

# SERIAL STORY

## REMINISCENCES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

by ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE  
Illustrations by V. L. BARNES

### The ADVENTURE OF THE DEVIL'S FOOT

(Continued.)

"I have lived so long among savages and beyond the law," said he, "that I have got into a way of being a law to myself. You would do well, Mr. Holmes, not to forget it, for I have no desire to do you an injury."

"Nor have I any desire to do you an injury, Dr. Sterndale. Surely the clearest proof of it is that, knowing what I know, I have sent for you and not for the police."

Sterndale sat down with a gasp, overawed, perhaps, the first time in his adventurous life. There was a calm assurance of power in Holmes' manner which could not be withstood. Our visitor stammered for a moment, his great hands opening and shutting in his agitation.

"What do you mean?" he asked, at last. "If this is bluff upon your part, Mr. Holmes, you have chosen a bad man for your experiment. Let us have no more beating about the bush. What do you mean?"

"I will tell you," said Holmes, "and the reason why I tell you is that I hope frankness may beget frankness. What my next step may be will depend entirely upon the nature of your own defense."

"My defense?"

"Yes, sir."

"My defense against what?"

"Against the charge of killing Mortimer Tregennis."

Sterndale mopped his forehead with his handkerchief. "Upon my word, you are getting on," said he. "Do all your successes depend upon this prodigious power of bluff?"

"The bluff," said Holmes, sternly, "is upon your side, Dr. Leon Sterndale, and not upon mine. As a proof I will tell you some of the facts upon which my conclusions are based. Of your return to Plymouth, allowing much of your property to go on to Africa, I will say nothing save that it first informed me that you were one of the factors which had to be taken into account in reconstructing this drama."

"I came back—"

"I have heard your reasons and regard them as unconvincing and inadequate. We will pass that. You came down here to ask me whom I suspected. I refused to answer you. You then went to the vicarage, waited outside it for some time, and finally returned to your cottage."

"How do you know that?"

"I followed you."

"I saw no one."

"That is what you may expect to see when I follow you. You spent a restless night at your cottage, and you formed certain plans, which in the early morning you proceeded to put into execution. Leaving your door just as day was breaking, you filled your pocket with some reddish gravel which was lying beside your gate."

Sterndale gave a violent start and looked at Holmes in amazement.

"You then walked swiftly for the mile which separated you from the vicarage. You were wearing, I may remark, the same pair of ribbed tennis shoes which are at the present moment upon your feet. At the vicarage you passed through the orchard and the side hedge, coming out under the window of the lodger, Tregennis. It was now daylight, but the household was not yet stirring. You drew some of the gravel from your pocket, and you threw it up at the window above you—"

Sterndale sprang to his feet.

"I believe that you are the devil himself!" he cried.

Holmes smiled at the compliment. "It took two, or possibly three, handfuls before the lodger came to the window. You beckoned him to come down. He dressed hurriedly and descended to his sitting-room. You entered by the window. There was an interview—a short one—during which you walked up and down the room. Then you passed out and closed the window, standing on the lawn outside smoking a cigar and watching what occurred. Finally, after the death of Tregennis, you withdrew as you had come. Now, Dr. Sterndale, how do you justify such conduct, and what were the motives of your actions? If you prevaricate or trifle with me, I give you my assurance that the matter will pass out of my hands forever."

Our visitor's face had turned ashen gray as he listened to the words of his accuser. Now he sat for some time in thought with his face sunk in his hands. Then, with a sudden impulsive gesture, he plucked a photograph from his breast pocket and

threw it on the rustic table before us. "That is why I have done it," said he.

It showed the bust and face of a very beautiful woman. Holmes stooped over it.

"Brenda Tregennis," said he.

"Yes, Brenda Tregennis," repeated our visitor. "For years I have loved her. For years she has loved me. That is the secret of that Cornish seclusion which people have marveled at. It has brought me close to the one thing on earth that was dear to me. I could not marry her, for I have a wife who has left me for years, and yet whom, by the deplorable laws of England, I could not divorce. For years I waited. And this is what we have waited for." A terrible sob shook his great frame, and he clutched his throat under his bristle beard. Then with an effort he mastered himself and spoke on.

"The vicar knew. He was in our confidence. He would tell you that she was an angel upon earth. That was why he telegraphed to me and I returned. What was my baggage or Africa to me when I learned that such a fate had come upon my darling? There you have the missing clew to my action, Mr. Holmes."

"Proceed," said my friend.

Dr. Sterndale drew from his pocket a paper packet and laid it upon the table. On the outside was written, "Radix pedis diaboli," with a red poison label beneath it. He pushed it towards me. "I understand that you are a doctor, sir. Have you ever heard of this preparation?"

"Devil's-foot root! No, I have never heard of it."

