

## THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Continued From Page Eleven.

"I said, sir, to the precisely scientific mind. But as a practical man of affairs it is acknowledged that you stand alone. I trust, sir, that I have not inadvertently—"

"Just a little," said Holmes. "I think, Dr. Mortimer, you would do wisely if without more ado you would kindly tell me plainly what the exact nature of the problem is in which you demand my assistance."

### CHAPTER II.

"I have in my pocket a manuscript," said Dr. James Mortimer. "I observed it as you entered the room," said Holmes. "It is an old manuscript." "Early eighteenth century, unless it is a forgery."

"How can you say that, sir?"

"You have presented an inch or two of it to my examination all the time that you have been talking. It would be a poor expert who could not give the date of a document within a decade or so. You may possibly have read my little monograph upon the subject. I put that at 1730."

"The exact date is 1742," Dr. Mortimer drew it from his breast-pocket. "This family paper was committed to my care by Sir Charles Baskerville, whose sudden and tragic death some three months ago created so much excitement in Devonshire. I may say that I was his personal friend, as well as his medical attendant. He was a strong-minded man, sir, shrewd, practical, and as unimaginative as I am myself. Yet he took this document very seriously, and his mind was prepared for just such an end as did eventually overtake him."

Holmes stretched out his hand for the manuscript, and flattened it upon his knee.

"You will observe, Watson, the alternative use of the long 's' and the short. It is one of several indications which enabled me to fix the date."

I looked over his shoulder at the yellow paper and the faded script. At the head was written: "Baskerville Hall," and below, in large, scrawling figures, "1742."

"It appears to be a statement of some sort."

"Yes, it is a statement of a certain legend which runs in the Baskerville family."

"But I understand that it is something more modern and practical upon which you wish to consult me?"

"Most modern. A most practical, pressing matter, which must be decided within twenty-four hours. But the manuscript is short and is intimately connected with the affair. With your permission I will read it to you."

Holmes leaned back in his chair, placed his finger-tips together, and closed his eyes, with an air of resignation. Dr. Mortimer turned the manuscript to the light, and read in a high, cracking voice, the following curious, old world narrative:

"Of the origin of the Hound of the Baskervilles, there have been many statements, yet as I come in a direct line from Hugo Baskerville, and as I had the story from my father, who also had it from his, I have set it down with all belief that it occurred even as is here set forth. And I would have you believe, my sons, that the same Justice which punishes sin may also graciously forgive it, and that no ban is so heavy that by prayer and repentance it may be removed. Learn, then, from this story, not to fear the fruits of the past, but rather to be circumspect in the future, that those foul passions whereby our family has suffered so grievously may not again be loosed to our undoing."

"Know, then, that in the time of the Great Rebellion (the history of which by the learned Lord Clarendon I most earnestly commend to your attention), this Manor of Baskerville was held by Hugo of that name, nor can it be gainsaid that he was a most wild, profane and godless man. This, in truth, his neighbors might have pardoned, seeing that saints have never flourished in those parts; but there was in him a certain wanton cruel humor, which made his name a byword through the West. It chanced that this Hugo came to love (if, indeed, so dark a passion may be known under so bright a name), the daughter of a yeoman who held lands near the Baskerville estate. But the young maiden, being discreet and of good repute, would ever avoid him, for she feared his evil name. So it came to pass that one Michaelmas this Hugo, with five or six of his wicked companions, stole down upon the farm and carried off the maiden, her father and brothers being from home, as he well knew. When they had brought her to the Hall the maiden was placed in an upper chamber, while Hugo and his friends sat down to a long carouse, as was their nightly custom. Now, the poor lass upstairs was like to have her wit turned at the singing and shouting and terrible oaths which came up to her from below, for they say that the words used by Hugo Baskerville, when he was in wine, were such as might blast the man who heard them. At last in the stress of her fear she did that which might have daunted the bravest or most active man, for by the aid of the growth of ivy which covered (and still covers) the south wall she came down from under the eaves, and so homeward across the moor, there being three leagues betwixt the Hall and her father's farm."

"It chanced that some little time later Hugo left his guests to carouse and drink—with other worse things, perchance—to his captive, and so found the cage empty and the bird escaped. Then, as it would seem, he became as one that hath a devil, for, rushing down the stairs into the dining-hall,

he sprang upon the great table, flagons and trenchers flying before him, and he cried aloud before all the company that he would that very night slay his body and soul to the Powers of Evil if he might but overtake the wench. And while the revelers stood aghast at the fury of the man, one more wicked, or, it may be, more drunken than the rest, cried out that they should put the hounds upon her. Whereat Hugo ran from the house, crying to his grooms that they should saddle his mare and unkennel the pack, and giving the hounds a kerchief of the maid's, he swung them to the line, and so off full cry in the moonlight over the moor.

