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Before the advance we purchased thirty thousand yards of Linoleums, all of which has been passed through the customs during the last sixty days. Three thousand pairs of Curtains, all stocked within the last three months.

No Advance in Prices at Kingsmill's

The Hound of The Baskervilles

"Say, rather, into the region where we balance probabilities and choose the most likely. It is the scientific use of the imagination, but we have always some material basis on which to start our speculations. Now, you would call it a guess, no doubt, but I am almost certain that this address has been written in an hotel."

"How in the world can you say that?"

"If you examine it carefully you will see that both the pen and the ink have given the writer trouble. The pen has spluttered twice in a single word, and has run dry three times in a short address, showing that there was very little ink in the bottle. Now, a private pen or ink-bottle is seldom allowed to be in such a state, and the combination of the two must be quite rare. But you know the hotel ink and the hotel pen, where it is rare to get anything else. Yes, I have very little hesitation in saying that could we examine the waste-paper baskets of the hotels around Charing Cross until we found the remains of the mutilated Times leader we could lay our hands straight upon the person who sent this singular message. Hallo! Hallo! What's this?"

He was carefully examining the foolscap, upon which the words were pasted, holding it only an inch or two from his eyes.

"Nothing," he said, throwing it down. "It is a blank half-sheet of paper, without even a water-mark upon it. I don't know how we have drawn as much as we have from this curious letter; and now, having anything else of interest, I am glad to see you since you have come to London."

"Why, no, Mr. Holmes. I think not. You have not observed anyone follow or watch you?"

"I seem to have walked right into the thick of a dime-novel," said our visitor. "Why in thunder should anyone follow or watch me?"

"We are coming to that. You have nothing else to report to us before we go into this matter?"

"Well, it depends upon what you think worth reporting of the ordinary routine of life well worth reporting."

A Message for Pile Sufferers

FROM ONE WHO HAS BEEN CURED OF AN UNUSUALLY SEVERE CASE BY DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT.

Mrs. Geo. H. Simser, Grant, Russell County, Ontario, writes: "Eleven years ago I began to suffer from piles, and they caused keen distress and became worse. I doctored for them, but with little or no avail. They were bleeding, itching and protruding, and, oh! the torture I suffered at times can never be described. It was with suffering that the bowels moved, and as nothing brought relief I could only endure the misery with an aching heart and without hope of cure."

"Finally a lady friend told me about Dr. Chase's Ointment, curing piles, and to my surprise I felt relief at once upon using this ointment, the little tumors soon disappeared, the ulcers healed and the bowels became regular. This was five years ago and I have never been troubled with this terrible affliction since, a thousand thanks to Dr. Chase's Ointment."

"Persons who have given up looking for a cure of piles or hemorrhoids, this letter should bring new hope. There is, we believe, no more effective treatment for piles than Dr. Chase's Ointment, 60 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmanston, Bates & Co., Toronto."

foolish the incident may seem. You have lost one of your boots, you say?"

"Well, I should say, anyhow, I put them both outside my door last night, and there was only one in the morning. I could get no sense out of the chap who cleans them. The worst of it is that I only bought the pair last night in the Strand, and I have never had them on."

"If you have never worn them, why did you put them out to be cleaned?"

"They were tan boots, and had never been worn. That was why I put them out."

"Then, I understand that on your arrival in London yesterday you went out at once and bought a pair of boots?"

"I did a great deal of shopping. Dr. Mortimer went with me. You see, I must dress the part, and it may be that I have got a little careless in my ways out West. Among other things I bought these brown boots—gave six dollars for them—and had one stolen before ever I had them on my feet."

"It seems a singularly useless thing to steal," said Sherlock Holmes. "I confess that I share Dr. Mortimer's belief that it will not be long before the missing boot is found."

"And, now, gentlemen," said the baronet with decision, "it seems to me that I have spoken quite enough about the little that I know. It is time that you kept your promise and gave me an account of what we are all driving at."

"Your request is a very reasonable one," Holmes answered. "Dr. Mortimer, I think you could not do better than to tell your story as you told it to us."

