The Mystery of the Stockbroker's Clerk

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HORTLY after my marriage I had bought a connection in the Padfrom whom I purchased it had at one time an excellent general practice: but his age, and an affliction of the nature of St. Vitus' dance from which he suffered, had very much thinned it. The public not unnaturally goes on the principle that he who would heal others must himself be whole, and looks askance at the curative powers of the man so own case is beyond the reach of his drugs. Thus as my predecessor weak ened his practice declined, until when I purchased it from him it had sunk from 1200 to little more than 300 a year. I had confidence, however, in my own youth and energy, and was convinced that in a week rise, and the duties just about the a very few years the concern would be

For three months after taking over the ractice I was kept very closely at work, and saw little of my friend Sherlock on a saw little of my friend Sherlock on a saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the same saw little of my friend Sherlock on the saw little of my For three months after taking over the practice I was kept very closely at work, Holmes, for I was too busy to visit Baker street, and he seldom went anywhere draself save upon professional business. I was surprised, therefore, when, one morning in June, as I sat reading the "British Medical Journal," after breakfast, I heard a ring at the bell, followed by the high, somewhat strident tones of my old companion's voice.

"Ah, my dear Watson," said he striding into the room, "am very delighted to see you! I trust that Mrs. Watson has entirely recovered from all the little excitement connected with our adventure of the Sign of the Four."
"Thank you, we are both well." said I,

shaking him warmly by the hand, "And I hope, also," he continued, sit-ting down in the rocking-chair, "that the cares of medical practice have not entire-ly obliterated the interest which you ed to take in our little deductive prob-

"On the contrary," I answered, "It was only last night that I was looking over my old notes, and classifying some of

trust you don't consider your col-"Not at all. I should wish nothing better than to have some more of such experiences."

"Today, for example?"
"Yes, today, if you like."
"And as far off as Birmingham?"
"Certainly, if you wish, it."

And the practice?" "I do my neighbor's when he goes. He is always ready to work off a debt." "Ha! nothing could be better," said Holmes, leaning back in his chair and looking keenly at me from under his half-

closed lids. "I perceive that you have been unwell lately. Summer colds are always a little trying." • "Seven to seven-and-six." "Wonderfull" he cried, with his hands up. "This quite fits in with all that I had vere chill for three days last week. I thought, however, that I had cast off every trace of it."

"So you have. You look remarkably you can think "Well." said I "others" you can think "Well." said I "others" closed lids. "I perceive that you have been unwell lately. Summer colds are

you have. You look remarkably "How, then, did you know of H?" "My dear fellow, you know my

four slippers are new," he said. "You could not have had them more than a few weeks. The soles which you are at this moment presenting to me are slightly searched. For a moment I thought they might have got wet and been burned in the drying. But near the instep there is a small circular wafer of paper with the

"I am afraid that I rather give myself away when I explain," said he. "Results without causes are much more impres-sive. You are ready to come to Bir-

you come at once?"
"In an instant." I scribbled a note to

my neighbor, rushed upstairs to explain the matter to my wife, and joined Holmes on the doorstep.

Your neighbor is a doctor," said he, my word for it that this will come to nodding at the brass plate.

"Yes; he bought a practice as I did."
"An old-established one"
"Just the same as mine. Both have een here ever since the houses were ures."

both."

"Ah! then you got hold of the best of the two."

"I think I did. But how do you know?"

"By the steps, my boy. Yours are worn three inches deeper than his. But this gentleman in the cab is my client, Mr. Hall Pycroft. Allow me to introduce you to him. Whip your horse up cable."

"And smart smart" he cated in a cable.

"And smart smart" he cated in a cable."

in the man whom I found myself facing was a well-built, fresh-complexioned young fellow, with a frank, honest face and a slight, crisp, yellow mustache. He wore a very shiny top hat and a near suit of sober black, which made him look what he was—a smart young city man, what he was—a smart young city man, what he was—a smart young city man.

