

## PHILIPPEA

We are two philopeas once,  
Some little time ago;  
One of them was a "Give or Take"  
And one a "Yes or No."

Although she tried to catch me off,  
And either point to gain;  
She always failed, and I, likewise,  
My efforts made in vain.

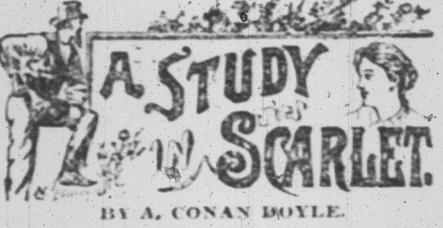
At length I murmured: "Be my wife,"  
In passioned tones, and low;  
I thought she more than liked me—but  
She promptly answered: "No."

Stung to the quick by this reply,  
And my true state to screen,  
I looked at her indifferently,  
And muttered: "Philippea."

She bit her lip; she seemed so sad,  
That strange to say, I then—  
Thinking I saw another chance—  
Offered myself again.

She brightened up, and, smiling said:  
"I really have been mean;  
I'll change my mind and take you; and—  
That other—philopea."

—Puck.



### PART II

CHAPTER VII.—CONTINUED.

"That is true," said I.  
"I have already explained to you that what is out of the common is usually a guide rather than a hindrance. In solving a problem of this sort, the grand thing is to be able to reason backward. That is a very useful accomplishment and a very easy one, but people do not practice it much. In the everyday affairs of life it is more useful to reason forward, and so the other comes to be neglected. There are fifty who can reason synthetically for one who can reason analytically."

"I confess," said I, "that I do not quite follow you."

"I hastily explained that you would let me see if I can make it clear. Most people, if you describe a train of events to them, will tell you, what the result would be. They can put those events together in their minds, and argue from them that something will come to pass. There are few people, however, who, if you told them a result, would be able to evolve from their own inner consciousness what the steps were which led up to that result. This power is what I mean when I talk of reasoning backward, or synthetically."

"Understand," said I.

"Now, this was a case in which you were given the result and had to find everything else for yourself. Now, let me endeavor to show you the different steps in my reasoning. To begin at the beginning: I approached the house, as you know, on foot, and with my mind entirely free from all impressions. I naturally began by examining the roadway, and there, as I have already explained to you, I saw clearly the marks of a cab, which I ascertained by inquiry must have been there during the night. I satisfied myself that it was a cab and not a private carriage by the narrow range of the wheels. The ordinary London growler is considerably less wide than a gentleman's brougham."

"This was the first point gained. I then walked slowly down the garden path which happened to be composed of a clay soil, peculiarly suitable for taking impressions! No doubt it appeared to you to be a mere trampled line of slush, but to my trained eyes every mark upon its surface had a meaning. There is no brush of detective science which is so important and so much neglected as the art of tracing footprints. Happily, I have always had great stress upon it, and much practice has made it second nature to me. I saw the heavy footmarks of the constables, but I say also the tracks of the two men who had first passed through the garden. It was easy to tell that they had been before the others, because in places their marks had been entirely obliterated by the others coming upon the top of them. In this way my second link was formed, which told me that the nocturnal visitors were two in number, one remarkable for his height (as I calculated from the length of his stride), and the other fashionably dressed, to judge from the small and elegant impression left by his boots."

"On entering the house this last inference was confirmed. My well-booted man lay before me. This was one, then, had done the murder, if murder there was. There was no wound, upon the dead man's person, but the agitated expression upon his face assured me that he had suffered his fate before it came upon him. Men who die from heart disease or any sudden natural cause never by any chance exhibit agitation upon their features. Having snuffed the dead man's lips, I detected a slightly sour smell, and I came to the conclusion that he had had poison forced upon him. Again I argued that it had been forced upon him, from the hatred and fear expressed upon his face. By the method of exclusion I had arrived at this result, for my other hypothesis would meet the facts. Do not imagine that it was a very unheard-of idea. The terrible administration of poison is by no means a new thing in criminal annals. The cases of Dolphy in Odessa, and of Lefurier, in Montpellier, will occur at once, to any toxicologist."

"And now came the great question as to the reason why. Robbery had not been the object of the murder, for nothing was taken. Was it politics, then, or was it a woman? That was the question which confronted me. I was inclined from the first to the latter supposition. Political assassins are only too glad to do their work and to fly. This murderer had, on the contrary, been doing most deliberately, and the perpetrator had left his tracks all over the room, showing that he had been there all the time. It must have been a private wrong, and not a political one, which called for such a methodical revenge. When the inscription was discovered upon the wall I was more inclined than ever to my opinion. The thing was too evidently a blind. When the ring was found, however, it settled the question. Clearly the murderer had used it to remind his victim of some dead or absent woman. It was at this point that I asked Gregson whether he had inquired in his telegram to Cleveland as to any particular point in Mr. Drebber's former career. He answered, you remember, in the negative."

"I then proceeded to make a careful examination of the room, which confirmed me in my opinion as to the murderer's height, and furnished me with

the additional details as to the Trichopoly cigar and the length of his nails. I had already come to the conclusion, since there were no signs of a struggle, that the blood which covered the floor had burst from the murderer's nose in his excitement. I could perceive that the track of blood coincided with the track of his feet. It is seldom that any man, unless he is very full-blooded, breaks out in this way through emotion, so I hazarded the opinion that the criminal was probably a robust and ruddy-faced man. Events proved that I had judged correctly."

"Having left the house, I proceeded to do what Gregson had neglected. I telephoned to the head of the police at Cleveland, limiting my inquiry to the circumstances connected with the marriage of Enoch Drebber. The answer was conclusive. It told me that Drebber had already applied for the protection of the law against an old rival in love, named Jefferson Hope, and that this same Hope was at present in Europe. I knew now that I held the clew to the mystery in my hand, and all that remained was to secure the murderer.

"I had already determined in my own mind that the man who had walked into the house with Drebber was none other than the man who had driven the cab. The marks in the road showed me that the horse had wandered on in a way which would have been impossible had there been anyone in charge of it. Where, then, could the driver be, unless he was inside the house? Again, it is absurd to suppose that any same man would carry out a deliberate crime under the eyes, as it were, of a third person, who was sure to betray him. Lastly, supposing one man wished to do another through London, what better means could he adopt than to turn cab-driver? All these considerations led me to the irresistible conclusion that Jefferson Hope was to be found among the jaywalkers of the metropolis."

"If he had been one there was no reason to believe that he had ceased to be. On the contrary, from his point of view, any sudden change would be likely to draw attention to himself. He would probably, for a time at least, continue to perform his duties. There was no reason to suppose that he was going under an assumed name. Why should he change his name in a country



A RAGGED YOUNGSTER ASKED IF THERE WAS A CARRY THREW CALLED JEFFERSON HOPKINSON.

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