The Mystery of the

Yellow Fa.

HERLOCK HOLMES was a man who seldom took exercise for exercise's Few men were capable of greater muscular effort, and he was undoubtedly one of the finest boxers of his weight that I have ever seen; but he looked upon aimless bodily exertion as a waste of energy, and he seldom bestirred himself save where there was some professional object to be served. Then he was absolutely untiring and indefatigimble. That he should have kept himself in training under such circumstances is markable, but his diet was usually of the sparest and his habits were simple to the verge of austerity. Save for the occasional use of cocaine, he had no vices, and he only turned to the drug as a protest against the monotony of existence when chacs were scanty and the papers

One day in early spring he had so far relaxed as to go for a walk with me in the park, where the first faint shoots of green were breaking out upon the elms, and the sticky spear-heads of the chestnuts were just beginning to burst into their first fail. into their five-fold leaves. For two that you turn the crown towards the perhours we rambled about together in stience for the most part, as befits two men who know each other intimately It was nearly five before we were back

listened to a good many strange secrets in this room, and that we have had the good fortune to bring peace to many troubled souls. I trust that we may do as much for you. Might I beg you, as time may prove to be of importance, to "Beg pardon, sir," said our page-boy, as he opened the door. "There's been a gentleman here asking for you, sir." without further delay?"
"Gur visitor again passed his hand over
his forchead as if he found it bitterly Holmes gianced reproachfully at me. "So much for afternoon walks!" said he. "Has this gentleman gone, then " "Yes, sir."

"Didn't you ask him in?" "Yes, sir, he came in." "How long did be wait?"

"Haif an hour, sir. He was a very restless gentleman, sir, a-waikin' and astampin' all the time he was here. I was waitin' outside the door, sir, and I could bear him. At last he out into the passage, and he cries, 'Is that man never ly and lived as happily as any two that goin' to come?' Those were his very ever were joined. We have not had a words, sir. 'You'll only need to wait a difference, not one in thought or word little longer' says I. 'Then Fil wait in the open air, for I feel half choked,' mays he. 'I'll be back before long.' And with that he ups and he outs, and all could say worldn't bold him back.''

I could say wouldn't bold him back."
"Well, well, you did your best," said "Well, you did your best," said street. We are estranged, and I want to Holmes, as we walked into our room. "It's know why."

Wery annoying, though, Warson, I was "Now, there is one thing that I want to very annoying, though, Watson, I was hadly in need of a case, and this looks, from the man's impatience, as if it were of importance. Hulled that's not your loves me with her whole heart and soul. being him. A nice old brier with a good long stem of what the tobacconists call amber. I wonder how many real amber mouthpieces there are in London? Some people think that a fly in it is a sign. people think that a fly in it is a sign.

"Kindly let me have the facts, Mr.
Well, he must have been disturbed in his Munro," said Holmes with some impamind to leave a pipe behind him which; tience

he evidently values highly." "How do you know that he values it

"Weil, I should put the original cost of the pipe at seven and sixpence. Now it has, you see, been twice mended, once the married this Hebrun, who was a law-In the wooden stem and once in the amber. Each of these mends, done, as you observe, with silver bands, must have cost more than the pipe did originally. The man must value the pipe highly when he prefers to patch it up rather than buy a new one with the same money."

she married this Hebron, who was a law-yer with a good practice. They had one child, but the yellow fever broke out bad-ly in the place and both husband and child died of it. I have seen his death certificate. This siekened her of America and she came back to live with a maiden and the came back to live with a maiden than buy a new one with the same

"Anything else?" I asked for Holmes was turning the pipe about in his hand, and staring at it in his peculiar, pensive

way.

He held it up and tapped on it with his long, thin forefinger, as a professor might who was lecturing on a hone.

"Pipes are occasionally of extraordinary interest," said he. "Nothing has more individuality, wave perhaps watches and boothages." nd bootlaces. The indications here, owever, are neither very marked nor ery important. The owner is obviously scular man, left-handed, with an exent set of teeth, careless in his habits, with no need to practice economy." My friend threw out the information to very off-hand way, but I saw that he ked his eye at me to see if I had owed his reasoning.