"Ah, smart, smart:

"Tou are the very man for us. You are not to be talked over, and quite right, too.

Now, here's a note for a hundred pounds, and if you think we can do beniuses you may just slip H into your sulvey of said L

"We have not got our name up yet, for we only secured those temporary premises last week. Goine up with me, and we will talk the matter over."

I followed him to the top of a very loft; stair, and there, right under the slates, were a couple of empty, dusty uncarpented and uncurtained, which of regiments, and who turn out more fine athletes and sportsmen than any body of men in these islands. His round, ruddy face was naturally full of cheeriness, but the corners of his month seemed to me to be pulled down in a half-comical distress. It was not however much It was not, however, until were all in a first-class carriage and well

started upon our journey to Birmingham that I was able to learn what the trouble was which had driven him to Sherlock Holmes. "We have a clear run here of 50 minnies." Holmes remarked. "I want your deserts. There are one or two small things—mere formalities—which I must arrange with you. You have a bit of paper beside you there. Kindly write upon it "I am perfectly willing to act as husiness manager to the surgession of events again. It is a precision upon my brother Arthur," said L. "Not at all, my boy. You have only said my new acquaintance, seeing the length of my face. "Rome was not built in a day, and we have lots of money at which I must arrange with you. You have a bit of paper beside you there. Kindly write upon it "I am perfectly willing to act as husiness manager to the France-Midland Hardware Company. Limited, at a minimum salary of pression upon my brother Arthur," said L. "Not at all, my boy. You have only said my new acquaintance, seeing the length of my face. "Rome was not built in a day, and we have lots of upon the dash yet in offices. Pray sit down and let me have your letter."

I gave it to him, and he read it over very carefully.

"You seem to have made a vast impression upon my brother Arthur," said L. "Not at all, my boy. You have only said my new acquaintance, seeing the length of my face. "Rome was not built in a day, and we have lots of upon the dash yet in offices. Pray sit down and let me have your letter."

I gave it to him, and he read it over very carefully.

"You seem to have made a vast impression upon my brother Arthur," said L. "Don't be disheartened, Mr. Pycroft," baid and the care of the pression will be all right." have told it to me, or with more detail is possible. It will be of use to me to hear the succession of events again. It is a case, Watson, which may prove to have something in it, or may prove to have nothing, but which at least, presents those unusual and outre features which are as dear to you as they are to me. Now, Mr. Pycroft. I shall not interrupt you again.

Our young companion looked at me with a twinkle in his eye.

I had forgotten all about Mawson's in my joy. "I'll write and resign," said he what is a pretty consider yourself definitely engaged."

What do you intend to do about Mawson's in my joy. "I'll write and resign," said he will pour a flood in Paris, which will pour a flood to bad a row over you with Mawson's the pression upon my brother Arthur.

"You seem to pression upon my brother Arthur.

"There is one other detail," said he. "What do you intend to do about Mawson's in my joy. "I'll write and resign," said l.

"Precisely what I don't want you to ask the pression upon my brother Arthur.

"There is one other detail," said he. "What do you know; and I by Birmingham; but this time I shall follow his advice. Pray of the story is, said he, that I.

"You will eventually manage the great depot in Paris, which will pour a flood of English crockery into the shops of a hundred and thirty-four agents in Prance, the pression upon my brother Arthur.

"Tou seem "You seem "You seem to be; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che; "and I know that he is a pretty che;

price than your big one,' said he. house's, of Draper's Gardens, but they were let in early in the Spring through the Venezueian loan, as no doubt you remember, and came a nasty cropper. I had been with them five years, and old Coxon gave me a ripping good testimoniat when the smash came, but of course we clerks were all turned adrift, the 27 of us. I tried bere and tried there, but there were lots of other chaps on the same lay find the company a good master."

Sellers, with their addresses. It would be of the greatest use to me to have them."

Surely there are classified lists." I suggested.

