The Return of a

Sherlock Holmes

IV.-THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL CORONET.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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crisp February morning, and the snow of the day before still lay deep upon the ground, shimmering brightly in the wintry sun. Down the center of Baker street it had been plowed into a brown, crumbly band by the traffic, but either side and on the heaped-up edges of the footpaths it still lay as white as when it fell. The gray pave ment had been cleaned and scraped, but was still dangerously slippery, so that there were fewer passengers than Indeed, from the direction of the Metropolitan station no one was coming save the single gentleman whose eccentric conduct had drawn my

He was a man of about 50, tall portly and imposing, with a massive strongly marked face and a command ing figure. He was dressed in a som-ber yet rich style in black frock coat shining hat, neat brown gaiters in well-cut pearl-gray trousers. Yet his actions were in absurd contrast to the dignity of his dress and features, for was running hard, with occasion little springs such as a weary man gives who is little accustomed to set ny tax upon his legs. As he ran he jerked his hands up and down, wag gled his head and writhed his face in to the most extraordinary contortions What on earth can be the matte with him?" I asked. "He is looking u

at the numbers of the houses."
"I believe that he is coming here,"
said Holmes, rubbing his hands. Yes: I rather think he is coming

to consult me professionally. I think that I recognize the symptoms. Ha! Did I not tell you?" As he spoke the man, puffing and blowing, rushed at our door and pulled at our bell until the whole house resounded with th

A few moments later he was in our room, still puffing, still gesticulating, but with so fixed a look of grief and despair in his eyes that our smile were turned in an instant to horror and pity. For a while he could not get his words out, but swayed his boly and plucked at his hair like one who has been driven to the extreme limits of his reason. Then, suddenly springing to his feet, he beat his head against the wall with such force that we both rushed upon him and tore him away to the center of the room. Sherlock Holmes pushed him down into an easy chair, and, sitting beside him, patted his hand and chatted with him in the easy soothing tones which he knew so well how to employ. "You have come to tell me story, have you not?" said he.

are fatigued with your haste. Pray wait until you have recovered yourself, and then I shall be most happy to look into any little problem which you may submit to me."

The man sat for a minute or more with a heaving chest, fighting against his emotion. Then he passed his handkerchief over his brow, set his fips tight, and turned his fact toward us. "No doubt you think me mad?" said

"I see that you have had some great responded Holmes. "God knows I have! — a trouble which is enough to unseat my reason, so sudden and so terrible is it. Public disgrace I might have faced, although I am a man whose character has never borne a stain. Private affliction also is the lot of every man; but the two, coming together, and in so frightful a form, have been enough to shake my

don to this most pitiable pass? We waited, all curiosity, until, with another effort, he braced himself to tell i

feel that time is of value," said he; "that is why I hastened here when police inspector suggested that I should secure came to Baker street by the Underground, and hurried from there on foot, for the cabs go slowly through heard of the Beryl Coronet?'



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said I, as I the snow. That Is why I was so out me. There could be no doubt that, as Mary, who has a woman's quick in-Stood one morning in our of breath, for I am a man who takes how-window, looking down the street, "here is a madman coming along. It seems rather sad that his relatives should allow him to come out alone.

My friend rose lazile to find remunerative investments for turned once more to my work.

Mary, who has a woman's quick included in the sight into character. "And now there is only she to be fortune should occur to it. I already fortune should occur to it. I already having ever consented to late the matter now, so I had in a successful banking business as much depends upon our being able locked it up in my private safe, and since as my daughter. She is a sunbeam in my house—sweet, loving, beaufrom his armchair and our funds as upon our increasing our



"AT MY CRY HE DROPPED IT FROM HIS GRASP AND TURNED AS PALE AS DEATH.

very soul. Besides, it is not I alone. Trifling a sum ten times over from my place. That is the only drawback where I was soon asleep.

The very noblest in the land may sufficients, but I much prefer to make it which we have found to her, but we "I am endeavoring to tell the sufficient of business and to convert the land went up to my bear to have a convert to the sufficient of business and to convert the land went up to my bear to have a sufficient to the s

sum which I have asked. I am prepared to leave it with you as my se-

"I took the precious case into my again. hands and looked in some perplexity from it to my illustrious client. "'You doubt its value?" he asked.

