

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."

"Now have I any desire to do you an injury, Mr. Holmes?" said he, "I have the clearest proof of it is that, knowing what I know, I have sent for you and not for the police."

"Sternale sat down with a gasp, overcast, 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 sat motionless 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 poor time for your experiment. Let us have no more blustering about the bush. What do you mean?"

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

"My defense?" "Yes." "My defense against what?" "Against the charge of killing Mr. Cramer Tregennell."

"Sternale 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 Sternale, and not upon mine. As a proof, I will tell you some of the facts upon which my conclusions are based. You return to Plymouth, allowing much of your property to go on to Africa, I will say nothing save that it is not 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 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 in your cottage, and you formed certain plans, which in the early morning you proceeded to carry into execution. Leaving your door just as day was breaking, you fled with your pocket with some reddish gear which was lying beside your gate."

"Sternale gave a violent start, and said to Holmes: "It is incredible to me." "You then walked swiftly for the mile which separated you from the vicarage. You were wearing, I may remark, the same pair of ribbed trousers 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 lodge. Tregennell, I saw you, and he saw you. 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."

throw it on the rustic table before me. "That is the 'I have done it,'" said he. It showed the bust and face of a very beautiful woman. Holmes stooped over it. "Brenda Tregennell," said he. "Yes, Brenda Tregennell," repeated our visitor. "For years I have loved her. For years she has loved me. That is the secret of that Cornish beauty 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 she has waited for. A letter which she took the great risk and clutched his throat under his bristly 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 on Africa to me when I learned that a fate had come upon my darling? I would not have the missing clue to my action, Mr. Holmes."

"Proceed," said my friend. Dr. Sternale drew from his pocket a paper packet and held it aloft. "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, Mr. Holmes. 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 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 been at last to 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 your story 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 to his door and will confess. 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."

"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 intention in which I stood to the Tregennell family. For the sake of the sister I was friendly with the brothers. There was a family quarrel about money which estranged the sister from her brothers. I was supposed to be made up, and I afterwards met him in the vicarage garden."

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"Sternale sprang to his feet, as if he had been struck. He was a sly, subtle, scheming creature, and I have no doubt that he gave me a glimpse of him, but I had no cause for any positive quarrel. "One day, only a couple of weeks ago, he came to my cottage and showed him some of my African curiosities. Among other things, I exhibited this powder, and I told him of its strange properties, how it annihilates 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 perfect 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

Perfumer's Day Will Come

Then He Will Have Odds That Will Move Profoundly

was opening cabinets and stooping to boxes, that he managed to abstract some of the devil-foot root. I well remember how he plied 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 of none 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 away 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 Tregennell was the murderer; that for the sake of money, and with an 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-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 been at last to 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."

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A perfumer was talking shop. "When will my trade be best?" he asked. "I will tell you, Mr. Watson, it will be best when your mind is as drunk and fume as now."

G. O. P. WINS IN MAINE ELECTION

WM. T. HAINES IS CHOSEN GOVERNOR BY A PLURALITY OF 3,000 VOTES.

NORMAL VOTE CAST. THE LEGISLATURE LOOKS REPUBLICAN.

Congressmen Hinds and Forrest Goodwin Both Triumph According to Figures Which Are First Announced.

William T. Haines, of Waterville, republican, has been elected governor of Maine by a plurality of about 3,000 votes, or possibly slightly in excess of that. This figure is based on incomplete returns received up to midnight. The legislature looks to be republican and if such be the case Edward C. Burleigh will represent the state when the next congress convenes in place of Obadiah Gardner. D. J. McGillicuddy is looked upon as the only democrat who will be sent to congress. Indications are that Ashbel H. Hall, Forrest Goodwin and Frank E. Gurnsey will be the republican representatives of the state in the lower branch of the legislature.

The struggle between the democrats and republicans in Maine for control of the executive and legislative departments was a nervous one. The four congressional districts, and county offices, was one of the closest in many years.

The republican victory is rendered all the more significant by the fact that Gov. Marshall, of Indiana, democratic candidate for re-election, and speaker Champ Clark, recently stamped the state for Gov. Plafied.

With half the state on record, Wm. T. Haines has the reputation of a slight lead over Governor Frederick W. Plafied, and the percentage system indicated that if the same ratio was maintained the republican would win the fight for the head of the ticket by about 3,000. Returns from the four congressional districts also leaned toward the republicans, especially in the first, third and fourth districts, with the second district showing a democratic tendency.

The legislative returns were too meager up to a late hour to give any indication of the complexion of the coming session. The outcome of the fight for the United States senate between Senator Obadiah Gardner, democrat, and Congressman Edwin C. Burleigh, republican, was in doubt.

STRAUS FOR GOVERNOR.

New York Diplomat Put in Race on Bull Moose Ticket.

Oscar S. Straus, of New York city, President Cleveland's ambassador to Turkey and President Roosevelt's secretary of commerce and labor, was nominated for governor by acclamation in a stampede of the Progressive state convention at Syracuse, N.Y.

Mr. Straus, an ardent champion of the convention, was upon the platform at the time the stampede broke out. It came like a thunderbolt to the delegates, and the delegates' "ho ho ho" forces for five hours had been engaged in an oratorical battle in the effort to bring about the nomination of their favorite.