"Now, for some space the revelers stood aghast, unable to understand all that had been done in such haste. But anon their bemused wits awoke to the nature of the deed which was like to be done upon the moorlands. Every thing was now in an uproar, some of them for their pistols, some for their horses, and some for another flask of wine. But at length some sense came back to their crazed minds, and the whole of them, thirteen in number, took horse and started in pursuit. The moon shone clear above them, and they rode swiftly abreast, taking that course which the maid must needs have taken if she were to reach her own home."

They had gone a mile or two when they passed one of the night shepherds upon the moorlands, and they cried to him to know if he had seen the hunt. And the man, as the story goes, was so crazed with fear that he could scarce speak, but at last he said that he had indeed seen the unhappy maiden, with the hounds upon her track. "But I have seen more than that," said he, "for Hugo Baskerville passed me upon his black mare, and there ran behind him such a hound of hell as God forbid should ever be at my heels." So the drunken squire cursed the shepherd and rode onwards. But soon their skins turned cold, for there came a galloping across the moor, and the black mare, dabbled with white froth, went past with trailing bridle and empty saddle. Then the revelers rode close together, for a great fear was on them, but they still followed over the moor, though each, had he been alone, would have been right glad to have turned his horse's head. Riding slowly in this fashion they came at last upon the hounds. These, though known for their valor and breed, were whimpering in a cluster at the head of a deep dip or gully, as we call it, upon the moor, some slinking away and some, with starting hackles and staring eyes, gazing down the narrow valley before them.

(To be continued on Monday.)

## SHAKESPEARE, "BEST SELLER"

HIS EDITIONS NUMBER THOUSANDS—HIS AUTOGRAPHS ALMOST PRICELESS.

After Bible, His Works Are the Most in Demand Throughout the Civilized World.

One hears from time to time this or that popular author lauded as "the biggest seller," "most in demand," and the like. Yet one seldom realizes the colossal popularity and world-wide sale of the plays of Shakespeare, the most "popular" of them all, because of his appeal to all mankind.

"After God, Shakespeare has created most," Dante declared, and surely after the Christian Bible his works are most in demand throughout the civilized world. And how precious is every relic of the man. Only five signatures exist—mere scrawls appended to official documents, and worth \$5,000 a word if they came into the market tomorrow. Remember, too, the startling prices realized by his original quarto editions. Originally published at twelve cents, a fair copy last year brought at auction \$8,750.

**FIRST FOLIO PUBLISHED IN 1623.**

The first folio was the famous one of 1623, when the master had been dead but seven years. It was a weighty tome of 900 pages, and sold at \$5—a sum probably equal to the purchasing value now to ten times as much. Of this folio some 200 copies are in existence, which is considered an unusually large proportion in the case of a book of that period.

In Shakespeare's lifetime not more than 21 out of his 37 plays had been printed; and as is well known, authors in his day had no rights at all, and any publisher who could get possession of a manuscript was at liberty to print it for his own benefit. Up to the fire of London in 1666, edition after edition of Shakespeare was produced, but not a cent of profit did the poets or their descendants receive from the proceeds.

It was in 1795 that the first American edition was produced in Philadelphia; and five years or so later the publishers of New York and Boston ventured cautiously into the Shakespearean field.

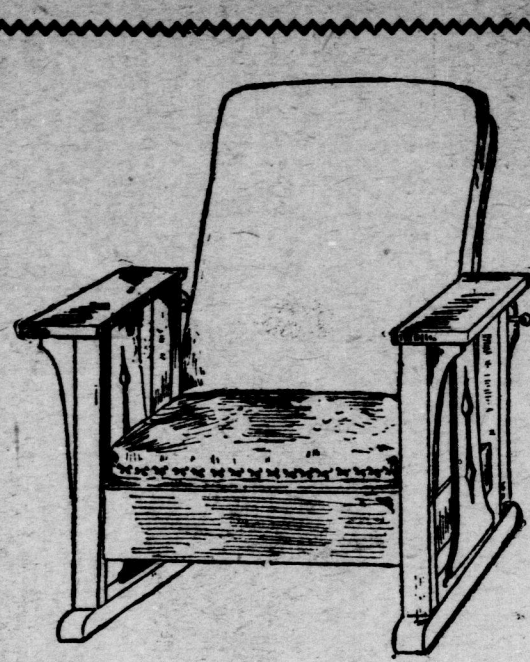
Among early editions, that of Pope was not a success; while the edition of his rival, Theobald, whom he pilloried in "The Dunciad," reached a total of 96,000 volumes—the first really great "popular" edition of the bard.