"Not reliable ones. Their system is different from ours. Stick at it, and let me have the lists by Monday, at 12. Good-day, Mr. Pycroft. If you continue to show zeal and intelligence you will find the company a good master." were lots of other chaps on the same lay as myself, and it was a perfect frost for a long time. I had been taking three pounds a week at Coxon's, and I had saved about 70 of them, but I soon worked my way through that and out at the other end. I was definitely engaged and had a hundred pounds in my pocket; on the was fairly at the end of my tether at last, and could hardly find the stamps to another the advertisements or the envelopes points which would strike a hungest

London. The advertisement was to be answered by letter only. I sent in any testimonial and application, but without the least hope of getting it. Back came an answer by return, saying that if I would appear next Monday I might take over my new duties at once, provided that the task. This list will be of very many angular states.

ame as at Coxon's.

And now I come to the queer part of the

pointment, when up came my landlady with a card which had "Arthur Pinner. Financial Agent," printed upon it. I had

never heard the name before and could not imagine what he wanted with me; but, of course, I asked her to show him

up. In he walked, a middle-sized, dark-haired, dark-eyed, black-bearded man, with a touch of the Hebrew about his

nose. He had a brisk kind of way with

"Mr. Hall Pycroft, I believe?" said be.

"Yes, sir," I answered, pushing a chatr towards him.

"Lately engaged at Coxon & Wood-

"Quite so,"
"Well," said he, "the fact is that I have

heard some really extraordinary stories about your financial ability. You remem-ber Parker, who used to be Coxon's man-

ager? He can never say enough about it.
Of course I was pleased to hear this. I
had always been pretty sharp in the of-

fice, but I had never dreamed that I was talked about in the city in this fashion "You have a good memory?" said he. "Pretty fair," I answered modestly.

"Have you kept in touch with the mar-

"Yes. I read the stock exchange list every morning."
"Now that shows real application!" he cried. "That is the way to prosper? You won't mind my testing you, will you? Let me see. How are Ayrshires?"

"A hundred and six and a quarter to a hundred and five and seven-eighths." "And New Zealand Consolidated?"

you can think. "Well," said I, "other people don't think quite so much of me as you seem to do, Mr. Pinner. I had a

and joins the board after allotment

hundred to start with."
"Five hundred a year." I shouted.
"Only that at the beginning; but
you are to have an overriding commisslon of one per cent on all business.

"But I know nothing about hard-

"Tut, my boy; you know about fig-

more than your salary."

"A hundred and four."
"And British Broken Hills?"

you can think.

"Yes, sir."
"And now on the staff of Mawson?"

him and spoke sharply, like a man knew the value of time.

ouse's, of Draper's Gardens, but they sellers, with their addresses. It would be

and could hardly find the stamps to answer the advertisements or the envelopes to stick them to. I had worn out my boots paddling up office stairs and I seemed just as far from getting a billet as ever.

At last I saw a vacancy at Mawson & Williams', the great stock-broking firm in Lombard street. I dare say E. C. is not much in your line, but I can tell you that this is about the richest house in London. The advertisement was to be day, and then come again. On Wednes-

over my new duties at once, provided that the manager set of the task. This list will be of very making sare worked. Some the task. This list will be of very making people say that the manager sust plunges his hand into the heap and takes the first. "And now," said he, "I want you to ticular line, Mr. Harris?"

"Til lay you a fiver," said I, "that you, and mark off all the hardware- and we entered a bare, unfurnished room such as Hall Pycroft 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 some.
thing 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 eyes were wild and
staring. He looked at his clerk as though he falled to recognize him, and I could see by the astonishment depicted upon our conductor's face that this was by no