Secretary George B. Manchester had completed the roll of counties in the call for nominating speeches. Controller Frederick W. Plafied, formerly put in nomination by ex-Assemblyman George A. Green of Kings, William A. Haddock, of New York had put William H. Hotchkiss in nomination. Mr. Hotchkiss had mounted the platform and declared that Mr. Straus was not his man, but Mr. Hotchkiss had not renounced the proposed nomination.

Aviator Flyn 104 Miles an Hour.

Flying at an average speed of 104 miles an hour, and covering the 124 miles of the Gordon Bennett cup race in 70 minutes 45 seconds, Jules Verne sent his new air record for America at Chicago. All American speed records were shattered by the marvelous flight of the Frenchman in his Deperdussin monoplane.

Over the heads of a crowd that numbered thousands, the French bird man sent his stub-winged, strong-bodied racer. The exhaust of its 124-horse power engine, sounding in a continuous roar, like a battery of guns, was the loudest sound heard in the cheering of the air fans as the machine swept around the clearing course. The driving of the race was daring in the extreme.

THESE SIX LETTERS From New England Women

Prove that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Does Restore the Health of Ailing Women.

Boston, Mass.—"I was passing through the Change of Life and suffered from nervousness (sometimes lasting for weeks), and could get nothing to check them. I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound (tablet form) on Tuesday, and the following Saturday morning the headaches stopped. I have taken them regularly ever since and am steadily gaining."

"I certainly think that every one who is troubled as I was should give our Compound Tablets a faithful trial and they will find relief."—Mrs. GEORGE J. JONES, 805 Fifth Street, South Boston, Mass.

Letter from Mrs. Julia King, Phoenix, R.I.

Phoenix, R.I.—"I worked steady in the mill from the time I was 13 years old until I had been married a year, and I think that caused my bad feelings. I had soreness in my side near my left hip that went around to my back, and sometimes I would have to lie in bed for two or three days. I was not able to do my housework."

"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has helped me wonderfully in every way. You may use my letter for the good of others. I am only too glad to do anything within my power to recommend your medicine."—Mrs. JULIA KING, Box 818, Phoenix, R.I.

Letter from Mrs. Etta Donovan, Willimantic, Conn.

Willimantic, Conn.—"For five years I suffered untold agony from female troubles caused by indigestion, irregularities, dizziness, and nervous prostration. It was impossible for me to walk up stairs without stopping on the way. I was all run down in every way."

"I tried three doctors and each told me something different. I received no benefit from any of them but seemed to suffer more. The last doctor said it was no use for me to take anything as nothing would restore me to health again. So I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and by taking seven bottles of the Compound and other treatment you advised, I am restored to my natural health."—Mrs. ETTA DONOVAN, 783 Main Street, Willimantic, Conn.

Letter from Mrs. Winfield Dana, Augusta, Me.

Augusta, Me.—"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has cured the headache, headache, and the bad pain I had in my right side, and I am perfectly well."—Mrs. WINFIELD DANA, R.D. No. 3, Augusta, Me.

Letter from Mrs. J. A. Thompson, Newport, Vt.

Newport, Vt.—"I thank you for the great benefit Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done me. I took eight bottles and it did wonders for me. I was a nervous wreck when I began taking it. I shall always regard it a good word for it to my friends."—Mrs. J. A. THOMPSON, Box 3, Newport Center, Vermont.

Letter from Miss Grace Dodds, Bethlehem, N.H.

Bethlehem, N.H.—"By working very hard, sweeping carpets, washing, ironing, lifting heavy baskets of clothes, etc., I got all run down. I was sick in bed every month."

"The last spring, the reverend my mother got Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for me, and already I feel like another girl. I am regular and do not have the pains that I did, and do not have to go to bed. I will tell all my friends what the Compound is doing for me."—Miss GRACE B. DODDS, Box 125, Bethlehem, N.H.

For 30 years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been the standard remedy for female ills. No one sick with woman's ailments who has not found this famous medicine, made from roots and herbs, has restored so many suffering women to health.

Write to LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., 233 N. BROAD ST., NEWTON, MASS., for a free trial bottle. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

MEANING OF "AT HALF MAST"

At First Universal Sympathy Was Taken of Submission and Respect For Enemy.

Perhaps you have noticed that whenever a prominent person dies, especially if he is connected with the government, the flags on public buildings are hoisted only part of the way up, instead of the Toronto Mail and Express. This is called "half mast." Did you ever stop to think what connection there could be between a flag that was not properly hoisted and the death of a great man?

Ever since flags were used in war it has been the custom to have the flag of the superior or conquering nation above that of the inferior or vanquished. The army found itself hopelessly beaten it hauled its flag down far enough for the flag of the victors to be placed above it on the same pole. This was a token not only of submission, but of respect.

In those days when a famous soldier died flags were lowered out of respect to his memory. The custom long ago passed from purely military usage to public life of all kinds. The flag flying at half mast being a sign that the dead man was worthy of universal respect. The space left under the flag of the great conqueror of all—the angel of death.

Collective Mourning.

THREE-YEAR HOMESTEAD LAW IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST

Full Title to 320 or 160 Acres in 3 Years

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Prompt Relief—Permanent Cure CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS never fail. Purely vegetable—act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after dinner if free-cure. Indigestion. Improve the complexion, brighten the eyes. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.

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