THE FOUR, Conan Doyle.

[Continued from our last issue,]

"But it was not mere guess work?" "No, not I never guess. It is a shocking habit-destructive to the logical ficulty. What seems strange to you is the Langham hotel as his address. His only so because you do not follow my train of thought or observe the small facts upon which large inferences may depend. For example, I began by statthe that your besther was careless. When you observe the lower part of that watch case you notice that it is not pally dinted in two places, but it is cut and marked all over from the habit of Leeping other-hard objects, such as goins or keys, in the same pocket. tised in all the papers. Our inquiries Surely it is no great feat to assume that | led to no result; and from that day to man who treats a fifty-guinea watch this no word has ever been heard of so cavalierly must be a careless man. my unfortunate father. He came home Neither is it a very far-fetched inference that a man who inherits one article of such value is pretty well prowided for in other respects ' I nedded to show that I followed his

reasoning.

"It is very customary for pawnbrokers in England, when they take a watch, to scratch the number of the ticket with a pin point upon the inside of the case. It is more handy than the label, as there is no risk of the number being lost or transposed. There are no less than four such numbers visible to my lens on the inside of this case. Inference-that your brother was often at low water. Secondary inferencethat he had occasional bursts of prosperity, or he could not have redeemed the pledge. Finally, I ask you to look at the inner plate, which contains the key-hele. Look at the thousands of seratehes all round the hole-marks where the key has slipped. What sober man's key could have scored those ficer was in England." grooves? But you will never see a drunkard's watch without them. He winds it at night, and he leaves these traces of his unsteady hand. Where is the mystery in all this?"

"It is clear as daylight," I answered. Times asking for the address of Miss "I regret the injustice which I did you. I should have had more faith in your marvelous faculty. May I ask whether you have any professional inquiry on

fout at present?" None. Hence the cocaine. I can- in the capacity of governess. By her not live without brain work. What advice I published my address in the else is there to live for? Stand at the advertisement column. The same day window here. Was there ever such a there arrived through the post a small dreary, dismal, unprofitable world? See how the yellow fog swirls down the street and drifts across dun-colored houses. What could be more hopelessly prosaic and material? What is the use of having powers, doctor, when one has no field upon which to exert them? Crime is commonplace and existence is commonplace and no qualities save those which are commonplace have any function upon earth."

· I had opened my mouth to reply to this tirade, when, with a crisp knock, our landlady entered, bearing a card pearls that I had ever seen. upon the brass salver. "A young lady for you, sir," she said,

addressing my companion. "Miss Mary Morstan," he read.

"Hum! I have no recollection of the range. Ask the young lady to step up. Mrs Hudson. Don't go, doctor. I shall prefer that you remain."

CHAPTER IL

THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE. Miss Morstan entered the room with man. Best quality paper. Envelopes a firm step and an outward composure at sixpence a packet. Particular man of manner. She was a blonde young in his stationery. No address. 'Be at lady, small, dainty, well gloved, and the third pillar from the left outside dressed in the most perfect taste. the Lyceum theater to-night at seven There was, however, a plainess and o'clock. If you are distrustful, bring means. The dress was a somber gray- bring police. If you do, all will be in ish leige, untrimmed and unbraided, vain. Your unknown friend. Well, and she wore a small turban of the really, this is a very pretty little myspicion of white featuer in the side. Her Morstan?" face had neither regularity of feature nor beauty of complexion, but her ex- you." pression was sweet and amiable, and her large blue eyes were singularly You and I and-yes, why, Dr. Watson spiritual and sympathetic. In an ex- is the very man. Your correspondent perience of women which extends over says two friends. He and I have many nations and three separate continents, I have never tooked upon a face which gave a clearer promise of a refined and sensitive nature. I could not but observe that as she took the seat which Sherlock Holmes placed for her, her lip trembled, her hand quive service." ered, and she showed every sign of intense inward agitation.

"I have come to vou, Mr. Holmes," my employer, Mrs. Cecil Forrester, to



shall look out for you, then, at six. unravel a little domestic complication. Pray allow me to keep the papers. I She was much impressed by your kindmay look into the matter before then. ness and skill." It is only half-past three. Au revoir,

"Mrs. Cecil Forrester," he repeated. thoughtfully. "I believe that I was of some slight service to her. The case, however, as I remember it, was a very

"She did not think so. But at least you cannot say the same of mine. I can hardly imagine anything more strange, more utterly inexplicable. t can the situation in which I find my-

Holmes rubbed his hands, and his eyes glistened. He leaned forward in his chair with an expression of extraordinary concentration upon his clearcut, hawk-like features. "State your

tase." said he, in brisk, business tones. I felt that my position was an em-l rrassing one. "You will, I am sure, come me." I said, rising from my

up her gleved hand to detain me. "If your friend," she said, "would be good enough to stop, he might be of inestimable service to me."

twelve months' leave and came home.

with his heart full of hope, to find

cember, 1878-nearly ten years ago."

