THE ADVENTURE OF STHE GREEK * INTERPRETER*

to his own early life. This reticence upon his part had increased the somewaat inhuman effect which he produced upon me, until sometimes 1 found myself regarding him as an isolated phenomenon, a brain without a heart, as deficient in human sympathy as he was pre-eminent in intelligence, His aversion to women and his disinclination to form new friendships were both typical of his unemotional charboth typical of his unemetional char-acter, but not more so than his com-plets suppression of every reference to his own people. I had come to be-lieve that he was an orphan with no relatives living; but one day, to my very great surprise, he began to talk to me about his brother. It was after tea on a Summer even-ing, and the conversation, which had roamed in a desuitory, spasmodic fash-

roamed in a desultory, spasmodic fash-ion from golf clubs to the causes of the change in the obliquity of the ecliptic, came round at last to the question of stavism and hereditary aptitudes. The point under discussion was, how far any singular gift in an

has, how far any singular sitt in an individual was due to his ancestry and how far to his own early training.
"In your own case," said I, "from all that you have told me, it seems obvious that your faculty of observation and your peculiar facility for deduction are due to your own systematics. matic training."

"To some extent," he answered thoughtfully, "My ancestors were thoughtfully. "My ancestors were country squires, who appear to have led much the same life as is natural to their class. But, none the less, my to their class. But, none the less, my turn that way is in my veins, and may have come with my grandmother, who was the sister of Vernet, the French artist. Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms."

"But how do you know that it is hereditary?" hereditary?"

"Because my brother Mycroft pos-

This was news to me indeed. there were another man with such there were another man with such singular powers in England, how was it that neither the police nor public had heard of him? I put the ques-tion, with a hint that it was my companion's modesty which made him ac-knowledge his brother as his supe-Holmes laughed at my sugges-

"My dear Watson," sald he, "I cannot agree with those who rank mod-esty among the virtues. To the logi-cian all things should be seen exactly as they are, and to underestimate one's self is as much a departure from truth as to exaggerate one's own powers. When I say, therefore, that Mycroft has better powers of observation than I, you may take it that I am speaking the exact and literal truth. am speaking truth."

"Is he your juntor?" Seven years my senior,"

"How comes it that he is unknown?" Oh, he is very well known in his

"Well, in the Diogenes Club, for ex-I had never heard of the institution, and my face must have pro-claimed as much for Sherlock Holmes pulled out his watch. "The Diogenes Club is the queerest

club in London, and Mycroft one of the queerest men. He's always there from quarter to five to twenty to eight It's 6 now, so if you care for a stroll this beautiful evening I shall be very happy to introduce you to two curios-

Five minutes later we were in the street, walking towards Regent's Cir

"You wonder," said my companion, why it is that Mycroft does not use his powers for detective work. He is

"But I thought you sald—"
"I said that he was my superior in servation and deduction. If the art of the detective began and ended in of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an arm-chair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived. But he has no ambition and no spergy. He will not even go out of his way to verify his own solutions, and would rather be considered wrong than take the trouble to prove himself right. Again and again I have taken a problem to him. again I have taken a problem to him, and have received an explanation which has afterwards proved to be the correct one. And yet he was absolutely incapable of working out the practical points which must be gone into before a case could be laid before a judge or jury."

"It is not his profession, then?" brother possessed even keener faculties than he did himself. He glanced across at me and smiled. Mycroft took snuff from a tortoise-shell box, and brushed away the wandering grains from his coat front with a large red slik hand-kerchief. "By no means. What is to me a means of livelihood is to him the merest hobby of a dilettante. He has an extraordinary faculty for figures, and audits the books in some of the government departments. Mycroft lodges in Pall Mall, and he walks round the corner into Whitehall every morning and back every evening. From year's end year's end he takes no other exerciyears end he takes no other exercise, and is seen nowhere else, except only in the Discount of the except only In the Diogenes Club, which is just

likely not. There are many men in London, you know, who, some from shyness, some from misanthropy, cave no wish for the company of their fellows. Yet they are not averse to comfortable chairs and the latest pe-riedicals. It is for the convenience of these that the Diogenes Club was startd, and it now contains the most un-sociable and unclubable men in town. No member is permitted to take the least notice of any other one. Save No member is permitted to the least notice of any other one. Save in the Stranger's Room, no talking is, under any circumstances, allowed, and three offenses, if brought to the notice talker. of the committee, render the talker liable to expusion. My brother was one of the founders, and I have myself found it a very soothing atmosphere."

