

The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez

By SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

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PART THREE.

The gale had blown itself out next day, but it was a bitter morning when we started upon our long journey. We saw the cold winter sun rise over the dreary marshes of the Thames and the long, sullen reaches of the river, which I shall ever associate with our pursuit of the Andaman Islander in the earlier days of our career. After a long and weary journey, we alighted at a small station some miles from Chatham. While a horse was being put into a trap at the local inn, we snatched a hurried breakfast, and so we were all ready for business when we at last arrived at Yoxley Old Place. A constable met us at the garden gate.

"Well, Wilson, any news?"

"No, sir—nothing." "No reports of any stranger seen?"

"No, sir. Down at the station they are certain that no stranger either came or went yesterday."

"Have you had inquiries made at inns and lodgings?"

"Yes, sir; there is no one that we cannot account for."

"Well, it's only a reasonable walk to Chatham. Any one might stay there or take a train without being observed. This is the garden path of which I spoke, Mr. Holmes. I'll pledge my word there was no mark on it yesterday."

"Of which side were the marks on the grass?"

"This side, sir. This narrow margin of grass between the path and the flower-bed. I can't see the traces now, but they were clear to me then."

"Yes, yes; some one has passed along," said Holmes, stooping over the grass border. "Our lady must have picked her steps carefully, must she not, since on the one side she would leave a track on the path, and on the other an even clearer one on the soft bed?"

"Yes, sir, she must have been a cool hand."

I saw an intent look pass over Holmes' face.

"You say that she must have come back this way?"

"Yes, sir; there is no other."

"On this strip of grass?"

"Certainly, Mr. Holmes."

"Hum! It was a very remarkable performance—very remarkable. Well, I think we have exhausted the path. Let us go farther. This garden door is usually kept open, I suppose? Then this visitor had nothing to do but to walk in. The idea of murder was not in her mind, or she could have provided herself with some sort of weapon, instead of having to pick this knife off the writing-table. She advanced along this corridor, leaving no traces upon the cocoanut matting. Then she found herself in this study. How long was she there? We have no means of judging."

"Not more than a few minutes, sir. I forgot to tell you that Mrs. Marker, the housekeeper, had been in there, tidying not very long before—about a quarter of an hour, she says."

"Well, that gives us a limit. Our lady enters this room, and what does she do? She goes over to the writing-table. What for? Not for anything in the drawers. If there had been anything worth her taking, it would surely have been locked up. No, it was for something in that wooden bureau. Hallo! what is that scratch upon the face of it? Just hold a match, Watson. Why did you not tell me of this, Holmes?"

The mark which he was examining began upon the brass-work on the right-hand side of the keyhole, and extended for about four inches, where it had scratched the varnish from the surface.

"I noticed it, Mr. Holmes, but you'll always find scratches round a key-hole."

"This is recent, quite recent. See how the brass shines where it is cut. An old scratch would be the same color as the surface. Look at it through my lens. There's the varnish, too, like earth on each side of a furrow. Is Mrs. Marker there?"

A sad-faced, elderly woman came into the room.

"Did you dust this bureau yesterday morning?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you notice this scratch?"

"No, sir, I did not." "I am sure you did not, for a duster would have swept away these shreds of varnish. Who has the key of this bureau?"

"The Professor keeps it on his watch-chain."

"Is it a simple key?"

"No, sir, it is a Chubb's key."

"Very good, Mrs. Marker, you can go. Now we are making a little progress. Our lady enters the room, advances to the bureau, and either opens it or tries to do so. While she is thus engaged, young Willoughby Smith enters the room. In his hurry to withdraw the key, she makes this scratch upon the door. He seizes her, and she, snatching up the nearest object, which happens to be this knife, strikes at him in order to make him let go his hold. The blow is a fatal one. He falls and she escapes, either with or without the object for which she has come. Is Susan the maid, there? Could any one have got away through that door after the time that you heard the cry, Susan?"

