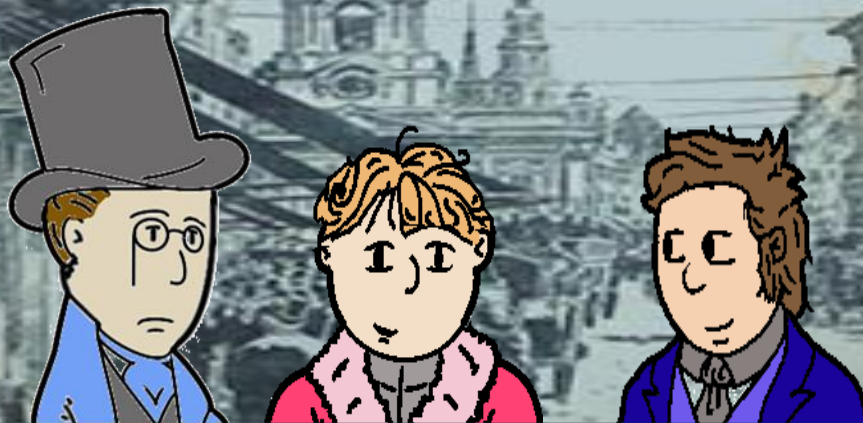


Baker Street

Elementary



Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

IX.—THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.



THE Lord St. Simon marriage, and its curious termination, have long ceased to be a subject of interest in those exalted circles in which the unfortunate bridegroom moves. Fresh scandals have eclipsed it, and their more piquant details have drawn the gossips away from this four-year-old drama. As I have reason to believe, however, that the full facts have never been revealed to the general public, and as my friend Sherlock Holmes had a considerable share in clearing the matter up, I feel that no memoir of him would be complete without some little sketch of this remarkable episode.

It was a few weeks before my own marriage, during the days when I was still sharing rooms with Holmes in Baker-street, that he came home from an afternoon stroll to find a letter on the table waiting for him. I had remained indoors all day, for the weather had taken a sudden turn to rain, with high autumnal winds, and the jezail

bullet which I had brought back in one of my limbs as a relic of my Afghan campaign, throbbed with dull persistency. With my body in one easy chair and my legs upon another, I had surrounded myself with a cloud of newspapers, until at last, saturated with the news of the day, I tossed them all aside and lay listless, watching the huge crest and monogram upon the envelope upon the table, and wondering lazily who my friend's noble correspondent could be.

"Here is a very fashionable epistle," I remarked as he entered. "Your morning letters, if I remember right, were from a fishmonger and a tide waiter."

"Yes, my correspondence has certainly the charm of variety," he answered, smiling, "and the humbler are usually the more interesting. This looks like one of those



"HE BROKE THE SEAL AND GLANCED OVER THE CONTENTS."

Baker Street Elementary

"The Adventure of the Ignoble Bachelor"

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1st Edition

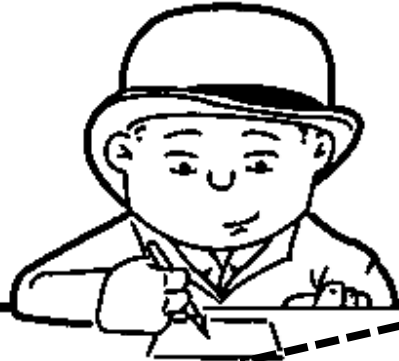
Published in Dallas, Texas

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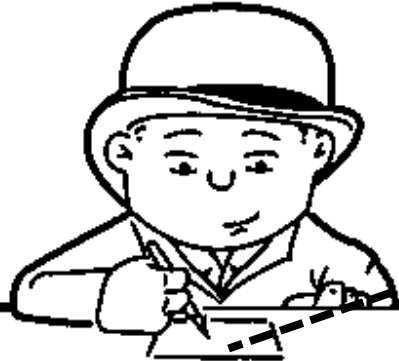
THE LORD ROBERT ST. SIMON'S PUPPY LOVE, AND
ITS CURIOUS TERMINATION, IS NO LONGER AN
ITEM OF NEWS WITHIN OUR SCHOOL CONFINES.



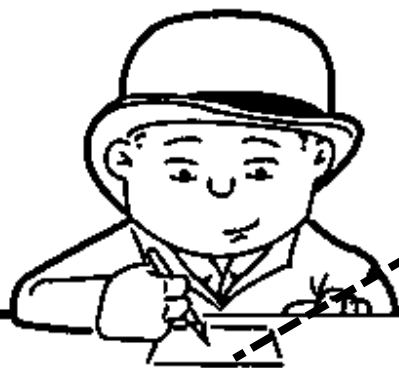
FRESH SCANDALS HAVE ECLIPSED IT, WHICH SEEMS
STRANGE FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



THE FULL FACTS HAVE NEVER BEEN REVEALED, AND
I FEEL THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PROVIDE SOME
LITTLE SKETCH OF THIS REMARKABLE EPISODE.



OK, IN ALL HONESTY, THERE IS NOT A LOT OF
DRAMA IN THIS TALE, BUT SINCE IT HAS BEEN A
SLOW WEEK SOLVING CASES WITH HOLMES, THIS IS
ALL I HAVE TO OFFER.



IT WAS A FEW WEEKS BEFORE A SCHOOL HOLIDAY,
AND HOLMES, STAMFORD, AND I HAD JUST FINISHED
UP CLASSES FOR THE DAY, AND WERE STANDING AT
OUR FAVORITE GATHERING SPOT...





**WATSON, I NOTICE YOU
ARE LIMPING A LITTLE
TODAY... I ASSUME THESE
LATE AUTUMNAL WINDS
AND TEMPERATURES ARE
CHALLENGING YOU.**

**YES, THE WINDS ALWAYS
CAUSE ONE OF MY LIMBS
(EITHER MY SHOULDER OR
LEG) TO THROB WITH
DULL PERSISTENCY.**





"Light-houses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future." (Sherlock Holmes, "The Naval Treaty")

*Learn more about what the Beacon Society does to introduce students to Sherlock Holmes at:
www.beaconsociety.com*



JOHN, I HOPE WHEN YOU GET OLDER, YOU CAN COME
UP WITH A BETTER STORY ON THESE INJURIES,
INSTEAD OF 'I WAS HIT WITH A CRICKET BALL'...
THAT JUST DOES NOT DRAW MUCH SYMPATHY...



HOLMES, HAVE YOU READ THE LETTER YOU RECEIVED DURING HOMEROOM? IT APPEARED TO BE A VERY FASHIONED EPISTLE...



...COMPARED TO PREVIOUS LETTERS, WHICH WERE FROM ONE OF THE CHEERLEADERS FROM THE GIRL'S SCHOOL, AND THE OTHER FROM ONE OF THE SCHOOL PREFECTS.



YES, MY CORRESPONDENCE HAS CERTAINLY THE
CHARM OF VARIETY... THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE ONE OF
THOSE UNWELCOME SOCIAL SUMMONS WHICH CALL
UPON ME EITHER TO BE BORED OR TO LIE.



OH COME, IT MAY PROVE TO BE
SOMETHING OF INTEREST AFTER ALL.

NOT SOCIAL, THEN ?



NO, DISTINCTLY PROFESSIONAL.

AND FROM A NOBLE CLIENT ?



ONE OF THE HIGHEST AT OUR SCHOOL.

MY DEAR FELLOW, I
CONGRATULATE YOU.





**"I ASSURE YOU THE
STATUS OF MY CLIENT IS
A MATTER OF LESS
MOMENT TO ME THAN THE
INTEREST OF HIS CASE."**

**OR THE PAY
YOU GET FOR
SOLVING A
CASE ?**



*YOU MUST HAVE READ ABOUT LORD ST.
SIMON AND HIS COURTSHIP ?*

OH YES, WITH THE DEEPEST INTEREST.



YOU HAVE BEEN READING THE
SCHOOL PAPER DILIGENTLY OF LATE?

I HAVE, WITH THE DARN COLD
KEEPING ME BEDRIDDEN.



YOU REALLY NEED TO GET A LIFE... THE LETTER IS
FROM THE ST. SIMON... I WILL READ IT TO YOU.

YOU, READING TO ME ? I GUESS
PIGS ARE FLYING SOMEWHERE.



*YOU CAN BRIEF ME ON WHAT THE SCHOOL
PAPER HAS TO SAY UPON THE MATTER.*



MASTER HOLMES,

I WILL CALL UPON YOU AND TO
CONSULT YOU ON THE VERY PAINFUL
EVENT WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN
CONNECTION WITH MY COURTSHP.