We had reached Fall Mall as we talked, and were walking down it from the St. James's end. Sherlock Holmes stopped at a door some little distance from the Cariton, and little distance for."

Melas is a Greek by extraction, as I understand, and he is a remarkable linguist. He earns his living partly as interpreter in the law courts and partly by acting as guide to any wealthy Orientals who may visit the Northumberland avenue hotels. I think it will leave him to tell his very remarkable experience in his

the St. James's end. Sheelock Holmes stopped at a door some little distance from the Cariton, and, cautioning me not to speak, he led the way into the hail. Threugh the glass paneling I caught a glimpse of a large and luxurious room, in which a considerable number of men were sitting about reading papers, each in his own little hook. Holmes showed me into a small chamber which looked out into Pall Mall, and then leaving me for a minute, he came back with a companion "I do not believe that the police cred-

Mail, and then, leaving me for a min-ute, be came back with a companion whom I knew could only be his brother. Mycroft Holmes was a much larger and stouter man that Sherlock. His hody was sheclutely corpulent, but hedy was sheelutely corputent, but his face, though massive, had preserved something of the sharpness of expression which was so remarkable in that or his brether. His eyes, which were of a peculiarly light, watery gray, seemed to always retain that far-away, introspective look which I had only observed in Sherlock's when he was exerting his full powers.

"I am glad to meet you, sir," said he, destand—that all this happened. I am

"I am glad to meet you, sir," said he, putting out a broad, fat hand like the an interpreter, as perhaps my neighbor filipper of a seal. "I hear of Sherlock there has told you. I interpret all laneverywhere since you became his quages—or nearly all—but as I am a chronicler. By the way, Sherlock, I Greek by birth and with a Grecian.

DURING my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sherlock Holmes I had never heard him refer to his relations, and hardly ever to his relations, and hardly ever to his own early life. This reticence

DANGGED THEM, OUT INTO THE WELL LIT HALL

back and several packages under his

arm. "An old soldier, I perceive," said

"And very recently discharged," re-marked the brother. "Served in India, I see,"

"And a widower."

Children, my

"And a non-commissioned officer."
"Hoyal Artillery, I fancy," said Sher-

Surely," answered Holmes, "it is

"That he has not left the service long is shown by his still wearing his am-

munition boots, as they are called," ob-served Mycroft.

"He had not the cavalry stride, yet a wore his hat on one side, as is nown by the lighter skin on that side

being a sapper. He is in the artillery."
"Then, of course, his complete
mourning shows that he has lost some

there is another child

mourning shows that he has lost some one very dear. The fact that he is done ing his own shopping looks as though it were his wife. He has been buying things for children, you perceive. There is a rattle, which shows that one of them is very young. The wife probably died in childhed. The fact that he has a picture-book under his arm shows the slight there is another child to be

began to understand what my

friend meant when he said that his

kerchief.
"By the way, Sherlock," said he, "I have had something quite after your own heart—a most singular problem—submitted to my judgment. I really

in a very incomplete fashion, but it gave me a basis for some pleasing

day night-only two days ago, you un derstand-that all this happened. I ar

ulations. If you would care to hear

My dear Mycroft, I should be de-

small, dark fellow, with his hast pushed | the cab when we had descended to the

street

"I say into the cab, but I soon be-

some remark as to this being a ro

as if to test its weight and strength.

what the place is to which we are driv

quita illegal.

'As you can imagine, I was utterly

somewhat of a liberty, no

attempt to raise an alarm or do any-thing which is against my interests, you will find it a very serious thing. I

"His words were quiet, but he had a

rasping way of saying them which was very menacing. I sat in silence won-dering what on earth could be his rea-

kidnapping me in this extraor-fashion. Whatever it might be,

case. I thought you might be a little out of your depth."

"No, I solved H." said my friend, amiling.

"It was Adams, of course."

"Yes, it was Adams."

"I was sure of it from the first."

The two sat down together in the bow-window of the club. "To any one who wishes to study mankind this is the spot," said Mycroft. "Look at these two men who are coming towards us, for example."

"The billiard-marker and the other?"