'Yes, I am not very well," answered the

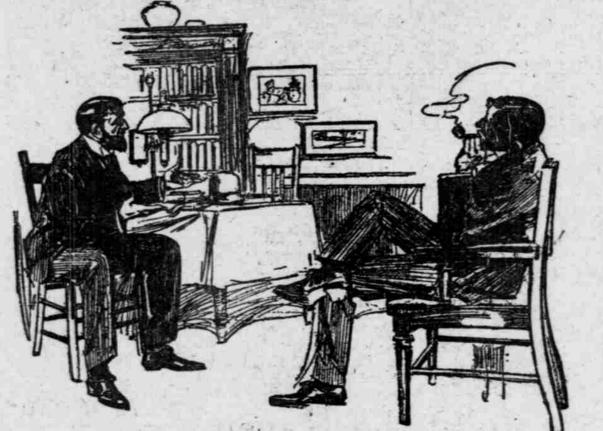
mine and gentlemen of experience, but they have been out of a place for some

What is your par-

"You look ill, Mr. Pinner!" he ex-

other, making obvious efforts to pull himself together, and licking his dry lips be-fore he spoke. "Who are these spatie-men who you have brought with you!"
"One is Mr. Harris, of Bermondsey, and the other is Mr. Price, of this town," said our clerk, gibly, "They are friends of

little time, and they hoped that perhaps you might find an opening for them in the company's employment."
"Very 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 party.



"MY BOY, MY BOY, YOU ARE MUCH TOO GOOD TO BE A CLERK AT MAWSON'S."

the gutter, and he won't leave us sliy. Those were his very words.
"The impudent scoundrel:" I cried.
The impudent scoundrel: I cried.
The impudent scoundrel: I cried.

and I saw with a thrill that his and I saw the left-hand side he

"On Monday."

"Ha, ha! I think I would risk a little sporting flutter that you don't go there at all."

"Not go to Mawson's?"

"No, sir. By that day you will be the business manager of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, with 134 branches in the towns and villages of France, not counting one in Brussels and for the first country of the address, 126b. had, then, been sitting with your feet constructed to the fire, which a man would hardly do even in so wet a June as this if he were in his full health."

Take all Holmes' reasoning the second of th

all the fortunes that you deserve!"
That's just about all that passed beas this if he were in his full health."

Lake all Heimes' reasoning the thing seemed simplicity itself when it was once explained. He read the thought upon my features, and his smile had a tinge of hitterness.

"Very likely not. It has been kept very quiet, for the capital was all privately subscribed, and it's too good a thing to let the public into. My brother, Harry Pinner, is promoter; bit of good fortune. I sat up half the You can imagine, Dr. Watson, how pleased I was at such an extraordinary bit of good fortune. I sat up half the and joins the board after allotment as managing director. He knew I was in the swim down here, and asked me to nick up a good was a sked me that would take me in plenty of time sway when I explain," said he. "Results without causes are much more impressive. You are ready to come to Birmingham, then?"

"Cortainly. What is the case?"

"You shall hear it all in the train. My client is outside in a four-wheeler. Can be supported to a start with."

"Five hundred a year." I shouted.

"The swim down here, and asked me in pienty of that would take me in pienty of the pient

make no difference. 126b was a pasage between two large shops, which led to a winding stone stair, from which there were many flats, let as offices to com-panies or professional men. The names of the occupants were painted at the bottom on the wall, but there was no such name as the Franco-Mid-land Hardware Company, Limited. I stood for a few minutes with my heart in my boots, wondering whether the whole thing was an elaborate hoax or not, when up came a man and addressed me. He was very like the chap I had seen the night before, the same figure and voice, but he was clean-shaven and his hair was lighter.
"Are you Mr. Hall Pycroft?" be asked.
"Yes," said I.
"Oh! I was expect."

slates, were a couple of empty, dusty little rooms, uncarpented and uncurtained, into which he led me. I had thought of

pocket here which you will take to my brother. You will find him at 126b my brother. You will find him at 12

