



SEMI-WEEKLY.

UNION Estab. July, 1897. GAZETTE Estab. Dec. 1862. (Consolidated Feb., 1899.)

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1902.

VOL. III. NO. 15.

A STUDY IN SCARLET.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

CHAPTER I.—Continued.

Sherlock Holmes seemed delighted at the idea of sharing rooms with me. "I have my eye on a suite in Baker street," he said, "which would suit us down to the ground. You don't mind the smell of strong tobacco, I hope?"

him manipulating his fragil philosophical instruments.

The reader may set me down as a hopeless busybody, when I confess how much this man stimulated my curiosity, and how often I endeavored to break through the reticence which he would give him that concerned himself.

Before pronouncing judgment, however, be it remembered how objectless was my life and how little there was to engage my attention.

My health forbade me from venturing out unless the weather was exceptionally genial, and I had no friends who would call upon me and break the monotony of my daily existence.

Under these circumstances, I eagerly hailed the little mystery which hung around my companion, and spent much of my time in endeavoring to unravel it.

He was not studying medicine. He had himself, in reply to a question, corrected Stamford's opinion upon that point.

Neither did he appear to have pursued any course of reading which might fit him for a degree in science or any other recognized portal which would have afforded an entrance into the learned world.

Yet his zeal for certain studies was remarkable, and within eccentric limits his knowledge was so extraordinary, hisly ample and minute that his observations have fairly astounded me.

Surely no man would work so hard to attain such precise information unless he had some definite end in view. Desultory readers are seldom remarkable for the exactness of their learnings.

No man burdens his mind with small matters unless he has some very good reason for doing so.

His ignorance was as remarkable as his knowledge. Of contemporary literature, philosophy and politics he appeared to know next to nothing.

Upon my quoting Thomas Carlyle, he inquired in the naivest way who he might be and what he had done. My surprise reached a climax, however, when I found incidentally that he was ignorant of the Copernican theory, and of the composition of the solar system.

"That any civilized human being in this nineteenth century should not be aware that the earth traveled round the sun appeared to me such an extraordinary fact that I could hardly realize it.

"You appear to be astonished," he said, leaning at my expression of surprise. "Now that I do know it, I shall do my best to forget it."

"You see," he explained, "I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose. A fool takes in all the lumber of every sort that he comes across, so that the knowledge which might be useful to him gets crowded out, or at best is jumbled up with a lot of other things, so that he has a difficulty in laying his hands upon it. Now, the skillful workman is very careful indeed as to what he takes into his brain attic. He will have nothing but the tools which will help him in doing his work, but of these he has a large assortment, and all in the most perfect order. It is a mistake to think that that little room has elastic walls and can distend to any extent. Depend upon it, there comes a time when for every addition to knowledge you forget something that you knew before. It is of the highest importance, therefore, not to have useless facts elbowing out the useful ones."

"But the solar system!" I protested. "What the deuce is it to me?" he interrupted, impatiently; "you say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work."

I was on the point of asking him what that work might be, but something in his manner showed me that the question would be an unwelcome one.

I see that I have alluded above to his powers upon the violin. These were very remarkable, but as eccentric as all his other accomplishments. That he could play pieces, and difficult pieces, I knew well, because at my request he had played me some of Mendelssohn's "Lieder," and other favorites.

When left to himself, however, he would seldom produce any music or attempt any recognized air.

Leaning back in his armchair of an evening he would close his eyes and scrape carelessly at the fiddle, which was thrown across his knee. Sometimes the chords were sonorous and melancholy. Occasionally they were fantastic and cheerful.

Presently, however, these thoughts which possessed him, but whether the music aided these thoughts, or whether the playing was simply the result of a whim or fancy, was more than I could determine.

I might have rebelled against these exasperating solos had it not been that he usually terminated them by playing in quick succession a whole series of my favorite airs as a slight compensation for the trial upon my patience.

During the first week or so we had no callers, and I had begun to think that my companion was as friendless a man as myself.

Presently, however, I found that he had many acquaintances, and those in the most different classes of society. There was one little fellow, rat-faced, dark-eyed fellow who was introduced to me as Mr. Lestrade, and who came three or four times in a single week.