"You think a man must be well-to-do he smokes a seven-shilling pipe." said

"This is Grosvenor mixture at eight-ence an ounce," Hoimes answered. ocking a little out on his palm. "Az might get an excellent smoke for half price, he has no need to practice

"And the other points?"
"He has been in the habit of lighting pipe at lamps and gas-jets. You can that it is quite charred all down one c. Of course a match could not have be that. Why should a man hold a atch to the side of his pape? But you must light it at a lamp without getting a bowl charred. And it is all on the ht side of the pipe. From that I thered that he is a left-handed man. on hold your own pipe to the lamp, and e how naturally you, being right-inded, hold the left side to the flame. might do it once the other way, as a constancy. This has alwhys held so. Then he has bitten ugh his amber. It takes a muscular, ergetic fellow, and one with a good t of teeth, to do that. But if I am not staken I bear him upon the stair, so

know.

shall have the money,' said L

SHERIOCK HOLMES.

something unnatural and inhuman about the face. That was the impression that I had, and I moved quickly forward to get a nearer view of the person who was watching me. But as I did so the face suddenly disappeared, so suddenly that it seemed to have been plucked away into the darkness of the room. I stood for five minutes thinking the business over and trying to analyze my impressions. I could not tell if the face were that of a man or a woman. It had been too far from me for that. But its color was

seen before. It's horrible to have to do it. But I've got to the end of my tether,

"My dear Mr. Grant Manro," began

Our visitor sprang from his chair.

son whom you are addressing. I was about to say that my friend and I have

furnish me with the facts of your case

hard. From every gesture and expres-sion I could see that he was a reserved

self-contained man, with a dash of pride

in his mature, more likely to hide his wounds than to expose them. Then suddenly, with a fierce gesture of his closed hand, like one who throws reserve to the whole, he began.

"The facts are these, Mr. Holmes," said

he. "I am a married man and have been so for three years. During that time my

impress upon you before I go any further, Mr. Holmes. Effic loves me. Don't

cret between us, and we can never be the same until it is cleared."

"Til tell you what I know about Effice history. She was a widow when I met her first, though quite young-only S.

Her name then was Mrs. Hebron. She

fortably off and that she had a capital of about £4500, which had been so well in-vested by him that it returned an average of 7 per cent. She had only been six months at Pinner when I met her; we fell in love with each other, and we mar-

"I am a hop merchant myself, and as I have an income of £700 or £800, we found ourselves comfortably off and took nice £50-a-year villa at Norbury. Our lit

tie place was very countrified, considering

ried a few weeks afterward.

and I must have advice.

from me for that. But its color was me that she was saying what was false, what had impressed me most. It was of I said nothing in reply, but turned my a fivid chalky white, and with something face to the wall, sick at heart, with set and rigid about it which was shockingly unnatural. So disturbed was I that
I determined to see a little more of the
new inmates of the cottage. I approached
and knocked at the door, which was ininstanty opened by a tall, gaunt woman
with a hareh, forbidding face.
"What may you be wantin'? she asked.

"What may you be wantin'? she asked.

"What may you be wantin'? she asked.

"Where is to the wall, sick at heart, with
my mind filled with a thousand venomous doubts and suspicions. What was it
that my wife was concessing from me?
Where had she been during that
strange expedition? I feit that I should
have no peace until I knew, and yet I
shratik from asking her again after
"Where is your mistress?" I asked. instanty opened by a tail, generally should be should be

"For two days after this I stayed at home, and my wife appeared to abide loy-ally by our engagement, for, as far as I know, she never stirred out of the hodse. On the third day, however, I had ample evidence that her solemn promise was not enough to hold her back from this secret influence which drew her away from her husband and her duty.

"I think that she has gone out for a-walk, she answered.
"My mind was instantly filled with susin a Northern accent.

"I am your neighbor over yonder." said I, nodding towards my house. I see that you have only just moved in, so I thought that if I could be of any help to you in any—"I should have gone to the city that help to you in any—"I should have gone to the city that "I should have gone to the city that day, but I was too disturbed in my mind you in any—"I should have gone to the city that day, but I was too disturbed in my mind to be able to pay attention to business matters. My wife seemed to be as upset as myself, and I could see from the little access the field in the direction of the questioning glances which she kept shooting at me that she understood that I disbelleved her statement, and that she was cover there, and had asked the servant to call her if I should return. Tinging with to the apparition at the window and the

and to have a strange rigidity about the features. When I approached, it van-ished with a jerk." "How long is it since your wife asked you for a hundred pounds?"
"Nearly two months."

"Have you ever seen a photograph of her first husband?" "No; there was a great fire at Atlanta

very shortly after his death, and all her papers were destroyed."

"And yet she had a certificate of death." You say that you saw it."

'Yes; she got a duplicate after the "Did you ever meet any one who knew

"Did she ever talk of revisiting the

"Did she ever talk of revisiting the place?"
"No."
"Or get letters from it?"
"No."
"Thank you. I should like to think over the matter a little now. If the cottage is now permanently deserted we may have some difficulty. If, on the other hand, as I fancy is more likely, the inmattes were warned of your coming, and left before you entered yesterday, then they may be back now, and we should clear it all up easily. Let me advise you, then, to return to Norbury and to examine the windows of the cottage again. If you have reason to believe that it is inhabited, do not force the state of the state of the state of the state. Grant Munro rushed into the lighted room at the sop, and we entered at his heels.

