STORIES SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE REIGATE PUZZLE

By SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

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the 27 Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, appearing each Sunday morning in The Star. The story for next Sunday will be: "The Resident Patient."

It was some time before the health recent in the minds of the public, and shows that I have still much to learn." are too intimately concerned with politics and finance to be fitting subjects for this series of sketches. They led, however, in an indirect fashion to a gave my friend an opportunity of dem- they are far the largest about here." onstrating the value of a fresh weapon his life-long battle against crime.

in the Hotel Dulong. Within twenty-| both hands." four hours I was in his sickroom, and nothing formidable in his symptoms. had broken down under the strain of dle. an investigation which had extended over two months, during which period he had never worked less than fifteen hours a day, and had more than once. as he assured me, kept to his task for five days at a stretch. Even the trlble an exertion, and at a time when! when his room was literally ankie-deep with congratulatory telegrams I found care to step across, Mr. Holmes." him a prey to the blackest depression.

better for a change, and the thought of seen. a week of spring time in the country was full of attraction to me also. My

the sofa, while Hayter and I looked

"By the way." said he suddenly. " think I'll take one of these pistols upstairs with me in case we have an him out."

'An alarm!" said I. 'Yes, we've had a scare in this part lately. Old Action, who is one of our l ounty magnates, had his house broken "No cluc?" asked Holmes, cocking his eye at the colonel.

"None as yet. But the affair is a mitty one, one of our little country rimes, which must seem too small for your attention, Mr. Holmes, after this great International affair."

Holmes waved away the compliment. though his smile showed that it had

'Was there any feature of interest?' the library and got very little for their pains. The whole place was turned upside down, drawers burst open, and presses ransacked, with the result that an odd volume of Pope's 'Homer,' two plated candlesticks, an ivory letterweight, a small oak barometer, and a ball of twine are all that have van-

"What an extraordinary assortment I exclaimed. 'Oh, the fellows evidently grabbed

hold of everything they could get." Holmes grunted from the sofa. "The county police ought to make something of that." said he; "why, it

is surely obvious that-" But I held up a warning finger. "You are here for a rest, my dear fellow. For heaven's sake don't get started on a new problem when your

nerves are all in shreds." Holmes shrugged his shoulders with

glance of comic resignation toward the colonel and the talk drifted away into less dangerous channels. It was destined, however, that all

my professional caution should be wasted, for next morning the problem obtruded itself upon us in such a way that it was impossible to ignore it, and our country visit took a turn which neither of us could have anticipated. We were at breakfast when the colonel's butler rushed in with all his propricty shaken out of him.

"Have you heard the news, sir?" he gasped. "At the Cunningham's, sir!" "Burglary!" cried the colonel, with nis coffee-cup in mid-air.

said he. "Who's killed, then? The J. the reputation of being an honest man, there are no marks to guide us." As

"The burglar, sir. He was off like a in saving his master's property."

"What time?"

matter in the world, but all the same energy at first glance this is just a little cuof my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, re- erations, and not to crack two cribs extremely. If you will permit me, colocovered from the strain caused by his in the same district within a few days. nel, I will leave my friend Watson and The whole question of the Netherland- through my mind that this was prob- little fancies of mine. I will be Sumatra company and of the colossal ably the last parish in England to you again in half an hour." schemes of Baron Maupertuis are too which the thief or thieves would be likely to turn their attention-which fore the inspector returned alone.

