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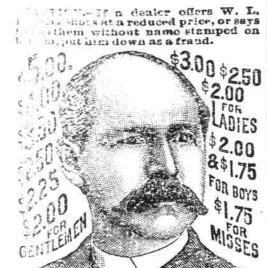
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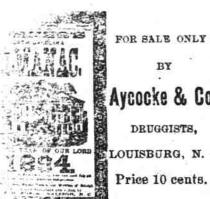
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By A. CONAN DOYLE.

His intention had been to be absent A year at the most, but a combination of unforceen circumstances prevented march in the Public Schools his leaving the mines for nearly five. will also be in At the end of that time, however, his on Saturday of each memory of his wrongs and his cravings all public days, to attend for revenge were quite as keen as on business connected with my that memorable night when he had stood by John Ferrier's grave. Disguised, and under an assumed name, he returned to Salt Dake City, carcless what became of his own life, as long as he obtained what he knew to be justice. There he found evil tidings awaiting him. There had been a schism among the Chosen People a few months' before, some of the younger members of the church having rebelled against the authority of the elders, and the result had been the secession of a certain number of the malconten doors below Aycocke & Co.'s tents, who had left Utah and become Gentiles. Among these had been Drebber and Stangerson; and no one knew whither they had gome. Rumor reported that Drebber had managed to convert a large part of his property into money, and that he had departed a wealthy man, while his companion, Stangerson, was comparatively poor. There was no clew at all, however, as to their whereabouts.

> Many a man, however vindictive, would have abandoned all thought of revenge in the face of such a difficulty, but Jefferson Hope never faltered for a moment. With the small competence he possessed, eked out by such employment as he could pick up, he traveled from town to town through the United States in quest of his enemies. Year passed into year, his black hair turned grizzled, but still be wandered on, a human bloodhound, with his mind wholly set upon the one object upon which he had devoted his life. At last his perseverance was rewarded. It was but one glance of a face in a window, but that one glance told him that Cleveland, in Ohio, possessed the men whom he was in pursuit of. He returned to his miserable lodgings with his plan of vengeance all arranged. It chanced, however, that Drebber, looking from his window, had recognized the vagrant in the street, and had read murder in his eyes. He hurried before a justice of the peace, accompanied by Stangerson, who had become his private secretary, and represented to him that they were in danger of their lives from the jealousy and hatred of an old rival. That evening Jefferson Hope was taken into custody, and not being able to find sureties was detained for some weeks. When at last he was liberated, it was only to find that Drebber's house was deserted and that he and his secretary had departed for Eu-

Again the avenger had been foiled, and again his concentrated hatred urged him to continue the pursuit. Funds were wanting, however, and for some time he had to return to work, saving every dollar for his approaching journey. At last, having collected enough to keep life in him, he departed for Europe and tracked his enemies from city to city, working The care you. Price 50 cts. Injector free his way in any menial capacity, but never overtaking the fugitives. When he reached St. Petersburg they had departed for Paris; and when he followed them there he learned that they had just set off for Copenhagen. At the Danish capital he was again a few days late, for they had journeyed on to London, where he at last succeeded in running them to earth. As to what occurred there, we cannot do better than quote the old hunter's own account, as duly recorded in Dr. Watson's journal, to which we are already under such obligations.

> · CHAPTER VI. A CONTINUATION OF THE REMINISCENCES OF JOHN H. WATSON, M D.

Our prisoner's furious resistance did not apparently indicate any ferocity in his disposition toward ourselves, for on finding himself powerless he smiled in an affable manner, and expressed his hopes that he had not hurt any of us in the scuffle. "I guess you're going to take me to the police station," he remarked to Sherlock Holmes. "My cab's at the door. If you'll loose my legs I'll walk down to it. I'm not so light to lift as I used to be."

Gregson and Lestrade exchanged glances as if they thought this proposition rather a bold one; but Holmes at once took the prisoner at his word, and loosened the towel which he had bound round his ankles. He rose and stretched his legs, as though to assure himself that they were free once more. I remember that I thought to myself, as I eyed him, that I had seldom seen a more powerfully built man; and his dark, sunburned face bore an expression of determination and energy which was as formidable as his person-

al strength. "If there's a vacant place for a chief of the police, I reckon you are the man for it," he said, gazing with undisguised admiration at my fellow-lodger. "The way you kept on my trail was a caution.'

"You had better come with me," said Holmes to the two detectives.

