By A. CONAN DOYLE,

Author of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. "The Hound of the Baskervilles," "The 5 of the Four," "A Study in Scarlet," Etc.



BY P. B. STEELE

No. 3 of the Series

(Coppetable, 1801, by A. Conon Devic and Collection Health.)

(Coppright, 1985, by McClure, Phillips & Co.) OLMES had been seated for some hours in silence with his long, thin back curved over a chemical ressel in which he was brewing a practicularis

malodorous product. III head was sunk upon his breast, and h tooked from my point of view illestrange, lank bird with dail gray birt. age and a black topknot.

So, Watson," said he suddenly "y do not propose to invest in South Af-

rican securities?" I gave a start of asianishment. A customed as I was to Holmes' curio: faculties, this sudden introduce has been most intimute thoughts was after a liexplicable.

"How on earth do you know that?" asked

He wheeled round upon his stool with a steaming test tube in his hand and a gleam of amusement in his deep sei-

"Now, Watson, confess yourself ut terly taken aback," said he.

"I am. "I ought to make you sign a paper to that effect.

"Why?" "Because in five minutes you wil-

say that it is all so absurdly simple

"I am sure that I shall say wouldn't of the kind."

"You see, my dear Watson"- he propped his test tube in the rack and began to lecture with the air of a proje so addressing his class-not is not roully difficult to indistruct a series of the enves each organization the progenus unt eich simple in much after Come to, one shapey Art all one's appreciate that the streeting a starting fronti positry is a

the gold donle.



Sepyright by Collier's Weekly

"Well, Mr. Holmes, what do you make of these !"

play billiards to steady the one; third. you never play billiards except with Thurston; fourth, you told me four weeks ago that Thurston had an option on some South African property which would expire in a month and which he desired you to share with tilm; fifth, your check book is locked in tny drawer, and you have not asked for the key; sixth, you do not propose to invest your money in this man-

"How absurdly simple!" I cried.

"Quite so." said he, a little pettled. "Every problem becomes very childish when once it is explained to you. Here is an unexplained one. See what you can make of star friend Watson." He tossed a sheet of paper upon the table and turned once more to his chemical

I looked with amazement at the absurd hierogrammes upon the paper.

Why, I it is a child's draw ing" I cred.

"Oh, that a good gleat" "What of the P"

The Adventure of Riding Thorpe Manor, Norfolk, is very anxious to know. The fittle conuntry of the Dancing Men arm came by the tree post, and he was to follow by the next train. There's a ring at the bell Watson. I should not be very much surprised if this were be.'

> A heavy step was beard upon the stairs, and an instant later there entered a tall, ruddy, clean shaven gentleman whose clear eyes and florid cheeks told of a life led far from the fogs of Baker street. He seemed to bring a whiff of his strong, fresh, bracing east coast air with him as he entered. Having shaken bands with each of us, he was about to sit down when his eye rested upon the paper with the curious markings which I had just examined and left upon the table.

> "Well. Mr. Holmes, what do you make of these?" he cried. "They told me that you were fond of queer mysteries, and I don't think you can find a queerer one than that. I sent the paper on ahead, so that you might have time to study it before I came."

> "It is certainly rather a curious production," said Holmes. "At first sight it would appear to be some childish prank. It consists of a number of absurd little figures dancing across the paper upon which they are drawn. Why should you attribute any importance to so grotesque an object?"

> "I never should, Mr. Holmes, but my wife does. It is frightening her to death. She says nothing, but I can see terror in her eyes. That's why I want to sift the matter to the bottom."

Holmes held up the paper so that the sunlight shone full upon it. It was a page torn from a notebook. The markings were done in pencil and ran in

Holmes examined it for some time. and then, folding it carefully up, he placed it in his packetbook

"This promises to be a nost interest ing and maising case," said by. "You maye me a few particulars in your let ser, Mr. Hilton Cubitt, but I should or very much obliged if you would kindly go over it all again for the benefit of my friend. Dr. Watson,"

"I'm not much of a story teller," said our visitor nervously classing and un-"Very librly not, but I can emister clasping his great strong hands. "You are consistent. However will just ask me anything that I don't the missing links of the very shapes make clear. I'll begin at the time of chain. First not had chill between my marriage just year, but I want to your left flager and thursts when you say first of all that, though I'm not a returned from the claim had negatively rich man, my people have been at Ridond, you put chall there when you ing Thorpe for a matter of five centu- you have brought me are so indefinite ties, and there is no better known fam. that we have no basis for an investiby in the county of Norfolk. Last year gation. I would suggest that you reand I stopped at a boarding house in Tookout and that you take an exact Russell square, because Parker, the copy of any fresh dancing men which vicar of our parish, was staying in it.

there-Patrick was the name-Eisle those which were done in chalk upon Patrick. In some way we became the window sill. Make a discreet infriends, until before my month was up quiry also as to any strangers in the I was as much in love as man could be. We were quietly married at a registry office, and we returned to Norfolk a wedded comple. You'll think it very mad. Mr. Holmes, that a man of a good old family should marry a wife | ments I shall be always ready to run in this fashion, knowing nathing of her past or of her people, but if you saw home." her and knew her it would help you to understand.

tille was very straight about it, was Elsie. I can't say that she did not give me every chance of getting out of it if I wished to do so. I have had some very disagreeable associations in my life.' said she, 'I wish to forget all about them. I would rather never alfude to the past, for it is very painful back. to me. If you take me, Hilton, you will take a woman who has nothing that she need be personally ashamed of, but you will have to be content with my word for it and to allow me to be silent as to all that passed up to the time when I became yours. If these conditions are too hard, themgo back to Norfolk and leave me to the lonely life in which you found me.' It was only the day before our wedding that she said those very words to me. I told her that I was content to take her on her own