"'Not at all. I only doubt-"The propriety of my leaving it. You may set your mind at rest about that. I should not dream of doing so were it not absolutely certain that I should be able in four days to reclaim it. It is a pure matter of form. Is the security sufficient.' 'Ample.

"You understand, Mr. Holder, that I am giving you 2 strong proof of the confidence which I have in you, founded upon all that I have heard of you. I rely upon you not only to be discreet and to refrain from all gossip upon the matter, but, above all, to preserve this coronet with every possible precaution, because I need not say that a great public scandal would be caused if any harm were to befall it. And injury to it would be almost as serious as complete loss, for there are no beryls in the world to match these, and is would be impossible to replace them I leave it with you, however, we every confidence, and I shall call it in person on Monday morning. "Seeing that my client was anxious to leave, I said no more; but, calling for my cashier, I ordered him to pay over fifty f1,000 notes. When I was alone once more, however, with the precious case lying upon the table is precious case lying upon the table in front of me. I could not but think The Williams Piano Co., 171 Dundas St. with some misgivings of the immense responsibility which it entailed upon

when he entered, to say so, but he plunged at once into business with the air of a man who wishes to hurry quickly through a disagreeable task. Years, and whose absolute reliability only been to the side gate to see somewiff a horter. I have han is quite above suspicion. Another "'Mr. Holder,' said he, 'I have been is quite above suspicion. Another, one; but I think that it informed that you are in the habit of Lucy Parr, the second waiting-maid, and should be stopped.' formed that you are in the habit of Lucy Parr, the second waiting-maid, dvancing money.'

"The firm does so when the securmonths. She came with an excellent character however and has always and should be stopped."

"Yes, it was twisted."

"Do you not think, then, that height, slim, with dark hair and everything is fastened?" ity is good,' I answered.

"It is absolutely essential to me,' said he, 'that I should have £50,000 at once. Of course, I could borrow so the fifting a sum ten times over from my place. That is the only drawback where I was soon asleep.

count of who you are and what it is that has befallen you."

"My name." answered our visitor, "is probably familiar to your ears. I am Alexander Holder, of the banking firm of Holder & Stevenson, of Threadness of Holder & Stevenson,

that, even in your case, every businesslike precaution should be taken.

"I should much prefer to have it so, said he, raising up a square black morocco case, which he had laid benefit side his chair. 'You have doubtless of an aristocratic club, and there, having charming manners he was soon to be dead all palpitating with fear, and peeped round the corner of my directly different corner. "Arthur!" I screamed, 'you villain! You thief! How dare you touch that corner?" "One of the most precious public possessions of the empire," said I. "Precisely." He opened the case, and there, embedded in soft, flesh-local related to play heavily at cards and to squander money on the turf, until he had again and again to come to me. having charming manners, he was soon "The gas was half up, as I had left

> that such a man as Sir George Burnforever! Where are the jewels which well should gain an influence over you have stolen? him for he has frequently brought him to my house, and I have found myself that I could hardly resist the fascina-tion of his manner. He is older than, "There are none missing. There beauty. Yet, when I think of him in see you trying to teal on another of his presence, I am convinced from his cynical speech, and the look which I have caught in his eyes, that he is one who should be deeply distrusted. Think and so too thinks little have chosen to insult me. I will leave

FREE! I want every person who is bilious or has any stomach or liver ailment to

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My friend rose lazily to find remunerative investments for turned once more to my work.

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The find remunerative investments for turned once more to my work. our funds as upon our increasing our connection and the number of depositors. One of our most lucrative means of laying out money is in the shape of loans where the security is unimpeachable. We have done a good deaf in this direction during the last few years and there are many noble families to whom we have advanced large sums and there are many noble families to whom we have advanced large sums the next few days I would always braries or plate.