"The two men had stopped opposite the window. Some chalk marks over the window, and it is own tongue, the ser
The two men had stopped opposite the window. Some chalk marks over the window, and it is own tongue, the ser
The two men had stopped opposite the window. Some chalk marks over the window of the window. Some chalk marks over the window of the window. So at last came to a standstill. My com-panion let down the window, and I caught a glimpse of a low, arched door-way with a lamp burning above it. As I was hurried from the carriage it swung open, and I found myself inside the house, with a vague impression of a lawn and trees on each side of me as I entered. Whether these were pri-vate grounds, however, or bona-fide country was more than I could possi-bly venture to say. bly venture to say.

"There was a colored gas lamp inside which was turned so low that I could see little save that the hall was of some size and hung with pictures. In the dim light I could make out that the person who had opened the door was a small, mean-looking, middle-aged man with rounded shoulders. As he turned towards us the glint of the light showed me that he was wearing glasson. bly venture to say.

Ta this Mr. Melas, Harold? said he Well done, well done! No ill-will "Well done, well done! No ill-will, Mr. Melas, I hope, but we could not get on without you. If you deal fair with us you'll not regret it, but if you try any tricks, God help you! He spoke in a nervous, Jerky fashion, and with little siggling laughs in between, but somehow he impressed me with fear more than the other.

"What do you want with me?" I What do you want with mer

asked.
"Only to ask a few questions of a Greek gentleman who is visiting us, and let us have the answers. But say no more than you are told to say, or here came the nervous giggle again and let us have the answers. But say no more than you are told to say, or here came the nervous siggle again—'you had better never have been born. "As he spoke he opened a door and showed the way into a room which appeared to be very richly furnished, but again the only light was afforded by a single lamp half-turned down. The chamber was certainly large, the carpet as I steppe caught glimpses of velved chairs, a high white marble mand of lix rich alirs, a high white marble mand the elderly man motioned that I should sit in it. The younger had left us, but he suddenly returned through another door, leading with him a gentleman clad in some sort of loose dressing-gown who moved slowly towards us. As he came into the circle of dim light which enabled me to see him more clearly I was thrilled with horror at his appearance. He way deadly pale and terribly may go a single large and terribly may go f a man whose spirit was graces and what strong he had not been the protruding, brillant vas of a strong had been been been by no means wasted with the protruding, brillant vas of a this and shows the size, Harold? cried the older man, as this strange being the first mouth.

"Have you the slate, Harold? cried the older man, as this strange being the first mouth."

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"Have you the slate, Harold? cried the older man, as this strange being the problem which we have a more than any signs of the said as a more than the problem which we have the problem which we have the problem which we have th "I say into the cab, but I soon became doubtful as to whether it was not a carriage is which I found myself. It was certainly more roomy than the ordinary four-wheeled disgrace to London, and the fittings, though frayed, were of rich quality. Mr. Latimer seated himself opposite to me and we started off through Charing Cross and up the Shaftesbury avenue. We had come out the older man,

upon Oxford street and I had ventured him the pencil. You are to ask the him the pencil. You are to ask the questions, Mr. Melas, and he will write questions, Mr. Melas, and he will write questions. Ask him first of all the answers. Ask him first of all the answers. "Come," said I, laughing, "this a about way to Kensington, when my little too much."
"Surely," answered Holmes, "it is dinary conduct of my companion. not hard to say that a man with that the began by drawing a most for-bearing, expression of authority and sunbaked skin, is a soldier, is more than a private, and is not long from the backward and forward several times. bother he is prepared to sign the pa-

'The man's eyes flashed fire. 'Never!' he wrote in Greek upon the as if to test its weight and strength.

Then he placed it without a word upon the seat beside him. Having done this, he drew up the windows on each side, and I found to my astonishment that they were covered with paper so as to prevent my seeing through them.

It my serve to cut off your view. On no conditions? I asked, at the

bidding of our tyrant. "Only if I see her married in presence by a Greek priest whom I The man giggled in his vene

You know what awaits you, then?

shown by the lighter skin on that side "I am sorry to cut off your view, of his brow. His weight is against his Mr. Melas, said he. "The fact is that I "'I care nothing for myself." have no intention that you should see "These are samples of the questions and answers which made up our strange half-spoken, half-written convergation. Again and again I had to ask him whether he would give in and sign the documents. Again and again I had the same indignant reply. But soon a happy thought came to me. I took to addtaken aback by such an address. My companion was a powerful, broad-shouldered young fellow, and, apart from the weapon, I should not have had same indignant reply. But soon a happy thought came to me. I took to adding on little sentences of my own to each question, innocent ones at first, to test whether either of our companions knew anything of the matter, and then, as I found that they showed no sign I played a more dangerous game. Our converse. the alightest chance in a struggle with This is very extraordinary conduct. Mr. Latimer,' I stammered, 'You must be aware that what you are doing is more dangerous game. Our tion ran something like this: doubt, said he, but we'll make it up to you. I must warn you, however, Mr. Melas, that if at any time tonight you

