down the passage, which was of the same length as that which

short flight of steps ending in a door us into the Professor's bedroom. It was a very large chamber, lined with innumerable volumes, which had overflowed from the shelves and lay in piles in the corners, or stacked all round at the base of the cases. The bed was in the center of the room, and in owner of the house. I have seldom seen

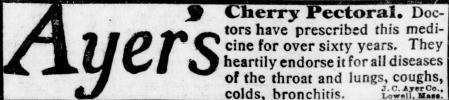
a more remarkable-looking person. It was a gaunt aquiline face which was turned towards us, with piercing dark eyes, which lurked in deep hollows un der overhung and tufted brows. His hair and beard were white, save that the latter was curiously stained with yellow around the mouth. A cigarette owed amid the tangle of white hair. and the air of the room was fetid wit stale tobacco smoke. As he held out

it was also stained with yellow nico-"A smoker, Mr. Holmes?" said he speaking in well-chosen English, with a curious little mincing accent. "Pray take a cigarette. And you, sir, I can pecially prepared by Ionides, of Alex-He sends me a thousand at a andria. time, and I grieve to say that I have old man has few pleasures. Tobacco and my work-that is all that is left

Holmes had lit a cigarette, and was shooting little darting glances all over

the room. "Tobacco and my work, but now only obacco," the old man exclaimed. tobacco." "Alas! what a fatal interruption! Who could have foreseen such a terrible catastrophe? So estimable a young man! assure you that, after a few months' raining he was an admirable assistant. What do you think of the matter, Mr. Holmes?"

"I shall indeed be indebted to you if "That settles that exit. Then no you can throw a light where all is so



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