"My dear fellow, you know my methods."
"You deduced it, then?"
"Certainly."
"And from what?"
"From your slippers."
I glanced down at the new patent-leathers which I was wearing. "How on carth—"I began, but Holmes answered my question before it was asked.
"Your slippers are new," he said. "You monday."
"You slippers are new," he said. "You make this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard a hard fight to get this berth, and I am thing that comes Anyhow, it was my inhard and I am things that time, and I don't ever wish to feel better pleased. The pay was a pound when he has my offer you'll never so much as you c tooth upon the left-hand side had been very hadly stuffed with gold. Sherlock Holmes rubbed his hands with

delight, and I stared with astonishment

You may well look surprised, Dr. Watson; but it is this way." said he: "When I was speaking to the other chap in London, at the time that he laughed &: my not going to Mawson's, I happened to notice that his tooth was stuffed in this very identical fashion. The glint of the very identical fashion. The glint of the gold in each case caught my eye, you see. When I put that with the voice and figure being the same, and only those things altered which might be changed by a ranger or a wig, I could not doubt that it was the same man. Of course you expect two brothers to be alike, but not that they should have the same tooth stuffed in the same way, He bowed me out, and I found myself in the street, hardly knowing whether I was on my head or my heels. Back I went to my hotel, put my head in a basin of cold water, and tried to think it out. Why had he sent me from London it out. Why had he sent me from London to Hirmingham? Why had he got there before me? And why had he written a letter from himself to himself? It was altogether too much for me, and I could make no sense of it. And then suddenly it struck me that what was dark to me might be very light to Mr. Sherlock Holmes. I had just time to get up to town by the night train to see him this morning, and to bring you both back with me to Birmare the second Birmingham.

There was a pause after the stock-broker's clerk had concluded his surpris-ing experience. Then Sherlock Holmes cked his eye at me leaning back on the ighions with a pleased and yet critical ace. Hise a comnoisseur who has just taken his first sip of a comet vintage.

"Rather fine, Watson, is it not?" said
he. "There are points in it which please

he. "There are points in it which please me. I think that you will agree with me that an interview with Mr. A thur Harry Pinner in the temperary offices of the Franco-Midland. Hardware Company Limited, would be a rather interesting experience for both of us."

"But how can we do it?" I asked.

"Oh. easily enough," said Hall Pycroft, cheerily. "You are two friends of mine who are in want of a billet, and what could be more natural than I should

could be more natural than I should bring you both round to the managing director?"

'Quite so, of course," said Holmes, should like to have a look at the gentle-man, and see if I can make anything of

At 7 o'clock that evening we were the walking, the three of us, down Corporation street to the company's offices

dressed man who was bustling along the other side of the road. As we watched him he looked across at a boy who was bawling out the latest edition of the evening paper, and running over among the cabs and busses, he bought one from him. Then, clutching it in his hand, he vanished through a doorway.

What do you think of him, Watson's asked Holmes.

I stood over him and examined him. His pulse was feeble and intermittent, but his breathing grew longer, and there was a little shivering of the eye-vanished through a doorway.

"I am an accountant," said Holmes "Ah, yes, we shall want some that sort. And you, Mr. Price?" "A clerk," said L

"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!"
"You forget, Mr. Pinner, that I am here said he.

"Certainly, Mr. Pycroft, certainly," the other resumed 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 so 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 there on account of the value of the securities that they hold. I remember hearing it talked of in the city."

"Very 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 name is working there. That is clear enough; but what is not so clear is why val Ensigns. ther end of the room, which he closed behind him.

"What now?" whispered Holmes, "Is

e giving us the slip?"
"Impossible," answered Pycroft.
"Why so?"

"That door leads into an inner room."
"There is no exit?"

"Is it furnished?"

"It was empty yesterday." "Then what on earth can be 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?" "He suspects that we are detectives," I

That's it," cried Pycroft.

Holmes shook his head. "He did not turn pale. He was pale when we en-tered the room," said he, "It was just possible that..." His words were interrupted by a

sharp rat-tat from the direction of the

inner door. "What the deuce is he knocking at his own door for?" cried the clerk, 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 forward in intense excitement. Then suddenly came a low gurgling, gargling sound, and a brisk drumming upon

wood-work. Holmes sprang franticalacross the room and pushed at the side. Following his example, we threw ourselves upon it with all our weight One hinge snapped, then the other, and down came the door with a crash. Rushing ever 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 nearest the room which we had left, there was a second door. Holmes sprang to it and man, and see if I can make anything of his little game. What qualities have you, my friend, which would make your services so valuable? or is it possible that—" braces round his neck, was hanging the began biting his nails and staring blankly out of the window, and we hardly drew another word from him until we were in New street.