**TREMENDOUS SALES OF LAST CENTURY.**

At least 90,000 sets at \$15 each were sold during the eighteenth century, and between 1801 and 1900 the civilized world called for nearly 300 more or less independent editions of the plays and poems. And it must be remembered that some of these like Knights, were reprinted nine or ten times, and the single-volume "Globe" edition, published in 1864, at least seventeen times.

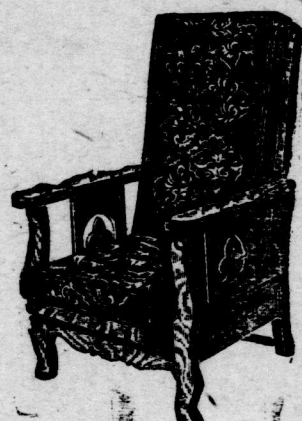
As to the price of a copy, this varied greatly from 25 cents to \$420; and an edition might consist of 150 or 15,000 copies. Altogether the nineteenth century saw 500,000 sets published in England alone; and if eight volumes are allowed to each set, the total was some 6,000,000 books. Nearly half as much again must be allowed for the United States.

Now, whatever be the ups and downs of a piece of literature in its early days, there surely comes a time when the number of printings and sales is an accurate test of its real worth. And



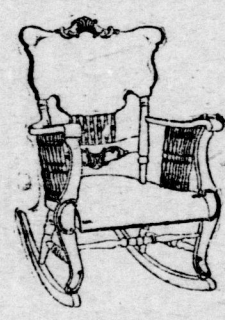
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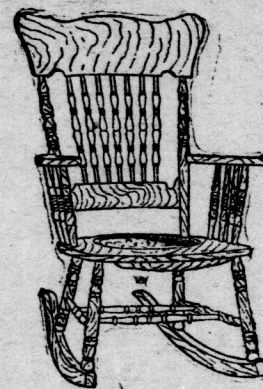
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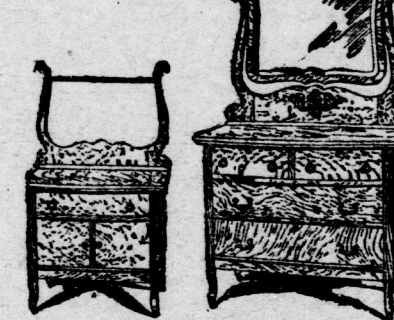
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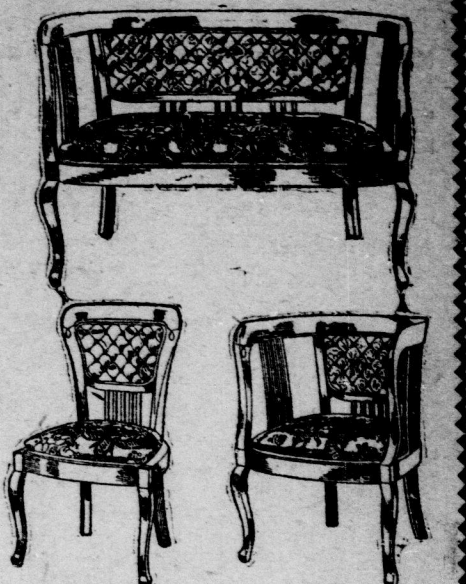
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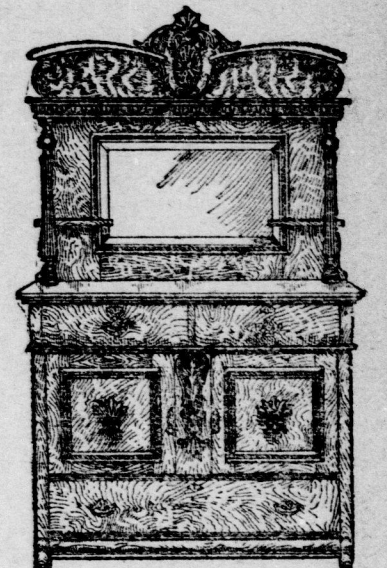
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It was winter. The examiner sent the candidate word to be at his home at 3 o'clock in the morning. When the appointed man arrived at the appointed time, he was shown into the study where he waited for five hours. At length the examiner appeared, and asked the candidate how early he had come.

"Three o'clock sharp."

"All right; it's breakfast time now; come in and have some breakfast."

After breakfast they went back to the study.

"Well, sir," said the examiner, "I was appointed to examine you as to your fitness for the mission field. Can you spell, sir?"