PREFECT LESTRADE IS ACTING
ALREADY IN THE MATTER, BUT HE
ASSURES ME HE SEES NO OBJECTION
TO YOUR COOPERATION.



I WILL CALL AT FOUR O'CLOCK...

I HOPE YOU WILL POSTPONE ANY
PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT, AS THIS IS A
MATTER OF PARAMOUNT
IMPORTANCE.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

ROBERT ST. SIMON.



IT IS WRITTEN WITH A QUILL PEN... WE HAVE
ONE HOUR BEFORE HE ARRIVES. WE HAVE JUST
TIME TO GET CLEAR UPON THE SUBJECT.



PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT THE PAST
SCHOOL PAPERS HAVE SAID ON THE ISSUE,
WHICH WILL HELP BRING ME UP TO DATE.





THE SERPENTINE MUSE

A quarterly journal of the "Adventuresses
of Sherlock Holmes" (ASH), a compendium
of various and sundry LEARNED
ARTICLES, VERSES, PERTINENT NEWS,
and ILLUSTRATIONS to amuse and
intrigue the discerning reader.





THE SOCIETY PORTION INDICATES LORD ST. SIMON HAS BEGUN A VERY INNOCENT COURTSHIP WITH ONE MISS HATTY DORAN, WHO IS VERY RECENTLY MOVED HERE FROM THE U.S.

THE PAPER INDICATES WE ALL SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH THE NUMBER OF THE GREAT HOUSES OF BRITAIN PASSING INTO THE HANDS OF OUR FAIR COUSINS FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.



**THAT'S A PRETTY DEEP SUBJECT
FOR A GRADE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.**



**IT'S BEEN A SLOW
NEWS WEEK ON THE
PLAYGROUND!**



**I ASSUME THE PAPER DOES NOT DISCUSS THAT THE DUKE
OF BALMORAL HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO SELL PICTURES
OWNED BY THE FAMILY WITHIN THE PAST FEW YEARS.**



**LORD ST. SIMON HAS TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR
ANY INHERITANCE IS BECOMING SLIMMER BY THE YEAR.**

**SORRY... THE PAPER DOES REVEAL THAT
MISS DORAN DOES COME FROM MONEY.**



IT ALSO INDICATES ST. SIMON WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING
MISS DORAN TO A SPECIAL SOIREE IN OUR OWN SCHOOL...
TWO DAYS LATER... THAT IS, SATURDAY LAST... THERE IS A
CURT ANNOUNCEMENT THE PARTY TOOK PLACE.



THOSE ARE THE NOTICES WHICH APPEARED BEFORE
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE YOUNG FEMALE.

BEFORE THE WHAT!?



THE VANISHING OF THE YOUNG GIRL.

WHEN DID SHE VANISH, THEN ?



AT THE EVENING PARTY.

INDEED... THIS IS MORE
INTERESTING THAN IT PROMISED
TO BE; QUITE DRAMATIC, IN FACT.



YES, IT STRUCK ME AS BEING A LITTLE OUT OF THE COMMON.

THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



I COULD ENVISION HER VANISHING BEFORE
THEIR FIRST DATE, AND OCCASSIONALLY
THE NEXT DAY FOLLOWING THE DATE...



...BUT I CANNOT RECALL ANYTIME
SOMEONE LEAVING DURING THE DATE.

MY DAD SAID IT HAPPENED TO
HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN SCHOOL.



WATSON, PRAY LET ME HAVE THE DETAILS.

ARE YOU GOING TO USE THE TERM 'PRAY' IN
EACH OF OUR STORIES ? IT CONFUSES ME.



AN ARTICLE IN YESTERDAY'S PAPER, AGAIN IN
THE SOCIETY SECTION, PROVIDES THE DETAILS.



'THE FAMILY OF ST. SIMON...

*SHOULD YOU NOT REFER TO HIM AS 'LORD
ST. SIMON' WHEN DISCUSSING HIM?*





NAH, THAT TAKES WAY TOO LONG...
ANYWAY, FROM THE PAPER, 'IN SPITE OF
FRIENDS TRYING TO HUSH THE MATTER
UP, IT HAS BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE
THROUGHOUT THE HALLS OF THE SCHOOL...'

...'THE SATURDAY NIGHT GALA, WAS A
SMALL AFFAIR. IT APPEARS SOME
LITTLE TROUBLE HAD BEEN CAUSED BY A
GIRL, WHOSE NAME HAS NOT BEEN
ASCERTAINED, WHO ENDEAVORED TO
FORCE HER WAY INTO THE SCHOOL.'



'SHE ALLEGED SHE HAD SOME CLAIM UPON LORD ST. SIMON...'

WE REALLY NEED TO STICK TO
ONE ADDRESS FOR THE LAD.





**'IT WAS ONLY AFTER A PAINFUL
SCENE THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL WAS
EJECTED BY THE DOORMEN.'**

**'MISS DORAN HAD SAT DOWN AT THE
ST. SIMON'S TABLE, WHEN SHE
COMPLAINED OF AN INDISPOSITION,
AND RETIRED TO THE LADIES' LOUNGE.'**



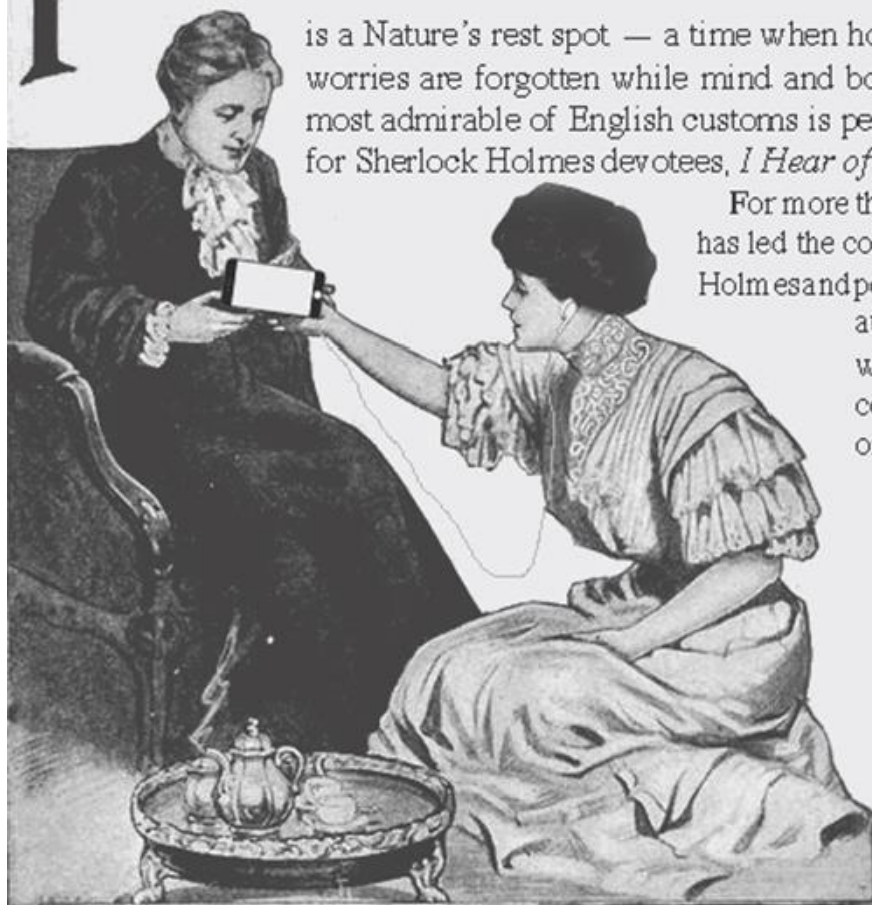
Four O'clock Tea

is a Nature's rest spot — a time when household cares, social duties and business worries are forgotten while mind and body gather new strength and energy. This most admirable of English customs is perfectly complemented by the first podcast for Sherlock Holmes devotees, *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*.

For more than ten years *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* has led the conversation about the intersection of Sherlock Holmes and popular culture. Shows features interviews with authors, actors or experts closely connected with the life and literature of the world's first consulting detective. New shows are available on the 15th and last days of each month.



I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere is available on iTunes and popular podcast applications, or listen online to any of our shows any time at ihearofsherlock.com.