You can do no good by this ob-'I care not. I am a stranger in Lon-

head. How long have you been here?
"Let it be so. Three weeks."
"The property can never be yours.
What alls you?" beg you to remember that no one knows where you are, and that, whether you are in this carriage or in my house, you are equally in my power." at alls your 'It shall not go to villains. They

are starving me "'You shall go free if you sign. What house is this?" I will never sign. I do not know.

"You are not doing her any service. What is your name?" What is your name?

"Let me hear her say so. Kratides.'

"You shall see her if you sign.

Where are you from?

"Then I shall never see her. Athens.'

"Another five minutes, Mr. Holmes, and I should have wormed out the whole story under their very noxes. My very next question might have cleared the matter up, but at that instant the door opened and a woman stepped into the room. I could not see her clearly enough to know more than that she was tall and graceful, with black hair, and clad in some sort of loose white

'Harold,' said she, speaking English

"Harold, said she, speaking English with a broken accent, I could not stay away longer. It is so lonely up there with only—Oh, my God, it is Paul!"
"These last words were in Greek, and at the same instant the man with a convulsive effort tore the plaster from his lips, and screaming out 'Sophy! Sophy! rushed into the woman's arms. Their embrace was but for an instant. Sophy: rushed into the woman's arms. Their embrace was but for an instant, however, for the younger man seized the woman and pushed her out of the room, while the elder easily overpowered his emaciated victim, and dragged him away through the other door. For a moment I was left alone in the room, and I sprang to my feet with some vague idea that I might in some way get a clew to what this house was in which I found myself. which I found myself. Fortunately, however, I took no steps, for looking up I saw that the older man was standing in the doorway, with his eyes fixed

upon me.
"That will do, Mr. Melas,' said he.
You perceive that we have taken you into our confidence over some very private business. We should not have troubled you, only that our friend who speaks Greek and who began these netiations has been forced to return to

Anere are the sovereigns here, said he, walking up to me, 'which will. I hope, be a sufficient fee. But reember,' he added, tapping me lightly on the chest and giggling, 'if you speak to a human soul about this—one human soul, mind—well, may God have mercy

soul, mind—well, may God have mercy upon your soul?

"I cannot tell you the loathing and horror with which this insignificant-looking man inspired me. I could see him better now as the lamplight shone upon him. His features were peaky and sallow, and his little pointed beard was thready and ill-nourished. He pushed his face forward as he spoke and his lips and eyelids were continually twitching like a man with St. Vitus' dance. I could not help think-

will be rewarded. A similar reward paid to any one giving information about a Greek lady whose first name

is Sophy. X 2473. That was in all the dallies. No answor."
"How about the Greek Legation?"
"I have inquired. They know noth-

Latimer.

discover the rest. You must yourself

the cards, and we have only to fear some sudden act of violence on their part. If they give us time we must

"But how can we find where this

"Well, if our conjecture is correct

opened the door of our room he

His brother Mycroft was sitting smoking in the armchair.
"Come in, Sherlock! Come in, sir,"

said he, blandly, smiling at our sur-prised faces. "You don't expect such energy from me, do you, Sherlock? But

There has been some new develop-

"I had an answer to my advertise-

"Yes, it came within a few minutes

"And to what effect?"
Mycroft Holmes took out a sheet of

"Here it is," said he, "written with

of your leaving."

how this case attracts me." "How did you get here?"
"I passed you in a hansom.

"Carried off from where?"

some theory which

to me without a word. again drove for an interminable dis-tance, with the windows raised, until at last, just after midnight, the carriage

You will get down here, Mr. Melas,' said my companion. T am sorry to leave you so far from your house, but there is no alternative. Any attempt upon your part to follow the carriage can only end in injury to yourself.