"The young man thought he could. 'Spell, sir, then.'"

"B-a, b-a, k-e-r-Baker."

"All right, that will do. Now, do you know anything about figures?"

"Yes, sir, something."

"How much is twice two?"

"Four."

"All right; that's splendid. You'll do first-rate. I'll see the board."

When the board met the examiner reported. "Well, brethren," he said, "I have examined the candidate and he'll make a tip-top missionary—first-class. First, I examined the candidate on his self-denial. I told him to be at my place at 2 o'clock in the morning. He was there. That meant getting up at 2 o'clock, or earlier, in the dark and cold. He got up and never asked me why. Second, I examined him on promptness. I told him to be at my place at 3 o'clock sharp. He was there—not one minute behind time. I let him wait five hours for me when he might just as well have been in his bed, and he waited and showed no signs of impatience. Fourth, I examined him on his temper. He didn't get excited; met me perfectly pleasant; didn't ask me why I kept him waiting on a cold morning from 3 to 8 o'clock. Fifth, I examined him on humility. I asked him to spell words a 5-year-old child could spell and he didn't show any indignation; didn't ask me why I treated him like a child or a fool. Brethren, the candidate is self-denying, prompt,

patient, obedient, good-tempered, humble. He's just the man for a missionary, and I recommend him for your acceptance."

A European river, 40 feet wide, handles as much freight as an ordinary American railroad, while the Rhine carries more business to a block than half the Hudson River. Splendid tug-boats, fine barges and handsome, swift steamers do the work, with anchored chain boats to pull the big loads up the rapids.

A tree that is a freak of nature is the Asiatic star tree. It grows 60 to 80 feet tall, and for a height of about 40 feet the trunk is wholly bare. From that point there spring a number of tangled limbs, and these, grouped together, emit a phosphorescent light.

The board of education of Philadelphia has decided to divide the city into five sections, and to establish a high school in each. Although Philadelphia is the third largest city in the United States in point of population, it is the twenty-third in number of high school students.

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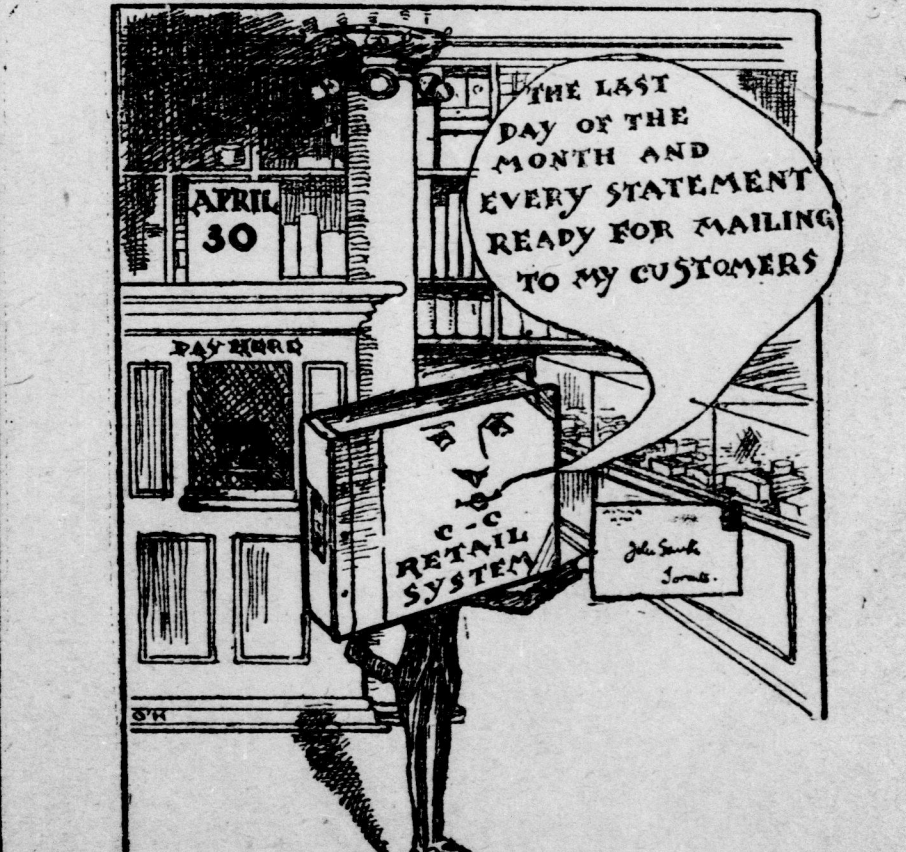
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