

Sign of the Four.

BY CONAN DOYLE.

CHAPTER IX.

It was late in the afternoon before I went to bed, strengthened and refreshed. Sherlock Holmes still sat exactly as I had left him, save that he had laid aside his violin and was deep in a book. He looked across at me as I stirred, and I noticed that his face was dark and troubled.

"You have slept soundly," he said. "I feared that our talk would wake you."

"I heard nothing," I answered. "Have you had fresh news, then?"

"Unfortunately, no. I confess that I am surprised and disappointed. I expected something definite by this time. Wiggins has just been up to report. He says that no trace can be found of the launch. It is a provoking check, for every hour is of importance."

"What I do not understand," I said perfectly fresh and quite ready for another night's outing.

"No, we can do nothing. We can only wait. If we go ourselves, the message might come in our absence, and delay be caused. You can do what you will, but I must remain on guard."

"Then I shall run up to Cambridge and call upon Mrs. Cecil Forrester. She should know, yesterday."

"On Mrs. Cecil Forrester?" asked Holmes, with the twinkle of a smile in his eyes.

"Why, of course, on Miss Morstan too. We were anxious to hear what happened."

"I did not tell them too much," said Holmes. "Women are never to be entirely trusted—not the best of them."

"I did not pause to argue over this atrocious sentiment. 'I shall be back in an hour or two,' I remarked.

"All right! Good luck! But I say, if you are crossing the river you may as well return to-day, for I don't think it is at all likely that we shall have any more for him now."

"I took my hat and accordingly, and let him finish with a half-sarcastic look at the old naturalist's in 'Pinchin lane at Cambridge' I found Miss Morstan a little weary after her night's adventures, but very eager to hear the news.

"Mrs. Forrester, too," was full of curiosity. "I told them all that we had done, suppressing, however, the more dreadful parts of the tragedy. Thus, although I spoke of Mr. Sholto's death, I said nothing of the exact manner and method of it. With all my omissions, however, there was enough to startle and amaze them."

"It is a romance," cried Mrs. Forrester. "An injured lady, half a million in treasure, a black cannibal and a wooden-legged ruffian. They take the place of the conventional dragon or wicked earl."

"And two knight-errants to the rescue," added Miss Morstan, with a bright glance at me.

"Why, Mary, your fortune depends upon the issue of this search. I don't think that you are nearly excited enough. Just imagine what it must be to be so rich and to have the world at your feet!"

"It sent a thrill of joy to my heart to notice that she showed no sign of elation at the prospect. On the contrary, she gave a toss of her proud head, as though the matter were one in which she took small interest."

"It is for Mr. Thaddeus Sholto that I am anxious," she said. "Nothing else is of any consequence; but I think that he has behaved most kindly and honorably throughout. It is our duty to clear him of this dreadful and unfounded charge."

"It was evening before I left, Cambridge, and quite dark by the time I reached home. My companion's book and pipe lay by his chair, but he had disappeared. I looked about in the hope of seeing a note, but there was none."

"I suppose that Mr. Sherlock Holmes has gone out," I said to Mrs. Hudson as she came up to lower the blinds.

"No, sir. He has gone to his room. Sir, do you know, sir," sinking her voice into an impressive whisper, "I am afraid for his health."

"Why so, Mrs. Hudson?"

"Well, he's that strange, sir. After tea was gone he walked and he walked, up and down, and up and down, until I was weary of the sound of his footsteps. Then I heard him talking to himself and muttering, and every time the bell rang out he came on the stair-head with 'What is that, Mrs. Hudson?' And now he has slumped off to his room, but I can hear him walking away the same as ever. I hope he's not going to be ill, sir."

"I don't think that you have any right to be uneasy, Mrs. Hudson," I answered. "I have seen him like this before. He has some small matter up on his mind which makes him restless."

"I tried to speak lightly to my worthy landlady, but I was myself somewhat uneasy when, through the long night, I fell from time to time heard the dull sound of his tread, and knew how his keen spirit was chafing against this irritating inaction."

"At breakfast time he looked worn and haggard, with a little fleck of feverish color upon either cheek."

"You are knocking yourself up, old man," I remarked. "I heard you marching about in the night."