"Well, we have been married now for a year, and very happy we have been But about a month ago, at the end of June, I saw for the first time signs of trouble. One day my wife received a letter from America. I saw the American stamp. She turned deadly white, read the letter and threw it into the fire. She made no allusion to it afterword, and I made none, for a promise

terms, and I have been as good as my

is a promose, our sor mas mover amown an easy hour from thet moment. There is always a look of fear upon her face -a look as if she were waiting and expecting. She would do better to trust me. She would find that I was her best friend. But until she speaks I can say nothing. Mind you, she is a truthful woman, Mr. Holmes, and whatever trouble there may have been in her past life it has been no fault of hers. am only a simple Norfolk squire, but there is not a man in England who ranks his family honor more highly than I do. She knows it well, and she knew it well before she married me. She would never bring any stain upon It; of that I am sure.

"Well, now I come to the queer part

of my story. About a week ago-it was the Tuesday of last week-I found on one of the window alls a number of absurd little dancing figures like these upon the paper. They were scrawled with chalk. I thought that it was the stable boy who had drawn them, but the lad swore he knew nothing about t. Anyhow, they had come there dursig the night. I had them washed out, and I only mentioned the matter to my aufe afterward. To my surprise she ook it very seriously and begged me if thy more came to let her see them. None did come for a week, and then vestersiny morning I found this paper lying on the samulal in the garden. I showed it to Liste and down she dropped in a dead faint. Since then she has looked like a woman in a dream, had dazed and with terror always lurking in her eyes. It was then that I wrote and sent the paper to you, Mr. Holmes, It was not a thing that I could take to the police, for they would have laughed at me, but you will tell me what to do. I am not a rich man, but if there is any danger threatening my little woman I would spend my last copper to shield

He was a fine creature, this man of the old English soil simple, straight and gentle, with his great, earnest blue eyes and broad, comely face. His love for his wife and his trust in her shone in his features. Holmes had listened to his story with the utmost attention. and now he sat for some time in silent thought.

"Don't you think, Mr. Cubitt," said he at last, "that your best plan would be to make a direct appeal to your wife and to ask her to share her secret with you?

Hilton Cubitt shook his massive head "A promise is a promise, Mr. Holmes, If Elsie wished to tell me she would. If not, it is not for me to force her confidence. But I am justified in taking ms own line-and I will."

"Then I will help you with all my heart. In the first place, have you heard of any strangers being seen in your neighborhood?

"I presume that it is a very quiet place. Any freely face would wante

the the busic into neithermores, you I'm we have several small watering places not very far away. And the faturers take in lodgers."

"These hieroglyphies have evidently a meaning. If it is a purely arbitrary one it may be impossible for us to solve it. If, on the other hand, it is systematic, I have no doubt that we shall get to the bottom of it. But this particular sample is so short that I can do nothing, and the facts which came up to London for the jubilee. Turn to Norfolk, that you keep a keen may appear. It is a thousand pities There was an American young lady that we have not a reproduction of neighborhood. When you have collected some fresh evidence come to me again. That is the best advice which I can give you. Mr. Hilton Cubitt. If there are any pressing fresh developdown and see you in your Norfolk

> The interview left Sherlock Holmes very thoughtful, and several times in the next few days I saw him take his slip of paper from his notebook and look long and earnestly at the curious figures inscribed upon it. He made no allusion to the affair, however, until one afternoon a fortnight or so later. I was going out when he called me

"You had better stay here, Watson."

"Why?" "Because I had a wire from Hilton Cubitt this morning. You remember Hilton Cubitt of the dancing men? He was to reach Liverpool street at 1:20. He may be here at any moment. 1 gather from his wire that there have been some new incidents of impor-

We had not long to wait, for our Norfolk squire came sire ght from the station as fast as a hansom could bring blis. He was looking worried and depresent with tirel eyes and a limit forehead

"It's gotting on my names, this imstness. Mr. 21 des," entit finanti-"It's but on your to find other you.
surroun of by meson.
who have there is not district a

(Continued on next page.)

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J. Q. Willits 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, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892, the following persons have this day filed in this office Mrs. Lizzie Mayor, of Portland, coun-

ty of Multnomah, state of Oregon.
Sworn Statement No. 2956, for the Rul
Swi, Sec. 27, and wie Nwi. SEL Nwi
Sec. 34, Tp. 35, S., R. 17 E.
Margaret Rvan, of Marquet, state of

Margaret Rvan, or Marquet, state of Michigan. Sworn statement No. 2957, for the purchase of the Nw% Sec. 28, Tp. 35, S., R 17 E.

Martin Rvan, of Marquet, state of Mich. Sworn statement No. 2958, for the purchase of the E½ NEU, SwU, NEU, Nw% SE%, Sec. 27, Tp. 35 S., R. 77 F.

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 their claim to said land before Geo. T. Baldwin, Co. Judge, at his office at Klamath falls, on Tuesday the I2th day of Sept. son, of Stevensor, Wash, and Albert Peterson, of Stevenson, Wash

Any and all persons claiming adverse ly the above-des ribed lands are requestor before said 12th day of Sept., 1965. J. N. Watson, Register.

FINAL PROOF.

Land Office at Lakeview, Oregon, Aug. 7th. 1995. Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed potice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register dence upon and cultivation of said land, Full information regarding this ex-Miller and Chas. Loveless, all of Lake

J. N. Watson, Register.

The Return of

SHERLOCK HOLMES

This latest and best work of Dr. Doyle is now running serially in the Lake County Examiner. A.

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