ADVENTURES

- OF A -

STOCK BROKER'S CLERK

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

There he goes !" cried Hall Pyoroft. "Those are the compan offices into which he has gone. Com-with me and I'll fix it up as easily possible."

with me and I'll lix it up as easily sepossible."

At 7 o'clook that ovening we were walking, the three of us, down Corporation street to the company's office.

"It is of no use our being at all before our time," said our client. "He only comes there to see me apparently, for the place is deserted up to the very hour he names."

"That is suggestive," remarked Holmes.

88. "By Jove, I told you so!" cried the

"By Jove, I told you so!" cried the clerk.
Following his lead we ascended five stories, until we found ourselves outside a half-opened door, at which outside a half-opened door, at which outlent tapped. A voice within bade us "Come in!" and we entered a bare, unfurnished room, such as Hall Pyocet had described. At the single table sat the man whom we had seen in the street, with his evening paper spread out in front of him, and, as he looked up at us, it seemed to me that I had never looked upon a face which bore such marks of grief, and of something beyond grief—of a horror such as comes to few men in a lifetime. His brow glistened with perspiration, his cheeks were of the dull dead white of a fish's belly, and his eye were wild and staring. He looked at his clerk as though he failed to recognize him, and I could see by the astonichment depicted upon our conductor's face that this was by no means the usual appearance of his employer.

"You look ill, Mr. Pinner," he exclaimed.
"Yes, I am not very well," answer-

imed.
"Yes, I am not very well," answerthe other, making obvious efforts
pull himself together, and licking
s dry lips before he spoke. "Who
a these gentlemen whom you have
moth with you?"

his dry lips before he spoke. "Who are these gentlemen whom you have brought with you?"
"This is Mr. Harris of Bermondsey and the other is Mr. Price of this town" said our clerk, glibly. "They are friends of mine and gentlemen of experience, but they have been out of a place sone little time, and they hoped that perhaps you might find a place for them in the company's employment."

hoped that peans, place for them in the company, place for them in the company, employment."
"Yery possibly! Very possibly!" cried Mr. Pinner, with a ghastly smile. "Yes, I have no doubt that we shall be able to do something for you. What is your particular line, "Gail Holmes,"

we shall be able to do something for you. What is your particular line, Mr. Harris?"

"I am an accountant," said Holmes.
"Ah, yes; we shall want something of the sort. And you, Mr. Price?"

"A clork," said I.

"I have every hope that the company may accommodate you. I will let you know about it as soon as we come to any conclusion. And now I beg that you will go. For God's sake leave me to myself!"

These last words were shot out of him as though the constraint which he was evidently setting upon himself had suddenly and utterly burst sounder. Holmes and I glanced at each other, and Hall Pycroft took a step toward the table.

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toward the table.

"You forget, Mr. Pinner, that I am
here by appointment to receive some
directions from you," said he.

"Certainly, Mr. Pycroft, certainly,"
the other answered in a calmer tone.

"You may wait here a moment, and
there is no reason why your friends
should not wait with you. I will be
entirely at your service in three minutes, if I might trespass upon your
patience far." He rose with a very
courteous air, and, bowing to us, he
passed out through a door at the
farther end of the room, which he
closed behind him.

"What now?" whitspered Holmes.

"Is he trying to give us the slip?"

"Impossible," answered Pycroft.

"Why so?"

"That door leads into an inner
room."

"There is no exit?"

There is no exit?"

"There is no eate"
"None."
"Is it furnished?"
"Is was empty yesterday."
"Then what on earth can he be doing? There is something which I don't understand in this matter. If ever a man was three parts mad with terror, that man's name is Pinner. What can have put the shivers on him?"

What can nave put the him?"

"He susposts that we are detectives," I suggested.

"That's it," said Pyeroft.

Holmes shock his head.

"He did not turn pale. He was pale when he entered the room," said he. "It is just possible that—"

His words were interrupted by a charp rat-tat from the direction of the inner door.

sharp rat-ist from the direction or use inner door.

"What the deuce is he knocking at his own door for?" cried the clark.
Again and much louder came the rat-tat-tat. We all gazed expectantly at the closed door. Glancing at Holmes I saw his face turn rigid and he leaned froward in inteuse excite-ment. Then suddenly came a low gurgling, gargling sound and a brisk frumming upon woodwork. Holmes sprang frantically across the room and pushed at the door. It was fastened on the inner side. Following his ex-

smple we threw ourselves upon it with all our weight. One hinge enapped, then the other, and down came the door with a crash. Rushing over it we found ourselves in the inner room. It was empty.