"He opened the door as he spoke, and I had hardly time to spring out when the coachman lashed the horse and the carriage rattled away. I looked around me in astonishment. I was on some sort of a heathy common mottled over with dark clumps of furze bushes. Far away stretched a line of houses, with a light here and there in the upper windows. On the other side the upper windows. I saw the red signal-lamps of a rall-

"The carriage which had brought me "The carriage which has broad gazing round and wondering where on
earth I might be, when I saw some one
coming towards me in the darkness.
As he came up to me I made out that
he was a railway porter.
"Can you tell me what place this
is? I asked.

Wandsworth Common, said he

"'Wandsworth Common, said he.
"'Can I get a train into town?"
"If you walk on a mile or so to
Clapham Junction, said he, you'll just
be in time for the last to Victoria.
"So that was the end of my adventure, Mr. Holmes. I do not know
where I was, nor whom I spoke with
nor anything save what I have told you.
But I know that there is foul play going on, and I want to help that unhappy
man if I can. I told the whole story man if I can. I told the whole story to Mr. Mycroft Holmes next morning. and subsequently to the police."
We all sat in silence for some little time after listening to this extraordin-ary narrative. Then Sherlock looked across at his brother.

"Any steps?" he asked.

the East. It was quite necessary for us to find someone to take his place, and we were fortunate in hearing of your powers."

"Anybody supplying any information as to the whereabouts of a Greek gentleman named Paul Kratides, from gentleman named Paul Kratides, from a to the whereabouts of a Greek gentleman named Paul Kratides, from gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named Paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named paul Kratides, from the more particulars as to her gentleman named paul Kratides, from the more paul Kratides, from the mo

"He writes from Lower Brixton." said Mycroft Holmes. "Dou you not think that we might drive to him now. Sherlock, and learn these particulars?" Sherlock, and learn these particulars?
"My dear Mycroft, the brother's life is more valuable than the sister's story. I think we should call at Scotland Yard for Inspector Gregson, and go straight to Beckenham. We know that a man is being done to death, and every hour may be vital."

"Better pick up Mr. Melas on our way," I suggested. "We may need an interpreter."
"Excellent," said Sherlock Holmes.

"Excellent," said Sherlock Holmes.
"Send the boy for a four-wheeler, and
we shall be off at once." He opened
the table drawer as he spoke, and I
noticed that he slipped his revolver
into his pocket. "Yes," said he, in
answer to my giance; "I should say,
from what we have heard, that we are
dealing with a marketingly before the lealing with a particularly dangerous

gang."

It was almost dark before we found ourselves in Pall Mall, at the rooms of Mr. Melas. A gentleman had just called for him, and he was gone.

"Can you tell me where?" asked My-

croft Holmes. "I don't know, sir," answered the woman who had opened the door; "I only know that he drove away with

the gentleman in a carriage."
"Did the gentleman give a name?" "No. sir. "He wasn't a tall, handsome, dark

young man?"
"Oh, no, sir. He was a little gentleman, with glasses, thin in the face, but very pleasant in his ways, for he was laughing all the time that he was

talking." Come along!" cried Holmes, abruptly. "This grows seri-ous," he observed, as we drove to Scot-land Yard. "These men have got hold of Melas again. He is a man of no physical courage, as they are well aware from their experience the other night. This villain was able to ter-rorize him the instant that he got into his presence. No doubt they want his professional services, but, having used him, they may be inclined to punish him for what they will regard as his

treachery."
Our hope was that, by taking train, we might get to Beckenham as soon as or sooner than the carriage. On reach-ing Scotland Yard, however, it was more than an hour before we could get Inspector Gregson and comply with the legal formalities which would enable us to enter the house. It was a quar-ter to 10 before we reached London Bridge, and half past before the four of us alighted on the Beckenham platform. A drive of half a mile brought us to The Myrtles—a large, dark house standing back from the road in its own grounds. Here we dismissed our cab, and made our way up the drive transfer. together.

"The windows are all dark," re-marked the inspector. "The house seems deserted." "Our birds are flown and the nest empty," said Holmes. "Why do you say so?"

"A carriage heavily loaded with lug-gage has passed out during the last

The inspector laughed. "I saw the wheel-tracks in the light of the gate-lamp, but where does the luggage come

"You may have observed the same wheel-tracks going the other way, But the outward-bound ones were much deeper—so much so that we can say for a certainty that there was a very considerable weight on the car-"Well, knowing as much as we do, will be singular indeed if we fall

"You get a trifle beyond me there." explain the facts to which we have said the inspector, shrugging his shoulders. "It will not be an easy door to "In a vague way, yes."
"What was your idea, then?"
"It seemed to me to be obvious that
this Greek girl had been carried off by force, but we will try if we cannot make some one hear us."