"No, I could not sleep," he answered. "This internal problem is consuming me. It is too much to be balked by so plain an obstacle, when all else had been overcome. I know the men, the launch, everything; and yet I can get no news. I have set every agency at work, and used every means at my disposal. The whole river has been searched on either side, but there is no sign, nor has Mrs. Smith heard of her

husband. I shall come to the conclusion soon that they have scuttled the craft. But there are objections to that."

"Or that Mrs. Smith has put us on a wrong scent?"

"No, I think that may be dismissed. I had inquiries made, and there is a launch of that description."

"Could it have gone up the river?"

"I have considered that possibility too, and there is a search party which

NORTH STATE NEWS.

A MOUNTAIN TRAGEDY.

Two Men Killed and One Fatally Injured at a Dance in Cherokee County.

A special from Murphy says that in a fight in the lower end of Cherokee county, two brothers named Cross were killed and Neal Newman was dangerously wounded. A dance was in progress at the Cross home. Neal and Mac Newman were among the guests. Jake Cross, the head of the family, ordered the Newmans out of the house. They went out and were followed by Jim and Will Cross, brothers. Jake Cross also went out and attacked Neal Newman, who stabbed Jim Cross fatally. Mac Newman shot and killed Will Cross. Neal Newman was shot in the back, but was able to escape with his brother across the Tennessee line.

Frightened to Death.

The Newbern Journal tells of a death which occurred at that place under unusual circumstances. Miss Julia Taylor, aged 68, who lived alone and did tailor work, screamed for help about midnight, and J. C. Green, who lived next door, answered and went over. Miss Taylor said a man had come on her porch and she had raised the window and asked who it was. He grasped at her and she dropped the window and he left. Mr. Green told her to come to his house and spend the remainder of the night, and she was supposed to be preparing to do so, but hearing nothing more of her for some time Mr. Green looked in the window and saw her lying on the floor. Help was summoned, but she soon died. The coroner's jury decided that she had died of fright.

It is Now Six Per Cent.

The 6 per cent. interest law went into effect Saturday. The act was ratified March 13, but by a queer oversight had no enacting clause, so that thirty days had to elapse before the act could go into effect. Now what will the national banks do?

Coal Mine Resumption.

The bituminous coal mines at Egypt have started upon full time and with fine equipment throughout of new machinery. Fifty men are now employed and the daily output is 150 tons. In sixty days the force will be doubled. The machinery is working well. George W. Lacy, of Illinois, has just been made general manager.

The New Women's College.

The trustees of the Baptist Women's College at Raleigh have decided that the work must begin within thirty days. They have let the contract for the main building, the contractors being the North Carolina Car Company, of Raleigh. The building will cost about \$30,000. It will be of brick, three stories high, and the design, which is by Mr. Bauer, is quite elaborate. It is the intention to complete the building by October 1st. The location is between the capitol and the executive mansion, and is a fine one.

Yadkin county is entirely out of debt and has money enough ahead to pay expenses for a year.

Half the dam at the Falls of Nense was torn away by the big floods in the river. The damage will be repaired as rapidly as possible.

In view of the tax levied by the Legislature upon them, the physicians of Ireddell county held a meeting and appointed a committee to draw up a new fee bill.

The Gastonia Gazette says that young Ward, who was tried in Lincoln Superior Court for murder and acquitted, left Lincoln the next day. He feared his life was jeopardized by remaining there. Threats had been reported to him that if the law cleared him Logan's crowd would see further about avenging their companion's death.

Many new revenue seizures were reported to Collector Simmons at Raleigh. Deputies Moffitt and Foard got a 40-gallon still near Broadway, Moore county, and an 80-gallon one near Hadley's Mills, Chatham county, owned by Lewin Marley; Deputy Troy

a 60-gallon one near Jonesboro, owned by James Sloan; Deputy Gibson a 45-gallon one on Little river, Montgomery county. Revenue officers also seized the registered distillery of L. J. Williams, at Williams' Mill, Chatham county, and it was taken to Raleigh together with a quantity of whiskey.

THE LEADING NOMINEES.

McKinley and Stevenson are the Favorites for President.