But it was only for a moment that we were at fault. At one corner, the corner nearest the room which we had left, there was a second door. Holmes sprang to it and pulled it open. A coat and walsooat were tying on 'e floor, and from a hook behind the door, with his own braces round his neck, was hanging the managing director of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company. His knees were drawn up, his head hung at a dreadful angle to the body, and the clatter of his heels against the door made the noise which had broken in upon our conversation. In an instant I had caught him round the waist and held him up, while Holmes and Pyeroft untied the clastic bands which had disappeared between the livid creases of skin. Then we carried him into the other room, where he lay with a clay-colored face, puffing his purple lips in and out with every breath—a dreadful wreck of all that he had been but five minutes before. "What do you think of him, Watson?' asked Holmes.

I stooped over him and examined him, His pulse was feeble and intermittent, but his breathing grew longer, and there was a little shivering of his cyclids which showed a thin, white slit of ball beneath.

"It has been touch hand go with him," said I, "but he'll live now. Just open that window and hand me the water carafo." I unidd his collar, poured the cold water over his face, and raised and sank his arms until he drow a long natural breath.

"It's only a question of time now," said I, "as I turned away from him.

Holmes stood by the table with his hands deep in his trousers pockets and his chin upon his breast.

"It supose we ought to call the police in now," he said; "and yet I confess that I would like to give them a complete case when they come."

"It's a blessed mystery to me," cried Pyeroft, scratching his head.
"Whatever they wanted to bring me all the way up here fo

one conclusion."

"What do you make of them?"

"Well, the whole thing linges upon two points. The first is the making of Pycroft write a declaration by which he entered the service of this preposterous company. Do you not see how very suggestive that is?"

"I am afraid I miss the point."

"Well, why did they want him to do it? Not as a business partner, for these arrangements are usually verbal, and there was no earthly business reason why this should be an exception. Don't you see, my young friend, that they were very anxious to obtain a specimen of your handwriting, and had no other way of doing it?"

"Aut eso. Why? When we answer that we have made some progress with our little problem. Why? There can be only one adequate reason. Some one wanted to learn to imitate your writing, and had to prooure a specimen of it first. And now if we pass on to the second point we find that each throws light upon the other. That point is the request made by Pinner that you should not resign your place, but should leave the manager of this important business in the full expectation that a Mr. Hall Pyercft, when he had never seen, was about to enter the office upon the Monday morning."

"My God!" oried our client, "what a blind bestle I have been?"

"Now you see the point about the hand-writing. Suppose that some one turned up in your place who wrote a completely different hand from that in which you applied for the vacanoy, of course the game would have been up. But in the interval the regulearned to imitate you, and his position was therefore secure, as I persume that nobody in the office hand ever set you and hand hand had you that your double was at work in Mawson's office. Therefore, they gave you annagh work to do to prevent you going to London, where you also had not be his own brother?"

to be his own brother?"

"Well, that is pretty clear also. There are evidently only two of them in it. The other is personating you at the office. This one acted as your ing.ger, and then found that he could not find you an employer without admitting a third person into his plot. That he was most unvilling to do. He changed his appearance as far as he could, and trusted that the likeness, which you would not fail to observe,

vould be put down to a family resolunce. But for the happy chance

would be put down to a family resemblance. But for the happy chance of the gold stuffing your suspicious would probably have never been aroused."

Hall Pyeroft shook his clenched hands in the air. "Good Lord!" he cried. "While I have been fooled in this way, what hav this other Hall Pyeroft been doing at Vawson's? What should we do, Mr. Holmes? Tell me what to do."

"We must wire to Mawson's."

"Never mind, there may be some doorkeeper or attendant—"

"All yes; they keep a permanent guard there on account of the value of the securities that they hold. I remember hearing it talked in the sity."

"Yory good, we shall wire to him and see if all is well, and if a clerk of your name is working there. That is clear enough, but what is not so clear is why at sight of us one of the rogues should instantly walk out of the room and hang himself."

"The paper!" or one of the rogues should instantly walk out of the room head and ghastly, with reason returning in his eyes, and hands which rubbed nervously at the broad, red band which still encircled his throat.

"The paper!" or ourse!" yelled Holmes, in a paroxysm of excitement. "Idiot that I was! I thought so much of our visit that the paper never entered my head for an instant. To be sure she secret must lie there." He flattened it out upon the table, and ery of triumph burst from his lips.

"Look at this. Wateon?" he cried. It is a "London paper, an early edition of the Evening Standard. Here is what we want. Look at the headline—'Crime in, the City. Murder at Mawson & Williams? Gigantic Attempted Robbery; Capture of the Criminal." Here, Watson, we were all equally auxious to hear it, so kindly read it sloud to us."