"I fancy it's some local practitioner." wants us all four to go up to the house said the colonel. ""In that case, of course, Action's and Cunningham's are together." singular and complex problem which just the places he would go for, since

"Well, they ought to be, but they've ders. had a lawsuit for some years which On referring to my notes I see that has sucked the blood out of both of it was upon the 14th of April that I them, I fancy. Old Action has some He's been behaving very queerly, and received a telegram from Lyons which claim on half Cunningham's estate, he is very much excited." informed me that Holmes was lying ill and the lawyers have been at it with

was relieved to find that there was not be much difficulty in running him ness." down." said Holmes with a yawn. "All Even his iron constitution, however, right, Watson, I don't intend to med-

> "Inspector Forrester, sir," said the butler, throwing open the door. The official, a smart, keen-faced young fellow, stepped into the room hope I don't intrude, but we hear that

save him from reaction after so terri. Mr. Holmes of Baker street is here." The colonel waved his hand toward Europe was ringing with his name and my friend, and the inspector bowed. "We thought that perhaps you would

"The fates are against you. Watson." Even the knowledge that he had suc- said he, laughing, "We were chatting charming morning." ceeded where the police of three coun- about the matter when you came in. tries had failed, and that he had out- Inspector. Perhaps you can let us have manoeuvred at every point the most a few details." As he leaned back in onel. accomplished swindler in Europe, was his chair in the familiar attitude I knew that the case was honeless

Baker street together; but it was evi- on, and there's no doubt it is the same dent that my friend would be much the party in each case. The man was

"Yes, sir. But he was off like a deer old friend, Colonel Hayter, who had after the shot that killed poor William come under my professional care in Kirwan was fired. Mr. Cunningham Afghanistan, had now taken a house saw him from the bedroom window, near Reigate in Surrey, and had fre- and Mr. Alec Cunningham saw him quently asked me to come down to him from the back passage. It was quarter upon a visit. On the last occasion he to twelve when the alarm broke out. had remarked that if my friend would Mr. Cunningham had just got into bed, only come with me he would be glad to and Mr. Alec was smoking a pipe in extend his hospitality to him also. A his dressing-gown. They both heard little diplomacy was needed, but when William, the coachman, calling for Holmes understood that the establish- help, and Mr. Alec ran down to see ment was a bachelor one, and that he what was the matter. The back door would be allowed the fullest freedom. was open, and as he came to the foot he fell in with my plans and a week of the stairs he saw two men wrestafter our return from Lyons we were ling together outside. One of them fired under the Colonel's roof. Hayter was a shot, the oher dropped, and the mura fine old soldier who had seen much derer rushed across the garden and of the world, and he soon found, as I over the hedge. Mr. Cunningham. had expected, that Holmes and he had looking out of his bedroom, saw the fellow as he gained the road, but lost On the evening of our arrival we sight of him at once. Mr. Alec stopped were sitting in the Colonel's gunroom, to see if he could help the dying man. after dinner, Holmes stretched upon and so the villain got clean away. Beyoud the fact that he was a middleover his little armory of eastern sized man and dressed in some dark portance. stuff, we have no personal clue; but we are making energetic inquiries, and if

"What was this William doing here? Did he say anything before he

"Not a word. He lives at the lodge with his mother, and as he was a very spector. into last Monday. No great damage faithful fellow we imagine that he done, but the fellows are still at large, walked up to the house with the inthere. Of course this Acton business has put every one on their guard. The robber must have just burst open the most likely, never noticing that a cordoor-the lock has been forced-when

William came upon him. "Did William say anything to his mother before going out?" "She is very old and deaf, and we can get no information from her. The shock has made her half-witted, but I criminal's pocket before we catch the did not, after all, carry anything away "I fancy not. The thieves ransacked understand that she was never very criminal?" bright. There is one very important ircumstance, however. Look at this!"