NEW YORK.—In a canvass of the Republican and Democratic national committees, printed by the Evening Telegram, William McKinley and Adlai Stevenson lead in the race for the respective presidential nominations. The figures are: Republican—William McKinley, Jr., 13; Benjamin Harrison, 4; Thomas B. Reed, 4; William B. Allison, 2; Levi P. Morton, 1; John Sherman, 1; Henry M. Teller, 1. Democratic—Adlai Stevenson, 9; Governor Boies, of Iowa, 2; Matthews, 1; and Postmaster General Wilson, 1. Chicago is highest in favor as the convention city, and the tariff and financial questions are believed to be the issues upon which the campaign is to be conducted.

INCOME TAX DIRECTIONS.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Miller Sends Instructions to Collectors.

At Washington, D. C., Commissioner Miller, after several days' consideration of the changed condition of the income tax law, but still in the absence of the full text of the Supreme Court decision, issued supplemental instructions to the sixty-three internal revenue collectors.

These instructions may be followed by others to meet special cases as they arise. The instructions were handed to the Southern Associated Press for distribution, and will not be telegraphed to collectors of internal revenue except in the far West. They are as follows:

1. Interest received from State, county and municipal bonds, or securities, and rents from real estate, are not taxable as income, but persons or corporations receiving said interest or rents shall include in their returns as receipts the full amount thereof received or accrued within the year for which the return is made, and shall deduct the same as not subject to taxation.

2. The amount actually paid for taxes, insurance and repairs on real estate may be deducted from income, as heretofore provided by the law and regulations.

3. All persons and corporations that have heretofore rendered income tax returns for the year 1894 to a collector or deputy collector, including therein interest received from State, county or municipal bonds or from rents from real estate, may have the amounts of said interest and rents deducted from their income by duly making an affidavit to that effect, and delivering the same to the collector or deputy collector to whom the original return was rendered.

4. The collector upon receipt of the prescribed affidavit shall attach said affidavit to the return of the affiant heretofore made, and shall make the correction in said return in conformity with the facts stated in said affidavit, and forward said amended return, with the affidavit attached, to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

JOS. S. MILLER, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, approved. J. G. CARLISLE, Secretary of the Treasury.

This telegram was sent to collectors: WASHINGTON, D. C.—Have the affidavits and instructions printed and distributed immediately to all persons who have rendered returns. All returns received here will be forwarded to per mail. Correct same by attaching affidavit and making deduction as shown therein. Require all persons in making returns in future to show clearly that rents included and deducted were received only from real estate, and include nothing whatever paid for rent or use of personal property or franchise.

If necessary for accommodation of persons filing income tax returns, you will keep your office open for business from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.

JOS. S. MILLER, Commissioner. "There is no power vested in this department," telegraphed Commissioner Miller, "to extend the time for making returns under the income tax law."

WHAT IT COST CHINA.

Comes Out of the War a Bad Loser—Japan Makes a Big Haül.

An authoritative statement of the terms of peace being negotiated between Japan and China has been secured from official sources at Washington, D. C. The statement is made in order to clear up much misrepresentation arising from speculation as to the terms of peace. They are five dependent on the terms. The indemnity of the island of Formosa to Japan. Indemnity of 300,000,000 taels (Chinese coin, worth \$1.33). Permanent occupation of Port Arthur and immediate contiguous territory. A new Japanese-Chinese treaty opening the interior of China to commerce.

The money indemnity is expressed in Chinese taels instead of Japanese yen. The tael is in reality a weight instead of a coin. It is considered silver money. While the face value at \$1.33 would be equivalent to \$399,000,000 in silver, it is said the actual value would be between \$210,000,000 and \$220,000,000 in gold. The fifth term as to the new treaty includes various trade features such as free access to Chinese rivers. There is no demand for territory on the mainland outside of Port Arthur and its contiguous surroundings.

Don't be Fooled by a Rise in Price.

Alfred B. Shepperson, the cotton statistician of New York, writes to the Cotton Exchange of Charleston, S. C.: "I think an advance in cotton before the planting is completed would be unfortunate, as it would probably cause a larger acreage in cotton than had been contemplated, and the result of a full acreage would undoubtedly be to cause a serious decline in prices."