"It is no reflection upon your professional knowledge," said he, "for I believe that, save for one sample in a laboratory at Buda, there is no other specimen in Europe. It has not yet found its way either into the pharmacopoeia or into the literature of toxicology. The root is shaped like a foot, half human, half goatlike; hence the fanciful name given by a botanical missionary. It is used as an ordeal poison by the medicine-men in certain districts of West Africa, and is kept a secret among them. This particular specimen I obtained under very extraordinary circumstances in the Ubaaghi country." He opened the paper as he spoke, and disclosed a heap of reddish-brown, snuff-like powder.

"Well, sir?" said Holmes, sternly.

"I am about to tell you, Mr. Holmes, all that actually occurred, for you already know so much that it is clearly to my interest that you should know all. I have already explained the relationship in which I stood to the Tregennis family. For the sake of the sister I was friendly with the brothers. There was a family quarrel about money which estranged this man Mortimer, but it was supposed to be made up, and I afterwards met him

at last.

"I had intended to bury myself in Central Africa. My work there is but half finished."

"Go and do the other half," said Holmes. "I, at least, am not prepared to prevent you."

Dr. Sterndale raised his giant figure, bowed gravely, and walked from the arbor. Holmes lit his pipe and handed me his pouch.

"Some fumes which are not poisonous would be a welcome change," said he. "I think you must agree, Watson, that it is not a case in which we are called upon to interfere. Our investigation has been independent, and our action shall be also. You would not denounce the man?"

"Certainly not," I answered.

"I have never loved, Watson, but if I did, and if the woman I loved had met such an end, I might act even as our lawless lion-hunter has done. Who knows? Well, Watson, I will not offend your intelligence by explaining what is obvious. The gravel under the window-sill was, of course, the starting point of my research. It was unlike anything in the vicarage garden. Only when my attention had been drawn to Dr. Sterndale and his cottage did I find its counterpart. The lamp shining in broad daylight and the remains of powder upon the shield were successive links in a fairly obvious chain. And now, my dear Watson, I think we may dismiss the matter from our minds, and go back with a clear conscience to the study of those Chaldean roots which are surely to be traced in the Cornish branch of the great Celtic speech."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sterndale sprang to his feet.

as I did the others. He was a sly, subtle, scheming man, and several things arose which gave me a suspicion of him, but I had no cause for any positive quarrel.

"One day, only a couple of weeks ago, he came down to my cottage and I showed him some of my African curiosities. Among other things, I exhibited this powder, and I told him of its strange properties, how it stimulates those brain centers which control the emotion of fear, and how either madness or death is the fate of the unhappy native who is subjected to the ordeal by the priest of his tribe. I told him also how powerless European science would be to detect it. How he took it I cannot say, for I never left the room, but there is no doubt that it was then, while I

was opening cabinets and stooping to boxes, that he managed to abstract some of the devil's-foot root. I well remember how he piled me with questions as to the amount and the time that was needed for its effect, but I little dreamed that he could have a personal reason for asking.

"I thought no more of the matter until the vicar's telegram reached me at Plymouth. This villain had thought that I would be at sea before the news could reach me, and that I should be lost for years in Africa. But I returned at once. Of course, I could not listen to the details without feeling assured that my poison had been used. I came round to see you on the chance that some other explanation had suggested itself to you. But there could be none. I was convinced that Mortimer Tregennis was the murderer; that for the sake of money, and with the idea, perhaps, that if the other members of his family were all insane he would be the sole guardian of their joint property, he had used the devil's-foot powder upon them, driven two of them out of their senses, and killed his sister Brenda, the one human being whom I have ever loved or who has ever loved me. There was his crime; what was to be his punishment?"

"Should I appeal to the law? Where were my proofs? I knew that the facts were true, but could I help to make a jury of countrymen believe so fantastic a story? I might or I might not. But I could not afford to fail. My soul cried out for revenge. I have said to you once before, Mr. Holmes, that I have spent much of my life outside the law, and that I have come at last to be a law to myself. So it was now. I determined that the fate which he had given to others should be shared by himself. Either that, or I would do justice upon him with my own hand. In all England there can be no man who sets less value upon his own life than I do at the present moment.

"Now I have told you all. You have yourself supplied the rest. I did, as you say, after a restless night, set off early from my cottage. I foresaw the difficulty of arousing him, so I gathered some gravel from the pile which you have mentioned, and I used it to throw up to his window. He came down and admitted me through the window of the sitting-room. I laid his offense before him. I told him I had come both as judge and executioner. The wretch sank into a chair paralyzed at the sight of my revolver. I lit the lamp, put the powder above it, and stood outside the window, ready to carry out my threat to shoot him should he try to leave the room. In five minutes he died. My God! how he died! But my heart was flint, for he endured nothing which my innocent darling had not felt before him. There is my story, Mr. Holmes. Perhaps, if you loved a woman, you would have done as much yourself. At any rate, I am in your hands. You can take what steps you like. As I have already said, there is no man living who can fear death less than I do."