He took a small piece of torn paper upon his knee "This was found between the finger and thumb of the dead man. It aplarger sheet. You will observe that the post? hour mentioned upon it is the very time at which the poor fellow met his have torn the rest of the sheet from him or he might have taken this fragment from the murderer. It reads al-

fac-simile of which is here repro-

Latgardate hostor

of course a conceivable theory that and knelt beside the wounded man. The colonel whistled. "By Jove" this William Kirwan—though he had The ground is very hard, you see, and may have been in league with the he spoke two men came down the gar-"Neither, sir. It was William, the thief. He may have met him there, may den path, from round the angle of the

shot and got clean away. He'd just terest," said Holmes, who had been ex- showy dress were in strange contrast I got hold of something that quickly broke in at the pantry window when amining it with intense concentra- with the business which had brought and completely cured me. Years have William came on him and met his end tion. "These are much deeper waters us there. tion. "These are much deeper waters us there.

than I had thought." He sank his head "Still at it, then?" said he to Holmes. turned, although I am doing hard work upon his hands, while the inspector "I thought you Londoners were never as a carpenter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have "It was last night, sir, somewhere smiled at the effect which his case had at fault. You don't seem to be so very

when the butler had gone; "he's our being a note of appointment from one we have any clue at all." leading man about here, is old Cunningham, and a very decent fellow too.
He'll be cut up over this, for the man
this writing opens up—" He sank his only find—Good heavens, Mr. Holmes!

The but the but and the but this will be cut up over this, for the man this writing opens up—" He sank his only find—Good heavens, Mr. Holmes! at least stop the misery of rupture and the but the sank his only find—Good heavens, Mr. Holmes! has been in his service for years and head into his hands again and re- what is the matter?" was a good servant. It's evidently the mained for some minutes in the deep. My poor friend's face had suddenly —(Adv.)

same villains who broke into Action's." est thought. When he raised his face "And stole that very singular collec- again, I was surprised to see that his these sudden nervous attacks." cheek was tinged with color, and his eyes as bright as before his illness. "Hum! It may prove the simplest He sprang to his feet with all his old

rious, is it not? A gang of burglars like to have a quiet little glance into acting in the country might be ex- the details of this little case. There is pected to vary the scene of their op- something in it which fascinates me When you spoke last night of taking you and I will step round with the inprecautions I remember that it passed spector to test the truth of one or two

"Mr. Holmes is walking up and down in the field outside," said he. "He

"To Mr. Cunningham's?

"Yes, sir." "What for?" The inspector shrugged his shoul-"I don't quite know, sir. Between ourselves. I think Mr. Holmes

"I don't think you need alarm your self." said I. "I have usually found burglar who had had some previous "If it's a local villain there should that there was method in his mad-

"Some folk might say there was madness in his method," muttered the inspector. But he's all on fire to start, colonel, so we had best go out if you are ready.

"The matter grows in interest," said he had taken?" he. "Watson, your country-trip has been a distinct success. I have had a were." said Holmes. "You must re-

'Any success?' teresting things. I'll tell you what we as reported.

"Had you doubted it, then?" "Oh, it is as well to test everything. Our inspection was not wasted. We then had an interview with Mr. Cunningham and his son, who were able to point out the exact spot where the things cannot be done too promptly den-hedge in his flight. That was of great interest."

"Naturally." "Then we had a look at this poor fellow's mother. We could get no information from her, however, as she is very old and feeble.

"And what is the result of your investigation? "The conviction that the crime is a very peculiar one. Perhaps our visit now may do something to make it less obscure. I think that we are both agreed, inspector, that the fragment of paper in the dead man's hand, bearing, as it does, the very hour of his death

"It should give a clue, Mr. Holmes. "It does give a clue. Whoever wrote he is a stranger we shall soon find that note was the man who brought William Kirwan out of his bed at that hour. But where is the rest of that sheet of paper?"

"I examined the ground carefully in the hope of finding it," said the in-

hand. Why was some one so anxious tention of seeing that all was right to get possession of it? Because it in- to Holmes. criminated him. And what would he do with it? Thrust it into his pocket, ner of it had been left in the grip of the corpse. If we could get the rest of fully away into his pocketbook. that sheet it is obvious that we should have gone a long ways toward solving be a good thing that we should all go

the mystery.' "Yes, but how can we get at the

"Well, well, it was worth thinking over. Then there is another obvious amination of the door which had been point. The note was sent to William. forced. It was evident that a chisel or have delivered his own message by see the marks in the wood where it word of mouth. Who brought the note, had been pushed in. pears to be a fragment torn from a then? Or did it come through the

"I have made inquiries," said the inspector. "William received a letter by fate. You see that his murderer might the afternoon post yesterday. The envelope was destroyed by him."