He had been one of the officers in

"Only one that we know of-Maj.

Sholto, of his own regiment, the Thir-

ty-fourth Bombay infantry. The ma-

jor had retired some little time before,

did not even know that his brother of-

'A singular case," remarked Holmes.

"I have not yet described to you the

ago-to be exact, upon the 4th of May,

would be to her advantage to come for-

ward. There was no name or address

tered the family of Mrs. Cecil Forrester

I found to contain a very large and lus-

trons pearl. No word of writing was

inclosed. Since then, every year, upon

the same date, there has always ap-

peared a similar box, containing a sim-

ilar pearl, without any clew as to the

sender. They have been pronounced

by an expert to be of a rare variety and

of considerable value. You can see for

yourselves that they are very hand-

some." She opened a flat box as she

spoke, and showed me six of the finest

"Your statement is most interest-

"Yes, and no later than to-day. That

is why I have come to you. This morn-

ing I received this letter, which you

"Thank you," said Holmes. "The

"Then we shall most certainly go.

"But would he come?" she asked,

"I should be proud and happy,"

"You are both very kind," she an-

"You must not be later," said

Holmes. "There is one other point.

Is this handwriting the same as that

"I have them here," she answered,

"You are certainly a model client.

us see, now." He spread out the paper

upon the table, and gave little darting glances from one to the other. "They

are disguised hands, except the letter,"

the irrepressible Greek & will break

out, and see the twirl on the final &.

They are undoubtedly by the same per-

son. I should not like to suggest false

hopes, Miss Morstan, but is there any

resemblance between this hand and

"I expected to hear you say so. We

"Au revoir," said our visitor, and,

with a bright, kindly glance from one

to the other of us, she replaced her

"Nothing could be more unlike."

that of your father?"

producing half a dozen pieces of paper.

upon the pearl-box addresses?"

swered. "I have led'a retired life, and

said I, fervently, "if I can be of any

worked together before."

and expression.

envelope, too, please. Postmark, Lon-

ing," said Sherlock Holmes. "Has any-

thing else occurred to you?"

will perhaps read for yourself."

charge of the convict guard there."

"Had he any friends in town?"

his notebook.

"His luggage?"

I relapsed into my chair.

"What a very attractive woman!" I "Briefly," she continued, "the facts exclaimed, turning to my companion. are these: My father was an officer in He had lit his pipe again, and was an Indian regiment who sent me home leaning back with drooping eyelids. when I was quite a child. My mother "Is she?" he said, languidly. "I did not was dead, and I had no relative in England. I was placed, however, in a

away. Standing at the window, I

watched her walking briskly down the

street, until the gray turban and white

"You really are an automaton-a calcomfortable boarding establishment at 'culating machine!" I cried. "There is Edinburgh, and there I remained until was seventeen years of age. In the

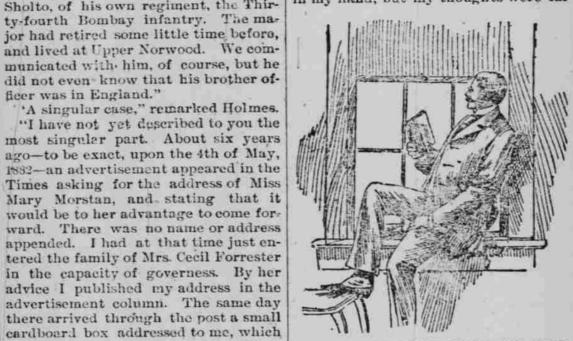
year 1878 my father, who was senior He smiled gently. "It is of the first captain of his regiment, obtained importance," he said, "not to allow your judgment to be biased by per-He telegraphed to me from London sonal qualities. A client is to me a mere that he had arrived all safe, and diunit-a factor in a problem. The emorected me to come down at once, giving tional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning. I assure you that the most message, as I remember, was full of winning woman I ever knew was kindness and love. On reaching Lonhanged for poisoning three little childon I drove to the Langham, and was dren for their insurance money, and informed that Capt. Morstan was staythe most repellent man of my acquainting there, but that he had gone out the ance is a philanthropist who has spent night before and had not returned. I nearly a quarter of a million upon the waited all day without news of him. London poor." That night, on the advice of the man-"In this case, however-"

ager of the hotel, I communicated with "I never make exceptions. An exthe police, and next morning we adverception disproves the rule. Have you ever had occasion to study character in handwriting? What do you make of this fellow's scribble?" "It is legible and regular," I an-

swered. "A man of business habits and some peace, some comfort, and insome force of character." stead-" She put her hand to her Holmes shook his head. "Look at throat, and a choking sob cut short the his long letters," he said. "They hardly rise above the common herd. That "The date?" asked Holmos, opening d might be an a, and that I an e. Men of character always differentiate their "He disappeared upon the 3d of Delong letters, however illegibly they may write. There is vacillation in his k's and self-esteem in his capitals. I am TF nothing in it to suggest a clew-some going out now. I have some few refer-"Remained at the hotel. There was ences to make. Let me recommend books, and a considerable number of this book-one of the most remarkable curiosities from the Andaman islands. ever penned. It is Winwood Reade's

