are all besmudged. Hast been in the water?"

"I have in good sooth." Alleyne answered, and then, as they journeyed on their way, he told them the many things that had befallen him "But you." said Alleyne, there have been changes with you also. Where are bow and sword and cap—and why so warlike, John?"

"It is a game which friend Aylward hath been a teaching of me."

"And I found him an overapt pupil." grumbled the bewman. "He hath stripped me. But, by my hilt! you must render them back to me, camarade, lest you bring discredit upon my mission, and I will pay you for them at armorer's prices."

"Take them back, man, and never heed the pay," said John. "I did but wish to learn the feel of them, since I am like to have such trinkets hung to my own girdle for some years to come."

come "Ma fot, he was born a free com-panion" cried Aylward. "He hath the very trick of speech and turn of thought. I take them back then, and indeed it gives me anease not to feel my yew-stave tapping against my leg. my yew-stave tapping against my leg.
It chanced on that very evening that
Sir Nigel Loring, having supped before
sunset, as was his custom, had taken
his dogs for an evening breather. Two
russet-clad variets, with loud halloo
and cracking whips, walked thigh-deep
amid the swarm, suiding, controlling,
and urging. Behind came Sir Nigel
himself, with Lady Loring upon his
arm, the pair walking slowly and sedately, as betitted both their age and
their condition. They paused at the
bridge.

reared up, with eyes ablase with fear and hate, and whired its great paws and hate, and whired its great paws the and little a door, rather than searth. He showeve, thinking with purk, and the standard where the standard property with the standard property of the hate was soon swatch in roops by the bear-was soon swatch in roops by the bear-was soon swatch in roops by the bear-been in the standard in roops by the st



and the search, entirely controlled the larger and the control of the control of

nis hand out to the romance, and again came that roguish burst of merriment. He looked up at the ceiling, back at the closed door, and round at the stiff folds of motionless tapestry. Of a sudden, however, he caught a quick shimmer from the corner of a high-backed bancal in front of him. and, shifting a pace of two to the side, saw a white, slender hand, which held a mirror of polished silver in such a way that the concealed observer could see without being seen. He stood irresolute, uncertain whether to advance or to take no notice; but, even as he hesitated the mirror was whipped in, and a tall and stately young lady swept out from behind the oaken screen, with a dancing light of mischief in her eyes Alleyne started with astonishment as he recognized the very maiden who had suffered from his brother's violence in the forest. She no longer wore her gay riding-dress however. had suffered from his brother's vio-lence in the forest. She no longer wore her gay riding-dress, however, but was attired in a long sweeping robe of black velvet of Bruges, with delicate tracery of white lace at neck and at wrist, scarce to be seen against the ivory skin. Beautiful as she had seemed to him before, the lithe charm of her figure and the proud, free grace

ous thing. She was back again in an instant, however, in another of her varying moods.

"Look at that, my friend" said she. "If you had been shut up in abbey or in cell this day you could not have taught a wayward maiden to abide by the truth. Is it not so? What avail is the shepherd if he leaves his sheep?" "A sorry shepherd" said Allyene humbly. "But here is your noble father."

"And you shall see how worthy a pupil I am Father, I am much beholden to this young clerk, who was to of service to me and helped me this very morning in Minstead Woods, four miles to the north of the Christchurch in road, where I had no call to be, you having ordered it otherwise." All this she recled off in a loud voice, and then glanced with sideling questioning eyes at Alleyne for his approval.

(To be Continued Next Week.)

(To be Continued Next Week.)

The scenes of the story are inid in the 14th century. Hordle John, a lay-brother of the Clatercian Monastery, Abbor of Beaulieu flees from the monastery after being found guilty of certain serious charges brought against him by a number of the monks. The same day, another of the lay-brother of the monastery, Alleyne Edize on, takes his departure in accordance with a provision of his father's will, designating that he should, when he became twenty years old, go forth for one year to choose for himself his future calling. In sadness he wanders from the monastery to visit his brother, the Somman of Minstead, whose regulation is a most unaccording of Minstead, whose regulation is a most unaccording the form of the form o

What Does This Mean?



If these puzzling things, roughly displayed in

Fresh Blood

upon the wall of a house where a great crime had been committed, stared you in the face, could you explain their meaning?

Such was the problem which SHERLOCK HOLMES had to solve in his first chronicled adventure

"The Study in Scarlet" A book which made CONAN DOYLE the first

In Holmes' next adventure, he was confronted by the cabalistic image in "The Sign of the Four"

These two, the first and best of the Sherlock Holmes novels, 300 pages of reading, bound elegantly in a single big volume in illuminated cloth board (Harper & Bros.' regular \$1.50 linen imperial edition), sent postpaid with this coupon for

50 CENTS

Here is a chance to get two of the most intensely interesting of adventures in a most beautifully printed and bound edition for just one-third price.

FREE WITH THIS BOOK. A handsome, copper photo-engravure of sherlock Holmes, printed on heaviest enameled paper, suitable for framing. Be sure and use this Coupon, sending 50 cents in Stamps, Coin or Money Order.

iklin Square, N. Y. City.

State