Holmes sat for some time in silence.

"What were your plans?" he asked, at last.

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(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## DEATH PUTS AN END TO HAZING FROLIC

FRESHMAN ISAAC W. RAND OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA THE VICTIM.

CUTS THE JUGULAR VEIN Slipped From Barrel Upon Which he Was Being Made to Dance and Fell on Broken Glass—Making Thorough Investigation.

Chapel Hill.—The coroner's jury which investigated the death of Freshman Isaac W. Rand of Smithfield which occurred while he was being hazed in the athletic field by a body of sophomores, made the following report of its finding: "We find that the deceased came to his death by being cut, caused by a fall upon a broken bottle, and find further that the deceased, at the time of the fall, was being made to dance upon said barrel by a party of hazers of the University of North Carolina, and that said party was composed of W. L. Merriman, A. H. Styron, R. W. Oldham, A. C. Hatch and other parties unknown to the jury. We recommend that said W. L. Merriman, A. H. Styron, R. W. Oldham and A. C. Hatch be held under bond for the next term of court of Orange county for further investigation into said death."

The bond was fixed at \$5,000 each. The boys are under custody.

As developed by the testimony given before the coroner's jury the death of young Rand occurred while he was being hazed, together with his roommate, on the athletic field.

The four sophomores mentioned masked themselves and entered the room of I. W. Rand and R. A. Wellons, two freshmen from Smithfield. Without being given time to dress the two first year men were taken to the athletic field, a distance of about 300 yards from the dormitory.

There, Wellons was first placed upon an upturned barrel and made to sing and dance. After performing for a few minutes he slipped down from the barrel, and in doing so scratched himself slightly.

Then Rand's turn to mount the barrel came, and he had just begun to perform, when he apparently slipped in the same manner as Wellons. He fell to the ground and lay there. He was picked up and blood was discovered to be spurting from a large cut on the left side of his neck. He had fallen on some pieces of broken glass. He died a few moments later.

Negro's Leg Cut Off by Train.

Will Temple, a negro about twenty-four years of age, and living at Wake Forest, had his right leg cut off by a train, his hip and knee and his left leg broken while attempting to "hobo" a freight train. The accident occurred at Wyatt, a station four miles from Wake Forest. The negro was brought back here on train No. 30 and the college physicians were summoned. One leg was taken off and the negro died a few hours later.

Murderer Attempts to Break Jail.

Bob Shipes, the alleged slayer of John Brittain, in Burke county some 10 years ago, and who was arrested in Los Angeles, Cal., and brought back to Morganton and lodged in jail made a desperate but ineffectual attempt to escape from prison. In some manner he tore a heavy piece of iron from the cage where he was confined, and after getting out in the corridor of the jail proceeded to demolish everything in sight.

To Have Chicken Fattening Plant.

H. H. Pierce of the United States Department of Agriculture was in the city the other day investigating the feasibility of establishing a chicken-fattening plant in Hickory. Chickens are now being shipped from this city in the same way as 20 years ago. Mr. Pierce thinks enough chickens could be procured within a radius of 50 miles to make the plant very successful.

Sheriff Comes for Ben Vann.

Sheriff Charles Reid, of Perquimans, was at Raleigh for Ben Vann, of Belvidere, charged with the murder of Oliver Layden in July. This crime stirred the people considerably and has very vicious features. The evidence is purely circumstantial. Young Layden was missing about three weeks before found and when he was discovered, he had been reduced to a skeleton. Certain charges against Vann, relative to the firing of a house, are supposed to have furnished a motive for killing Layden.

Politics in Sampson County.

Sampson Democrats held an enthusiastic convention at Clinton and nominated the following ticket: for legislature, J. Abner Barker; sheriff, J. H. Swann; register of deeds, Redman Herring; treasurer, H. L. Stewart; coroner, Dr. J. K. Kerr; surveyor, Lewis E. Whitehead; commissioners, A. H. Herring, George Rose and Frank Herring. The platform declares for a reduction of fees or salary system for county officers. A. P. Howard, of Salemburg, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

## THE TEST FARM TO OXFORD

Such Is Belief of Tobacco Test Farm Committee—Will Be Conducted By U. S. Government.

Raleigh.—That Oxford will get the tobacco test farm, contended for so spiritedly by four of the best tobacco growing farms in the state, is the sentiment of the test farm committee which has recently returned from an inspection of sites and received a analysis of soils.

Durham, Stokes, Granville and Rockingham were the bidders for this farm. All put up good land offers and all were anxious to win it. Granville has simply to meet a few conditions imposed by the farm committee, requirements not yet made public.

