ADVENTURE OF THREE STUDENTS-BY HOLMES

(Continued from Page One) "I can follow the other points," said he, "but really, in this matter of the

length-" Holmes held out a small clip with the letters NN and a space of clear wood after them.

You see? "No, I fear that even now-" "Watson, I have always done you an injustice. There are others. What could this NN be? It is at the end of a word. You are aware that Johann Faber is the most common maker's name. It is not clear that there is just as much of the pencil left as usually follows the Johann?" He held the small table sideways to the electric light. "I was hoping that if the paper on which he wrote was thin, some trace of it might come through upon this polished surface. No, I see nothing. I don't think there is anything more to be learned here. Now for the

central table. This small pellet is, I presume, the black, doughy mass you spoke of. Roughly pyramidal in shape and hollowed out, I perceive. As you say, there appear to be grains of sawdust in it. Dear me, this is very interesting. - And the cut-a positive tear, I see. It began with a thin scratch and ended in a jagged hole. I am much indebted to you for directing my attention to this case, Mr. Soames. Where does that door lead to?"

"To my bedroom." "Have you been in it since your adventure?

'No, I came straight away for you.' "I should like to have a glance round. What a charming, old-fashioned room! Perhaps you will kindly wait a minute, until I have examined the floor. No, I see nothing. What about this curtain? You hang your clothes behind it. If anyone were forced to conceal himself in this room he must do it there, since the bed is too low and the wardrobe too shallow. No one there, I suppose?"

As Holmes drew the curtain I was aware, from some little rigidity and alertness of his attitude, that he was prepared for an emergency. As a matter of fact, the drawn curtain disclosed nothing but three or four suits of clothes hanging from a line of pegs. Holmes turned away, and steoped suddenly to the floor.

"Halloa! What's this?" said he. It was a small pyramid of black, putty-like stuff, exactly like the one upon the table of the study. Holmes I'll not believe it." held it out on his coen palm in the

glare of the electric light. "Your visitor seems to have left traces in your bedroom as well as in your sitting room, Mr. Soames."

"What could he have wanted there?" "I think it is clear enough. You came back by an unexpected way, and so he had no warning until you were at the very door. What could he do? He caught up everything which would betray him, and he rushed into your bedroom to conceal himself."

"Good gracious, Mr. Holmes, do you mean to tell me that, all the time I was talking to Bannister in this room only known it?" "So I read it."

"Surely there is another alternative, Mr. Holmes. I don't know whether you observed my bedroom window?" ble?"
"Lattice-paned, lead framework." on hinge, and large enough to admit

"Exactly. And it looks out on an angle of the courtyard so as to be duct you.' while, you change nothing-nothing at partly invisible. The man might have effected his entrance there, left traces finally, finding the door open, have escaped that way."

Holmes shook his head impatiently. 'Let us be practical," said he. "I understand you to say that there are three students who use their stair, and them that he insisted on drawing it are in the habit of passing your door?" in his notebook, broke his pencil, had Yes, there are.

ination?"

any one of them more than the oth-Soames hesitated.

"It is a very delicate question," said "One hardly likes to thow suspicion where there are no proofs." "Let us hear the suspicions. I will

look after the proofs." got his Blue for the hurdles and the His father was the notorious Sir Jabez turf. My scholar has been left very

dustrious. He will do well. "The second floor is inhabited by Daulat Ras, the Indian. He is a quiet, inscrutable fellow, as most of those Indians are. He is well up in his work though his Greek is his weak subject. He is steady and methodical.

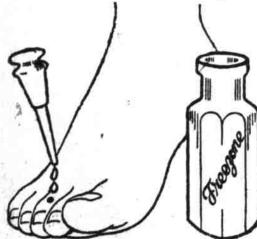
"The top floor belongs to Miles Mc-Laren. He is a brilliant fellow when he chooses to work-one of the brightest intellects of the university; but he is wayward, dissipated, and unprincipled. He was nearly expelled over a look forward with dread to the exam-

Then it is he whom you suspect?" of the three, he is perhaps the least

"Exactly. Now, Mr. Soames, let us have a look at your servant, Bannis-He was a little, white-faced, clean-

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shortly you lift it right off with fing-

ers. Truly! Your druggist sells a tiny bottle of "Freezone" for a few cents, sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and the calluses, without soreness or irritation. -(Adv.)

shaven, grizzly haired fellow of fifty. part. Why should a perfectly hones He was still suffering from this sen- man-well, well, here's a large staden disturbance of the quiet routine tioner's. We shall begin our reof his life. His plump face was twitch- searches here." ing with his nervousness, and his fingers could not keep still.