"Excellent!" cried Holmes, clapping the inspector on the back. most as though it were an appoint- seen the postman. It is a pleasure to ally in bed also at that hour?" work with you. Well, here is the lodge, Holmes took up the scrap of paper, a and if you will come up, colonel. I will show you the scene of the crime." walked up an oak-lined avenue to the house, Mr. Cunningham.'

fine old Queen Anne house, which bears the date of Malplaquet upon the lintel led us round it until we came to the first floor of the house. It came out gate, which is separated by a stretch upon the landing opposite to a second of garden from the hedge which lines more ornamental stair which came up the road. A constable was standing at from the front hall. Out of this land-

the kitchen door. Holmes. "Now, it was on those stairs Cunningham and his son. Holmes hat young Cunningham stood and saw walked slowly, taking keen note of the the two men struggling just where we are. Old Mr. Cunningham was at the from his expression that he was on a window-the second on the left-and hot scent, and yet I could not in the he saw the fellow get away just to the least imagine in what direction his inleft of that bush. So did the son. ferences were leading him. "Presuming that it is an appoint- They are both sure of it on account of the bush. Then Mr. Alec ran out

coachman. Shot through the heart, sir, even have helped him to break in the land never spoke again."

door, and then they mave haven fallen with a strong, deep-lined, heavy-eyed trunk several years ago. Doctors said

assumed the most dreadful expression. the end of the stairs, and my son's is His eyes rolled upwards, his features the one beyond it. I leave it to your writhed in agony, and with a sup- judgment whether it was possible for pressed groan he dropped on his face the thief to have come up here withupon the ground. Horrified at the sud- out disturbing us." denness and severity of the attack, we. carried him into the kitchen, where he fresh scent, I fancy," said the son with lay back in a large chair, and breathed a rather malicious smile. heavily for some minutes. Finally, with a shamefaced apology for his weak- a little further. I should like, for exness, he rose once more. .

"Watson would tell you that I have only just recovered from a severe illness," he explained. "I am liable to he pushed open the door-"and that. "Shall I send you home in my trap?

asked old Cunningham. "Well, since I am here, there is one point on which I should like to feel bedroom, pushed open the door, and and distorted his handsome features. sure. We can very easily verify it" "What was it?"

possible that the arrival of this poor after, the entrance of the burglar into the house. You appear to take it for granted that, although the door was

"I fancy that is quite obvious," said and led the way into his own chamber, Mr. Cunningham, gravely. "Why. my son Alec had not yet gone to bed, and he would certainly have heard any one across it in the direction of the winmoving about.' "Where was he sitting?"

"I was smoking in my dressing-"Which window is that?"

"The last on the left, next father's." "Both of your lamps course?"

"Undoubtedly." "There are some very singular points here," said Holmes, smiling. "Is it not he, coolly. extraordinary that a burglar-and a of to carpet." experience-should deliberately break gan to pick up the fruit, understanding you will certainly see me back at family were still afoot?"

"He must have been a cool hand." "Well, of course, if the case were not an odd one we should not have been he got to?" driven to ask you for an explanation.' said young Mr. Alec. "But as to your Wouldn't we have found the place dis- to!' arranged, and missed the things which

"It depends on what the things ing at each other. member that we are dealing with a "Yes; the inspector and I have made queer lot of things which he took from den scream of "Help! Help! Marder!" est privilege to have been permitted a letter-weight, and I don't know what other odds and ends.'

did as we walk. First of all, we saw Mr. Holmes," said old Cunningham, hoarse, inarticulate shouting, came not yet seen the vestige of a clue." the body of this unfortunate man. He "Anything which you or the inspector from the room which we had first viscertainly died from a revolver wound may suggest will most certainly be

> "In the first place," said Holmes, "I coming from yourself, for the officials may take a little time before they would agree upon the sum, and these pounds was quite quite enough, I hausted. thought.

