

VII.—A CASE OF IDENTITY.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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"I did at first," she answered, "but now I know where the letters are without looking." Then, suddenly realizing the full purport of his words, she gave a violent start and looked up with fear and astonishment upon her broad, good-humored face. "You've heard about me, Mr. Holmes," she cried, "else how could you know all that?"

"Never mind," said Holmes laughing, "it is no business of mine now. Perhaps I have trained myself to see what others overlook. If not, why should you come to consult me?"

"I came to you, sir, because I heard

"Your own little income," he asked, "does it come out of the business?"

"Oh, no, sir. It is quite separate, and was left me by my Uncle Ned in Auckland. It is a little over a thousand a year, at four per cent. I have five hundred pounds was the amount, but I can only touch the interest."

"You interest me extremely," said Holmes. "And since you draw so large a sum as a hundred a year, with what you earn into the bargain, you no doubt travel a little, and indulge yourself in every way. I believe that a single lady

[illegible]

"You appeared to read a good deal upon her which was quite invisible to me," he observed. "I found her more interesting than her little problem, which, by the way, is rather simple one." You will find parallel cases if you consult my index, in Anderson's '77,' and there was something of the sort at The Hague last year. Old as is the idea, however, there were once or two details which were new to me. But the maiden herself was most instructive."

"You appeared to read a good deal upon her which was quite invisible to me," he observed.

Your Worn-Out Stomach

Was then much surprised and interested on glancing down to observe that the two boots which she was wearing were not quite each other. They were really odd ones, one having a slightly decorated toe-cap, the other a plain one. One was buttoned only in the two lower buttons out of five, and the other at the first, third and fifth. Now, when you see that a young plaid, otherwise neatly dressed, has come away from home with odd boots, half-buttoned, it is no great difficulty to say that she came away in a hurry.

"And what else?" I asked, keenly interested, as I always was by my friend's incisive reasoning.

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"I suppose," said Holmes, "that when Mr. Widdowson came back from France he was very annoyed at your having gone to the ball."

"Oh, well, he was very good about it," I laughed and remembered, and shrugged his shoulders, and said there was no use denying anything to a woman, for she would have her way."

"So she did," said the gentleman called Mr. Hosmer Angel.

"I understand," said Holmes, "that when your jeweler sells H. & A. S. Chains."

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"Yes, sir, I met him that night, and he called next day to ask if we had

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