One morning a young girl called, fashionably dressed, and stayed for half an hour or more. The same afternoon brought a gray-headed, seedy visitor, looking like a Jew peddler, and who appeared to be much excited, and who was closely followed by a slipshod elderly woman.

On another occasion an old white-haired gentleman had an interview with my companion; and on another a railway porter in his velvet uniform.

When any of these nondescript individuals put in an appearance Sherlock Holmes used to beg for the use of the sitting room, and I would retire to my bedroom. He always apologized to me for putting me to this inconvenience.

"I have to use this room as a place of business," he said, "and these people are my clients."

Again I had an opportunity of asking him a point blank question, and again my delicacy prevented me from forcing another man to confide in me.

I imagined at the time that he had some strong reason for not alluding to it, but he soon dispelled the idea by coming round to the subject of his own accord.

It was upon the 4th of March, as I have good reason to remember, that I rose somewhat earlier than usual, and found that Sherlock Holmes had not yet finished his breakfast.

The landlady had become so accustomed to my late habits that my place had not been laid nor my coffee prepared.

With the unreasonable petulance of mankind I rang the bell and gave a curt intimation that I was ready.

Then I picked up a magazine from the table and attempted to while away the time with it, while my companion munched silently on his toast.

One of the articles had a pencil mark at the heading, and I naturally began to run my eye through it.

Its somewhat ambitious title was "The Book of Life," and it stated that to show how much an observant man might learn by an accurate systematic examination of all that came in his way.

It struck me as being a remarkable mixture of shrewdness and of absurdity. The reasoning was close and intense, but the deductions appeared to me to be far-fetched and exaggerated.

The writer claimed by a momentary expression, a twitch of muscle, or a glance of the eye, to fathom a man's inmost thoughts.

Deceit, according to him, was an impossibility in the case of one trained to observation and analysis. His conclusions were as infallible as so many propositions of Euclid, he boasted.

So startling would his results appear to the uninitiated that, until they learned the process by which he had arrived at them, they might consider him as a necromancer.

(To be continued.)

The Marrying Age. The marrying age, according to statistics, is steadily advancing. This accounts, perhaps, for another fact, that women are beginning to look younger and more girlish in the shady twenties and the early thirties than they used to do.

First Woman to Win Scholarship. Miss Helen E. Wallace, a brilliant student at the Melbourne, Australia, university, has been awarded the Shakespeare scholarship of 150 pounds. This is the most important scholarship in the gift of the university, and it has never before been won by a woman.

In Memory of Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson's long association with the Strand, London, is to be commemorated by placing a beautiful stained glass window in St. Clement's Dane chapel.

Beth's Surprise. Beth was delighted with her aunt's new changeable spring gown. "Oh, mama!" she exclaimed, excitedly, "the colors of Aunt Mary's new silk dress are all temporary ones!"—Judge.

A Wise Girl. Alice—How long should a girl know a man before becoming engaged to him? Grace—Oh, long enough for him to propose.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS



For Boys. About forty years ago, says the Ledger Monthly, a ragged little boy named "Tommy" used to sit on the piers at Glasgow and watch the boats skimming over the waters.

Clearly they reflected the thoughts which possessed him, but whether the music aided these thoughts, or whether the playing was simply the result of a whim or fancy, was more than I could determine.

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while others had a fringe of stiff bristles dividing the shaven from the unshaven territory of their heads.

A Short-hand Letter. A small boy known to the New York Sun was introduced by his teacher to the ditto mark.

Its labor-saving possibilities appealed to him, and he soon found occasion to turn his knowledge to account. While away on a short visit he wrote to his father. The letter ran:

Dear Father: I hope you are well. " mother is " " sister " " Dick " " grandmother is well. " Wish you were here. " mother was " " sister " " Dick " " grandmother was here. " you would send me some money. Your affectionate son, TOM.

Mother Not Much Help. Mamma—When that bad boy threw stones at you why didn't you come and tell me instead of throwing stones at him?

Example (aged 9)—Pshaw! That wouldn't have helped any. You couldn't hit the side of a barn.

Why Adam Was Luckiest. Little Johnnie-Solomon may have been the wisest man, but Adam was the luckiest.