This farm is to be conducted by the government. It will be of immense help to tobacco raisers. It corresponds to the test farms of other sections of the state, though conducted differently. There is none anywhere else in half a dozen states near North Carolina, it is said, and the state is very lucky to win it.

The impetus given to corn farming by the endeavors of the department has raised the yield to 22 bushels to the acre. It is believed that this method of encouraging tobacco growers will multiply the yield and increase the poundage greatly without the addition of acres.

The members of the committee who went out to make the selections are: R. W. Scott, E. T. McCallum, William Bledsoe, I. H. Kearney, Dr. B. W. Kilgore and Maj. W. A. Graham.

North Carolina New Enterprises.

A charter was issued for the Wilmington Market & Supply Co. of Wilmington, capital \$100,000 authorized and \$2,500 subscribed by R. R. Stone, J. Allen Taylor and Martin O'Brien for mercantile business. The Levi Department Stores (Inc.) of Rutherfordton, capital \$50,000 by R. M. Levi and others was another firm receiving a charter. The North-South Line (Inc.) of Beaufort, capital \$10,000 authorized and \$2,000 subscribed by E. H. Willis, N. W. Taylor and others for operating river and coastwise boat lines and doing a mercantile business was also chartered.

Craig's Speech to be Special Feature.

Hon. Locke Craig has accepted an invitation to deliver an address in Asheville on the night of October 10 for the United Commercial Travelers of America, the occasion being a special program of entertainment that the Asheville council is arranging for visiting traveling men. The Western Carolina Fair will be in session, and a special social meeting for the merchants and traveling men on the night of October 10 is to be the climax for entertainment that is to be provided. Mr. Craig's speech to be a special feature.

Enthusiastic Senatorial Contest.

Enthusiasm in the senatorial contest is beginning to claim the attention of almost every one in and around Scotland Neck. The friends of Governor Kitchin claim they will carry the county by an overwhelming majority, while the supporters of Senator Simmons and Judge Clark seem confident of polling a larger vote than the Kitchin men give them. They say while they do not claim or expect to carry the county, yet they will not concede everything to the Kitchin element.

Politics in Randolph County.

The Randolph county convention of the Progressive party was held at Asheboro. The attendance was large and enthusiastic, and a strong ticket composed of former Democrats and Republicans was put in the field. The convention went on record as opposed to the present alleged extravagant assessment system and as favoring placing county officers on salary, thereby saving the county a minimum of \$5,000 a year.

Form Wilson-Marshall Club.

Democrats assembled in the court house at Greensboro and organized a Wilson-Marshall-Craig campaign club. The organization was perfected by the election of permanent officers: President, E. D. Broadhurst; vice president, L. J. Brandt; secretary and treasurer, Everett B. King.

Shot to Death While Asleep.

W. S. Cook, a Surry county farmer, while asleep near his tobacco barn, four miles from Mt. Airy, was shot and killed by George Snyder, a tenant on the farm. Cook was curing some tobacco for Snyder. The two men had quarreled over the tobacco crop. Snyder, who is alleged to be unbalanced mentally, got a rural mail carrier to purchase some cartridges for him, claiming that he wished to kill a dog. It was brought out at the coroner's inquest that one of these cartridges killed Cook.

Mecklenburg Drainage Commission.

The Mecklenburg drainage commission is mailing out notices to property owners along the streams that are to be drained, informing them of an assessment that is to be made against their property for improvement and announcing that the commission will hold a meeting for hearing any protest that may be made as to the amount of the assessment. All real estate lying within half a mile of a stream designated for drainage is subject to assessment in a graduating scale, according to its nearness to the creek.

## APPALACHIAN PARK

ABOUT 30,000 ACRES THAT HAVE SO FAR BEEN APPROVED FOR PURCHASE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

For Protection Against Floods, Prevention of Erosion of Steep Slopes and Preservation of Timber—Part of This Land is in North Carolina.

Raleigh.—A special from Washington states that Uncle Sam has loosened up his purse strings and turned over \$55,000 to North Carolina for lands for the Appalachian Park Forest Reservation.

The law of 1911, which created the National Park Commission, the purpose of which is to buy suitable lands for forest reservations, provided \$3,000,000 annually for the purchase of lands. The law permits the expenditure of any money that was not spent last year this year or next year. It was amended recently to that effect.

About 300,000 acres of land have been approved for purchase by the commission, at an estimated cost of \$1,600,000, in several states.

Lands have been approved for purchase by the commission to become sections of the Appalachian Forest Reservation in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and New Hampshire. The total of all areas approved for purchase by the commission is 264,465 acres.

At the meetings of the commission which will take place in the coming winter it is expected that these areas will be greatly enlarged as the forest service has already completed the examination of a large number of additional tracts.