At I o'clock that evening we were the clatter of his heels against the door. pulled it open. A coat and waistcoat were lying on the floor, and from a hook behind the door, with his own hock behind the door, with his own braces round his neck, was hanging the managing director of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company. His the clatter of his heels against the door made the noise which had broken in "It is no use our being at all before our time," said our client. "He only comes there to see me, apparently, for the pface is deserted up to the very bour he names." "That is suggestive," remarked Holmes.
"By Jove, I told you so!" cried the clerk. "That's he walking shead of us there."

He pointed to a smallish, dark, well-dressed man who was hustling along the minutes before.

and sank his arms until he drew a long. at sight of us one of the rogues should "It's only a question natural breath. of time now," said I, as I turned away

his chin upon his breast.
"I suppose we ought to call the police in now," said he. "And yet I confess that I'd like to give them a complete case when they come." "It's a blessed mystery to me," cried Pycroft, scratching his head. "What-

ever they wanted to bring me all the way up here for, and then-"Pooh! All that is clear enough." said Holmes, impatiently.

"You understand the rest, then?"
"I think that it is fairly obvious. What do you say, Watson " I shrugged my shoulders. "I must confess that I am out of my depths,"

sald I. "Oh, surely, if you consider the events at first they can only point to

"What do you make of them? "Well, the whole thing hinges 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?"

very suggestive that is?"
"I am afraid I miss the point." "Well, why did they want him to do it? Not as a business matter, for these arrangements are usually verbal, and there was no earthly reason way this should be an exception. Don't you see,

doing it?" "And why?"

"Quite so, 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 procure a specimenof 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 Proposit whom he seems what surprised therefore to see a second point we find that a Mr. Hall Proposit whom he tion that a Mr. Hall Pycroft, whom he had never seen, was about to enter the gentleman with a carpet-bag come down office upon the Monday morning." the steps at 1:20. His suspicions being office upon the Monday morning." "My God" cried our client, "wi

blind beetle I have been!" handwriting. Suppose that some one ance, in arresting him. It was at once completely different hand from that in which you had applied for the vacancy, of course the game would have been of course the game would have been way bonds, with a large amount of scrip in mines and other companies, was discovlearned to imitate you, and his posis cred in the bag. On examining the premtion was therefore secure, as I pre-lies the body of the unfortunate watch-man was found doubled up and thrust set eyes upon you.'

"Not a soul," grouned Hall Pycroft, "Very good. Of course it was of the utmost importance to prevent you from thinking better of it, and also to keep you from coming into contact with any one who might tell you that were could be no doubt that Beddington you from coming into contact with any one who might tell you that your double was at work in Mawson's office. Therefore they gave you a handsome advance on your salary, and ran you off to the Midlands, where they gave you enough work to do to prevent your going to Londen, where you might have burst their little game up. That is all plain enough."

There could be no doubt that Beddington had obtained entrance by pretending that having murdered the watchman, rapidly rifted the large safe, and then made off with the booly. His brother, who usually works with him, has not appeared in this job, as far as can at present be ascertained, aithough the police are making that is all plain enough." That is all plain enough." "But why should this man pretend

without admitting a third person into his suicide when he learns that his neck is plot. That he was most unwilling to do, forfeited. However, we have no choice as the could and trusted that the likeness which you could not fail to observe would be put down to a family resemblance. But for the happy chance of the gold stuffing your the happy chance of the gold stuffing your suspicions would probably never have suspicions would probably never have en aroused.

been aroused."
Hall Pyeroft shook his clinched hands in the air. "Good Lord!" he cries, "while I have been fooled in this way, what has the other Hall Pyeroft been doing at Mawson's? What should we do, Mr. Holmes? Tell me what to do?"
"We must wire to Mawson's."
"They shut at 12 on Saturdays."
"Never mind. There may be some door-keener or attendant..."

instantly walk out of the rochimself."