WAIT, WE HAVE A LADIES' LOUNGE IN A BOY'S SCHOOL?

**THEY TOOK OVER THE BOYS'
ROOM... WE WERE EXPECTED
TO FIND A TREE.**





'HER PROLONGED ABSENCE CAUSED SOME COMMENT... HER FATHER, WHO WAS ACTING AS A CHAPERONE TO THE AFFAIR, PROCEEDED TO LOOK FOR HER.'

'HE WAS TOLD BY ONE OF MISS DORAN'S GIRLFRIENDS THAT SHE BEEN IN LOUNGE FOR AN INSTANT, CAUGHT UP AN ULSTER AND BONNET, AND HURRIED DOWN THE PASSAGE...'





'ONE OF THE FOOTMEN DECLARED HE SAW THE LASS LEAVE THE CLUB THUS APPARELLED. HE WAS NOT AWARE ANYTHING WAS AMISS.'

'ON ASCERTAINING HIS DAUGHTER HAD DISAPPEARED, MR. DORAN, WITH THE ST. SIMON FAMILY, HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH THE SCHOOL HEADMASTER AND PREFECTS...'





'...ENERGETIC INQUIRIES ARE BEING MADE, WHICH WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN A SPEEDY CLEARING UP OF THIS VERY SINGULAR BUSINESS.'
PERSONALLY, THEY ARE GIVING TOO MUCH CREDIT TO OUR PREFECTS TO SOLVE ANYTHING.

'THERE ARE RUMOURS OF FOUL PLAY IN THE MATTER, AND IT IS SAID THE YOUNG LASS WHO CAUSED THE ORIGINAL DISTURBANCE IS BEING QUESTIONED BY THE HEADMASTER.'





**'OH LOOK, THERE'S NEW STRIPS
FOR "WIZARD OF RID" AND "B.C.C."
IN THE COMICS SECTION...'**

**'...JEALOUSY OR SOME OTHER MOTIVE
MAY HAVE CAUSED HER TO BE
INVOLVED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
THE YOUNG MISS DORAN.'**





'... AND A LATE ADDITION... MISS FLORA MILLAR, THE LASS WHO CAUSED THE DISTURBANCE AT THE EVENT,' IS REQUIRED TO STAY WITHIN HER OWN ROOM...'

'...IT APPEARS SHE HAS KNOWN THE LORD FOR SOME TIME AND IS PART OF THE CHORUS AT HER SCHOOL.'



*I HAVE NO DOUBT OUR IGNOBLE CLIENT APPROACHES... DO NOT
DREAM OF LEAVING, YOU TWO... I VERY MUCH PREFER HAVING A
WITNESS, IF ONLY AS A CHECK OF MY OWN MEMORY.*



GOOD DAY, LORD ST. SIMON... THIS IS MY FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES, MASTERS WATSON AND
STAMFORD... LET US TALK THIS MATTER OVER.



IS STAMFORD YOUR GIVEN NAME OR YOUR SURNAME ?

IT'S BOTH... IT IS A LONG STORY.





A MOST PAINFUL
MATTER TO ME, AS YOU
CAN READILY IMAGINE...
I HAVE BEEN CUT TO
THE QUICK...



I UNDERSTAND YOU
HAVE ALREADY
MANAGED SEVERAL
DELICATE CASES OF
THIS SORT, THOUGH I
PRESUME THEY WERE
HARDLY FROM THE SAME
CLASS OF SOCIETY.

NO, I AM DESCENDING.

I BEG YOUR PARDON...



ONE OF MY LAST CLIENTS WAS ONE OF
THE SCHOOL'S LEADING RUGBY PLAYERS.

I HAD NO IDEA...
WHICH PLAYER?



YOU CAN UNDERSTAND I EXTEND TO THE AFFAIRS
OF MY OTHER CLIENTS THE SAME SECRECY WHICH I
PROMISE TO YOU IN YOURS.

THE ENTIRE STORY... WHICH I, NOT
DOYLE, WROTE UP, INCLUDING YOUR
CLIENT'S NAME, WAS PUBLISHED IN
THE SCHOOL PAPER.



I ASSUMED YOU CHANGED HIS NAME TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY.



SOME SECRECY... MY LIFE IS BEING PLAYED OUT IN THE SCHOOL PAPER... BUT I AM READY TO GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION WHICH MAY ASSIST YOU IN FORMING AN OPINION.

*I HAVE ALREADY LEARNED ALL THAT IS IN THE PAPER,
NOTHING MORE... I PRESUME THE ARTICLE IS CORRECT.*



YES, IT IS CORRECT, AS FAR AS IT GOES.

BUT I NEED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION,
WHICH I MAY GAIN BY QUESTIONING YOU.



PRAY DO SO!

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS.



WHEN DID YOU FIRST MEET MISS HATTY DORAN ?

A FAMILY VACATION
TO SAN FRANCISCO
LAST YEAR.



DID YOU COURT HER THERE ?



*NO, BUT I WAS AMUSED BY HER SOCIETY,
AND SHE COULD SEE I WAS AMUSED.*

The Scuttlebutt Diet

Up **1 lb.** a month with Peter E. Blau

<http://www.sherlocktron.com/scuttle.htm>



Instead of eating
that snack, curl up
with Peter's
Scuttlebutt from the
Spermacetti Press.



*As an added bonus, you
keep up with all the
current events in the
Sherlockian World.*

HER FATHER IS VERY RICH?



HE HAS MANAGED HIS INCOME VERY WELL AND IS SAID
TO BE THE RICHEST MAN ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

HOW DID HE MAKE HIS MONEY ?



*IN MINING... HE IS PART OF MY FATHER'S BUSINESS.
HE HAD NOTHING A FEW YEARS AGO...*

... THEN HE MANAGED A TEAM WHO
STRUCK GOLD, AND INVESTED IT.

WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION AS TO
THE YOUNG LADY'S CHARACTER?



**YOU SEE MASTER HOLMES MY
BELLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FREE
SPIRIT... SHE IS WHAT WE CALL
IN ENGLAND A 'TOMBOY'.**



**I WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN
HER ON IN COURTSHIP HAD I
NOT THOUGHT HER A NOBLE
YOUNG LASS.**

SO, THE YOUNG LADY CAME TO LONDON AND
YOU RENEWED YOUR ACQUAINTANCE?



YES, HER FATHER BROUGHT HER OVER THIS LAST SEASON
FOR HER TO GET A PROPER ENGLISH EDUCATION.

I ASSUME SHE WILL BRING A CONSIDERABLE
DOWRY TO ANY FUTURE ENGAGEMENT ?

YOU REALIZE WE
ARE STILL
YOUNGSTERS...



... BUT YES, HER FATHER WOULD PROVIDE A FAIR
DOWRY, NOT MORE THAN IS USUAL IN MY FAMILY.



THIS TALK SEEMS A LITTLE PREMATURE...

**FATHER SAYS IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE RETIREMENT.**



DID YOU SEE MISS DORAN THE DAY BEFORE THE GALA?

YES, I DID.



INDEED... THAT IS VERY INTERESTING...
AND THE EVENING OF THE PARTY?



SHE WAS AS BRIGHT AS POSSIBLE... AT
LEAST UNTIL THE PARTY STARTED.

AND DID YOU OBSERVE ANY CHANGE IN HER THEN?



I DID SEE HER FIRST TEMPER FLARE-UP... THE INCIDENT WAS TOO TRIVIAL, AND CAN HAVE NO POSSIBLE BEARING UPON THE CASE.

PRAY, LET... STOP IT STAMFORD...
LET US HAVE IT, FOR ALL THAT.



OH, IT IS CHILDISH... SHE DROPPED HER CORSAGE
AS WE COLLECTED CUPS AT THE DRINK TABLE..

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN AT THE TABLE RETURNED IT TO HER... IT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE THE WORSE FOR THE FALL, BUT MISS DORAN SEEMED VERY AGITATED OVER THE TRIFLING CAUSE.



INDEED... YOU SAY THERE A LAD AT THE TABLE?



IT WAS A PARTY... THERE WERE YOUNG FELLOWS EVERYWHERE.



JOY'S CIGARETTES afford immediate relief in cases of **ASTHMA, WHEEZING, AND WINTER COUGH,** and a little perseverance will effect a permanent cure. Universally recommended by the most eminent physicians and medical authors. Agreeable to use, certain in their effects, and harmless in their action, they may be safely smoked by ladies and children.

