6he Return of SHERLOCK & HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE,

Author of "The Adventures of Sheriock Holmes." The Hound of the Baskervilles," "The Sign of the Four," "A Study In Searlet," Etc.



BY F. D. STEELE

the Norwood Builder

No. 2 of the Series

Chaptings, 1965, in of Cours Dolle and Callier's Hostin's



1901, in Military, Phillips # Co.) 1993) the point of lew of the criminal expect," said Mr. Sherlock Lieltnes. London has become a engularly uninteresting city since the death of the late lamented Pro-

"I can hardly think that you would mi many decent citizens to agree with

Well, well, I must not be selush," satif he, with a smile as he pushed back. es chair from the breakfast table "The community is certainly the guiner and no one the user save the poor out of work specialist, whose occupason has gone. With that man in the ##11 one's morning paper presented us thite possibilities. Often it was only the smallest trace, Watson, the faint est indication, and get it was enough Fain was there, as the gentlest tremers of the edges of the web remind one of the foul spider which turbs in the sector. Perry thefas, wanten assemble, reacted outrige to the sinu vilia Mid the riew all could be worked at one connected whose To the selwill employ of the higher rewould be explicit to Europe office the Stragger which Lander the row We office to homogeneous replacements of

the state of though which he had him-

at the tanner which I speak, Holmes, Par no request had sold my procuse was recurred to share the sub-process. Salar salah digung unan n of themse had bettern a my so Soul and discount and grow with sould little would have beginn a said expendent think with with the Storic I Jodni, City Netter wine a maint reason of Holines and - a his friend who has ready

the baseurs of purmership had not see a medentiul as he had stated, to I will as looking over my notes that men german incides the case of the mijers of ex President Murilio, and alme the shocking affair of the Dutch meanship Friesland, which so nearly cost us both our lives. His cold and would nature was niways averse, however, to anything in the shape of public spplause, and he bound me in the most stringent terms to say no further word of kimself, his methods or his succoses-a prohibition which, as I have explained, has only now been removed.

hir Sherlock Holmes was leaning back This chair after his whimsical protest and was unfolding his morning paper w a teisurely fashlon when our attenwas arrested by a tremendous ring at the bell, followed immediately by a bollow drumming sound, as if ome one were beating on the outer door with his fist. As it opened there come a fumultuous rush into the hall, feet clattered up the stair and se instant later a wild eyed and frane young man, pale, disheveled and paintaing, burst into the room. He locked from one to the other of us, and under our gaze of inquiry he became conscious that some apology was need of for this unceremonious entry.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Holmes," he cried. You mustn't blame me. I am nearly med. Mr. Holmes, I am the unhappy John Hector McFarlane."

W the made the announcement as if the mme slone would explain both his wish and its manner, but I could see by my companion's unresponsive face that it meant no more to him than to

"Have a clgarette, Mr. McFarlane," pushing his case nerviss. our sure that with your symptoms my fiend Dr. Watson here would prewho very warm these last few Now, if you feel a little more aposed I should be glad if you would all down in that chair and tell us very stowly and quietly who you are and what it is that you want. You menfroued your name as if I should recognize it, but I assure you that beyond the obvious facts that you are a bachclor, a solicitor, a Freemann and an authmatic I know nothing whatever about you.

Caralliar us I was with my friend's

it was not difficult for me to follow his deductions and to observe The Adventure of the statistics of after, the shear of legal papers, the waich charm and the breathing which had prompted them. Our client, however, stared in amaze-

"Yes, I am all that, Mr. Holmes, and in addition I am the most unfortunate man at this moment in London. For heaven's sake, don't abandon me, Mr. Holmes. If they come to arrest me before I have finished my story make them give me time so that I may tell you the whole truth. I could go to jall happy if I knew that you were

working for me outside."
"Arrest you" said Holmes. "This is really most grati- most interesting. On what charge do you expect to be arrested?

"Upon the charge of murdering Mr. Jonas Oldnere of Lower Norwood.

My companion's expressive face showed a sympathy which was not, I have no doubt that I should have been am afraid, entirely unmixed with satisfaction.

"I was only this moment at breakfast that I was saying to my friend Dr. Watson that sensational cases had disappeared out of our papers."

