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MILTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1899.

AND COUNTY OF HALTON INTELLIGENCER

A. Conan Doyle's

observer might have thought wife. "Why, it's worse than when you

cher. "You have it your own way now!" It was certainly a most singular figure ton."

John Lade. "No shifting, nothing shy, cation, the landlord was tearing madly the name of wonder ---" no hugging nor hauling. It's a shame to about, his hat gone, and his hair and "I was privately married, and I retired let him fight. Take the brave fellow beard flying in the wind. He ran in from the stage. I want you to forgive "Take him away! Take him away!" "I won't be taken away! Who dares

"His heart won't suffer him to enough," said General Fitzpatrick. his patron, Sir Lothian, you

"He is hopelessly beat, sir." off: but the other is too strong for him." left arm with a singular gesture into did, but you weren't there, and what that I could tell him that it came from the big man with the bottle- specials, I let my senses go clean away his lips to her cheek. "There are some

sage to Sir Charles?"

and until then I remain him whom you

"James Harrison.

of almost imperceptible signals was go- persed in every direction, the pedestrians reputation, would in itself have been enelements of the whole assembly; fierce, shook him by the hand. vicious-looking fellows, with cruel, de-1 "I hope I have not hurt you much, of wolves at every blow, and yelled ex- are you?"

was withdrawn. Yet his science had, the smith, although he laughed at his

the west-countryman's eyes, and a King of England ask you, I'll never let the doorway of the ancient house. strange catch in his breathing, which you do it more."

told us that it is not the most danger. "Well, old lass, I give my davy that ing upon his shoulder, and I saw that it who stood before us. ous blow which shows upon the surface. I never will. It's best that I leave fight was Miss Hinton of Anstey Cross. thirty-first round shook the breath from ed up his face as he took a sup from Sir gellis," said she, coming forward, as we his body, and he came up for the Charles's brandy flask. "It's fine liquor, sprang down from the curricle. thirty-second with the same jaunty gal- sir, but it gets into my cut lips most puzzled face. pression of a man whose wind has been the Friar's Oak Inn, as I'm a sinner, lege, madam. And yet-"

echoed a hundred voices. after another fall, upon his second's

direct the sponge to be thrown up." "You think he can't win it?" "You don't know him. He's a glutton of the first water."

"Well, nephew?" asked my uncle, "Why, sir, I cannot tell what it may behind, the vast mass was suddenly rest uncle, bending his brows over the note. in twain, and through the gap surged the "What should he be doing at that house own house, and what in the devil do of to long that which was most precious

strangest scene of it were waiting for started when some

suddenly realize that this strange you." my breath as I seemed vagnely to catch father I went down-

open, and Boy Jim was waiting there to father is!" him whom I had known and loved.

his old school name of "Boy" had clung wan a face. The brindled hair and the walking in his sleep." when I saw him standing in his self- advanced age, and far the more terribly your topcoat, I couldn't swear you were contained and magnificent manhood in brows and the bright alert eyes glancing asked Lord Avon, looking hard at

A heavy cross-buttock at the end of the in' before fightin' leaves me." He screw- "You remember me, Sir Charles Trelantry as ever, but with the dazed ex- cruel. Why, here's John Cummins of "I do not think that I have the privi-"He's got the roly-polies," cried Bel- the look of him!" and doctor, to judge by "Polly Hinton, of the Haymarket. You surely cannot have forgotten Poly Hinsurely cannot have forgotten Poly Hin-

"I'll vight for a week yet," gasped who was approaching us over the moor. "Forgotten! Why, we have mourned With the flushed, dazed face of a man for you in Fops' Alley for more years Damme, I like his style," cried Sir who is just recovering from recent intoxi- ning beauty of womanhood, the other little zigzags from one knot of people me for taking Jim away from you last to the another, whilst his peculiar ap- night." pearance drew a running fire of witti- "It was you, then?"

cisms as he went, so that he reminded "I had a stronger claim even than you me irresistibly of a snipe skimming along could have. You were his patron; through a line of guns. We saw him was his mother." She drew his head stop for an instant by the yellow ba- down to hers as she spoke, and there, rouche, and hand something to Sir Lo- with their cheeks together, were the two thian Hume. Then on he came again, faces, the one stamped with the wanuntil at last, catching sight of us, he ning beauty of womanhood, the other gave a cry of joy, and ran for us full with the waxing strength of man, and speed with a note held out at arm's yet so alike in the dark eyes, the blueblack hair and the broad white brow. "You're a nice cove, too, John Cum- that I marvelled that I had nevmings," said Harrison, reproachfully, er read her "Didn't I tell you not to let a drop pass first days that I your lips until you had given your mes- together. "Yes," she cried, "he is my

own boy, and he saved me from what "I ought to be pole-axed, I ought," he is worse than death, as your nephew broken by a deep oath from Sir Lothian another ten rounds." He half turned as cried in bitter repentance. "I asked for Rodney could tell you. Yet my lip. Humehe spoke, and I saw him throw up his you, Sir Charles, as I'm a livin' man, I were sealed, and it was only last night "Lord Avon, by God!" he cried. the air.