"No, sir, it is impossible. Before I

got down the stairs, I'd have seen any one in the passage. Besides, the door never opened, or I would have heard it."

"That settles this exit. Then no doubt the lady went out the way she came. I understand that this other passage leads only to the Professor's room. There is no exit that way?"

"No, sir."

"We shall go down it and make the acquaintance of the Professor. Hallo, Hopkins! this is very important, very important, indeed. The Professor's corridor is also lined with cocoanut matting."

"Well, sir, what of that?"

"Don't you see any bearing upon the case? Well, well, I don't insist upon it. No doubt I am wrong. And yet it seems to me to be suggestive. Come with me and introduce me."

We passed down this passage, which was of the same length as that which led to the garden. At the end was a short flight of steps ending in a door. Our guide knocked and then ushered us into the Professor's bedroom. It was a very large chamber, lined with innumerable volumes, which had overflowed from the shelves and lay in piles in the corners, or were stacked all round at the base of the cases. The bed was in the centre of the room, and in it, propped up with pillows, was the owner of the house, who seldom seen a more remarkable-looking person. It was a gaunt, aquiline face, which was turned towards us, with piercing dark eyes, which lurked in deep hollows under overhanging and tufted brows. His hair and beard were white, save that the latter was curiously stained with yellow round his mouth. A cigarette glowed amid the tangle of white hair, and the air of the room was fetid with stale tobacco smoke. As he held out his hand to Holmes, I perceived that it was also stained with yellow nicotine.

"A smoker, Mr. Holmes?" said he, speaking in well-chosen English, with a curious little mincing accent. "Pray take cigarette. And you, sir? I can recommend them to you; I have them especially prepared by London of Alexandria. He sends me one thousand at a time, and I grieve to say that I have to arrange for a fresh supply every fortnight. Bad, sir, very bad, but an old man has few pleasures. Tobacco and my work—that is all that is left to me."

Holmes had lit a cigarette, and was shooting little darting glances all over the room.

"Tobacco, and my work, but now only tobacco," the old man exclaimed. "Alas! what a fatal interruption! Who could have foreseen such a terrible catastrophe?" So estimable a young man! assure you that, after a few months' training, he was an admirable assistant. What do you think of the matter, Mr. Holmes?"

"I have not yet made up my mind."

"I shall indeed be indebted to you if you can throw light where all is so dark to us. To a poor, broken and invalid like myself such a blow is paralyzing. I seem to have lost the faculty of thought. But you are a man of action—you are a man of affairs. It is part of the everyday routine of your life. You can preserve your balance in every emergency. We are fortunate, indeed, in having you at our side."

Tomorrow—"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez," continued.

EXPECT LABOR TO ACT ON TWO BIG SUBJECTS

Both the city manager plan of government, and the permanent organization of the community service in Richmond, will be presented at the open meeting of the Central Labor Council, to be held in the I. O. O. F. hall, Wednesday night. Secretary-Manager Chaffee, of the Chamber of Commerce will speak on the new plan of city government, and C. B. Root, of the national Community Service organization will present the latter subject.

It is believed that following the presentation of the two subjects, the council will take some definite action on each. A lunch will be served to all persons present. The regular delegates meeting of the council will be held following the open session.

Members of the labor division of the Chamber of Commerce will hold a meeting in the hall at 7 o'clock. The rules and regulations as ordered prepared some time ago will be presented for adoption and other important business is to come up of interest to the members of the Chamber of Commerce. It is very imperative that every member of the labor division be present.

The main meeting of the evening does not open until 7:30 o'clock.

ENVY HARVEY SAILS FOR POST IN LONDON NEW YORK, May 4.—George Harvey, newly appointed ambassador to Great Britain, sailed Tuesday aboard the steamship Aquitania for Southampton. He was accompanied by Mrs. Harvey and his secretary. Ambassador Harvey told newspaper men that he had nothing to say concerning the duties which await him in London.

How Do You Know Your Food Digests?