All Chemists and Stores, box of 3s. 6d., or post free from WILCOX & Co., 239, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

DO YOU BELIEVE MISS DORAN WAS
FAMIIAR WITH THIS YOUNG LAD?



NO, NO... I CALL HIM A GENTLEMAN BY COURTESY, BUT HE
WAS QUITE A COMMON-LOOKING PERSON, BUT I REALLY
THINK WE ARE WANDERING RATHER FAR FROM THE POINT.

SO, WHAT DID MISS DORAN DO AFTER THIS INCIDENT?



I SAW HER IN CONVERSATION WITH A FRIEND FROM HER SCHOOL...
I BELIEVE SHE IS AN AMERICAN ALSO, WHOSE FATHER HAS
RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT HERE AS PART OF MY FATHER'S BUSINESS.

HER NAME IS ALICE, AND I BELIEVE SHE AND
HATTY ARE ON VERY CLOSE TERMS.

HOW LONG DID THEY SPEAK?



OH, A FEW MINUTES... I HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK OF.

HOW TO GET A LARGER
ALLOWANCE, PERHAPS?



YOU DID NOT OVERHEAR WHAT THEY SAID?



MISS DORAN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT 'BLOOD BEING THICKER THAN PUNCH'... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE MEANT.

GIRLS HAVE SUCH A STRANGE LANGUAGE TO THEMSELVES.

*AMERICAN SLANG IS VERY EXPRESSIVE...
WHAT DID MISS DORAN DO THEN?*



SHE CAME BACK TO OUR TABLE WITH ME... AFTER WE HAD SAT DOWN, SHE ROSE HURRIEDLY, UTTERED SOME WORDS OF APOLOGY, AND LEFT THE ROOM... SHE NEVER CAME BACK.



I BELIEVE ALICE STATES HATTY WENT TO THE COAT ROOM, GATHERED AN ULSTER, A BONNET, AND WENT OUT.



*QUITE SO... AND SHE WAS AFTERWARDS SEEN WALKING
NEAR THE SCHOOL FOUNTAIN WITH FLORA MILLAR.*

AH, YES.. I SHOULD LIKE A FEW PARTICULARS AS TO
THIS YOUNG LADY, AND HER RELATIONS TO YOU.



WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY FOR A YEAR OR SO... SHE HAS NO
COMPLAINT AGAINST ME, AS I HAVE TREATED HER
GENEROUSLY, BUYING HER CANDY, FLOWERS, AND THE LIKE.

**BUT YOU KNOW HOW GIRLS ARE,
MASTER HOLMES... FLORA IS A
DEAR LITTLE THING, BUT SHE
WROTE ME DREADFUL LOVE NOTES
WHEN SHE HEARD I WAS TO
BEGIN COURTING MISS DORAN.'**



**SHE EVIDENTLY THREATENED MY
NEW BELLE OUTSIDE THE DOORS
OF THE PARTY... SHE DID LEAVE
QUIETLY ONCE SHE SAW THERE
WAS NO GOOD IN MAKING A ROW.**

DID MISS DORAN HEAR ALL THIS?



NO, THANK GOODNESS, SHE DID NOT.

PREFECT LESTRADE BELIEVES MISS MILLAR DECOYED
MISS DORAN OUT AND LAID SOME TERRIBLE TRAP FOR
HER... I DO NOT THINK FLORA WOULD HURT A FLY.



JEALOUSY IS A STRANGE TRANSFORMER OF CHARACTERS...
WHAT IS YOUR THEORY AS TO WHAT TOOK PLACE ?

REALLY, I CAME TO SEEK A THEORY, NOT TO PROPOUND ONE...
HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THE RISE IN SOCIAL STATUS SO QUICKLY
FOR MISS DORAN MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HER.



SO, SHE BECAME SUDDENLY DERANGED?

*I DO HAVE THAT
EFFECT ON GIRLS.*



I SHALL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU FURTHER.



*SHOULD YOU BE FORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?*

I HAVE SOLVED IT!

*WHERE THEN,
IS MY BELLE?*



THAT IS A DETAIL I SHALL SPEEDILY SUPPLY.



*IT WILL TAKE WISER HEADS THAN
YOU AND MINE TO SOLVE THIS.*

IT IS GOOD OF LORD ST. SIMON TO HONOUR MY HEAD
BY PUTTING IT ON A LEVEL WITH HIS OWN... I
FORMED MY CONCLUSIONS BEFORE OUR CLIENT
ARRIVED... I HAVE NOTES OF SEVERAL SIMILAR CASES.



HULLO, LESTRADE... YOU LOOK DISSATISFIED.



*I AM... I HAVE BEEN DRAGGING THE SCHOOL FOUNTAIN
AND FOUND MISS DORAN'S PARTY DRESS AND CORSAGE.*

YES, YOU WOULD THINK WHERE HERE
CLOTHES WERE, SHE WOULD BE NEARBY.



BY THE SAME BRILLIANT REASONING, EVERY BOY'S BODY IS
TO BE FOUND IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF HIS WARDROBE...
AND WHAT DID YOU HOPE THIS DISCOVERY WOULD BRING?

WE HOPED THIS EVIDENCE WOULD IMPLICATE
MISS MILLAR IN THE DISAPPEARANCE.

I AM AFRAID YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT.



ARE YOU INDEED NOW ? THE DRESS
DOES IMPLICATE MISS MILLAR.

AND HOW?



IN THE POCKET WAS A NOTE, WHICH STATED, "YOU
WILL LEARN THE TRUTH... COME AT ONCE, F.H.M."

**MY THEORY IS MISS DORAN
WAS DECOYED AWAY BY MISS
MILLAR, AND SHE, WITH
CONFEDERATES, HAVE REMOVED
HER FROM THE PICTURE.**



**HERE, SIGNED WITH HER
INITIALS, IS THE VERY NOTE SHE
HANDED MISS DORAN AT THE
DOOR, AND LURED HER OUTSIDE.**

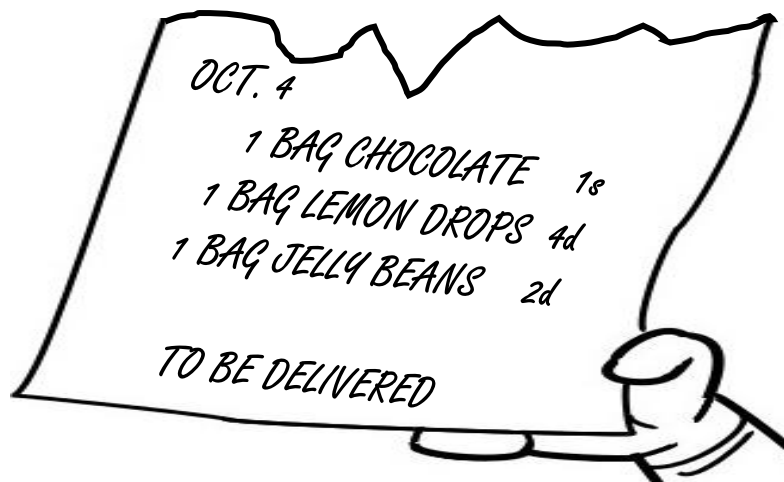
MAY I LOOK AT THE NOTE... THIS IS INDEED IMPORTANT.



BUT YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE WRONG SIDE OF THE NOTE.



ON THE CONTRARY, THIS IS THE
RIGHT SIDE, WHICH APPEARS TO
BE A FRAGMENT OF A RECEIPT
FROM A CONFECTIONER.



I SEE NOTHING IN THAT.

*BECAUSE YOU SEE BUT YOU DO NOT OBSERVE...
I REALLY HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT LINE.*



WELL, I HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME... I
BELIEVE IN HARD WORK... WE SHALL SEE WHO
GETS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MATTER FIRST.



JUST ONE HINT TO YOU LESTRADE... THERE IS NOT, AND THERE
NEVER HAS BEEN, ANY SUCH PERSON AS MISS HATTY DORAN.

**YOU DO REALIZE THAT LAST HINT
MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE?**

**I DO, BUT IT WILL HELP KEEP HIS HEAD
SPINNING FOR A LITTLE LONGER.**



A HOUSEHOLD NECESSITY!

COLTAR TABLETS

**ARE DOUBLE THE GERMICIDAL
POWER OF PURE CARBOLIC ACID.**

ONE TABLET makes Five Gallons of Powerful Disinfecting Fluid that is guaranteed to destroy Typhoid and other Disease Germs. Does not cost a penny per gallon; makes rooms and floors sweet and clean.