It was a cosey, well-furnished apartment, with two candles burning upon

"It had all ugly sound," I answered.
"Yes. There's blackmail in it, or I am much mistaken."

"And who is the blackmafler?" "Well, it must be the creature who lives in the only comfortable room in the place, and has her photograph above his fireplace. Upon my word, Watson, there is something very attractive about that livid face at the window, and I would not have missed the case for worlds."

Staring with hand clutching his throat. "My God!" he cried. "What can be the meaning of this?".

"I will tell you the meaning of it," cried the lady, sweeping into the room with a proud, set face. "You have forced me, against my own independ to the

"Why do you think so?"
"How else can we explain her frenzied anxiety that her second one should not enter it? The facts, as I read them, are something like this: This teiligent-look woman was married in America. Her thusband developed some hateful qualican descent ties; or shall we say that he contract-ed some loathsome disease, and became a leper or an imbecife? She flies from him at last, returns to England, changes her name, and starts her life, as she thinks, afresh. She has been abouts is discovered by her first hus-band; or, we may suppose, by some un-scrupulous woman who has attached herself to the invalid. They write to the wife, and then threaten to come and expose her. She asks for a hundred pounds, and endeavors to buy them off. They come in spite of it, and when the husband mentions casually to the wife that there are newcomers in the cottage, she knows chance threw you in my way, Jack, and casually to the wife that there are newcomers in the cottage, she knows in some way that they are her pursuers. She waits until her husband is asleep, and then she rushes down to endeavor to persuade them to leave her in peace. Having no success, she goes again next morning, and her husband meets her, as he has told us as she comes out. She promises him then had to go there again, but two days afterwards the hope of getting rid of those dreadful neighbors was too strong for her, and she made an other attempt, taking with her the photograph which had probably been demanded from her. In the midst of those the hope of getting the totte of the course to see the child once attorned to have the ability over. If it were but for a few weeks it sent £100 to the nurse, and I gave her instructions about this cottage, so that she might come as a neighbor, without my appearing to be in any way connected with her. I pushed my precautions so far as to order her to keep the on which the wife, knowing that he would come straight down to the cottage, hurried the inmates out at the back door, into the grove of fir trees, probably, which was mentioned as standing near. In this way he found the place deserted. I shall be very much surprised, however, if it is still so when he reconnoiters this even-ing. What do you think of my theory?"

It was you who told me first that the cottage was occupied. I should have waited for the morning, but I could not sleep

beside us. A yellow har falling across the black foreground showed that the door was not quite closed, and one window in the upper story was brightly illuminat-As we looked we saw a dark blur

moving across the blind.
"There is that creature!" cried Grant Munro. "You can see for yourselves that some one is there. Now follow me, and we shall soon know all."

We approached the door; but suddenly a woman appeared out of the shadow and stood in the golden track of the lamplight. I could not see her face in the dark-ness, but her arms were thrown out in an attitude of entreaty.

"For God's sake, don't, Jack," she cried.
"I had a presentiment that you would come this evening. Think better of it.

to examine the windows of the cottage again. If you have reason to believe that it is inhiabited, do not force your way in, but send a wire to my friend and me. We shall be with you within an hour of receiving it, and we shall then very soon get to the bottom of the business."

"And if it is still empty."

"In that case I shall come out tomorrow and talk it over with you. Good-bye; and, above all, do not fret until you know you really have a cause for it."

"I am afraid that this is a bad business, Watson," said my companion, as he returned after accompanying Mr. Grant Munro to the door, "What do you make of it?"

"It had an ugly sound," I answered.

"Yes. There's blackmail in it, or I am much mistaken." in amosement at our amazed faces burst out laughing, out of sympathy with her merriment; but Grant Munro stood

"You have a theory?"

"Yes, a provisional one. But I shall be surprised if it does not turn out to be correct. This woman's first husband is in the country of the country

bosom, "You have never seen this open." "I understood that it did not open. She touched a spring, and the fr read of a man strikingly handsome and in-telligent-looking, but bearing unmistak-Her able signs upon his features of his

"That is John Hebron, of Atlanta," said the lady "and a nobler man never walked the earth. I cut myself off from my race in order to wed him, but never once while he lived did I for an instant regret it. It was our misfortune that our married three years, and believes that only child took after his meanle rather her position is quite secure, having than mine. It is often so in such matches, shown her husband the death certificant little Lucy is darker far than over shown her husband the death certifi-cate of some man whose name she has her father was. But dark or fair she is assumed, when auddenly her where-abouts is discovered by her first hus-mother's pet." The little creature can had come home, tions so far as to order her to keep the

"It was you who told me first that the cottage was occupied. I should have wait-ed for the morning, but I could not sleep "It is all surmise."