I think the Southern planters have it in their own hands now, by the action which they may take in respect to acreage, to control the price of cotton for many months. A considerable reduction in acreage, in view of the improved trade conditions throughout the world, would certainly lead to a very considerable and permanent advance in cotton, whereas without such reduction I fear that prices would continue for many months, subject, of course, to occasional fluctuations, upon a very low range, and upon so low a range that there would be no profit to the American cotton growers.

London is twelve miles broad and seventeen miles long. Every year sees about twenty miles of new streets added to it.

HIS SALARY TAXED.

HERE'S AN INCOME TAX QUESTION FOR GROVER:

Will He have to Pay \$920 on His \$50,000 Salary?

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Cleveland filled out his income tax blank. In his return he included his salary of \$50,000 as chief executive, on which the tax will be \$920, deciding to leave it to the proper officers to determine whether the payment of the 2 per cent. assessment will be in violation of the provision of the federal constitution which says that the compensation of the president shall not be increased nor diminished for the term for which he shall have been elected.

As to the payment of the tax, Mr. Cleveland has until the 1st of July to make it, and as the constitutional question affecting his salary will undoubtedly have been passed upon before that time, the president will wait for the disposition of the matter. The tariff law directs that the income tax shall be paid by individuals "to the collector or deputy collector of the district in which they reside." It is said that Mr. Cleveland is uncertain as to whether he should claim Buzzard's Bay or New York city as his place of residence and that for this reason it is not unlikely that he will send his return to the deputy collector in Washington.

PITHY NEWS ITEMS.

The czar has decided that his coronation shall be celebrated in Moscow next August.

The Savannah, Ga., steam rice mill, capitalized at \$72,000, was burned. Two hundred barrels of rice were saved. The insurance is \$60,000.

A dispatch to the London Central News from the Pescadores, under the date of April 6th, says that cholera is abating at Makung, where there are 547 old cases, 28 new ones and 24 deaths.

"John Quincy Adams," says the Boston Journal, "put the whole tariff question in a nutshell when he said: 'The interest of the South is identified with that of the foreign rival and competitor of the Northern manufacturer.' It is not the whole question but a large part of it. The rest of it is: If the interest of the agricultural South is necessarily identified with that of the foreign competitor of the highly protected Northern manufacturer, with whose interest is that of the agricultural West identified?"

FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE VETERANS Will Meet in September.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Secretary Lamont has decided upon the main features of the official exercises authorized by congress in the dedication of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National military park. The ceremonies will begin on the battlefield of Chickamauga September 19th, and will comprise the formal announcement of the opening of the park by the war department, representing the government; two orations by speakers of national prominence, and the proper military display. On the following day exercises in continuation of the dedication, relating to the battles of Lookout mountain and Missionary ridge, will be held at Chattanooga with a somewhat similar program.

The secretary will arrange to have all the armies represented in the battle participate in the dedication by setting apart the night of September 19th to the union and confederate armies of the Tennessee, and the night of the 20th to the armies of the Potomac and Northern Virginia. The regular army will be represented by the lieutenant general and a detachment of troops. The Society of the Army of the Cumberland will hold its regular annual reunion at Chattanooga on the evening of September 18th, preceding the dedication, and to this all official visitors and representatives of the other army societies will be invited.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Miss G. Clifford, of South Carolina, has been promoted from a \$900 to the \$1,000 class in the office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Secretary Herbert awarded the contract of building three sea-going torpedo boats to the Columbia Iron Works, of Baltimore. They will be 138 tons displacement, and have a speed of 24 knots. Exclusive of armor, the cost will be \$97,500 each. The Secretary also directed that the boats authorized by the last naval appropriation bill shall be larger and faster than those contracted for. With this end in view he directed Chief Constructor Hickborn to prepare plans for vessels of 180 tons displacement, to have a speed of 27 knots.

The London Times Likes the Income Tax Decision.

In a leader praising the United States Supreme Court for its income tax decision the London Times says: "If we were under the United States constitution, Sir William Harcourt's budget would have been declared unconstitutional. Those declared leaders in America must envy us the freedom of dealing with other people's property, enjoyed in this the land of liberty."