"We are investigating this unhappy "Yes, sir. you left your key in the door?"

"Yes, sir." "Was it not very extraordinary that when there were these papers inside?" I have occasionally done the same nation.

thing at other times." "When did you enter the room?" "It was about half-past four. That

is Mr. Soames' tea time.' "How long did you stay?" "When I saw that he was absent withdrew at once." "Did you look at these papers on

the table?" "No, sir-certainly not." "How came you to leave the key in "I had the tea-tray in my hand.

thought I would come back for the key. Then I forgot." "Has the outer door a spring lock? "No sir." "Then it was open all the time?"

"Yes, sir." "Any one in the room could get

"When Mr. Soames returned and called for you, you were very much disturbed? "Yes, sir. Such a thing has never happened during the many years that have been here. I nearly fainted,

"So I understand. Where were you when you began to feel had?"

"Where was I, sir? Why, here, near the door.' "That is singular, because you sat down in that chair over yonder near

the corner. Why did you pass these other chairs?" "I don't know, sir, it didn't matter to me where I sat." "I really don't think he knew much

about it, Mr. Holmes. He was looking very bad-quite ghastly." 'You stayed here when your master

"Only for a minute or so. Then ocked the door and went to my room. "Whom do you suspect?"

"Oh, I wouldn't venture to say, sir don't believe there is any gentleman profiting by such an action. No, sir,

"Thank you, that will do," said Mr. Holmes. "Oh, one more word. You have not mentioned to any of the three gentlemen whom you attend that anything is amiss?"

"No, sir-not a word."
"Very good. Now, Mr. Soames, we will take a walk in the quadrangle, if you please." Three yellow squares of light shone

above us in the gathering gloom. "Your three birds are all in their nests," said Holmes, looking up. "Halloa! What's that? One of them seems restless enough

It was the Indian, whose dark silwe had the man prisoner if we had houette appeared suddenly upon his blind. He was pacing swiftly up and down his room "I should like to have a peep at each

of them," said Holmes. "Is it possi-"No difficulty in the world." Soames

three separate windows, one swimming answered. "This set of roms is quite into a small private courtmartial. You the oldest in the college, and it is not unusual for visitors to go over them. Come along, and I will personally con-

"No names, please!" said Holmes, as we knocked at Gilchrist's door. A tall. as he passed through the bedroom, and flaxen-haired, slim young fellow opened it, and made us welcome when he understood our errand. There were some really curious pieces of mediaedomestic architecture within. Holmes was so charmed with one of to borrow one from our host, and "And they are all in for this exam- finally borrowed a knife to sharpen his own. The same curious accident happened to him in the rooms of the "Have you any reason to suspect Indian-a silent, little, hook-nosed fellow, who eyed us askance, and was obviously glad when Holmes' architectural studies had come to an end. I could not see that in either case Holmes had come upon the clue for which he was searching. Only at the third did our visit prove abortive. The outer door would not open to our "I will tell you then, in a few words knock, and nothing more substantial the character of the three men who in- than a torrent of had language came habit these rooms. The lower of the from behind it. "I don't care who you

three is Gilchrist, a fine scholar and are. You can go to blazes!" roared the athlete, plays in the Rugby team and angry voice. "Tomorrow's the exam, the cricket team for the college, and and I won't be drawn by any one." "A rude fellow." said our guide, long jump. He is a fine, manly fellow, flushing with anger as we withdrew down the stair. "Of course, he did not Gilchrist, who ruined himself on the realize that it was I who was knock-

ing, but none the less his conduct was poor, but he is hard working and invery uncourteous, and, indeed, under the circumstances rather suspicious." Holmes' response was a curious one "Can you tell me his exact height?" he asked

"Really, Mr. Holmes, I cannot undertake to say. He is taller than the Indian, not so tall as Gilchrist. I suppose five foot six would be about it. "That is very important." said Holmes. "And now, Mr. Holmes, wish you good-night.