"I can drive you," said Lestrade. "Good! and Gregson can come inside with me. You too, doctor; you have taken an interest in the case, and may

as well stick to us." I assented gladly, and we all scended together. Our prisoner made no attempt at escape, but stepped calmly into the cab which had been his, and we followed him: Lestrade mounted the box, whipped up the horse, and brought us in a very short time to our destination. We were

ushered into a small chamber, where a police inspector noted down our prisoner's name and the names of the men with whose murder he had been charged. The official was a white-faced, unemotional man, who

"I've got a good deal to say," our prisoner said slowly. "I want to tell you gentlemen all about it."

"Hadn't you better reserve that for your trial?" asked the inspector. "I may never be tried," he answered. "You needn't look startled. It isn't suicide I am thinking of. Are you a doctor?" He turned his fierce, dark eyes upon me as he asked this last question. "Yes, I am," I answered.

"Then put your hand here," he said, with a smile, motioning with his manacled wrists toward his chest.

I did so, and became at once conscious of an extraordinary throobing which was going on ins. The walls of his chest seemed to thrill and quiver as a frail building would do inside which some powerful engine was at work. In the silence of the room I could hear a dull humming and buzzing noise which proceeded from the game source.

"Why," I cried, "you have an aortic

aneurism!" "That's what they call it," he said. placidly. "I went to a doctor last week about it, and he told me that it was bound to burst before many days passed. It has been getting worse for years. I got it from over-exposure and under-feeding among the Salt lake mountains. I've done my work now, and I don't care how soon I go, but I should like to leave some account of the business behind me. I don't want to be remembered as a common cut-

The inspector and the two detectives had a hurried discussion as to the advisability of allowing him to tell his

"Do you consider, doctor, that there is immediate danger?" the former asked. "Most certainly there is," I an-

swered. "In that case it is clearly our duty, in the interests of justice, to take his

taken down."

"I'll sit down, with your leave," the prisoner said, suiting the action to the so long had at last come. I had my word. "This aneurism of mine makes me easily tired, and the tussle we had they could protect each other, but half an hour ago has not mended mat- | singly they were at my mercy. I did ters. I'm on the brink of the grave, pot act, however, with undue precipand I am not likely to lie to you. itation. My plans were already Every word I say is the absolute truth, formed. There is no satisfaction in and how you use it is a matter of no vengeance unless the offender has consequence to me."

narrated were commonplace enough. I can vouch for the accuracy of the exactly as they were uttered.

if you had been in my place.

me out, but they could not do it. If I mouth gets dry with the talking." die to-morrow, as is likely enough, I I handed him the glass and he drank die knowing that my work in this it down. world is done, and well done. They

though, and when once I had spotted | private hotel, said he. the principal hotels and stations I got on pretty well.

again. all that. Go where they would about game was in my own hands. London I was always at their heels.

must warn you that your words will be for they would never go out alone, he had extracted from some South taken down and may be use against and never after nightfull. Ouring two and never once saw them separate. time, but Stangerson was not to be caught napping. I watched them late and early, but never saw the ghost of a chance; but I was not discouraged, for something told me that the hour had almost come. My only fear was that

> "At last, one evening I was driving up and down Torquay terrace, as the street was called in which they boarded, when I saw a cab drive up to their door. Presently some luggage was brought out, and after a time Drabber

off. I whipped up my horse and hept within sight of them, feeling ill at ease, for I feared that they were going to shift their quarters. At Euston station they got out, and I left a boy to hold my horse and followed them on to the platform. I heard them ask for the Liverpool train, and the guard answer that one had just gone and that there would not be another for some hours. Stangerson seemed to be put out at that, but Drebber was rather pleased than otherwise. I got so close to them in the bustle that ! could hear every word that passed between them. Drebber said that he had a little business of his own to do, and that if the other would wait for him he would soon rejoin him. His companion remonstrated with him, and reminded him that they had resolved to stick together. Drebber answered that the matter was a delicate one, and that he must go alone. I could not eatch what Stangerson said to that, but the other burst out swearing, and reminded him that he was nothing more than his paid servant, and that he must not presume to dictate to him. On that the secretary gave it up as a bad job, and simply bargained with him that if he missed the last train he should rejoin statement," said the inspector. "You him at Halliday's private hotel to are at liberty, sir, to give your ac- which Drebber answered that he would count, which I again warn you will be be back on the platform before eleven. and made his way out of the station.

