

**THE REIGATE PUZZLE**

(Continued from page one)

A squeeze to fit his 'quarter' in between the 'at' and the 'to,' showing that the latter were already written. The man who wrote all his words first is undoubtedly the man who planned the affair.

"Excellent!" cried Mr. Acton.

"But very superficial," said Holmes.

"We come now, however, to a point which is of importance. You may not be aware that the deduction of a man's age from his writing is one which has been brought to considerable accuracy by experts. In normal cases one can place a man in his true decade with tolerable confidence. I say 'normal' cases, because ill-health and physical weakness reproduce the signs of old age even when the invalid is a youth. In this case, looking at the bold, strong hand of the one, and the rather broken-backed appearance of the other, which still retains its legibility although the 's' have begun to lose their crossing, we can say that the one was a young man and the other was advanced in years without being positively decrepit."

"Excellent!" cried Mr. Acton again.

"There is a further point, however, which is subtler and of greater interest. There is something in common between these hands. They belong to men who are blood-relatives. It may be most obvious to you in the Greek 's,' but to me there are many small points which indicate the same thing. I have no doubt at all that a family mannerism can be traced in these two specimens of writing. I am only, of course, giving you the leading results now of my examination of the paper. There were 23 other deductions which would be of more interest to experts than to you. They all tend to deepen the impression upon my mind that the Cunningham, father and son, had written this letter."

"Having got so far, my next step was, of course, to examine into the details of the crime, and see how far they would help us. I went up to the house with the inspector, and saw all that was to be seen. The wound upon the dead man was, as I was able to determine with absolute confidence, fired from a revolver at the distance of something over four yards. There was no powder-blackening on the clothes. Evidently, therefore, Alec Cunningham had lied when he said that the two men were struggling when the shot

sympathy was wasted and your fit an imposture?"

"Speaking professionally, it was admirably done," cried I, looking at an amazement at this man who was forever confounding me with some new phase of his astuteness.

"It is an art which is often useful," said he. "When I recovered I managed, by a device which had perhaps some little merit of ingenuity, to get old Cunningham to write the word 'twelve' so that I might compare it with the 'twelve' upon the paper."

"Oh, what an ass I have been!" I exclaimed.

"I should see that you were commiserating me over my weakness," said Holmes, laughing. "I was sorry to cause you the sympathetic pain which I know that you felt. We went together and seen the dressing-gown hanging up behind the door. I contrived, by upsetting a table, to engage the attention for the moment, and slipped back to examine the pockets. I had hardly got the paper, however—which was, as I had expected, in one of them—when the two Cunninghams were on me, and would, I verily believe, have murdered me then and there but for your prompt and friendly aid. As it is, I feel that young man's grip on my throat now, and the father had twisted my wrist round in the effort to get the paper out of my hand. They saw that I must know all about it, you see, and the sudden change from absolute security to complete despair made them perfectly desperate."

"I had a little talk with old Cunningham afterwards as to the motive of the crime. He was tractable enough, though his son was a perfect demon, ready to blow out his own or anybody else's brains if he could have got to his revolver. When Cunningham saw that the case against him was so strong he lost all heart and made a clean breast of everything. It seems that William had secretly followed his two masters the night when they made their raid upon Mr. Acton's, and having thus got them into his power, proceeded, under threats of exposure, to levy blackmail upon them. Mr. Alec, however, was a dangerous man to play games of that sort with. It was a stroke of positive genius on his part to see in the burglary scare which was afooting at the countryside an opportunity of plausibly getting rid of the man whom he feared. William was deceived up and shot, and had they only got the whole of the note and paid a little more attention to detail in their

**Monday Bargains at Fuchs' Cash Department Store**

- 10-yard bolt White Nainsook for ..... **\$1.50**
- 10-yard bolt Long Cloth, velvet finish for ..... **\$1.95**
- 36-inch Magnolia Bleaching, good quality, per yard ..... **15c**
- Linen finish Indian Head Suiting, per yard ..... **29c**
- 72x90 Bleached Sheets, each ..... **79c**

- 36x42 Bleached Pillow Cases, each ..... **25c**
- Full size White Bed Spreads, each ..... **\$1.25**

**SOAP SPECIALS**

- Four cans Swift's Arrow Borax Soap ..... **49c**
- Four cans Sunbrite Cleanser ..... **49c**
- Four Packages Swift's Washing Powder ..... **49c**