"Cut the ropes! Fair play! Wait till odds when I knew Harrison was goin' his gentleness and his patience into the dressing-gown.

the rain stops!" roared a stentorian to fight, an' what with the landlord at voice behind me, and I saw that it the George wantin' me to try his own "Hush, mother!" said Jim, turning CHAPTER XX.

not much hurt?"

me to justify you in abandoning your both his hands thrown out in greeting. here, if I mistake not, is Sir Lothian The yellow barouche had swung into

like his own ghost. He was so eager out, looking as black as a thunder-morning. You never asked me for an cloud. "Stay where you are. Corcoran," said explanation. You never considered and I started upon my way. he; and I caught a glimpse of a bottlewas one note for you and one for green coat which told me who was his of suspicion, you, my intimate friend, traveling companion. "Well." he con-

we've been goin' this twenty the cards were still heaped upon the betters get to the front; so if you to find what that note means, I can the cards were still heaped upon the sideboard, and the dark shadow lurked in the corner of the ceiling.

Then he is really your son? Cried in the continue. Ned."

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The frail figure stiffened itself, as though the wainscot, to live out the remainder of the cried in the continue. Ned."

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"My head was in a whirl, Sir Charles. others in another place to say if that ex-He whipped up the mares, and now attacked us. One of them I beat over dark pinnacles of the Maynor that he dropped the cudgel with which "Excuse me, Lord Avon; but I know "I did not condemn him precipitately.

house shooting up above the ancient oaks he was about to strike me; then lashing you, and I see no reason why I should I sat for a long time calling to mind with its blood-stained and ghost-blasted got safely away. I cannot imagine It was a brutal speech, and brutally or the other. Alas! it all went to con-"Perhans Sir Lothian Hume could tell side and his wife on the other who kept ther had ordered the packs from Led-Our enemy said nothing; but his lit- his insulter. Sir Lothian recoiled from for some hours in his chamber. He had of my youth who had sent it, I caught "After I had come here and seen my room.

time-blotched steps. The front door was "In God's name, then, tell us who your But it was a different Boy Jim from over our shoulders, and glancing round.

a change so marked that it was the first led to the bedroom stair. The one ing heavily upon a stick. His long you had finish. Somehow, in spite of his prowess, folds of a shroud have I ever seen so you were about than the man who

There was an instant of silence, "Saw me? Where?"



DARK DRESSING-GOWN.

'Very much at your service, gentle

CHAPTER XX. green coat. His cry was a signal, for, like a thunder clap, there came a hunder clap, there came a hunder clap, there came a hunder dead hourse voices shouting together:

Tair play for Gloucester! Break the specials, I let my senses go clean away his lips to her cheek. "There are some things which are between ourselves. But tell me, Sir Charles how went the tradition of the society, in which he lived. He could have turned a card spilty of the society o My uncle was an impassive man by Charles. You know how dear it was "Your uncle would have won it, but lived. He could have turned a card guilty of the foulest crime which a gen-"He is no uncle of mine. Sir Charles, out the twitch of a muscle, and I had years I have screened him at the expense by the hand, "and dear old Rodney shock which had come upon him was now when I am faced with the alterna-Stone is his name. But I trust he was so great that he could only stand with tive of telling the facts about my brother, "A week or two will set him right. eyes. Twice I saw him open his lips,

But the strange man who stood before that him folded his arms over his breast. the avenue, and a few moments later me after all these years?" "You believed me to have done this dozen, he brought them to my uncle." said the landlord, "though indeed I the weary, panting horses had pulled up deed, Charles. I read it in your eyes he knew him at first, for he looked behind our curricle. Sir Lothian sprang deed, Charles, I read it in your eyes

I have already explained, Sir Lothian,

ward, and it was only his son on one and to turn it into a certainty. My brohis quivering hands from the throat of bury's, in Bond-street. They had been

"He has gone to denounce me,"

distorting his features. "Shall I bring him back?" cried Boy we became aware that two people had for I have already made up my mind his guilt. You will remember, as the That im- that which I owe, and have at such bitpassive, mask-like face and demure man, ter cost fufilled, to my brother and my

bloodless countenance was so thin and I doubt the evidence of my own eyes-

"In the passage."
"And doing what?"