"When evening came I felt that it tiful, a wonderful manager and house-keeper, yet as tender and quiet and genule as a woman could be. She is loay right hand. I do not know what I would do without her. In only one matter has she ever gone against my wishes. Twice my toy has asked her to marry him, for he loves her devotedly, but each time she has refused him. I think that if anyone could have stolen,' said I. And then realizative means of laying out money is in the shape of loans where the security is unimpeach for now, and why should not mine be? If so, how terrible would be the matter has she ever gone against my wishes. Twice my toy has asked her to marry him, for he loves her devotedly, but each time she has refused him. I think that if anyone could have stolen,' said I. And then realizative means and house-would be. She is they fight hand. I do not know what I would do without her. In only one matter has she ever gone against my wishes. Twice my toy has asked her to marry him, for he loves her devotedly, but each time she has refused him. I think that if anyone could have stolen,' said I. And then realizative means and house-would have means and house-would have means and house-would have means to your advantage as well as mine if the your advantage as well as mine if the your done matter has she ever gone against my wishes. Twice my toy has asked her to matter has she ever gone against my wishes. Twice my toy has asked her to matter has she ever gone against my have the order has the your advantage as well as mine if the your done. The position in the position

> mo more than that it was a name my dressing-room.
>
> which is a household word all over the arth—one of the highest noblest, most hold. Mr. Holmes, for I wish you to exalted names in England, I was over—thoroughly understand the situation.
>
> And now a word as to my house-drawing-room that night after dinner, I told Arthur and Mary my experience and of the precious treasure which we missing stones.
>
> "You may as well face the matter,' said I, 'you have been caught in the arthur and of the precious treasure which we missing stones. had under our roof, suppressing only the name of my client. Lucy Parr, who had brought in the coffee, had, I am sure, left the room; but I cannot swear that the door was closed. Mary and Arthur were much interested and wished to see the famous coronet, but away from me with a sneer. I saw that thought better not to disturb it. Arthur.

'In my own bureau'

"It is locked up,' I answered.
"Oh, any old key will fit that bureau. When I was a youngster I have nor would the wretched boy open his coened it myself with the key of the mouth for all our persuasions and our "He eften had a wild way of talk

said. He forlowed me to my room, hurried round to you, to implore you however, that night, with a very grave face. "'Look here, dad,' said he, with his

"No I cannot,' I answered sharp-I have been far too generous with you in money matters."

"You have been very kind,' said he,

'Yes, but you would not have me could not bear the disgrace. I must and his eyes fixed upon the fire. raise the money in some way, and if "Do you receive much company?" he you will not let me have it, then I asked. must try other means.'

"When he was gone I unlocked my bureau, made sure that my treasure was safe, and locked it in again. I then started to go round the house to see that all was secure—a duty which I usually leave to Mary, but which I thought it well to perform myself that

As I came down the stairs I saw Mary herself at the side window of the hall, which she closed and fastened as I approached. "'Tell me, dad, said she, looking, as I thought a little disturbed, 'did you give Lucy, the maid, leave to go out

'She came in just now by the back in his hands one; but I think that it is hardly safe

fer unless some way be found out of this horrible affair."

"Pray compose yourself, sir," said Holmes, "and let me have a clear action are and what it is gations."

"I am endeavoring to tell you everybelieve her to be a thoroughly good in every way.

"So much for the servants, My fambursted it is gations."

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"On the contrary, your statement is

"I should be happy to advance it for a moment from his face. I have without further parley from my own never denied him a wish. Perhaps it would have been better for both of us the strain would be rather more than had I been sterner but I meant it would not be the strain would be rather more than had I been sterner but I meant it would not be the strain would be rather more than had I been sterner but I meant it would not be the sound in the house. It had ceased ere I was wide awake, but it be deft an impression behind it, as gems?"

They are still sounding the plank-

it could bear. If, on the other hand, I am to do it in the name of the firm, in justice to my partner, I must insist that, even in your case, every businesslike precaution should be taken.

They are still sound in my business, but I meant it my ears. Suddenly, to my horror, there was a distinct sound of footsteps moving softly in the next room. I slipped out of bed, all palpitating with all my ears. Suddenly, to my horror, there was a distinct sound of footsteps moving softly in the next room. I slipped out of bed, all palpitating with ear.