**NEW TAFFETA DRESSES**

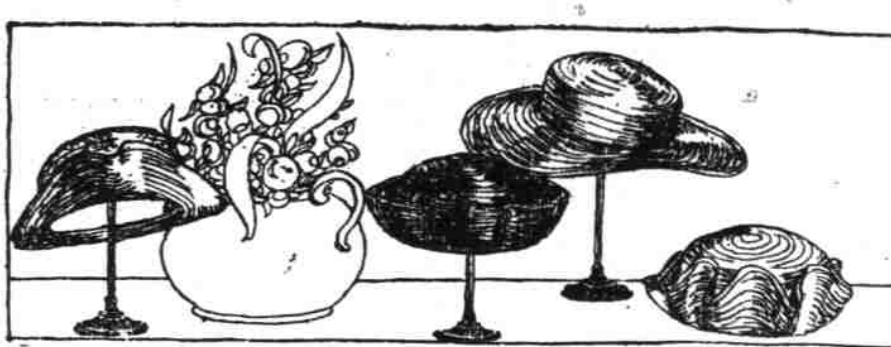
They are neatly trimmed, prettily embroidered with sashes; colors navy, brown, black and an; pour pick ..... **\$15.00**

**All-Silk Petticoats \$5—Big Assortment**

Also taffeta in assorted colors. Just think of such bargains! They have assorted colored flounces, some with ribbon flouncing, plain and pleated; your choice at ..... **\$5.00**

**Women's \$2.50 Silk Stockings at \$1.25**

This is a clearance lot and women who want to save one-half on their hosiery should take advantage of this sale to buy a season's supply. They are pure thread silk and are really worth \$2.50; priced at ..... **\$1.25**



**Hats in Advance Styles for Spring,**

**\$5.00**

These smart models are designed for immediate wear and come in all the most popular shapes and colors, for street, dress and tailored wear. There are smart sailors, turbans, pokes and off-the-face shapes; all of excellent materials, including fancy braids, straw and crepe combinations, straw and satin and all-straw. Trimmed with flowers, ribbons and fancy ornaments.



- One lot of corsets, front lace and back lace, an extra good quality; \$2.50 value; priced at ..... **\$1.50**
- New shipment of waists in tricolettes, georgette and silk pongee; priced ..... **\$5.98 to \$8.50**
- 32-inch dress gingham in all new plaids and stripes ..... **19c**

- 26-inch agron gingham, in blue checks; black checks and brown, yard ..... **10c**
- Children's Skuffer style shoes, all solid leather, guaranteed, tan and black, sizes 8 1-2 to 11 1-2; a pair ..... **\$2.48**
- Same style in sizes 12 to 2, tan only, for ..... **\$2.98**

- One lot of boys' shoes, solid leather, in black and tan; sizes 9 1/2 to 11 1/2; special, a pair ..... **\$2.48**
- Boy Scout Shoes, black and tan, sizes 12 to 2, a pair ..... **\$2.75**
- Ladies' high-cut shoes, brown kid, military heels, a pair ..... **\$3.98**
- Men's work shoes, tan only, heavy sole and solid leather ..... **\$2.98**

**J. W. H. Fuchs' Cash Department Store**

28-30 South Front Street

"Where Smart Styles Meet Moderate Prices"

Telephone No. 272

*If you will only come across to the east gate you will will very much surprise you and be of the greatest assistance to you and also to Anne Morrison. But say nothing to anyone upon the matter*

was fired. Again, both father and son agreed as to the place where the man escaped into the road. At that point, however, as it happens, there is a broadish ditch, moist at the bottom. As there were no indications of boot marks about this ditch, I was absolutely sure not only that the Cunninghams had again lied, but that there had never been any unknown man upon the scene at all.

"And now I have to consider the motive of this singular crime. To get at this, I endeavored first of all to solve the reason of the original burglary at Mr. Acton's. I understood, from something which the colonel told us, that a lawsuit had been going on between you, Mr. Acton, and the Cunninghams. Of course, it instantly occurred to me that they had broken into your library with the intention of getting at some document which might be of importance in the case."

"Precisely so," said Mr. Acton.

"There can be no possible doubt as to their intention. I have the clearest claim upon half of their present estate, and if they could have found a single paper—which, fortunately, was in the strong-box of my solicitors—they would undoubtedly have crippled our case."

"There you are," said Holmes, smiling. "It was a dangerous, reckless attempt, in which I seem to trace the influence of young Acton. The foundation, making it appear to be an ordinary burglary, to which they carried off whatever they could lay their hands upon. That is all very clear. The only thing there was much that was still obscure. What I wanted above all was to get the missing part of that note. I was certain that Alec had torn it out of the dead man's hand, and almost certain that he must have thrust it into the pocket of his dressing-gown. Where else could he have put it? The only question was whether it was still there. It was worth an effort to find out, and for that object we all went up to the house."

"The Cunninghams joined us, as you doubtless remember, outside the kitchen door. It was, of course, of the very first importance that they should not be reminded of the existence of this paper, otherwise they would naturally destroy it without delay. The inspector was about to tell them the importance which we attached to it when, by the luckiest chance in the world, I tumbled down in a sort of fit and so changed the conversation."

"Good heavens!" cried the colonel, laughing; "do you mean to say all our

accessories, it is very possible that suspicion might never have been aroused."

"And the note?" I asked.

Sherlock Holmes placed the subjoined paper before us.