PROTECTS ALL WHO USE IT!

For Washing Children's
Heads.
Washing Troubled Feet.
Washing Animals.
For Sick Rooms,

For killing Cockroaches
and other Vermin.
Killing Weeds on Garden Paths, etc.
A powerful Insecticide.
For Water Closets.

COLTAR TABLETS

**STRONGEST DISINFECTANT CLEANSERS.
SOLD EVERYWHERE.**

Manufactured by

W. McCLELLAN, MANUFACTURING CHEMIST. 41 to 47, Spa Road, BOLTON.
ESTABLISHED 28 YEARS.

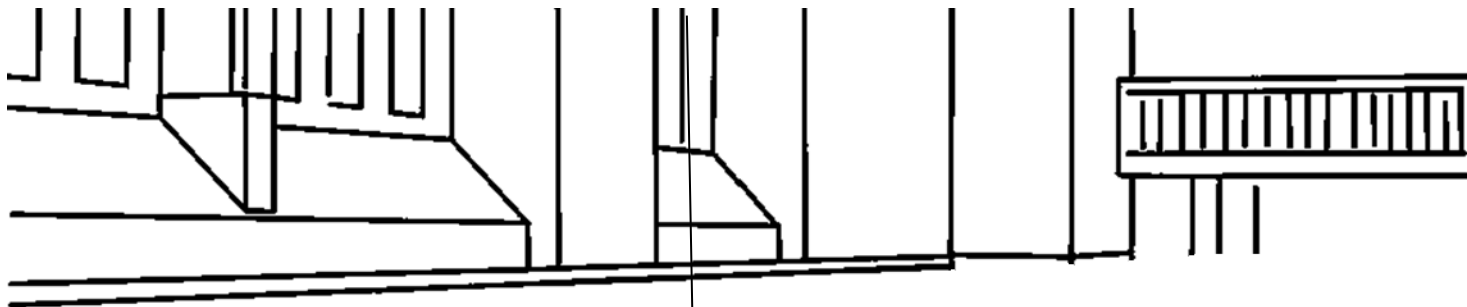
Imitations come and go but Coltar Tablets go on for ever.

I BELIEVE A LITTLE LEG WORK WILL BE BENEFICIAL
TO ME ALSO... I WILL SEE YOU TWO LATER.



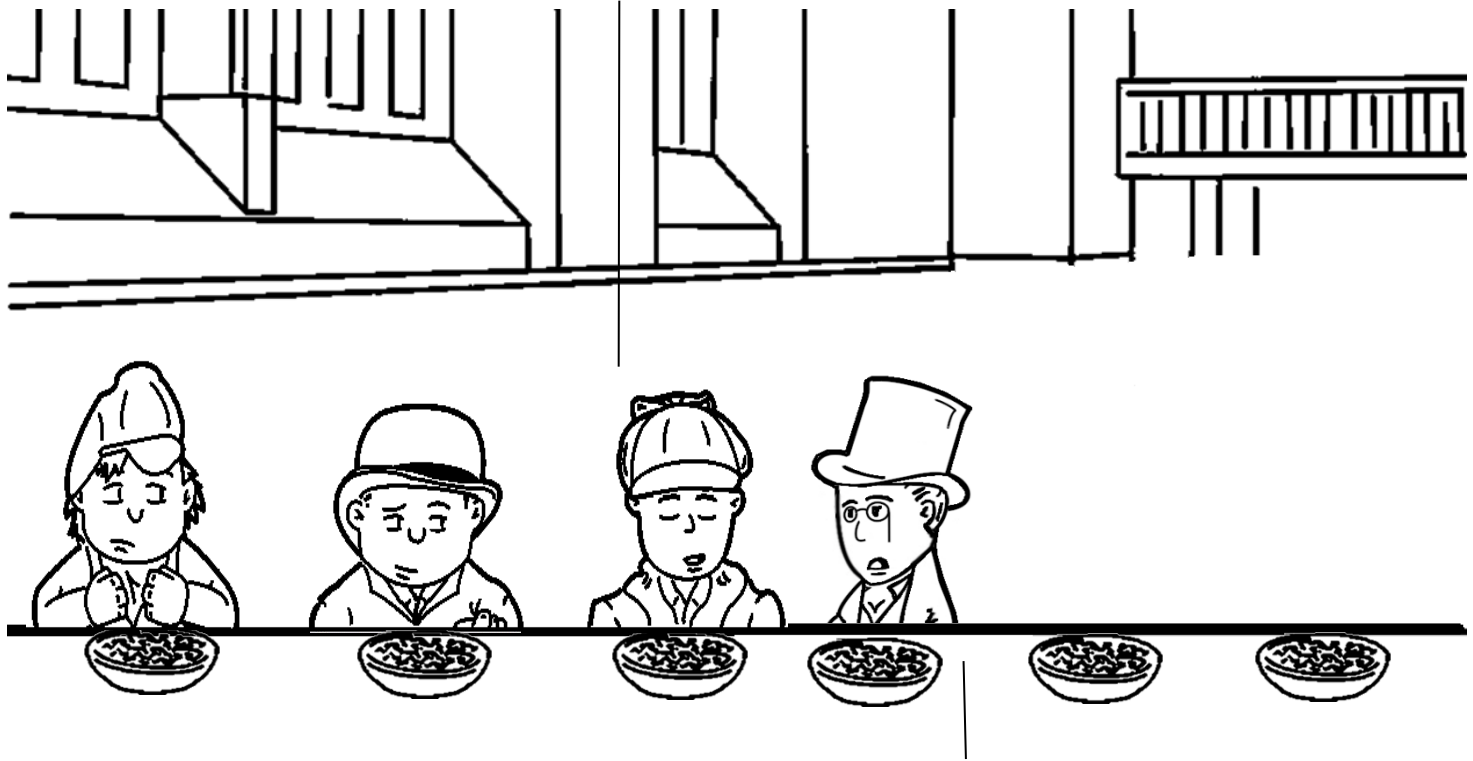
Much, much later in the evening...

I SEE YOU RECEIVED MY NOTE TO MEET ME HERE.



