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ADVENTURE OF THREE STUDENTS-BY HOLMES

(Continued from Page Fourteen) the middle. I think that we are now sufficiently imposing to strike terror into a guilty breast. Kindly ring the

Bannister entered, and shrank back

in evident surprise and fear at our judicial appearance. You will kindly close the door," said Holmes, "Now, Bannister, will you please tell us the truth about yester-

day's incident?" The man turned white to the roots of his hair. "I have told you everything, sir."

"Nothing to add?" "Nothing at all, sir." "Well, then, I must make some suggestions to you. When you sat down on that chair yesterday, did you do so

in order to conceal some object which would have shown who had been in the Bannister's face was ghastly.

"No, sir, certainly not.

"It is only a suggestion." said Holmes suavely. "I frankly admit that I am unable to prove it. But it seems probable enough, since the moment that Mr. Soames' back was turned you released the man who was hiding in that Bannister licked his dry lips "There was no man, sir."

"Ah, that's a pity, Bannister. Up to now you may have spoken the truth. but now I know that you have lied." The man's face set in sullence de-"There was no man, sir."

"Come, come, Bannister!" No. sir, there was no one. remain in the room. Stand over there to South Africa at once.

near the bedroom door. Now, Soames, I am going to ask you to have the great kindness to go up to the room of young Gilchrist, and to ask him to step down An instant later the tutor returned, bringing with him the student. He was

agile, with a springy step and a pleased with an expression of blank dismay upon Bannister in the farther corner. 'Just close the door," said Holmes.

one word of what passes between us. We can be perfectly frank with each

ror and reproach at Bannister. said a word-never one word" cried world.

I am wrong. Shall I do so? Well, well, sir?" don't trouble to answer. Listen, and see that I do you no injustice."

you said to me that no one, not even problem up and our breakfast awaits Bannister, could have told that the us at home. Come, Watson! As to you, papers were in your room, the case be- sir, I trust that a bright future awaits gan to take a definite shape in my mind. The printer one could, of course, dismiss. He could examine the papers in his own office. The Indian I also (THE END) in his own office. The Indian I also thought nothing of. If the proofs were in roll, he could not possibly know what they were. On the other hand, ie seemed an unthinkable coincidence that a man should dare to enter the room, and that by chance on that very day the papers were on the table. I dismissed that. The man who entered knew that the papers were there. How did he know?

"When I approached your room, I examined the window. You amused me by supposing that I was contemplating the possibility of some one having in broad daylight, under the eyes of all these opposite rooms forced himself these opposite rooms, forced himself through it. Such an idea was absurd. I was measuring how tall a man would need to be in order to see, as he passed, what papers were on the central table. I am six feet high, and I could do it with an effort. No one less than that dustry. would have a chance. Already you see I had reason to think that, if one of your three students was a man of un- Stocks. usual height, he was the most worth Years. watching of the three.

confidence as to the suggestions of the side table. Of the center table I could make nothing, until in your description of Gilchrist you mentioned that he Market for 1920. was a long-distance jumper. Then the whole thing came to me in an instant, and I only needed certain corroborative proofs, which I speedily obtained.

fellow had employed his afternon at the athletic grounds, where he had been practicing the jump. He returned carrying his jumping-shoes, which are provided, as you are aware, with several sharp spikes. As he passed your window he saw, by means of his great height, these proofs upon your table, and conjectured what they were No harm would have been done had it not been that, as he passed your door, he perceived the key which had been left by the carelessness of your servant. A sudden impulse came over him to enter, and see if they were indeed the proofs. It was not a dangerous exploit, for he could always pretend that he had simply looked in to ask a ques-

"Well, when he saw that they were

nister. "He put his gloves on the chair, and he took the proofs, sheet by sheet, to copy them. He thought the tutor must return by the main gate, and that he would see him. As we know, he came back by the side gate. Suddenly he heard him at the very door. There was no possible escape. He forgot his gloves, but he caught up his shoes and darted into the bedroom. You observe that the scratch on that table is slight at one side, but deepens in the direction of the bedroom. That in itself is enough to show us that the shoe had been drawn in that direction, and that the culprit had taken refuge there. The earth round the spike had been left on the table, and a second sample was loosened and fell in the bedroom. I may add that I walked out to the athletic grounds this morning, saw that tenacious black clay is used in the jumping pit, and carried away a specimen of it, together with some of the fine tan or sawdust which is strewn over it to prevent the athlete from slipping. Have told the truth, Mr. Gilchrist?" The student had drawn himself erect.

indeed the proofs, it was then that he

yielded to temptation. He put his shoes

on the table. What was it you put on

Holmes looked triumphantly at Ban-

that chair near the window?" "Gloves," said the young man.