Our visitor stretched forward a quivering hand and picked up the Daily Telegraph, which still lay upon Holmes'

"If you had looked at it, sir, you would have seen at a ginnee what the errand is on which I have come to you this morning. I feel as if my name and my misfortune must be in

every man's mouth." He turned !! over to expose the central page. "Here it is, and with your permission I will read it to you. Listen to this, Mr. Holmes. The headlines are: 'Mysterious Affair at Lower Norwood. Disappearonce of a Well Known Bullder. Suspleion of Murder and Arson. A Clew to the Original.' That is the clew which they are already following. Mr. Holmes, and I know that it leads infallibly to me. I have been followed from London Bridge station, and I am sure that they are only waiting for the warrant to agreet me. It will break my mother's heart-it will break her heart?" He wrong his hands in an agony of apprehension and swayed backward and forward in his chair.

I looked with interest upon this man who was accused of being the perpetrator of a crime of violence. He was flaxen haired and handsome, in a washed out negative fashion, with frightened blue eyes and a clean shaven face, with a weak, sensitive mouth. His age may have been about twenty-seven, his dress and bearing that of a gentleman. From the pocket of his light summer overcoat protruded the bundle of indorsed papers which proclaimed his profession.

"We must use what time we have said Holmes. "Watson, would you have the kindness to take the paper and to read the paragraph in ques-

Underneath the vigorous headlines which our client had quoted I read the following suggestive narrative:

Late last night or early this morning an Incident occurred at Lower Norwood which points, it is feared to a serious crime Mr. Jonns Oldacre is a well known resident of that subarb, where he has carried on his business as a belder for many wors. Mr. Oldaere is a hachelor fifty-wo rears of age, and fives to been Deep Tours at the Sydenham and of the root He has had the reputation of being a man of seconds, builds, se-cretice of beliefing. For some years he has practically withdrawn from the busihe is said to have ormssed wealth. A small timber yard however, at the back of the atili exists. home and hat night, about 12 o'clock an alarm was given that one of the stacks was on fire. The engines were soon upon the spot, but the dry wood burned with great firs, and it was impossible to ar-rost the confugration until the stack had n entirely consumed. I'p to this point incident hore the appearance of an irony meddent, but fresh indications n to point to serious crime Curprise expressed at the absence of the mus-of the establishment from the scene fire and an inquiry followed, which a tout us had disappeared from the d that the bed had not been slept in a safe which stood in it was open t a number of important papers were effered about the room and finally that slight traces of blood being found within the tour and an oaken walking etick, which also showed stains of blood upon the handle. It is known that Mr. Jonas the handle. It is known that Mr. Jonas Orlands had received a late visitor in his bedroom open that night, and the stick found has been identified as the property of this person, who is a young London solicitor named John Hector McFarlane. ander partner of Graham & McParpolice believe that they have evidence is their possession which supplies a very unclinding motive for the crime, and altagether it cannot be doubted that sonsa-t end developments will follow.

Later.-It is rumored as we go to press

been arrested on the charge of the murder of Jonas Oldacre. It is at least certain that a warrant has been issued. There that a warrant has been issued. There have been further and sinister developments in the investigation at Norwood. Desidos the signs of a struggle in the room of the unfortunate builder it is now known that the French windows of his bedroom (which is on the ground of his bedroom (which is on the ground in the room of the product of the product is of the ground to be often that there of his bedroom (which is on the ground floor) were found to be open, that there were marks as if some bulky object had been dragged across to the wood pile, and finally it is asserted that charred remains have been found among the charcoal ashes of the fire. The police theory is that a most sensational crime has been committed that the victim was clubbed to death in his own bedroom, his papers rifled and his dead body dragged across to the wood stack. Which was then ignited, so as to hide all traces of the crime. The conduct of the criminal investigation has been left in the experienced hands of Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, who is following up the clews with his necusioned energy and sagacity.

Sherlock Holmes listened, with closed

Sherlock Holpes listened, with closed eyes and fingortips together, to this remarkable recount.

"The case has certainly some points of interest," said he in his languid fashion. "May I ask, in the first place, Mr. McFarlane, how it is that you are still at liberty, since there appears to be enough evidence to justify your ar-

"I live at Torrington Lodge, Blackbeath, with my parents, Mr. Holmes, but last night, having to do business very inte with Mr. Jonns Oldacre, I stayed at a hotel in Norwood and came to my business from there. I knew nothing of this affair until I was in the train, when I read what you have just heard. I at once saw the borrible danger of my position, and I hurried to put the case into your hands. I arrested either at my city office or at my home. A man followed me from London Bridge station, and I have no doubt- Great beaven! What is that?"

It was a clang of the bell, followed instantly by heavy steps upon the stair. A moment later our old friend Lestrade appeared in the doorway. Over his shoulder I caught a glimpse of one or we uniformed policemen outside.