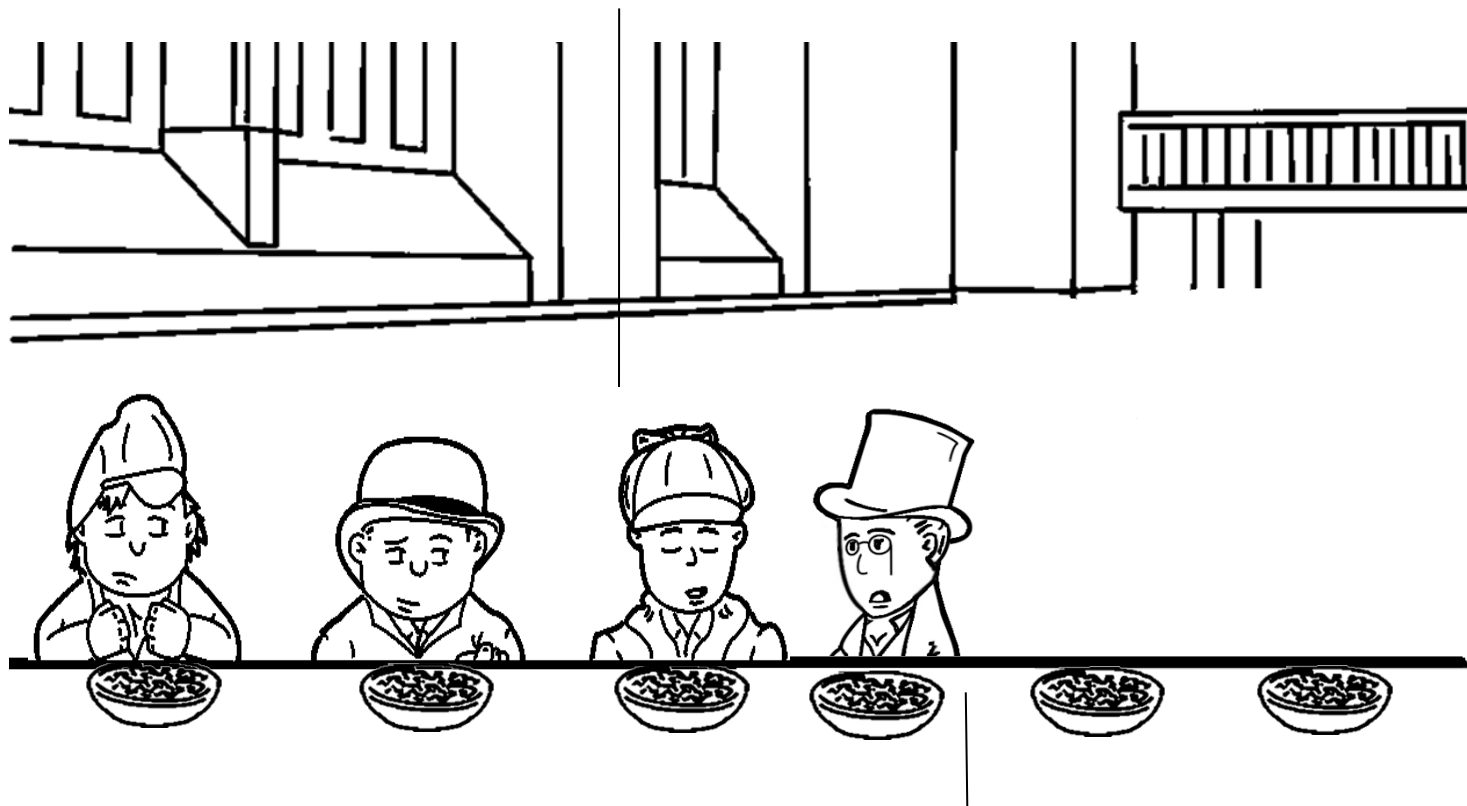
*IT APPEARS MRS. HUDSON HAS LAID
OUT A LATE SUPPER FOR SIX OF US.*

*YES, I FANCY WE MAY HAVE SOME COMPANY
DROPPING IN... ahhh... HERE COMES LORD SIMON NOW.*



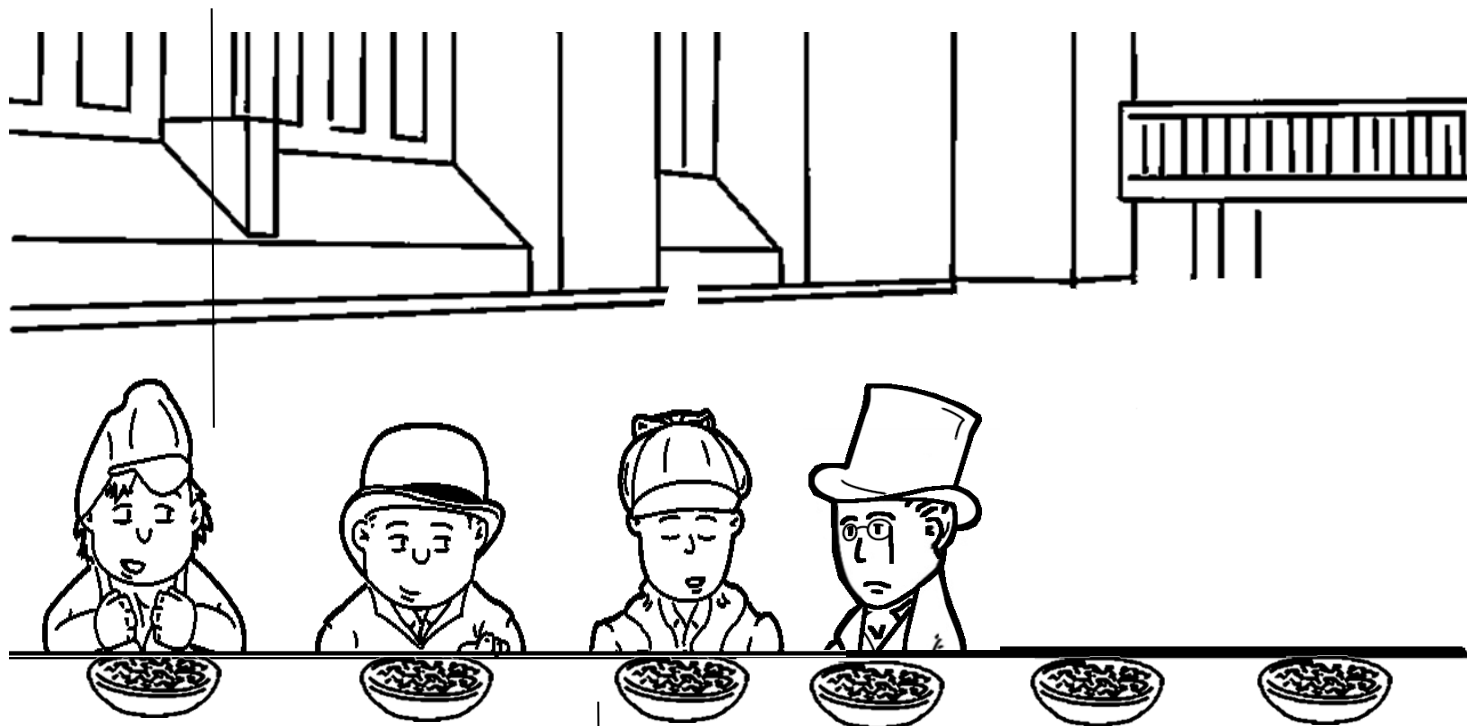
*I HAVE CAME, AS YOUR MESSAGE REQUESTED, BUT
THE CONTENTS STARTLED ME BEYOND MEASURE...
HAVE YOU GOOD AUTHORITY FOR WHAT YOU SAY?*

THE BEST POSSIBLE.



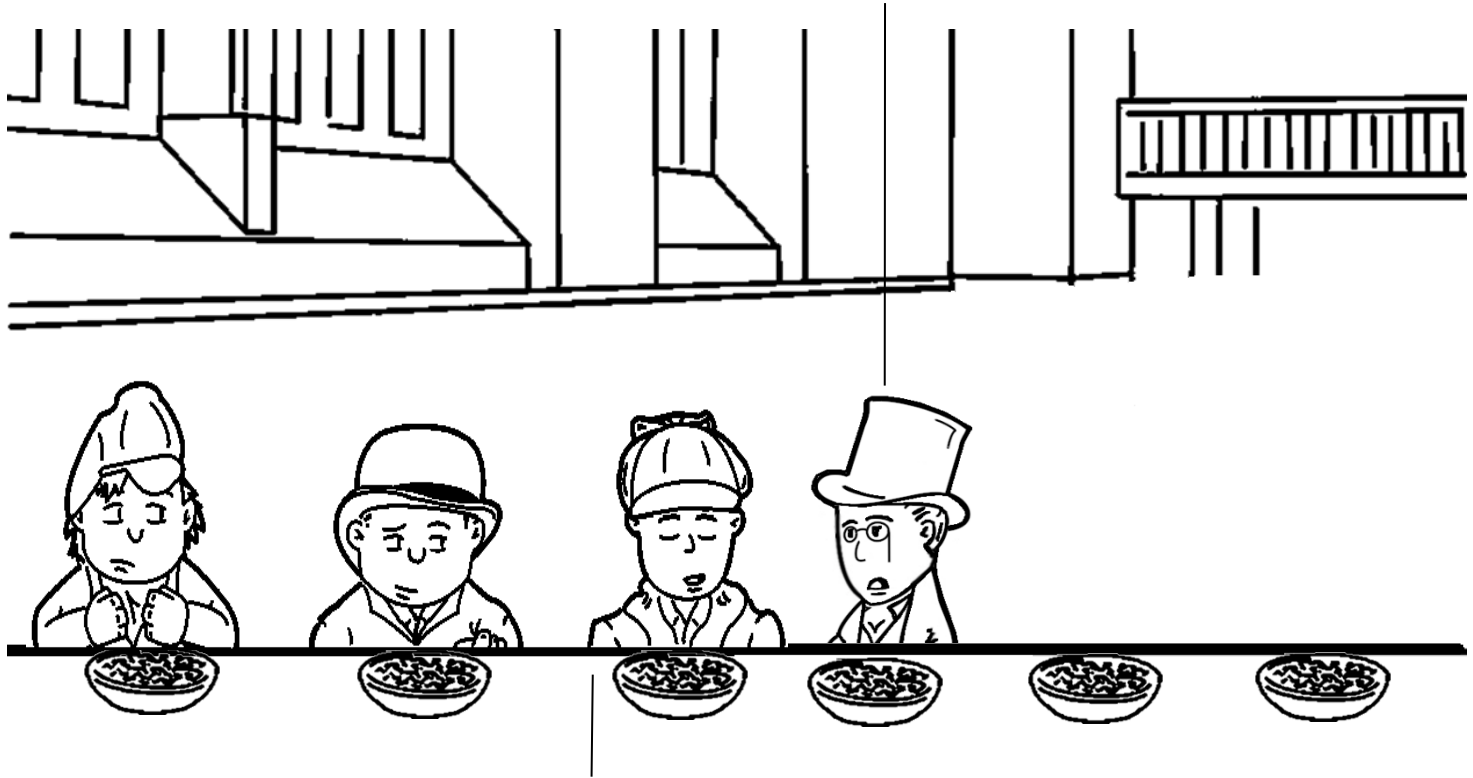
*I WONDER WHAT THE DUKE SHALL SAY WHEN HE HEARS ONE OF
THE FAMILY HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SUCH A HUMILIATION.*

SEEMS A LITTLE OVERSTATEMENT HERE.