It appears from its position in the paper to have been the one event of importance in town, and the account

Criminal.' Here, Watson, we were all equally anxious to hear it, so kindly read it aloud to us."

It appears from its position in the paper to have been the one event of importance in town, and the account of it ran this way.

"A desperate attempt at robbery, culminating in he death of one man and the capture of the criminal, occurred this afternoon in this city. For some time back Mawson & Williams, the famous financial house, have been the guardians of securities which amount in the aggregate to a sum of considerably over a million sterling. So conscious was the manager of the responsibility which devolved upon him in consequence of the great interests at stake, that safes of the very latest construction have been employed, and an armed watchman has been left day and night in the building. It appears that last week a new clerk, named Hall Pyeroft, was engaged by the firm. This person appears to have been none other than Beddington, the famous forger and cracksman, who, with his brother, has only recently emerged from a five years' spell of penals servitude. By some means, which are not yet clear, he succeeded in winning, under a false name, this official position in the office, which he utilized in order to obtain mouldings of various looks and a thorough knowledge of the position of the strong room and the safes.

"It is oustomary at Mawson's for the clerks to leave at midday on Saturday.

ledge of the position of the strong room and the safes.

"It is oustomary at Mawson's for the clerks to leave at midday on Saturday. Sergeant Tuson of the city police was somewhat surprised, therefore, to see a gentleman with a carpet bag come down the steps at 1.20. His suspicious being aroused, the sergeant followed the man, and, with the aid of Constable Pollock, succeeded, after a most desperate resistance, in arresting him. It was at once clear that a daring and gigantic robbery had been committed. Nearly £100,000 worth of American railway bonds, with a large amount of serip in other mines and companies, were discovered in the body of unfortunate watchman was the found doubled up and thrust into the largest of the safes, where it would not have been discovered until Monday morning had is not been for the prompt action of Sergeant Tuson. The man's skull had been fattered by a blow from a poker, delivered from behind.

hind.

There could be no doubt that Beddington had obtained entrance by protending that he had left something behind him, and having murdered the watchman, rapidly rifled the large safe, and then made off with his booty, His brother, who usually works with him, has not appeared in this job, so far as can at present be ascertained, although the police are making energetic inquiries as to his whereabouts."

"Well. war may says the notice.

getic inquiries as to his whereabouts."

"Well, we may save the police some little trouble in that direction," said Holmes, glancing at the haggard figure huddled up by the window. "Human nature is a strange mixture, Watson: You see that even a villain and a murderer can inspire such affections that his brother turns to suicide when he learns that his neck is forefeited. However, we have no choice as to our action. The doctor and I will remain on guard, Mr. Pyeroft, if you will have the kindness to step out for the police."

Sleeplessnessiatus to nervous axcitement. The delicately constituted, the financier, the business man, and those whose occupation necessitates great mental atrain or worry, all suffer less or more from it. Sleep is the great restorer of a worried brain, and to get also poleanse the atomach from all impurities with a few doese of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, pelatine coated, containing no mercuy, and are guaranteed to give satisfaction or the money will be refunded.

ARCHBISHOP CROKE.

scattered children of St. Patrick than scattered children of St. Patrick than those which everywhere greet the name of the Archbeslop of Gashel; it would be hard to find a prelate who has stronger claims on the esteem, affection, and gratitude of his fellow countrymen. For well nigh fifty years his life as priest and bishop has been before them; and in all those years even his enemies, if he had any, could point to nothing which would compromise his character as an frish pariot. I do not mean to say that he has never made a mistake, or been surprised into an error of judgement: Did I say so, I would deprive him of credit for what, I at least, regard as the strong points of his character. It is only the cold, calculating, wary man, the man who will take no risks even for the sake of the highest and most sacred causes, the man who lies by when storms are brewing, that can pride himself on avoiding mistakes and errors of judgement. The man of open, confiding disposition, of generous impulses, of simple, straightforward purpose, may be betrayed into mistakes; but they are more than redeemed by the good he effects, The Archbishop of Cashel has ever been to the forefront when the cause of religion or the cause of country claimed his aid, the wonder, therefore, is that in auch unselfash, active, energetic life the mistakes has been so few. He has has certainly made no mistake in the principles by which he is guided—love of the Curch, in which he holds so high and well-merited a position; love of the Gurch, in which he holds so high and well-merited a position; love of the Gurch, in which he holds so high and well-merited a position; love of the Gurch, whether a mong his exiled countrymentander the Southern Cross, or in this grand old See of Cashel, In him have his people over found a kind father, a sterling friend, a trusted guide his sympathy was never emied even to the erring and the fallen, the poor were never driven from his gate. Notiber have his compassion and active sympathy been confined to the members of his own flock, as I, and I am sure some of

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