"I encouraged, our scientific friend drew his papers from his pocket and presented the whole case as he had done the morning before. Sir Henry Baskerville listened with the deepest attention, and with an occasional exclamation of surprise."

"Well, I seem to have come to an inheritance with a vengeance," said he when the long narrative was finished. "Of course, I've heard of the hound ever since I was in the nursery. It's the pet story of the family, though I never thought of taking it seriously well, it all seems boiling up in my head, and I can't get it clear yet. I don't seem quite to have made up my mind whether it's a case for a policeman or a clergyman."

"Precisely," said Dr. Mortimer. "And now there's this affair of the letter to me at the hotel. I suppose that fits into its place."

"It seems to show that someone knows more than we do about what goes on upon the moor," said Dr. Mortimer.

"And also," said Holmes, "that someone is not ill-disposed towards you, since they warn you of danger."

"Or it may be that they wish, for their own purposes, to scare me away."

"Well, of course, that is possible, also. I am very much indebted to you, Dr. Mortimer, for introducing me to a problem which presents several interesting points which we now have to decide. Sir Henry, is whether it is or is not advisable for you to go to Baskerville Hall."

"Why should I not go?"

"There seems to be danger."

"Do you mean danger from this family fiend or do you mean danger from human beings?"

"Well, that is what we have to find out."

"Which ever it is, my answer is fixed. There is no devil in hell, Mr. Mortimer, and there is no man upon the moor who can prevent me from going to the home of my own people, and my fate take that to be my final answer. His dark brows knitted and his face flushed to a dusky red as he spoke. It was evident that the fiery temper of the Baskervilles was not extinct in their last representative. "Meanwhile," said he, "I have hardly had time to think over all that you have told me. It's a big thing for a man to have to understand and to decide at one sitting. I should like to have a quiet hour by myself to make up my mind."

Now, look here, Mr. Holmes. It's half-past eleven now and I am going back right away to my hotel. Suppose you and your friend, Dr. Watson, come round and lunch with us at two? I'll be able to tell you more clearly than I can by this letter strikes me."

"Is that convenient to you, Watson?"

"Perfectly."

"Then you may expect us. Shall I have a cab called?"

"I'd prefer to walk, for this affair has hurried me rather."

"I'll join you in a walk, with pleasure," said his companion.

"We'll meet again at two o'clock. Au revoir, and good-morning."

We heard the steps of our visitors descend the stair and the bang of the front door. In an instant Holmes had changed from the languid dreamer to the man of action.

"Your hat and boots, Watson, quick! Not a moment to lose!" He rushed into his room in his dressing-gown and was back again in a few seconds in a frock-coat. We hurried together down the stairs and into the street. Dr. Mortimer and Baskerville were still visible about two hundred yards ahead of us in the direction of Oxford Street.

"Shall I run on and stop them?"

"Not for the world, my dear Watson. I am perfectly satisfied with your company. If you will tolerate mine. Our friends are wise, for it is certainly a very fine morning for a walk."

He quickened his pace until we had decreased the distance which divided us by about half. Then, still keeping a hundred yards behind, we followed into Oxford Street, and so down Regent Street. Once our friends stopped before a shop window, upon which which Holmes gave a little cry of satisfaction, and, following the direction of his eager eyes, I saw that a hansom cab with a man inside which had halted on the other side of the street was now walking slowly onwards again.

"There's our man, Watson! Come along! We'll have a good look at him, if we can do no more."

At that instant I was aware of a bushy black beard and a pair of piercing eyes turned upon us through the side window of the cab. Instantly the trap-door at the top flew up, something came flying out, and the driver, and the Holmes looked eagerly round for another, but no empty one was in sight. Then he dashed in wild pursuit along the stream of the traffic, but the start was too great, and already the cab was out of sight.

"Too good," said Holmes, bitterly, as he emerged, panting and white with vexation, from the tide of vehicles. "As ever such bad luck and such bad management, too? Watson, Watson, if you are an honest man you will record this also and set it against my successes."