The paper!" croaked a voice behind us Holmes stood by the table, with his hands deep in his trousers pockets and ghastly, with returning reason in his eyes and hands which rubbed nervously at the broad red band which still encircled his

"The paper! Of course!" 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, the secret must

He flattened it out upon the table, and a cry of triumph burst from his lips.
"Look at this, Watson!" he cried. "It is a London paper, an early edition of the Evening Standard. Here is what we want Look at the headlines, Crime in the City Murder at Mawson & Williams, Gigan-tic Attempted Robbery. Capture of the 'riminal.' Here, Watson, we are all qually anxious to bear it, so kindly read Criminal.

aloud to us." It appeared from its position in the pa-per to have been the one event of impor-tance in town, and the account of it racin this way:

"A desperate attempt at robbery, cul-minating in the death of one man and the capture of the criminal, occurred this afternoon in the city. For some time back Nawson & 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 largest construction have been employed. my young friend, that they were very latest construction have been employed anxious to obtain a specimen of your and an armed watchman has been left day handwriting, and had no other way of and night in the building. It appears that last week a new clerk named Hall Pygroft was engaged by the firm. This person appears to have been none other than Beddington, the famous forger and cracks. man, who, with his brother, has only re-cently emerged from a five years' spell of penal servitude. By some means, which are not yet clear, he succeeded in winning under a false name, this official position in the office, which be utilized in order to obtain moldings of various locks and

somewhat surprised, therefore to see a cried our client, "what a aroused, the sergeant followed the man, ind beetle I have been!"

and, with the sid of Constable Pollock

Now you see the point about the succeeded, after a most desperate resistclear that a daring and gigantic robbery had been committed. Nearly a hundred thousand pounds' worth of American rail into the largest of the safes, where it would ont have been discovered until Monday morning had it not been for the energetic inquiries as to his whereabouts.
"Well, we may save the police some li

"Well, we may save the police some lit-tile trouble in that direction," said Holmes, "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 engager, and then found even a villain and murderer can inspire that he could not find you an employer such affection that his brother turns to without admitting a third person into his suicide when he learns that his neck is

Army and Navy Differences. Indianapolis News.

Generals in the Army rank with Admirals in the Navy; Lieutenant-Generals with Vice-Admirals; Major-Generals with first nine Rear-Admirals; Brigadier-Generals with Rear-Admiris after first nine and Com d he.

There may be some dooras after that him and Commodores,
Colonels in the Army rank with Cap"Ah, yes, they keep a permanent guard tains in the Navy; Lieutenant-Colonels



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I used to have a billet at Coxon & Wood
The worst of thie story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story is, said he, that I is also the story in a confounded foot. I had a row over you with Mawdon't see that I could have done otherwood the results in the story into the story into the shops of a cabs and 'busses, he bought one from the success in of English crockery into the shops of a cabs and 'busses, he bought one form the story into the story into the story into the shops of a cabs and 'busses, he bought one form the success in of English crockery into the shops of a cabs and 'busses, he bought one form the story into the story into the shops of a cabs and 'busses, he bought one form the remaining tree was a little shivering of the eyemon's manager. I had gone up to ask him about you and he was very offensation. Then, clutching it in his hand, he there was a little shivering of the eyemon's manager. I had gone up to ask him about you and he was very offensation. The purchase will be completed in a week, and in the victim is not too much run down by the disorders of the eyemon's manager. I had gone up to ask him about you and he was very offensation. The count is not too much run down by the disorders of the eyemon's manager. I had gone up to ask him about you and he was very offensation. The purchase will be completed in him. Then, clutching it in his breathing grew longer, and fluxes.

The recisely what I don't want you can be eyemon's manager. I had gone up to ask