"Have they thought side the house?"

"Yes, they have show

and there, embedded in soft, fleshlored velvet, lay the magnificent piece
he had again and again to come to me
and implore me to give him an
he price of the gold chasing is incalmight settle his debts of honor.

To squander money on the turl, until
he had again and again to come to me
and implore me to give him an
adall his strength. At my cry he droppose that your son came down from
he ped it from his grasp and turned as
paie as death. I snatched it up and
dressing-room, opened your bureau, the price of the gold chasing is incal-might settle his debts of honor. He pale as death. I snatched it up and pale the worth of the correct of death. I from the dangerous company which

> "And, indeed, I could not wonder stroyed it! You have dishonored me and then returned with the other 'Stolen!' he cried.

"Yes, you thief!' I roared, shaking such a theory tenable?" Arthur, a man of the world to his finger-tips, one who has been every-where, seen everything, a brilliant know where they are. Must I call you talker, and a man of great personal a liar as well as a thief? Did I not beauty. Yet, when I think of him in see you trying to tear off another

So I think, and so, too, thinks little have chosen to insult me. I will leave your house in the morning and make

my own way in the world.'
"'You shall leave it in the hands of the police!' I cried half mad with grief and rage. 'I shall have this matter probed to the bottom.' You shall learn nothing from me, said he, with a passion such as I

should not have thought was in his nature. 'If you choose to call the police, let the police find what they "By this time the whole house was astir, for I had raised my voice in my anger. Mary was the first to rush into my room, and, at the sight of the coronet and of Arthur's face, she read

the whole story, and, with a scream, fell down senseless on the ground. I sent the housemaid for the police, and put the investigation into their hands at once. When the inspector and constable entered the house, Arthur, who had stood sullenly with his arms folded, asked me whether it was my intention to charge him with theft. I answered that it had ceased to be a private matter, but had become a pubone, since the ruined coronet was property. I was determined that the law should have its way in

braries or plate.

"Yesterday morning I was seated in really out of my reach. With this instruction I called a cab and drove out I started when I saw the name, for it was that of none other than—well, no more than that it was a name no more than that it might never be thin. I think that if anyone could have drawn him into the right path it would have been she, and that if anyone could have drawn him into the right path in twould have been she, and that if anyone could have drawn him into the right path it would have been she, and that if anyone could have drawn him into the right nave drawn him into the right n guilt more heinous. If you but make such reparation as is in your power, by telling us where the beryls are all shall be forgiven and forgotten.' "'Keep your forgiveness for those who ask for it,' he answered, turning he was too hardened for any words of Where have you put it?" asked mine to influence him. There was but one way for it. I called in the in spector and gave him into custody. A "Well, I hope to goodness the house won't be burgled during the night, he won't be burgled during the night, he every portion of the house where he threats. This morning he was reing, so that I thought little of what he through all the police formalities, have to use your skill in unraveling the matter. The police have openly coneyes cast down 'can you let me have nothing of it. You may go to any expense which you think necessary. have already offered a reward of fl, 000. My God, what shall I do! I have lost my honor, my gems and my son but I must have this money, or else in one night. Oh, what shall I do!"
I can never show my face inside the He put a hand on either side of h He put a hand on either side of his head, and rocked himself to and fro, 'And a very good thing, too,' I droning to himself like a child whose grief has got beyond words. Sherlock Holmes sat silent for some leave it a dishonored man, said he. 'I few minutes, with his brows knitted

None, save my partner with his financier.

"I was very angry, for this was the family, and an occasional friend of "I was very angry, for this was the family, and an occasional friend of third demand during the month. 'You Arthur's. Sir George Burnwell has been several times lately. No one else, if think, if the standing back a little from the road. A double carriage sweep, with a snow-clad lawn, "Do you go out much in society?"

"Arthur does. Mary and I stay at home. We neither of us care for it. "That is unusual in a young girl." "She is of a quiet nature. Besides, between two neat hedges stretching she is not so very young. She is four and twenty." "This matter, from what you say,

seems to have been a shock to her also. "Terrible! "Terrible! She is even more af-"You have neither of you any doubt as to your son's guilt?"