Our guide cried aloud in his astonishment and dismay, "Good gracious, card scandal in his first year. He has Mr. Holmes, you are surely not going been idling all this term, and he must to leave me in this abrupt fashion. You don't seem to realize the position. Tomorrow is the examination. I must take some definite action tonight. . 1 "I dare not go as far as that. But cannot allow the examination to be held if one of the papers has been tampered with. The situation must be

> "You must leave it as it is. I shall drop around early tomorrow morning. and chat the matter over. It is possible that I may be in a position then to indicate some course of action. Mean-

"You can be perfectly easy in your mind. We shall certainly find some way out of your difficulties. I will take the black clay with me, also tho

pencil cuttings. Good-bye.' When we were out in the darkness of the quadrangle, we again looked up at the windows. The Indian still paced his room. The others were invisible. "Well, Watson, what do you think of it?" Holmes asked as we came out into the main street. "Quite a little parlor game sort of three-card trick, is it not? There are your three men.

It must be one of them. You take your choice. Which is yours?" The foul-mouthed fellow at the top He is the one with the worst record. And yet that Indian was a sly fellow Why should he be pacing his

room all the time?" "There is nothing in that, Many men do it when they are trying to learn

anything by heart." "He looked at us in a queer way." "So would you, if a flock of strangers came in on your when you were Don't hurt a bit! Drop a little preparing for an examination next day "Freezone" on an aching corn, in- and every moment was of value. No, I stantly that corn stops hurting, then see nothing in that. Pencils, too, and knives all was satisfactory. But that

fellow does puzzle me." "Who?" "Why, Bannister, the servant. What is his game in the matter?" "He impressed me as being a perfeetly honest man."

"So he did me. That's the puzzling |

There were only four stationers of business, Banuister," said his master, any consequence in the town, and at each Holmes produced his pencil chips "I understand," said Holmes, "that and bid high for a duplicate. All were agreed that one could be ordered, but that it was not a usual size of pencil and that it was seldom kept in stock. you should do this on the very day My friend did not appear to be depressed by his failure, but shrugged "It was most unfortunate, sir. But his shoulders in half-humorous resig-

"No good, my dear Watson. This, the best and only final clue, has run to nothing. But, indeed, I have little doubt that we can build up a sufficient case without it. By jove! my dear, fellow, it is nearly nine, and the land-lady babbled of green peas at 7:30. What with your eternal tobacco, Watson, and your irregularity at meals, I expect that you will get notice to quit, and that I shall share your downfallnot, however, before we have solved the problem of the nervous tutor, the careless servant, and the three enterprising students." Holmes made no further allusion to

the matter that day, though he sat lost in thought for a long time after our belated dinner. At eight in the morning he came into my room just as l finished my toilet.

"Well, Watson," said he, "it is time we went down to St. Luke's. Can you do without breakfast." "Certainly."

"Soames will be in a dreadful fidget until we are able to tell him something positive."

the mystery.'

"Have you anything positive to tell "You have formed a conclusion?" "Yes, my dear Watson, I have solved

"But what fresh evidence could you have got?" "Aha! It is not for nothing that I have turned myself out of bed at the untimely hour of six. I have put in two hours' hard work and covered at least five miles, with something to show

for it. Look at that!" He held out his hand. On the palm were three little pyramids of black, doughy clay. "Why, Holmes, you had only two yes-

terday." "And one more this morning. It is a fair argument that wherever No. 3 in this university who is capable of came from is also the source of Nos. 1 and 2. Eh, Watson? Well, come along and put friend Soames out of his

.The unfortunate tutor was certainly in a state of pitlable agitation when we found him in his chambers. In a few hours the examination would commence, and he was still in the dilemma between making the facts public and allowing the culprit to compete for the valuable scholarship. He could hardly stand still, so great was his mental agitation, and he ran towards Holmes with two eager hands outstretched.

"Thank heaven that you have come! feared that you had given it up in despair. What am I to examination proceed?"

"Yes, let it proceed, by all means." "But this rascal-?" "He shall not compete."

"You know him?" "I think so. If this matter is not to become public, we must give ourselves certain powers, and resolve ourselves there, if you please, Soames! Watson, you here! I'll take the armchair in (Continued on Page Fifteen)

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