"The moment for which I had waited enemies within my power. Together time to realize who it is that strikes With these words, Jefferson Hope him, and why retribution has come upleaned back in his chair and began the on him. I had my plans arranged by following remarkable statement. He which I should have the opportunity spoke in a calm and methodical man- of making the man who had wronged ner, as though the events which he me understand that his old sin had found him out. It chanced that some days before a gentleman who had been subjoined account, for I have had account engaged in looking over some bouses cess to Lestrade's note-book, in which in the Brixton road had dropped the the prisoner's words were taken down | key of one of them in my carriage. It was claimed that same evening and re-"It don't much matter to you why I turned; but in the interval I had taken hated these men," he said; "it's enough | a moulding of it, and had a displicate that they were guilty of the death of | constructed. By means of this I had two human beings-a father and a access to at least one spot in this great daughter-and that they had, there city where I could rely upon being give you my word that, all the way. fore, forfeited their own lives. After | free from interruption. How to get the lapse of time that has passed since | Drobber to that house was the diffitheir crime, it was impossible for me | calt problem which I had now to solve.

to secure a conviction against them in ... "He walked down the road and went any court. I knew of their guilt, into one or two liquor-shops, staying though, and I determined that I should | for nearly half an hour in the last of be judge, jury and executioner all them. When he came out he staggered rolled into one. You'd have done the in his walk, and was evidently pretty same, if you have any manhood in you, | well on. There was a hansom just in front of me, and he hailed it. I fol-"That girl that I spoke of was to lowed it so close that the nose of my She was forced into marrying that the whole way. We rattled across Wasame Drebber, and broke her heart terloo bridge and through miles of ring and that his last thoughts should | imagine what his intention was in re-

"That's better," he said. "Well, I have perished, and by my hand. There waited for a quarter of an hour or me. Now at last your wanderings is nothing left for me to hope for or to more, when suddenly there came a noise like people struggling inside the | I shall never see to-morrow's sun rise. "They were rich and I was poor, so house. Next moment the door was that it was no easy matter for me to | flung open and two men appeared, one follow them. When I got to London of whom was Drebber, and the other my pocket was about empty and I was a young chap whom I had never found that I must turn my hand to seen before. This fellow had Drebber something for my living. Driving and | by the collar, and when they came to riding are as natural to me as walk- the head of the steps he gave him a ing, so I applied at a cab owner's office | shove and a kick which sent him half and soon got employment. I was to across the road. 'You hound!' he cried, bring a certain sum a week to the shaking his stick at him; 'I'll teach you owner, and whatever was over that I to insult an honest girl! He was so might keep for myself. There was sel- hot that I think he would have dom much over, but I managed to thrashed Drebber with his cudgel, only scrape along somehow. The hardest that the cur staggered away down the job was to learn my way about, for I road as fast as his legs would carry reckon that of all the mazes that ever him. He ran as far as the corner, and were contrived this city is the most then, seeing my cab, he hailed me and confusing. I had a map beside me, jumped in. 'Drive me to Halliday's

"When I had him fairly inside my cab my heart jumped so with joy that "It was some time before I found out I feared lest at this last moment my where my two gentlemen were living, aneurism might go wrong. I drove but I inquired and inquired, until at along slowly, weighing in my own mind last I dropped across them. They were what it was best to do. I might take at a boarding-house at Camberwell, him right out into the country, and over on the other side of the river. | there in some deserted lane have my When once I found them out I knew last interview with him. I had almost that I had them at my mercy. I had decided upon this, when he solved the grown my beard and there was no problem for me. The craze for drink chance of their recognizing me. I had seized him again, and he ordered would dog them and follow them until | me to pull up outside a gin palace. He I saw my opportunity. I was deter went in, leaving word that I should mined that they should not escape me | wait for him. There he remained until closing-time, and when he came out "They were very near doing it, for he was so far gone that I knew the

"Don't imagine that I intended to Sometimes Lifollowed them on my cab kill him in cold blood. It would only and sometimes on foot, but the former have been rigid justice it I had done was the best, for then they could not so, but I could not bring myself to do get away from me. It was only early it. I had long determined that he in the morning or late at night that I should have a show for his life if he could learn anything, so that I began | chose to take advantage of it. Among to get behindhand with my employer. the many billets which I have filled in

meantime, Mr. Jefferson tiope, nave 'rney must have thought that there was | poisons, and he showed his students you anything that you wish to say? I some chance of their being followed, some alkaloid, as he called it, which weeks I drove behind them every day, was so powerful that the least grain meant instant death. I spotted the Drebber himself was drunk half the bottle in which this preparation was kept, and when they were all gone I helped myself to a little of it. I was a fairly good dispenser, so I worked this alkaloid into small, soluble pills, and each pill I put in a box with a similar pill made without poison. I determined at the time that, when I had my this thing in my chest might burst a chance, my gentlemen should each little too soon and leave my work unhave a draw out of one of these boxes, while I ate the pill that remained. It would be quite as deadly, and a good deal less polsy than firing across a handkerchief. From that day I had always my pill-boxes about with me, bil A. Early. Something was Mother-"Oh, yes; if she do s and the time had now come when I was to use them. and Stangerson followed it and drove