Mamma—Why do you think so, Johnnie? Little Johnnie—"Cause he was born a man and didn't have to go to school.

An Old Story to Him. "Now, boys," said the Sunday school teacher to the juvenile class, "I'll tell you about Jonah and the whale."

"Fish!" exclaimed a bright little 5-year-old visitor; "ain't these kids on to that fish story yet?"

Taking a Horse's Picture. "Trouble? Nothing but that," declared a photographer who has great success at snapping equine subjects. "And this is my busy season. Steeds capturing prizes must be photographed. So must those who expect to at future shows, not to mention the park steads. Those who get left have their picture anyway, by way of consolation. It's a profession by itself.

"A delicate compliment makes a woman look pleasant and babies are usually glad enough to put on a look of intelligence while waiting to hear the little bird sing or watching for the monkey. Not so with Mr. Horse. First you warm him up, then you prance him past while I size up the effect. Then I shout out to bring him round at a good clip, for it's all right. But something's always wrong. Once the owner's hat bows off. Second time round another team whips up between and that's off. Next time the animal shies on general principles. Then a gust of wind blows his tail or it's cropped he drops it flat.

"Next time he looks suspiciously at me and lays an ear back, perhaps two. Then he loses his temper and gets tired of the whole business and cuts capers generally. In vain does the groom show him a measure of oats or run ahead waving newspapers and emitting queer cries.

"After a half hour of endeavor, anxiety and perspiration," said the photographer, according to the Philadelphia Record, "the owner, hot and disgusted, tells me to snap the beast anyhow, and it's over."

Government Autograph Collection. Uncle Sam is not especially interested in autographs, but in his big library at Washington he has a good many letters and papers signed by some of his most distinguished nephews. All these manuscripts, which were not well cared for until a few years ago, are now being intelligently classified and preserved. Harper's Weekly says there are twenty-five thousand documents of importance.

The Washington papers are the most valuable. They include documents written and received by the first President, the reports from the secret service agents during the Revolution, letters from Rochambeau and state papers.

The John Paul Jones papers fill eight volumes of the special kind of letterfile in which the national collection is being arranged. There are thirty-five volumes containing the proceedings of the commission formed for inquiring into the losses, services and claims of American loyalists. Another interesting colonial relic is of much earlier date, the record of the Virginia colony covering the years from 1619 to 1624.

New England is well represented. Mayor Peter Force, of Washington, sold his great collection to the government. The West is represented by the literary remains of Schoolcraft, secretary to General Lewis Cass, and some papers and letters of Cass himself.

S'pose the Fish Don't Bite at First. S'pose the fish don't bite at first; What be you goin' to dew? Chuck down your pole, throw out your bait.

An' say your fishin's throv? Ur course you hain't, you're going to fish. An' fish, an' fish, an' wait Until you've ketch'd your basket full. And used up all your bait.

S'pose success don't come at first, What be you goin' to dew? Throw up the sponge an' kick yourself. An' go to feelin' blue? Ur course you hain't, you're going to fish. An' fish, an' fish, an' wait Until you've ketch'd your basket full. And used up all your bait.

Watch Growing Chicks. If one is in the poultry business in earnest, with a view to making a profit from it, due attention must be paid to the growing chicks; not only to keep them in the best possible condition, but to know which are the most promising for future work, and to treat them accordingly. If one has a number of chicks that are of better ancestry than the others, or chicks that are showing good growth, and bear the earmarks of good layers, they should be marked in some way to identify them.

Irrigating the Garden. The usual method of watering plants of any kind is by surface watering and in normal seasons this seems to answer the purpose, although it involves considerable labor. In dry seasons or in any season where it is possible to carry on the plan at moderate cost, a plan of irrigation which will carry the moisture under the surface of the soil so that the plants may use it as desired will be found most advantageous. Such a plan can be carried out by a system of tiles, as it is done in arid sections, but when small areas are to be watered a number of trenches will answer the purpose if the water can be pumped into them at small expense.