"It is very much the sort of thing that I expected," said he. "Of course, we do not yet know what the relations may have been between Alec Cunningham, William Kirwan, and Annie Morrison. The result shows that the trap was skillfully baited. I am sure that you cannot fail to be delighted with the traces of heredity shown in the 's' and in the tails of the 'g's. The absence of the 't' dots in the old man's writing is also most characteristic. Watson, I think our quiet rest in the country has been a distinct success, and I shall certainly return much invigorated to Baker street tomorrow."

THE END.

**RAILROAD DITCHING MACHINE USED TO UNLOAD DEAD CATTLE**

How to quickly dispose of 155 head of cattle, which had been killed by a fast train on a western railroad during a blinding blizzard, was a problem that was solved by the division officers in a novel manner. A big ditching machine and a train of gondola cars were rushed to the scene, and within three hours of the time it left headquarters, it was back with three gondola loads of carcasses, says Popular Mechanics in the March issue. A chain was substituted for the bucket of the machine and fastened around one leg of each animal, and the derrick man, with a dextrous flip of the big boom, placed every carcass in the cars exactly where he chose. This was considered something of a feat as the boom was not long enough to reach to the end of the last car, and the load had to be swung into place.

**EXPORT BANKING HOUSE AIDS PRODUCERS IN THE SOUTH**

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 19.—The first transaction of the Federal International Banking corporation organized here recently under the Edge act, involving the shipment of 15,000 bales of Mississippi cotton to Europe, marks an important step in the movement to relieve southern producers from the recent hard times, according to local financial observers.

With a subscribed capital of \$7,000,000 25 per cent of which has already been paid in by member banks, giving the organization a borrowing power of \$17,500,000 to begin operations, the first actual transaction, involving about \$250,000 is only minor item compared to what is expected by promoters of the bank to follow in rapid succession as fast as foreign loans can be arranged.

This transaction is typical of the kind of service to be given southern producers, officials say. The bank will handle all kinds of southern products as well as cotton.

**ALLEGED NEGRO THIEF IS TRAIRED BY BLOODHOUNDS**

(Special to The Star)

CLINTON, Feb. 19.—Clint Moore, of Turkey, was shot and badly wounded by a negro, Sunday night when he went to his mokehouse to investigate a noise that he heard.

Mr. Moore was rushed to Warsaw where he received medical attention until he could be carried to a hospital. Bloodhounds were secured from Warsaw and put on the tracks and trailed to a negro house not far away.

The man proved to be a negro that had lived on the place five or six years. He was brought to Clinton and lodged in jail to await trial.

A wireless telephone service between the island of Catalina, 27 miles from the mainland of California, is being maintained.

**REBELLION IN STOMACH**

"Pape's Diapepsin" at once ends indigestion and Sour, Acid Stomach

Lumps of undigested food cause pain. If your stomach is in a revolt; if sick, gassy and upset, and you just ate your food as usual, the quickest, surest, most harmless stomach antacid is Pape's Diapepsin, which costs so little at drug stores.—(Adv.)

**Put On a Drive of Your Own**

Nails are plentiful NOW. Lumber is plentiful NOW. Labor is plentiful NOW. All you need to build that home is the inclination and perhaps a little money.

Have you noticed how manufacturers of building materials with national distribution are spending thousands of dollars in advertising at the present time? It is the opinion of many others as well as our own that those who start building early this spring are going to be the wise ones.

**Clark-Lynch Lumber Co.**  
WILMINGTON, N. C.

**LEGAL HOLIDAY**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1921  
Washington's Birthday

No Business Will Be Transacted by the Banks of This City on That Day

Wilmington Clearing House Association  
THOS. E. COOPER, Secretary  
Wilmington, N. C.

**Ouch! Lame Back**  
Rub backache, Lumbago, Soreness and stiffness away—Try this!

Back hurt? Can't straighten up without feeling sudden pains, sharp aches and twinges? Now listen! That's lumbago, sciatica or maybe from a strain, and you'll get blessed relief the moment you rub your back with soothing, penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil." Nothing else takes out soreness, lameness, and stiffness so quickly. You simply rub it on and out comes the pain. It is perfectly harmless and doesn't burn or discolor the skin. Limber up! Don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle from any drug store, and after using it just once, you'll forget that you ever had backache, lumbago or sciatica, because your back will never hurt or cause any misery. It never disappoints and has been recommended for 60 years.—(Adv.)

**BUICK**

Try out the 1921 Buick.

It's the same rugged, reliable Buick of the past but with an added measure of dependability, easier control, greater riding comfort and beauty. In the 1921 Buick you also have a car with a 25% greater investment value the day you wish to sell or trade. We will be glad to give you a demonstration.

There's Authorized Buick Service everywhere.

Since January 1, regular equipment on all models includes cord tires

**W. D. MacMillan, Jr.**  
WILMINGTON, N. C.  
105-107 N. Second Street Telephone No. 2103

**WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT, BUICK WILL BUILD THEM**