"It was nearer one than twelve, and a wild, bleak night, blowing hard and it. Every one thought he was dead. to dauce longer than midnight raining in torrents. Dismal as it was outside, I was glad within-so glad that I could have shouted out from away to secure the mangled remen have ever pined for a thing and mains. Finally his head showed. longed for it during twenty long years, and then suddenly found it within your reach, you would under tand my feelings. I lit a cigar and puffed at it to steady my nerves, but my hands were trembling and my temples throbbing with excitement. As I drove, I could see old John Terrier and sweet Lucy looking at me out of the dark ness and smiling at me, just as plain as see you all in this room. All the way they were ahead of me, one on each side of the horse, until I pulled up at the house in the Brixton road.

"There was not a soul to be seen, nor a sound to be heard except the drip ping of the rain. When I looked in at the window I found Drebber all huddled together in a drunken sleep. 1 shook him by the arm. 'It's time to go

" 'All right, cabby,' said he. "I suppose he thought we had come to the hotel that he had mentioned, for followed me down the garden. I had to walk beside him to keep him steady, for he was still a little top-heavy. When we came to the door I opened it and led him into the front room. I



"HE GAZED AT ME WITH BLEARED DRUNGEN EYES A MOMENT.

the father and daughter were walking in front of us.

"'It's infernally dark,' said he, stamping about.

"We'll soon have a light,' I said, striking a match and putting it to a wax candle which I had brought with as nice and fine goods as is earme. 'Now, Enoch Drebber,' I con- ried in any, of our cities. Our tinued, turning to him, and holding the light to my own face: 'Who am I?' "He gazed at me with bleared," have married me twenty years ago. horse was within a yard of his driver drunken eves for a moment, and then I saw a horror spring up in them and convulse his whole features, which

over it. I took the marriage ring from streets, until, to my astonishment, we showed me that he knew me. He her dead finger and I vowed that his found ourselves back in the terrace in staggered back with a livid face, and dying eyes should rest upon that very | which he had boarded. I could not I saw the perspiration break out upon his brow, while his teeth chattered. be of the crime for which he was pun- turping there; but I went on and At the sight I leaned my back against ished. I have carried it about with me | pulled up my cab a hundred yards or | the door and laughed lond and long. I and have followed him and his ac- so from the house. He entered it and had always known that vengeance complice over two continents until I his hansom drove away. Give me a | would be sweet, but had never hoped caught them. They thought to tire glass of water, if you please. My for the contentment of soul which now possessed me.

"'You dog!' I said; 'I have hunted you from Salt Lake City to St. Petersburg, and you have always escaped have come to an end, for either you or He shrank still farther away as I spoke, and I could see on his face that he thought I was mad. So I was for the time. The pulses in my temples beat like sledge-hammers, and I believe I would have had a fit of some sort if the blood had not gushed from

my nose and relieved me. "What do you think of Lucy Ferrier now?' I cried, locking the door and shaking the key in his face. 'Punishment has been slow in coming. but it has overtaken you at last.' I saw his coward lips tremble as I spoke. He would have begged for his life, but he knew well it was useless. " 'Would you murder me?' he stam-

" 'There is no murder,' I answered. 'Who talks of murdering a mad dog? What mercy had you upon my poor darling when you dragged her from her slaughtered father and bore her away to your accursed and shameless harem?

"'It was not I who killed her father,' "But it was you who broke her in-

nocent heart,' I shrieked, thrusting the box before him. 'Let the high God judge between us. Choose and There is death in one and life in the other. I shall take what you leave. Let us see if there is justice being lot No. 2 in the plat and survey upon the earth, or if we are ruled by of the Goodloe land, made in the Partichance.'

TO BE CONTINUED]

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time ago a house fell on Gen. Jn- been delicate always?" They began to dig the bricks sometimes. He was swearing. He pulled him- known and so pepulas as to need no 'Damn me. I didn't know there

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