"How can we have, when I saw him with my own eyes with the coronet stable lane. So long was "I hardly consider that a conclusive dining - room and waited by

"God bless you! You are doing what you can for him and for me. But it is think that I have ever seen such dead. too heavy a task. What was he doing ly paleness in a woman's face. Her there at all? If his purpose were in-

case. What did the police think of in her, as she was evidently a woman

with all ing and probing the furniture in the "Have they thought of looking out-

"Yes, they have shown extraordinary energy. The whole garden has aiready been minutely examined." "Now, my dear sir," said Holmes,

"is it not obvious to you now that this matter really strikes very much deeper than either you or the police were at first inclined to think? It appeared to you to be a simple case: to me it seems dressing-room, opened your bureau, from the dangerous company which the was keeping, but each time the inoff to some other place, concealed well, was enough to draw him back side myself with rage. 'You have desaid then returned with the other thirty-six into the room in which he exposed himself to the greatest danger of being discovered. I ask you now, Is

"But what other is there?" cried the banker, with a gesture of despair. "If his motives were innocent, why does he not explain them '

"It is our task to find that out," replied Holmes; "so now, if you please, Mr. Holder, we will set off for Streatham together and devote an hour to glancing a little more closely into de-

My friend insisted upon my accom-

panying them in their expedition, which I was eager enough to do, for my curiosity and sympathy were deep-ly stirred by the story to which we had listened. I confess that the guilt of the banker's son appeared to me to be as obvious as it did to his unhappy or liver ailment to send for a free package of my Paw-Paw Pills. I want to prove that they positively cure Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Belching, Wind, Headache, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, and are an infallible cure for Constipation. To do this I DAVID HENDERSON. taker, fresh heart at the little glimpse millions of free packages. I take all the risk. Sold by druggists for 25 cents a bin. Sept. 17, 1904.

Bellelsle Station, King's County, N. of hope which had been presented to him, and he even broke into a desultory chat with me over his a desu



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the modest residence of the

riage sweep, with a snow-clad lawn, stretched down in front to two large iron gates which closed the entrance On the right side was a small wooden from the road to the kitchen door and forming the tradesmen's entrance. Or the left ran a lane which led to th sables and was not itself within the grounds at all, being a public, though little used, thoroughfare. Holmes left us standing at the door and walked slowly all round the house, across the front, down the tradesmen's path and so round by the garden behind into the preof. Was the remainder of the coro- fire until he should return. door opened and a young lady care

in. She was rather above the middle which seemed the darker against the absolute pallor of her skin. I do were flushed with crying. "Precisely. And if it were guilty, why did he not invent a lie? His silence grief than the hanker had done in the dreadful to think of our dear Arthur morning, and it was the more striking in prison. my presence, she went straight to her uncle, and passed her hand over his head with a sweet, womanly caress.

> dad?" she asked. "No, no, my girl, the matter must be probed to the bottom." "But I am so sure that he is innocent. You know what women's stincts are. I know that he has done "Why is he silent, then, if he is in-

nocent? "Who knows? Perhaps because he was so angry that you should suspect

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"Oh, but he had only picked it up to dreadful to think of our dear Arthur

of strong character, with immense capacity for self-restraint. Disregarding affection for Arthur blinds you as to "I shall never let it drop until the the awful consequences to me. from hushing the thing up, I have "You have given orders that Arthur should be liberated, have you not, dad?" she asked.

"You have given orders that Arthur don to inquire more deeply into it."

"This gentleman?" "This gentleman?" she asked, facing

"No, His friend. He wished us to leave him alone. He is round in the stable lane now." "The stable lane!" she raised her dark eyebrows. "What can he hope to for having acted so harshly."

dark eyebrows. "What can he hope to find there? As, this, I suppose, is he. I trust, sir, that you will succeed in I trust, sir, that you will succeed in proving what I feel sure is the truth, that my cousin Arthur is innocent this crime."

"How could I help suspecting him returned Holmes, going back to the "I fully share your opinion, and I when I actually saw him with the cor- mat to knock the snow from his shoes,

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