"Who was the man?"

"I have not an idea."

"A spy?"

"Well, it was evident from what we have heard that Baskerville had been very closely shadowed by someone since he has been in town. How else could it be known so quickly that it was the Northumberland Hotel which he had chosen? If they had followed him the first day I argued that they would follow him also the second. You may have observed that I twice stroll over to the window while Dr. Mortimer was reading his legend."

"Yes, I remember."

"I was looking out for loiterers in the street, but I saw none. We are dealing with a clever man, Watson, and mind whether it is a benevolent or a malevolent agency which is in touch with us. I am conscious always of power and design. When our friends left I at once followed them in the hopes of marking down their invisible attendant. So wily was he that he had not trusted himself on foot, but he had availed himself of a cab, so that he could loiter behind or dash past them and so escape their notice. His method had the additional advantage that if they were to take a cab he was already to follow them. It has, however, one obvious disadvantage."

"It puts him in the power of the cab-driver."

"Exactly."

"What pity we did not get the number!"

"My dear Watson, clumsy as I have been, you surely do not seriously imagine that I neglected to get the number?—274 is our man. But that is no use to us for the moment."

"I fail to see how you could have done more."

"On observing the cab I should have instantly turned and walked in the other direction. I should then at my leisure have hired a second cab and followed the first at a respectful distance, or, better still, have driven to the Northumberland Hotel and waited there. When our unknown had followed."

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ed Baskerville home we should have had the opportunity of playing his own game upon himself, and seeing where he made for. As it is, by an indiscreet eagerness, which was taken advantage of with extraordinary quickness and energy by our opponent, we have betrayed ourselves and lost our man."

We had been sauntering slowly down Regent Street during this conversation, and Dr. Mortimer, with his companion, had long since vanished in front of us.

"There is no object in our following them," said Holmes. "The shadow has departed, and will not return. We must see what further cards we have in our hands, and play them with decision. Could you swear to that man's face within the cab?"

"I could swear only to the beard."

"And so could I—from which I gather that in all probability it was a false one. A clever man upon so delicate an errand has no use for a beard save to conceal his features. Come in here, Watson."

He turned into one of the district messenger offices, where he was warmly greeted by the manager.

"Ah, Wilson, I see you have not forgotten the little case in which I had the good fortune to help you?"

"No, sir, indeed I have not. You saved my good name and perhaps my life."

"My dear fellow, you exaggerate. I have some recollection, Wilson, that you had among your boys a lad named Cartwright, who showed some ability during the investigation."

"Yes, sir, he is still with us."

"Could you ring him up?—thank you! And I should be glad to have change of this five-pound note with a lad of fourteen, with a bright, keen face, had obeyed the summons of the manager. He stood now gazing with great reverence at the famous detective."

"Let me have the Hotel Directory," said Holmes. "Thank you! Now, Cartwright, there are the names of twenty-three hotels here, all in the immediate neighborhood of Charing Cross. Do you see?"

"Yes, sir."

"You will begin in each case by giving the outside porter one shilling. Here are twenty-three shillings."

"Yes, sir."

"You will tell him that you want to see the waste paper of yesterday. You will say that an important telegram has miscarried and that you are looking for it. You understand?"

"Yes, sir."

"But what you are really looking for is the center page of the Times, with some holes cut in it with a scissors. Here is a copy of the Times. It is this page you could easily recognize it."

"Yes, sir."

"In each case the outside porter will send for the hall porter, to whom also you will give a shilling. Here are twenty-three shillings. You will then learn in possibly twenty cases out of the twenty-three that the waste of the day before has been burned or removed. In the three other cases you will be shown a heap of paper and you will look for this page of the Times among the scraps."

Let me have a report by wire at Baker Street before evening. And now, Watson, it only remains for us to find out by wire the identity of the cabman No. 274, and then we will drop into the Bond Street picture gallery until we are due at the hotel."

[To be continued.]

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Street Address

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Age (if child's or misses' pattern)

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