He hammered loudly at the knocker

and pulled at the bell, but without any success. Holmes had slipped away, but he came back in a few minutes. he young Englishman named Harold "I have a window open," said he.

"Athens, perhaps."
Sherlock Holmes shook his head.
"This young man could not talk a word
of Greek. The lady could talk English "It is a mercy that you are on the side of the force, and not against it. Mr. Holmes," remarked the inspector, as he noted the clever way in which my friend had forced back the catch. "Well. I think that under the circumstance." of Greek. The lady could talk English fairly well. Inference—that she had been in England some little time, but he had not been in Greece."
"Well, then, we will presume that she had come on a visit to England, and that this Harold had persuaded her to the with him." stances we may enter without an invitation.

One after the other we made our way into a large apartment, which was evidently that in which Mr. Melas had found himself. The inspector had lit his lantern, and by its light we could see the two doors, the curtain, the lamp, and the suit of Japanese mail as he had described them. On the table lay two glasses, an empty brandy bottle, and the remains of a meal. What is that?" asked Holmes, sud-

and that this Harold had persuaded her to fly with him."
"That is more probable."
"Then the brother—for that, I fancy, must be the relationship—comes over from Greece to interfere. He imprudently puts himself into the power of the young man and his older associate. They seize him and use violence towards him in order to make him sign some papers to make over the girl's fortune—of which he may be trustee—to them. This he refuses to do. In order to negotiate with him they have to get an interpreter, and they pitch upon this Mr. Melas, having used some oth-We all stood still and listened. A low moaning sound was coming from somewhere over our heads. Holmes rushed to the door and out into the get an interpreter, and they pitch upon this Mr. Melas, having used some oth-er one before. The girl is not told of the arrival of her brother, and finds it out by the mercest accident."
"Excellent Watson!" cried Holmes. "I really fancy that you are not far from the truth. You see we hold all hall. The dismal noise came from upstairs. He dashed up, the inspector and I at his heels, while his brother Mycroft followed as quickly as his great bulk would permit.

Three doors faced us upon the second floor, and it was from the central of these the sinister sounds were issuing, sinking sometimes into a dull mumble and rising again into a sifrill whine, It was locked, but the key had been left on the outside. Holmes flung open the door and rushed in, but he was out again in an instant, with his hand to his throat.

well, if our conjecture is correct and the girl's name is or was Sophy Kratides, we should have no difficulty in tracing her. That must be our main hope, for the brother is, of course, a "It's charconl," he cried, "Give it time. It will clear," Peering in, we could see that the only light in the room came from a nope, for the brother is, or clear that complete stranger. It is clear that some time has elapsed since this Har-old established these relations with the dull blue flame which flickered from a small brass triped in the center. It old established these relations with the girl—some weeks, at any rate—since the brother in Greece has had time to hear of it and come across. If they have been living in the same place during this time, it is probable that we shall have some answer to Mycroft's advertisement." threw a livid, unnatural circle ur the floor, while in the shadows we saw the vague loom of two figures which crouched against the wall. From the open door there reeked a horrible poisonous exhalation which set us gasping and coughing. Holmes rushed to the top of the stairs to draw in the We had reached our house in Baker street while we had been talking. Holmes ascended the stair first, and as fresh air, and then, dashing into the room, he threw up the window and hurled the brazen tripod out into the gave a start of surprise. Looking over his shoulder, I was equally astonished. garden.

"We can enter in a minute," he gasped, darting out again. "Where is a candle? I doubt if we could strike a match in that atmosphere. Hold the light at the door and we shall get them

with a rush we got to the poisoned men and dragged them out into the well-lit hall. Both of them were bluelipped and insensible, with swollen, congested faces and protruding eyes. Indeed, so distorted were their faces. deed, so distorted were their features that, save for his black beard and stout figure, we might have failed to recognize in one of them the Greek terpreter who had parted from us only a few hours before at the Diogenes Club. His hands and feet were securely strapped together, and he bore over one eye the marks of a violent blow. The other, who was secured in a simia J pen on royal cream paper by a middle-aged man with a weak constitution. 'Sir,' he says, 'in answer to your advertisement of today's date, I