In a district school near Mount Olive, Ky., fifty-five pupils are enrolled. Each pupil is related either by consanguinity or marriage to every other child in the school. One or the other of the parents of each of the fifty-five children was either a pupil or schoolmate with the present teacher.

PRICE OF BEEF ADVANCED.

The Big Dealers in Chicago Say the Supply is Short.

Prices of dressed beef have been going up for two weeks. Live beef in the wholesale dealer is fifteen per cent. higher in Chicago than it was then. At retail, choice cuts have risen four to five cents a pound, and it is predicted it will require a dollar to buy a good steak in a few weeks.

The public explanation of the rise offered by the representatives of the Dressed Beef Trust is that prime beef cattle are scarce. The change in conditions, they say, dates back to 1890, when countless herds were destroyed on the ranges by storms. The destruction of 600,000,000 bushels of corn last year by the drought completed what Western storms began.

York does not appear by the records, however, that the receipts of cattle in Chicago have fallen off so greatly. At the stock yards during March and the first week of April, 1894, they were 225,000. During the same period this year they were 205,000—not quite ten per cent. decrease.

Chicago, at Washington Market, was observed the unusual spectacle of retail butchers closing up their stalls temporarily, or permanently going out of business, on account of the high price of meat. Two of the oldest butchers in the market closed up and more decided to follow their example. The butchers say they are now paying more for meat than they have for twenty years. Assistant District Attorney McIntyre, of New York City, said his office would proceed against the Chicago meat combine if evidence were put in his hands showing that it is forcing up the price of meat.

10,000 SPURIOUS STAMPS.

Secret-Service Men in Chicago Unearth a Big Postal Swindle.

United States Secret Service operatives in Chicago and Washington have unearthed probably the most unique and at the same time important swindle ever perpetrated upon any Government.

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Chicago apparently has been the headquarters of the gang, and its product has been shipped to distributing agents through the express company. Captain Stuart, of the Postal Inspector's Department, and Captain Porter, of the United States Secret Service Bureau, called at the Walker, Fargo and Chicago. They went taken to the store room, and there found an oblong package looking like a big roll of music. It contained 10,000 of the counterfeit stamps.

PEEL'S SUCCESSOR.

William Court Gully Elected Speaker of the British House of Commons.

The British House of Commons met at noon and proceeded at once to the election of a Speaker to succeed the Right Hon. Arthur Wellesley Peel, resigned. Mr. J. Balfour, the leader of the Opposition, said that the Government's support of Mr. Gully was without precedent, and he believed dangerous to the future efficiency of the House. Mr. Gully, he said, was unknown as regards the work of the House, having never taken part in its debates nor served on any of its committees.

Mr. Gully was elected by a vote of 285 to 274. The Parrellite members voted for the Conservative candidate, Sir Matthew W. Ridley. Mr. Gully expressed his thanks to the House on his appointment, and his appreciation of the honor and great responsibility which they had conferred upon him. Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Balfour congratulated Mr. Gully on behalf of their respective parties.

A NEW COTTON PEST.

A Weevil Appears in the Cotton Belt of Texas Threatening Great Harm.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington has just issued a circular to cotton planters relative to a new and very destructive insect that has been brought across the Rio Grande from Mexico into the cotton belt of Texas, and which, during 1894, seriously injured the cotton crop, over a territory of about 5,000 square miles. It is a weevil which attacks the cotton bolls. It punctures the boll with its beak and lays eggs in the hole thus made. The grubs hatch and ruin both the seed and fiber, thus destroying simultaneously both products of the cotton plant.

The Texas Legislature, at the recommendation of the Agricultural Department, is seriously considering the question of quarantining cotton from the insect infested district, and of protective legislation, as well as of enforcement of remedial work by act of law. Inasmuch as the insect is new to American cotton planters, there is much yet to be learned about its habits before practical remedies can be suggested. This insect is new in Texas and threatens to spread to other cotton States, and the entire South is therefore interested in the problem now confronting the Texas Legislature.

A Sign of Southern Growth.