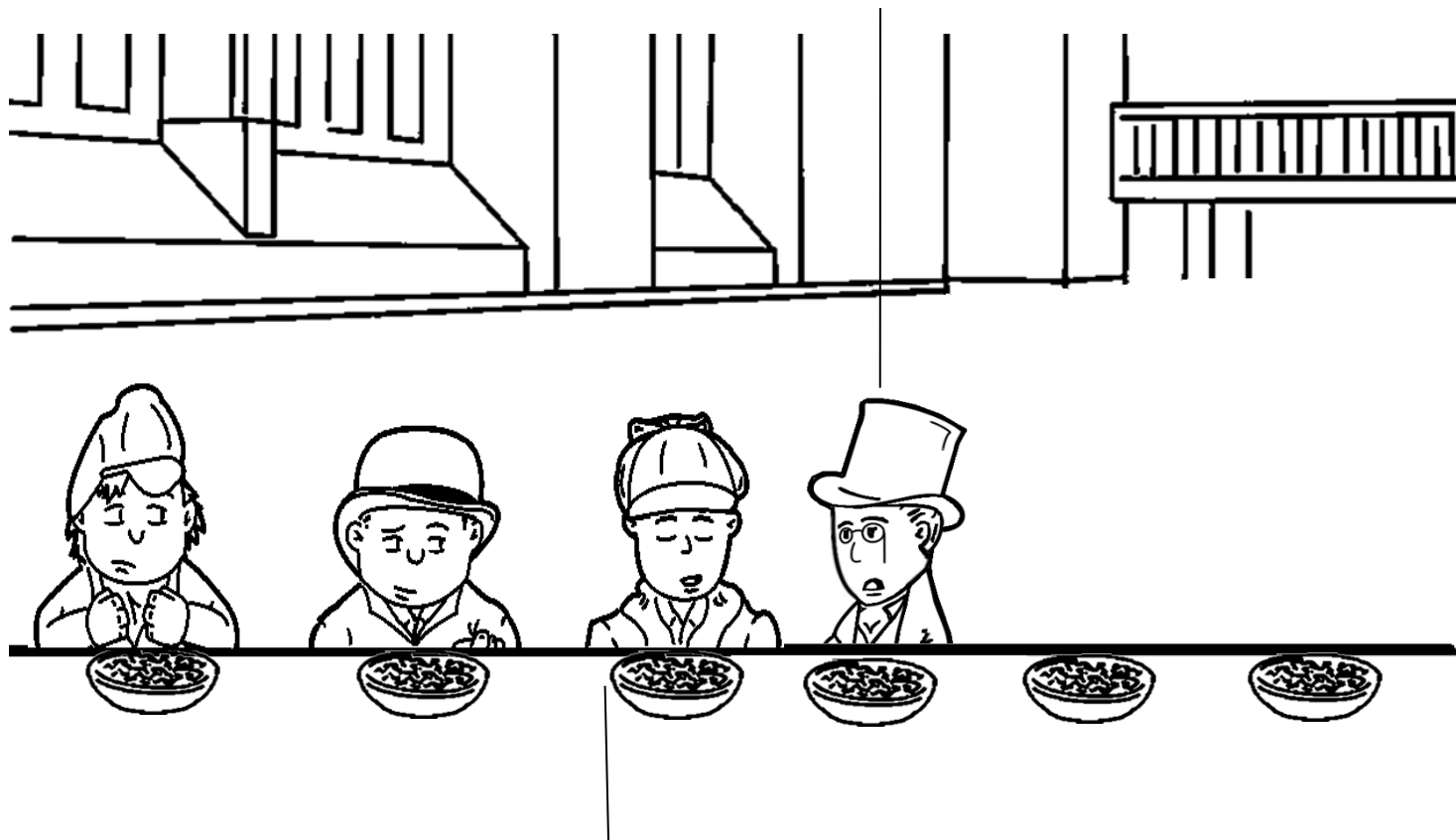
A PURE ACCIDENT... I SEE NO HUMILIATION.

ahhh... YOU LOOK ON THESE THINGS FROM
ANOTHER STANDPOINT... IT WAS A SLIGHT!



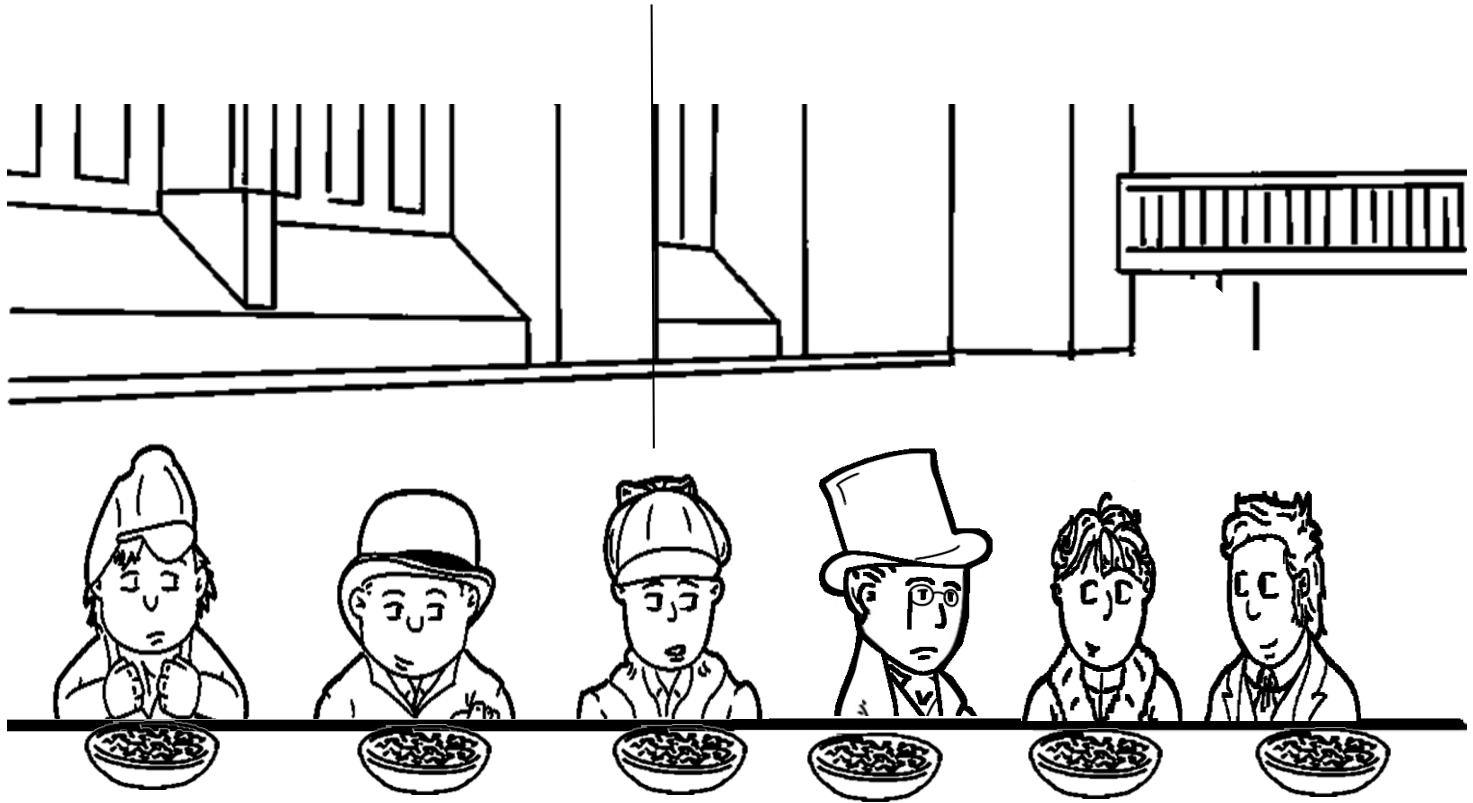
YOU MUST MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR THIS POOR
GIRL, PLACED IN SO UNPRECEDENTED A POSITION.
AFTER ALL, SHE HAD NO MOTHER TO ADVISE HER.