"Mr. John Hector McFarlane?" said

Our unfortunate client rose, with a

"I arrest you for the willful murder of Mr. Jonas Oldaere of Lower Norwood." McFarlane turned to us with a gesture of despair and sank into his chair once more like one who is crushed.

"One moment, Lestrade," Holmes. "Half an hour more or less can make no difference to you, and the gentleman was about to give us an acount of this very interesting affair which might aid us in electing it up."
"I think there will be no difficulty in

learing it up," said Lestrade grimly. "None the less, with your permis

sion, I should be much interested to hear his account."

"Well, Mr. Holmes, it is difficult for me to refuse you anything, for you have been of use to the force once or twice in the past, and we owe you a good turn at Scotland Yard," said Lestrade. At the same time I must remain with my prisoner, and I am bound to warn him that an thing he may say will appear in evidence against him."

"I wish nothing better," said our "All I ask is that you should hear and recognize the absolute truth." Lestrade looked at his watch. give you half an hour," said be.

"I must explain first," said McFarlane, "that I knew nothing of Mr. Jonas Oldacre. His name was familiar to me, for many years ago my parents were acquainted with him, but they drifted apart. I was very much surprised. therefore, when yesterday about 2 o'clock in the afternoon he walked into my office in the city. But I was still more astonished when he told me the object of his visit. He had in his hand several sheets of a notebook, covered with scribbled writing-here they areand he laid them on my table,

" 'Here is my will,' said he. 'I want you, Mr. McFarlane, to cast it into proper legal shape. I will sit here

while you do so." "I set myself to copy it, and you can imagine my astonishment when I found that, with some reservations, he had left all his property to me. He was a strange little ferretlike man, with white eyelashes, and when I looked up at him I found his keen gray eyes fixed upon me with an amused expression. I could hardly believe my own senses as I read the terms of the will. but he explained that he was a bachefor with hardly any living relation. that he had known my parents in his youth and that he had always heard of me as a very deserving young man and was assured that his money would be in worthy hands. Of course I could only stammer out my thanks.

"The will was duly finished, signed and witnessed by my cierk. This is it on the blue paper, and these slips, as I have explained, are the rough draft. Mr. Jonas Oldacre then informed me that there were a number of documentsbuilding leases, title deeds, mortgages, scrip, and so forth-which it was necessary that I should see and understand. He said that his mind would not be easy until the whole thing was cettled, and he begged me to come out to his house at Norwood that night, bringing the will with me, and to arrange matters, 'Remember, p boy, not one word to your parents about the affair until everything is settled. We will keep it as a little surprise for them. He was very insistent upon this point and made me promise it

(Continued on next page.)

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27-36 J. N. Watson, Register. be paid in cash, or it may be applied to increase the amount of the new 2 per cent Bond, which will also thereafte participate annually in the dividends of the Company.

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Lakeview, Ore.

TIMBER LAND NOTICE

United States Land Office Lakeview, Oregon, July 3d, 1905. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the pro-visions of the Act of June 3, 1878, en-titled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, IS92, the following persons have this day filed in this office their sworn statements, to-wit :

Mrs. Lizzie Mayer, of Portland, county of Multno,nah, state of Oregon, Sworn Statement No. 2956, for the Swi Sal. Sec.27, and wie Nwie, SEig Nwig Sec. 34, Tp. 55, S., R. 17 E. Margaret Ryan, of Marquet, state of

Michigan. Sworn sta'ement No. 2957. for the purchase of the Nwy Sec. 28, Tp. 35, S., R 17 E. Martin Ryan, of Marquet, state of

Mich. Sworn statement No. 2958, for the purchase of the El₂ NEl₄, Swl₄ NEl₄, Nwl₅ SEl₅, Sec. 27, Tp. 35 S., R.

That they will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes and to establish claim to said land before Geo. T. Baldwin, Co. Judge, at his office at Klamath Falls, on Tuesday the 12th day of Sept. 1905. They name as witnesses: Margaret Ryan, of Marquet, Mich., Oliver Slifer, of Woodland, Wash., Martin Ryan, of Marquet, Mich., C. W. Em-body, of Portland, Oregon, C. E. Peterson, of Stevenson, Wash, and Albert Peterson, of Stevenson, Wash.

Any and all persons claiming adverse

FINAL PROOF.

Land Office at Lakeview, Oregon, Aug. 7th, 1905. Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that dence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: L. A. Moss, J. S. Fields, F. M. Miller and Chas. Loveless, all of Lake-

The Return of

SHERLOCK HOLMES

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