An interesting indication of the rapid increase in Southern centres of population is found in the number of new postoffices established in this section. According to government statistics, as given in the United States Official Postal Guide, the number of postoffices in 1890 was 62,087, and in 1894 69,007, an increase of 6970. Of this increase the South is credited with 4496, and all the other States with 2474. Of the increase the South has 65 per cent. and the North 35 per cent. These figures only repeat the proof that the South is not only keeping abreast of the rest of the States, but is leading them in gain of population and in the development of communities. It is the same story that is told by bank clearings of increased business, by railroad earnings, of traffic improvement—a steady and prosperous growth in people, commerce and industries.

The Rochester (N. Y.) Common Council Proposes to make an arrangement with the street railroad company by which it will carry for a nominal sum all policemen and detectives. This is the outcome of the constitutional amendment prohibiting the issuance of passes to public officers.

KILLED AT A BANK'S DOOR.

Chasler Sanford Shot at Covington, Ky. by State Senator Goebel.

State Senator W. P. Goebel shot and killed Cashier John Sanford of the First National Bank, Covington, Ky. Senator Goebel, accompanied by Attorney General Hendricks, of Kentucky, and Frank Helm, President of the First National Bank, was going into the bank. When he reached the door Sanford stood there. He shook hands with Hendricks, using his left hand. Then he asked Goebel if he wrote a newspaper article attacking him. Goebel answered "I did."

Immediately Sanford pulled out a pistol and fired, the ball passing through Goebel's trousers. Quick as a flash Goebel pulled his revolver and also fired. To do so he had to thrust the pistol beneath Mr. Helm's chin. The ball crashed through Sanford's forehead and he fell in the doorway of the bank fatally wounded. Mr. Helm's chin was badly wounded with powder.

Great confusion followed. Senator Goebel walked to the station house and addressing the Lieutenant in charge, said: "I wish to surrender myself. I have shot and killed John Sanford."

The homicide grows out of a business and political feud of several years' standing, and was not a surprise. Both men were from among Kentucky's foremost citizens, being leaders in politics, business and society. Not since the famous Goodloe-Swope affray at Lexington, in which both of those distinguished men died, has so deplorable a tragedy occurred.

Goebel is unmarried and Sanford leaves a widow, a sister of the famous Tom Marshall, of Kentucky, and several children, one a grown son, from whom more trouble was feared.

THE ST. PAUL AFLOAT.

A Native-Built Steamer for the American Line Launched.

The American Line, St. Paul made ample apology at Cramps' shipyard, Philadelphia, Penn., for refusing to be launched two weeks before. She was launched apparently with the greatest ease. She broke away as the planks that held her firm in the launching cradle were being sawed off. She shook her bow perceptibly as she started down the incline, and then with a steady, even motion, she floated down the river. The new steamer ship, St. Louis, she slid into the Delaware. The Cramps never had a more successful launching.

Miss Frances C. Grison, the sixteen-year-old daughter of President Grison, of the International Navigation Company, owners of the St. Paul, christened the ship. The luncheon in the mould loft followed immediately, and soon the rafters of that place were ringing with laughter and eloquence. Governor Hendricks, Mayor Warwick, President Grison and Henry W. Cramp made speeches, as did Mr. J. J. Parlor and several others of the St. Paul delegation.

A CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.

Announcement from Germany of a Discovery by a New York Physician.

From Germany comes the first official news of an American discovery said to cure the most dreaded of diseases, consumption and cancer. Consul-General De Kay, of Berlin, in a report to the State Department at Washington, has announced that he has discovered a cure for consumption in March in a trustworthy medical weekly in Germany, is likely to receive considerable attention at the coming medical congress in Munich. The discovery was made by Dr. Louis Waldstein, of New York, a brother of the famous archaeologist, Dr. Charles Waldstein. His report says: "Consists of inject 100 minute doses of pliocarpin until the lymphatic system is stimulated and the white corpuscles of the blood overcome the poisonous particles which produce disease." Dr. Waldstein's researches have gone to the fountain whence these healthy white corpuscles are derived, by enervating their action and productiveness he restores the condition of the blood and destroys poisonous germs.

Dr. Louis Waldstein, who is referred to in the above despatch, is a well-known New York physician. Dr. Waldstein was born in New York City, the son of an optician, and he took his medical degree at Heidelberg in 1878.

Great Britain raises \$95,000,000 from the liquor taxes and \$40,000,000 from the tax on tobacco.

State Library

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