room. I had heard his voice raised in ties, which reached your ears, Charles, anger and pain only an instant before, and caused you to open your chamber You carried in your hand a bag full of door and to see me as I returned to my money, and your face betrayed the ut- room. most agitation. If you can but explain to me, Ned, how you came to be there, "Nothing could be clearer!" he muryou will take from my heart a weight mured. which has pressed upon it for all these

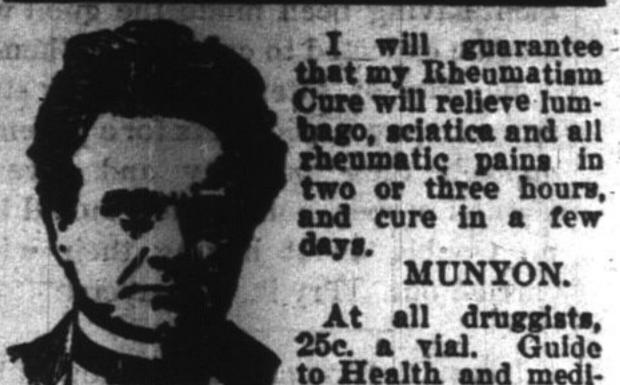
shaken," said he at last. "My God, has held an untarnished record through what a net was cast round me! Had so many centuries. I fled from my trial, me, you, my dearest friend, would have of what you have seen, Charles, I am as innocent in the matter as you are." "I thank God that I hear you say so." "But you are not satisfied, Charles. can read it on your face. You wish to know why an innocent man should conceal himself for all these years.

"Your word is enough for me,

"It has been pricked with a pin." "Precisely. What is the card?"

My uncle turned it over. "It is the king of clubs." "Try the bottom corner of this "It is quite smooth." "And the card is?"

NO. 52



how my attention had been drawn to my brother's mode of dealing, its slow-"My word is proof to those who know, ness, and the way in which he held

"with a criminal, an actress, and even so abominable a crime as this posturned upon his heel and strode from with the lowest and meanest of all the crimes to which a villain could descend. "He had not retired to rest, and his the dressing-table. I hardly know what said to him, but the facts were so deadly that he did not attempt to deny

must never again in his life lay his next morning with an explanation. there I burned the papers which he had

wen from me, and I replaced in a capvas bag which lay upon the table all the gold pieces. I would have left the room without another word, but he clung nothing to you or Sir Lothian Hame. It was his despairing cry, when he found that I was proof against all his entrea-

My uncle drew a long sigh of relief.

"In the morning I came, as you remember, to your room, and I returned No one now would have recognized in your money. I did the same to Sir my uncle the man who was the leader Lothian Hume. I said nothing of my of all the fops of London. In the pre- reasons for doing so, for I found that sence of this old friend and of the trag- I could not bring myself to confess our edy which girt him round, the veil of disgrace to you. Then came the hortriviality and affectation had been rent. Trible discovery which has darkened my and I Telt all my gratitude towards him life, and which was as great a mystery deepening for the first time into affect to me as it has been to you. I saw that tion whilst I watched his pale, anxious I was suspected, and I saw, also, that face, and the eager hope which shone even if I were to clear myself, it could in his eyes as he awaited his friend's only be done by a public confession of explanation. Lord Avon sank his face the infamy of my brother. I shrank in his hands, and for a few moments from it. Charles. Any personal sufferthere was silence in the dim grey room. ing seemed to me to be better than to "I do not wonder now that you were bring public shame upon a family which

this vile charge been brought against therefore, and disappeared from the doubt as to my guilt. And yet in spite that I should make arrangements for the wife and the son, of whose existence you and my other friends were ignorant. It is with shame, Mary, that I confees it, and I acknowledge to you that the me rather than with you. At the time there were reasons, now happily long gone past, which made me determine but the world will wish this other questhat the son was better apart from the

tradition of the society, in which he out proving my brother to have been it not been that your suspicions had He rose from his chair, and leaning way. At his wife's entreaty he had heavily upon his two supporters, he tot- just retired from the ring, and was aned sideboard. There, in the centre of I was able to fit him up as a smith. My uncle stopped and looked at him stained, mildewed cards, just as Boy at the village of Friar's Oak. My agree-"Surely, Ned, you have a greeting for Lord Avon turned them over with tremb up as their nephew, and that he should ling fingers, and then picking up half a know nothing of his unhappy parents. "Place your finger and thumb upon Friar's Oak. It was because I had he was near me. You are aware that England: but you are not aware that

it has been built with a very special eye of concealment, that there are 10 less than two habitable secret chambers, and that the outer or thicker walls are tunnelled into passages. The existence of these rooms has always been

A SPECIFIC