Thousands of people suffer from poor digestion and assimilation and do not realize it. Are you one of them? If your appetite is sickly and irregular; if you feel stuffy, dull and drowsy after meals; if you are losing strength, energy and weight; if you are constipated, nervous, tire easily, feel down, worn out, fagged in mind and body; if you are losing the healthy, sleep, color and your cheeks do not sleep well and get up feeling tired—then there is good reason to believe that there is trouble with your digestion and assimilation and that you are not getting proper nourishment.

"Stomach trouble" does not always produce terrible symptoms of distress. That is why many sufferers from the above named symptoms do not realize the true cause.

QUIGLEY'S DRUG STORES
"THE SAN-TOX STORES"

LINCOLN BITTERS

MILWAUKEE HOMES IN PERIL AS LAKE EATS INTO CLIFF



The above photographs show the damage caused by Lake Michigan undermining the cliffs south of Milwaukee. The picture at the left shows a home perched precariously near the brink. The one at the right shows how

Faulty construction of a breakwater is said to be the cause of land slides on the shores of Lake Michigan which are threatening

the lives and property of several hundred-foot precipice due to caving of the bank. The endangered property is valued at \$100,000.

Wait for the opening of our new Shoe Department. Shoes for women and children.

Men's Night Shirts - 88c

REMODELING SALE—Men's Muslin Night Shirts, full roomy cut, made of excellent quality muslin, at \$1.00 value, to sell at

Women's Corsets - 79c

REMODELING SALE—Women's Coutil Corsets, form-fitting, well made, a regular \$1.00 value; to sell while six dozens last at

Gauze Vest - - - - 19c

REMODELING SALE—Women's Gauze Vests, bodice top, hold-fast shoulder straps. My! but won't they go fast for only, each

Gingham Dresses, \$2.24

REMODELING SALE—Women's Gingham Dresses, well made of standard ginghams, plain colors or plaid, all sizes; to sell for only

FREE! A Cap With Every Boys' Suit During Sale

BOYS SUITS \$4.95

Boys' up to \$7.50 value Norfolk Suits, full lined, all sizes.

Boy's Suits with 2 pair Pants

Boys' All-Wool Suits, with two pairs of pants; full lined thru-out; belted models; all colors and sizes.

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K. C. WILL ERECT HOME BUILDING AT NEW HAVEN

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Knights of Columbus have awarded a contract for a \$500,000 national headquarters building in New Haven, Conn. Supreme Secretary William J. McGinley announced Tuesday. Ground will

be broken this month. The building will be three stories and will accommodate a printing plant for a magazine of 1,000,000 monthly circulation, which the Knights purpose to publish.

The president of the French republic has an official airplane.

REMODELING SALE

Men's SOCKS
10c

On and on goes the remodeling; on and on goes the hammering and sawing; and on and on goes the biggest value-giving sale in Richmond. We're making room for more departments, for a bigger and better store, to take care of our increased business and to give our patrons better service.

THE NEW SHOE DEPT. WILL OPEN SOON

A brand-new, modern shoe department for the people of Richmond, carrying a brand-new stock of high-class, up-to-the-minute footwear at real underselling prices. We are taking over another room at the rear southeast corner of the store and will soon be ready for the handsome, latest and most complete shoe department in this city.

Wait for the opening of our new Shoe Department. Shoes for women and children.

20c Toweling at

Excellent quality; fine for roller towels.

Cambrie Special at

A regular 15c quality Cambrie; to sell at

Polly Prim Aprons 59c

at

Regular 75c value, trimmed with ric-rac braid.

Turkish Towels 14c

at

To sell special for 14c each; good quality.

30c Dress Gingham 17¹₂c

at

Neat plaids and checks, fast colors, standard quality.

Unbleached Muslin 8c

at

Brown Muslin, 36 inches wide; lim. 10 yards.

Curtain Material—Half Price

Your choice of any Curtain Nets in stock at One-Half Price