> in an hour." I sat in the window with the volume in my hand, but my thoughts were far

'Martyrdom of Man.' I shall be back



I SAT IN THE WINDOW, VOLUME IN HAND.

from the daring speculations of the writer. My mind ran upon our late visitor-her smiles, the deep rich tones of her voice, the strange mystery which overhung her life. If she were seventeen at the time of her father's disap- MUSI GO! pearance she must be seven-and-twenty now-a sweet age, when youth has lost its self-consciousness and become a little sobered by experience. So I sat and mused, until such dangerous thoughts came into my head that I hurried away to my desk and plunged furiously into the latest treatise upon pathology: What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking account, that I should dare to think of such things? She was a unit, a factor, nothing more. If my future were black, it was better surely to face it like a man than to attempt to brightdon, S. W.; date, July 7. Hum! Man's en it by mere will-o'-the-wisps of the thumbmark on corner-probably postimagination.

CHAPTER III.

IN QUEST OF A SOLUTION. It was half-past five before Holmes Heavy Ingrain at 38c. returned. He was bright, eager and Extra Heavy Ingrain at 38. simplicity about her costume which two friends. You are a wronged wom- in excellent spirits-a mood which in 75c. Caro Matting at 43. bore with it a suggestion of limited an, and shall have justice. Do not his case alternated with fits of the blackest depression.

"There is no great mystery in this matter," he said, taking the cup of tea same dull hue, relieved only by a sus- tory. What do you intend to do, Miss which I had poured out for him. "The facts appear to admit of only one ex-"That is exactly what I want to ask | planation."

"What! you have solved it already?" "Well, that will be too much to say. I have discovered a suggestive fact, that is all. It is, however, very suggestive. The details are still to be added. I have just found, on consulting the back files of the Times, that Maj. with something appealing in her voice upon the 28th of April, 1882."

"I may be very obtuse, Holmes, but I fail to see what this suggests." have no friends whom I could appeal appears. The only person in London heard that he was in London. Four years later Sholto dies. Within a week of his death Capt. Morstan's daughter receives a valuable present, which is re- tion at your own price. peated from year to year, and now culminates in a letter which describes her as a wronged woman. What wreng You have the correct intuition. Let can it refer to except this deprivation, of her father? And why should the presents begin immediately after

> "But what a strange compensation! And how strangely made! Why, too, should be write a letter now, rather 7.50 to \$9.00,-these we will close than six years 270? Again, the letter for \$6.75, We also have Twenty speaks of giving her justice. What justice can she have? It is too much to suppose that her father is still alive. own price. There is no other injustice in her case

that you know of." "There are difficulties; there are Holmes, pensively. "But our expedition of to-night will solve them all. Ah, here is a four-wheeler, and Miss Morstan is inside. Are you all ready? Then we had better go down, for it is

pearl box in her bosom and hurried | a little past the hour." [CONTINUED.]

THE TIMES

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I am were with the NEW YEAR-still in the lead. SAME STAND. Complete stock of Drugs. Lowest prices guaranteed. Bring your Prescriptions to us, they are filled by a Registered Pharmacist. We make the celebrated Itch Cure. NO CURE-NO PAY.

something positively inhuman in you Complete stock of garden seeds Fresh stock-TARIFF OFF, Use Borox on your meat. We have it finely powdered,

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Jan-16-tf

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JUST LISTEN AT THESE PRICES:

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Wood Cashnan 10c 35 Wood Serge-36 in, wide+all colors, 14c; Bes Sholto, of Upper Norwood, late of the 10e Outlog-all colors, 7e; A'l wool Thirty-fourth Bombay infantry, died -40 m, worth 75e-our price 39c; UNDERWEAR DEPARTMENT 6 in. Latina Chat-in bice and black - worth 66 , our price, 24c; 36 "No? You surprise me. Look at it in., Black Wood here - worth 40e; in this way, then. Capt. Morstan dis- our price, 14c; One Hundred pieces she said, "because you once enabled to. If I am here at six it will do, I sup- whom he could have visited is Maj. of 46 in., all woo Satin-finish Henri-Sholto. Maj. Sholto denies having etta Cloth, cherp at 90c, ail colors, sale price, 63c,

Tures goods of very descrip-

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nave about Twenty-fire worth about Misses' Cloak we will close at your

A he prices quoted above we will, in a few days, close up the Shoes at \$1.49; Krippendorf's \$2.00 certainly difficulties," said Sherlock entire stock. These are all New Shoe for \$1.37. All of our \$1.50 Goods, Every one of them Ladies' Shoes for \$1.19. has been received since November All Shoes included in this Great 21st and of the Very Latest Style Slaughter Sale.