"I would willingly give five hundred," said the J. P., taking the slip of paper and the pencil which Holmes handed to him. "This is not quite correct, however." he added, glancing over the document.

"I wrote it rather hurriedly." "You see you begin, 'Whereas, at about a quarter to one on Tuesday morning an attempt was made,' and so on. It was at quarter to twelve, as a matter of fact."

I was pained at the mistake, for knew how keenly Holmes would feel any slip of the kind. It was his specialty to be accurate as to fact, but his recent illness had shaken him and this one little incident was enough to show me that he was still far from being himself. He was obviously embarrassed for an instant, while the in spector raised his eyebrows, and Alec Cunningham burst into a laugh. The old gentleman corrected the mistake, however, and handed the paper back

"Get it printed as soon as possible." he said: "I think your idea is an excellent one.'

Holmes put the slip of paper care-"And now," said he, "it really would over the house together and make certain that this rather erratic burglar

with him." Before entering, Holmes made an.ex from a note-book and spread it out The man who wrote it could not have strong knife had been thrust in, and taken it; otherwise, of course, he might the lock forced back with it. We could

"You don't use bars, then?" he asked We have never found it necessary. "You don't keep a dog?" "Yes, but he is chained on the other

side of the house.' "When do the servants go to bed?" "About ten." "I understand that William was usu-

'Yes." "It is singular that on this particu-

lar night he should have been up. Now. We passed the pretty cottage where I should be very glad if you would the murdered man had lived, and have the kindness to show us over the A stone-flagged passage, with the

kitchens branching away from it, led of the door. Holmes and the inspector by a wooden staircase directly to the ing opened the drawing-room and sev-"Throw the door open, officer," said eral bedrooms, including those of Mr.

"My good sir," said Mr. Cunningham. very unnecessary. That is my room at

Cured His RUPTURE

"This writing is of extraordinary in- whose bright, smiling expression and tion. Trusses did me no good. Finally about 12."

"Ah, then, we'll step over afterwards," said the colonel, coolly settling down to his breakfast again. "It's a bad-fish business," he added "It's a bad-fish business," he added "It's a bad-fish business," he added the burglar and the servant, and this burglar and the servant and the se Manasquan, N. J. Better cut out this the worry and danger of an operation.

"You must try round and get on a

"Still, I must ask you to humor me ample, to see how far the windows of the bedrooms command the front. This, I understand, is your son's room"presume, is the dressing-room in which he sat smoking when the alarm was given. Where does the window of that look out to?" He stepped across the glanced round the other chamber. "I hope that you are satisfied now?" said Mr. Cunningham, tartly.

"Thank you, I think I have seen all that I wished.' "Then if it is really necessary can go into my room.'

"If it is not too much trouble. which was a plainly furnished and dow. Holmes fell back until he and I it useful at the trial. But this is what were the last of the group. Near the we really wanted." He held up,a little foot of the bed stood a dish of oranges crumpled piece of paper. and a carafe of water. As we passed it Holmes, to my unutterable astonishment, leaned over in front of me and deliberately knocked the whole thing over. The glass smashed into a thousand pieces and the fruit rolled about

"A pretty mess you've made

"You've done it now, Watson," said

into every corner of the room.

into a house at a time when he could for some reason my companion desired luncheon time.' see from the lights that two of the me to take the blame upon myself The others did the same, and set the table on its legs again.