Waste Products on the Farm. The work done on the farms just before the busy spring planting begins is very important, if proper consideration is given the matter of saving that which is usually lost by inattention to details. The great waste of unsalable farm products amounts to millions of dollars annually, for farmers do not seem to understand that it is not always necessary to send produce away from the farms in order to find markets. The farm is the best market, in fact, that a farmer can have, for if he keeps live stock he will be able to sell his raw products by converting them into the forms of meat, milk, butter and wool. The difficulty is that the waste products on the farms are not properly utilized. One product, that of corn fodder, has been wasted for years, though now it is being put to use with the aid of the shredder, but it is in the manipulation and handling of the manure and weeds that the lessening of expense occurs.

Feeding Bran. With me stock always thrives when bran is fed in conjunction with grain. I had a young mare that got out of condition during summer, and I tried to fatten her on corn. I gave ten ears three times a day. She did not do well at all. I cut the corn down to six ears, with a quart of bran, three times a day, and I saw improvement at once. I drove her to buggy right along, and in three months she was fat and in splendid condition. I am careful never to use stale feed. That is what does the mischief. Young stock do better on a mixed feeding in which bran plays a one-third part. I have known a great many extravagant feeders who are careless about watering stock.—Cor. Rural New Yorker.

To Stretch Barbed Wire. Barbed wire is uncomfortable stuff at the best. One of the easiest ways, perhaps, to handle it when placing it upon posts is with the device shown in the accompanying illustration. This frame can be quickly made and from it the wire can be unreeled as rapidly as a man can walk, pulling the framework after him. When his companion is ready to staple the wire to a stake, the pin is put through the side of the frame, locking the reel, when the wire can be pulled up as taut as desired.—New England Homestead.

Swindling the Farmer. Still another signature swindle is reported from Indiana. Sharpers from Chicago went through country districts, representing themselves as hunters. They would approach a farmer, tell him they wished to hunt on his land, and cheerfully pay \$5 for a permit to do so. The farmer would sign a receipt for the money, and this turned up later as a promissory note for \$500. It is said that the swindlers secured \$5,000 in one county by this process. It is noticeable that most of the swindling schemes now worked to the detriment of the farmers, begin with the payment of a small sum, which disarms the suspicions of the victim.—Rural New Yorker.

Cover Crops in Orchards. Instead of the usual cover crops in orchards some farmers prefer to have the land cultivated in summer, thus killing weeds and permitting moisture and air to enter the soil, the stirring of the soil protecting the roots of trees. Late in the summer, about August or after danger of drought is over, clover is seeded and left until spring, the scarlet or crimson clover being preferred. If the land is left in sod as a cover crop it is claimed that the demands of the grass crop for moisture and plant food in summer injures the trees.

Rust in Wheat. Rust in wheat may be prevented by destroying the spores in the seed. One plan is to soak the seed in a solution made by dissolving a pound of sulphate of copper in ten gallons of hot water, allowing the seed to remain in the solution twenty-four hours, then drying the seed with fine sand plaster and sowing or drilling as soon as dry. Wheat that showed indications of rust last year should be avoided, however, and new seed procured. It should also be planted on a different field from that on which wheat was grown last year.

Feeding Lambs Beet Pulp. During the past season the feeding of lambs on beet pulp has been very satisfactory. At Lansing, Mich., some 3,000 were fed. Although at first the pulp was not relished and several died from eating it, later they did well. It seems that the pulp gives the best satisfaction when fermented a little.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Treatment of Corn Smut. The illustration shows the effect of the corn smut on the growing ears, and it is evident that the disease needs attention each season if the corn fields of following years are to be free from this troublesome difficulty. Probably the only way of getting rid of the trouble entirely is to gather the smut pustules before they break and scatter the spores. This work should be done as soon as the trouble is noticed, going over the field two or three times during the summer and gathering the pustules carefully, then burning them. In this manner the disease will be gradually stamped out. It must be remembered, however, that if the spores are scattered over the field the crop of smut next year will be correspondingly greater. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture has not been fruitful of results.

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To Stretch Barbed Wire. Barbed wire is uncomfortable stuff at the best. One of the easiest ways, perhaps, to handle it when placing it upon posts is with the device shown in the accompanying illustration. This frame can be quickly made and from it the wire can be unreeled as rapidly as a man can walk, pulling the framework after him. When his companion is ready to staple the wire to a stake, the pin is put through the side of the frame, locking the reel, when the wire can be pulled up as taut as desired.—New England Homestead.

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