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15e. Black Hose at 10c; 15c reg ular-made Hose 10c; 20c Black Hose 14; 90: Black Half Hose 14c; . 25c Black Hose 20c; 25c Black half Hose We have about One Hundred and 20e; Black Hose 24e; Black Half Sholto's death, unless it is that Sholto's twenty Ladies' Cloaks remaining. Hose 24c. Children's Hose at your heir knows something of the mystery, About seventy five of these are own prices. Overgarters in Black question as to the authorship. See how Have you any alternative theory which priced \$10,00. \$12.50, \$15.00—these and Tan, 35c to \$1,00. \$7.00 al we will sell now for \$7.45. We wool North Carolina 12-4.8 lbs, a \$4.48. \$5,00 Wool Blankets 10-4 at \$2,48. Buggy Robes and Horse Blankets at your own price,

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| DATED Mar 3, 1c95. | No.23 Daily. | No. 35 Dally. | No 41. Dally. | |
| Leave Weldon Ar. Rocky Mt. Leave Tarboro | A. M. 11.53 12:57 12:20 | 10:20 . | A. M. | |
| Lv. Rocky Mt Leave Wilson Leave Selma Lv. Fayettevi Ar. Florence | 1:05 2:03 2:53 4:30 7:30 | 12.53 | 6:90 | 11111 |
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| Leave Wilson Lv. Goldsboro. Lv. Magnolia Ar. Wilmin't'n | P. M. 2.03 2;55 4:02 5.10 P. M. | | A. M. 6:35 7:29 8:29 10:00 A. M | |
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Lv. Florence... Lv. Fayettevil' Lv. magnetia... 10:56 Lv. Goldsboro 12:05 Arrive Wilson 1:00

Lv. Rocky Mt... † Daily except Sunday. ‡Daily except suaday
Train on Scotland Neck Branch road leaves
Weldon 3:48 p m, Halifax 405 p m arrives
Scotland Neck at 455 p m, Greenville 6:37 p m,
Kinston 7:35 p m. Returning leaves Rinston
7:20 a m, Greenville 822 a m, arriving Halifry
at 10.55 a m, Weldon 11:0 a m, daily ezcept

Leav. Wilson. 1:.0 Ar. Rocky Mt. 2;33

Arrive Tarbro.;

Sunday.

Trains on Washington Branch leaves
Washington 7; a. m, arrives Parmele 8:10 a.

Washington 7; a. m, returning leaves Tarm., Tarboro 9:50 a.m.: returning leaves Tarboro 4:50 p. m. Parmele 6:10 p. m. arrives Washington 7:35 p. m. Daily except Sunday. Connects with trains on Scotland Neck

:30 a. m., arrive Tarboro 10:25 a. m. and Il:0 a. m.

Train on Midland NC Branch leaves Golds boro, N. C., daily except Sunday, 605 a m: arrive Smithfield NC., 730 a m. Returning leaves Smithfield, N. C. 806 a. m. arrives Goldsboro, N. C. 9 30 a. m.

Train on Nashville Branch leaves Rocky Mount at 4: 0 p. m., arrives Nashville 5:05 p. m., Spring Hope 5:30 p. m. Returning leaves Spring Hope 8:00 a. m., Nashville 8:35 a. m., arrive at Recky Mount 9:05 a. m., dally except Sunday. Sunday.

Trains on Latta Branch Florence R. R. leave
Latta 6:40 p. m.; arrive Dunbar 7:70 p. m Returning leave Dunbar 6:30 a. m.; arrive Latta
7:50 a. m. Daily except Sunday.

Train on Clinton Branch leaves Warsaw for
Clinton paily, except Sunday, at4: 16 p. m. Returning haves Clinton at 7::0 a. m., connectling at Warsaw with main line trains turning haves Clinton at 7:26 a. m., connecting at Warsaw with main line trains.

Train No. 72 make close connection at Weldon for all points North daily, all rail vis Richmond and daily except Sunday via Portamouth and Bay Line. Also at Rooty mount with Norfolk and Carolin Railrond for Norfolk daily and all points North via Norfolk daily except Sunday.

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