"Holmes had disappeared

"Wait here an instant," said young We found Holmes pacing up and ideas that the man had robbed the Alec Cunningham. "The fellow is off down in the field, his chin sunk upon house before William tackled him, I his head, in my opinion. Come with the scene of the original burglary. think it a most absurd notion. me, father, and see where he has got

the inspector, the colonel, and me star-

with Master Alec," said the of clal. "It that you took in such a stormy petrel "You have been up to the scene of burglar who is a very peculiar fellow, may be the effect of this iliness, but it his own. Look, for example, at the His words were cut short by a sud-

thrill I recognized the voice as to study that of my friend. I rushed madly confess that they quite surpass my exfrom the room on the landing. The pectations, and that I am utterly un-"Well, we are quite in your hands, cries, which had sunk down late a able to account for your result. I have ited I dashed in and on into the dresshams were bending over the prostrate methods, either from my friend Watshould like you to offer a reward- figure of Sherlock Holmes, the younger son or from any one who might take clutering his throat with both hands, an intelligent interest in them. But, with the other. But we waile the elder seemed to be twisting first, as I am rather shaken by the one of his wrists. In an instant the knocking about which I had in the it. If you examine this scrap withree of us had torn them away from dressing-room, I think that I shall tention you will come to the cone murderer had broken through the gar- I have jotted down the form here, if him, and Holmes staggered to his feet, help myself to a dash of your brandy, you would not mind signing it. Fifty very pale and evidently greatly ex-

"Arrest these men, inspector," he

gasped. "On what charge?" William Kirwan."

The inspector stared about him in ewilderment, "Oh, come now, Mr. Holmes." said he at last "I'm sure you don't really mean to-

"Tut, man, look at their faces!" cried Holmes, curtly Never certainly have I seen a plainer confession of guilt upon human countenances. The older man seemed numbed and dazed, with a heavy, sullen expression upon his strongly marked face. The son, on the other hand, had dropped all that jaunty, ashing style which had characterized him, and the ferocity of a dangerous matter must be looked for wild beast gleamed in his dark eves The inspector said nothing, but, step-Two of his constables came at the call "I have no alternative, Mr. Cunningham," said he. "I trust that this may all prove to be an absurd mistake, but you can see that— Ah, would you? drop it." He struck out with his hand, The J. P. shrugged his shoulders, and a revolver which the younger man was in the act of cocking clattered

down upon the floor. "Keep that." said Holmes, quietly putting his foot upon it; "you will find

"The remainder of the sheet!" cried the inspector.

"Precisely." "And where was it?" "Where I was sure it must be. I'll make the whole matter clear to you presently. I think, colonel, that you and Watson might return now, and I will be with you again in an hour at the furthest. The inspector and I must have a word with the prisoners, but

Sherlock Holmes was as good as his word, for about 1 o'clock he rejoined us in the colonel's smoking-room. He was accompanied by a little elderly doing alternate gentleman, who was introduced to me

"I wished Mr. Acton to be present while I demonstrated this small matter to you," said Holmes, "for it is natural that he should take a keen interest in he details: I am afraid, my dear colonel, that you must regret the hour

onel, warmly, "I consider it the great- two men write a letter in such a

"I am afraid that my explanation may disillusion you, but it has always ng-room beyond. The two Cuinit.z- been my habit to hide none of my colonel. My strength has been rather tried of late."

"I trust you had no more of those nervous attacks." Sherlock Holmes laughed heartily

said he. "I will lay an accouncase before you in its due ing you the various

wise your energy and a

position that these county any prejudices, and of following de ly wherever fact may lead me, and gation, I found myself looking a askance at the part which had played by Mr. Alec Cunningham

was at once clear to me that Here it is. Do you not now oh something very suggestive about

"My dear sir." cannot be the least doubt in the four words would enable ve with the utmost confidence 'learn' and the 'maybe' are writt

the stronger hand, and the "By Jove, it's as clear as day" the colonel. "Why on earth s

'at' and 'to' was the ringleader.

"How do you get at that? We might deduce it from the that the man with the stronger wrote all his words first. blanks for the other to fill up. T blanks were not always sufficient, you can see that the second man

(Continued on Page Twenty)

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