"Yes, sir, it is true," said he. "Good Heavens! have you nothing to add?" cried Soames.

"Yes, sir, I have, but the shock of this disgraceful exposure has bewildered me. I have a letter here, Mr. Soames, which I wrote to you early this morning in the middle of a restless night. It was before I knew that my sin had found me out. Here it is, sir. You will see that I have said, 'I have determined not to go in for the examination. "In that case, you can give us no fur-ther information. Would you please Rhodesian police, and I am going out "I am indeed pleased to hear that you

did not intend to profit by your unfair advantage," said Soames "But why did you change your purpose?"

Gilchrist pointed to Bannister. There is the man who set me in the right path," said he.

"Come now, Bannister," said Holmes. a fine figure of a man, tall, lithe, and "It will be clear to you, from what I ant, open face. His troubled blue eyes have said, that only you could have glanced at each of us, and finally rest- let this young man out, since you were left in the room, and must have locked the door when you went out. As to his escaping by that window, it was in-"Now. Mr. Gilchrist, we are all quite credible. Can you not clear up the last alone here, and no one need ever know point in this mystery, and tell us the reasons for your action?"

"It was simple enough, sir, if you other. We want to know, Mr. Gilchrist, only had known, but, with all your how you, an honorable eman, ever came cleverness, it was impossible that you to commit such an action as that of could know. Time was, sir, when I was butler to old Sir Jabez Gilchrist, this The unfortunate young man stag- young gentleman's father. When he gered back, and cast a look full o fhor- was ruined I came to the college as servant, but I never forgot my old em-"No, no. Mr. Gilchrist, sir. I never ployer because he was down in the I watched his son all I could for the sake of the old days. Well, sir, 'No, but you have now," said Holmes. When I came into this room yesterday, "Now, sir, you must see that after Ban- when the alarm was given, the very nister's words your position is hope- first thing I saw was Mr. Gilchrist's less, and that your only chance lies in tan gloves a-lying in that chair, I knew those gloves well, and I understood For a moment Gilchrist, with uprais- their message. If Mr. oSames saw them ed hand, tried to control his writhing the game was up. I flopped down into features. The next he had thrown him- that chair, and nothing would budge self on his knees beside the table, and me until Mr. Soames he went for you. burying his face in his hands, he had Then out came my poor young master. burst into a storm of passionate sob. whom I had dandled on my knee, and confessed it all to me. Wasn't it nat-"Come, come," said Holmes, kindly, ural, sir, that I should save him, and "it is human to err, and at least no one wasn't it natural also that I should try can accuse you of being a callous crim- to speak to him as his dead father inal. Perhaps it would be easier for would have done, and make him unyou if I were to tell Mr. Soames what derstand that he could not profit by occurred, and you can check me wheer such a deed? Could you blame me,

"No, indeed," said Holmes, heartily, springing to his feet. "Well, Soames, From the moment, Mr. Soames, that I think we have cleared your little

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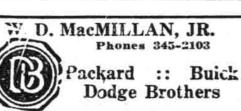
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The travelers stopped for a char and the lady finally asked: "Mammy, who is the little boy and what is his name?"

"He muh gran'chile and he name FERTILIZER'—yes. mam." "'Fertilizer!" said the lady

"What a queer name—why did you give him such a name as that?" "Well, you see hits dis way, honey: Mur ol' man's name is 'Ferdinan,' muh name is 'Liza' an' as him is th' onliest gran'chile we alls want him nam' fur bof un us, so we jes nachully calls 'im 'Furtliza.'"

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