"But at least it covers all the facts. When new facts come to our knowledge which cannot be covered by it, it will be time enough to reconsider it. We can do nothing more until we have a message from our friend at Norbury."

cottage was occupied. I should have waited for the morning, but I could not sleep for excitement, and so at last I slipped out, knowing how difficult it is to awaken you. But you saw me go, and that was the beginning of my troubles. Next day nobly refrained from pursuing your advantage. Three days later, however, the

New York Evening Post. A curious "find" was made by a local There are the lights of my house," he by his company just before the Civil War old agent he was shown a policy issued on a coastwise cargo of negro slaves. And the company, then as now, had its bended a corner in the lane as he quarters in New England, the stronghold

Is the joy of the household, for without it no happiness can be complete. How sweet the picture of mother and babe. angels smile at and commend the thoughts and aspirations of the mother bending over the cradle. The ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass, however, is so full of danger and suffering that she looks forward to the hour when she shall

feel the exquisite thrill of motherhood with indescribable dread and fear. Every woman should know that the danger, pain and horror of child-birth can be entirely avoided by the use of Mother's Friend. a scientific liniment for external use only, which toughens and renders



ness affairs went wrong. However, she excitement produced by my little ad-would have it so, and it was done. Well, venture or not I know not, but I slept about six weeks ago she came to me.

"Jack," said she, "when you took my money you said that if ever I wanted any I was to ask you for it."

"Certainly," said I. "It's all your own."

"Well," said she, "I want a hundred pounds."

"I was a bit staggered at this, for I some allowed a surveys of surveys or re-"I was a bit staggered at this, for I had imagined it was simply a new dress or something of the kind that she was after.

"What on earth for I asked.

"What on earth for I asked.

"Oh, said she in her playful way. "'What on earth for? I asked.

"'Oh,' said she, in her playful way, beld me Jumb. She wore an capy you said that you were only my banker, such as I had never seen before—such as I should have thought her incapable as I should have thought pale and of assuming. She was deadly pale and breathing fast, glancing furtively towards the bed as sne fastened her

the place was very countrined, considering that it is so close to town. We had an run and two houses a little above us, and two houses a little above us, and two houses at the other side of this had with faces us, and except those there were no houses until you got half way to the station. My business took me into town at certain seasons, but in high think them. In the cottage was now thich had been produced upon myself and there never was a shadow between the high cottage is still the high think the matter out as the product of the product

Holmes, when the door suddenly opened and my wife walked out.

"I was struck damb with astonishment at the sight of her; but my emotions were no time to those which showed themselves upon her face when our eyes met. She seeme for an into the other room, but it seemed for an instant to wish to shrink back inside the house again, and then, seeing how useless all concealment must be, she came forward, with a very white face and frightened eyes which belied the smile upon her lips.

"Ah, Jack' she said. T have just been into see if I can be of any assistance to our new neighbors. Why do you look at me like that, Jack? You are not angry with me?"

"So, said I, 'this is where you went during the night."

"So, said I, 'this is where you went during the night."

"Thave not been here before."

"What do you mean?" she cried.

"You came here. I am sure of it. Who are these people, that you should viset them at such an hour?"

"Thave not been here before."

"How can you tell me what you know had a secret from you? I shall enter that countey, and I shall probe the matter that countey, and I shall enter that countey, and I shall probe the matter that countey, and I shall enter that countey and a large black eat they colled up in a basket; but there was at they called up in a basket; but there was at they called up in a basket; but there was at the was every pale, and quivering with mer and policines was a disconcalment must lay called up in a basket; but there was not need to the woman whom I had seem the themselves. They are still there. Mr. Holmes, and then, till the was the was every pale, and quivering with a let was every after in the was down. We shall be contained the window house. The counter of the stairs, only to find two other rooms and two was equally deserted. Ther I rushed up the was equally deserted. There I rushed up the was equally deserted. There I rushed up the was equally deserted. There I rushed up the let the was every after the was down. With sping had had bard upon my and then, till the lattito. "I am

Who are these people, that you should visit them at such an a hour?

"I have not been here before."

"How can you tell me what you know is false." I cried. 'Your very voice changes as you speak. When have I ever had a secret from you? I shall enter that cottage, and I shall probe the unitar to the bottom.'

Then I left it feeling a weight at my hear such as I had nover had before. My wife came out into the hall as I entered my house; but I was too hurt and angry to speak with her, and, pushing past her, I made my way into my study. She followed me, however, before I could close the door.

"I am sorry that I boke my promise to the bottom."

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