*I WILL MAKE NO ALLOWANCE... I AM ANGRY
INDEED, AND I HAVE BEEN SHAMEFULLY USED.*

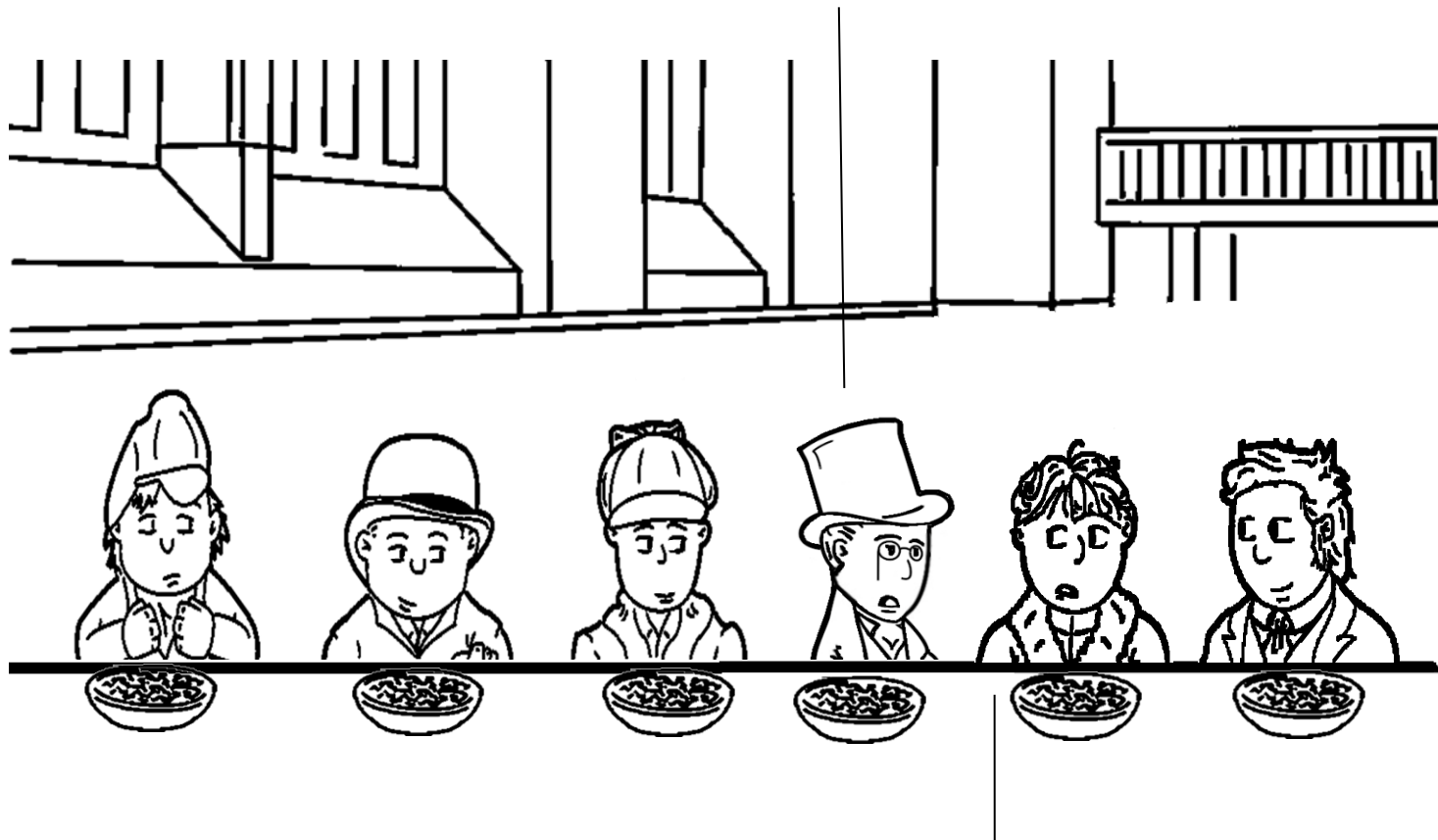


ahhh... I SEE THE REST OF OUR LITTLE GROUP HAS ARRIVED.

MAY I INTRODUCE FRANCIS MOULTON, THE
LASS I THINK, YOU HAVE ALREADY MET.

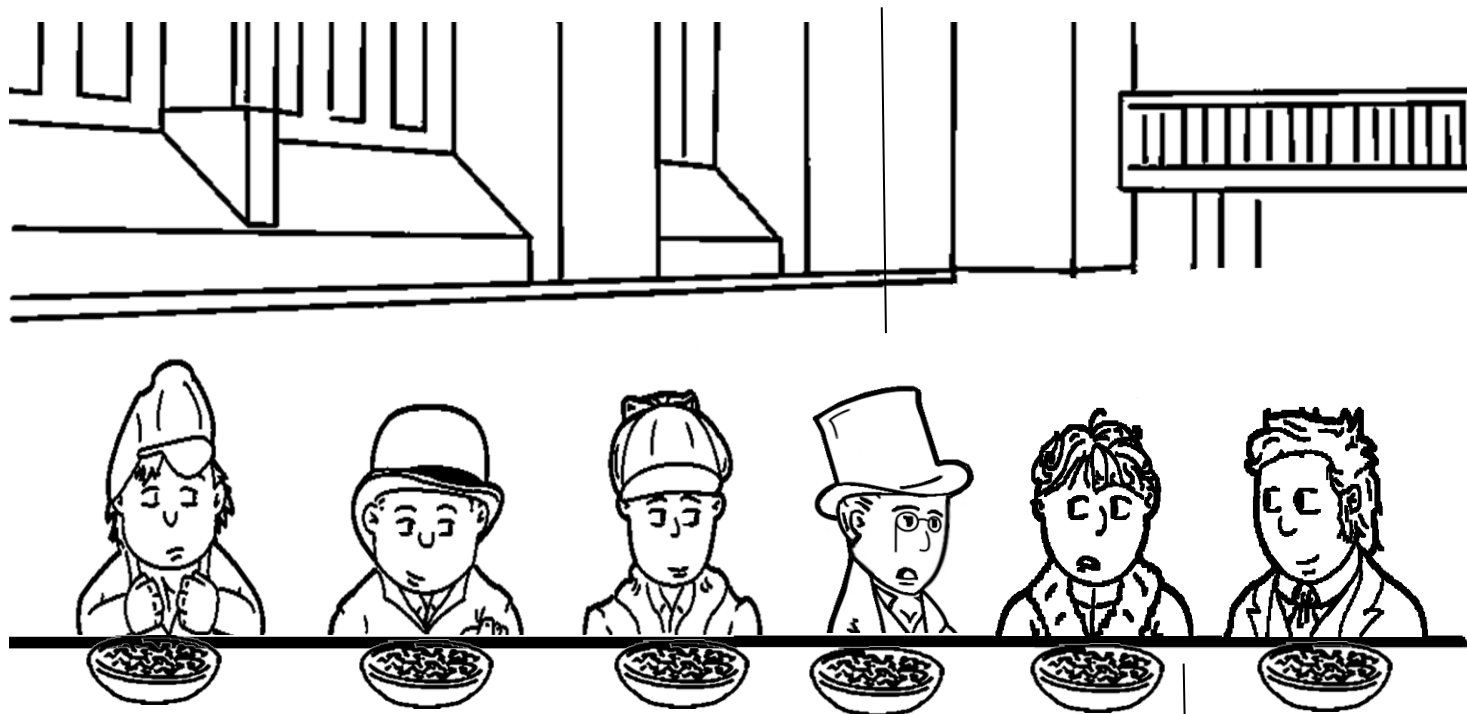


WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?



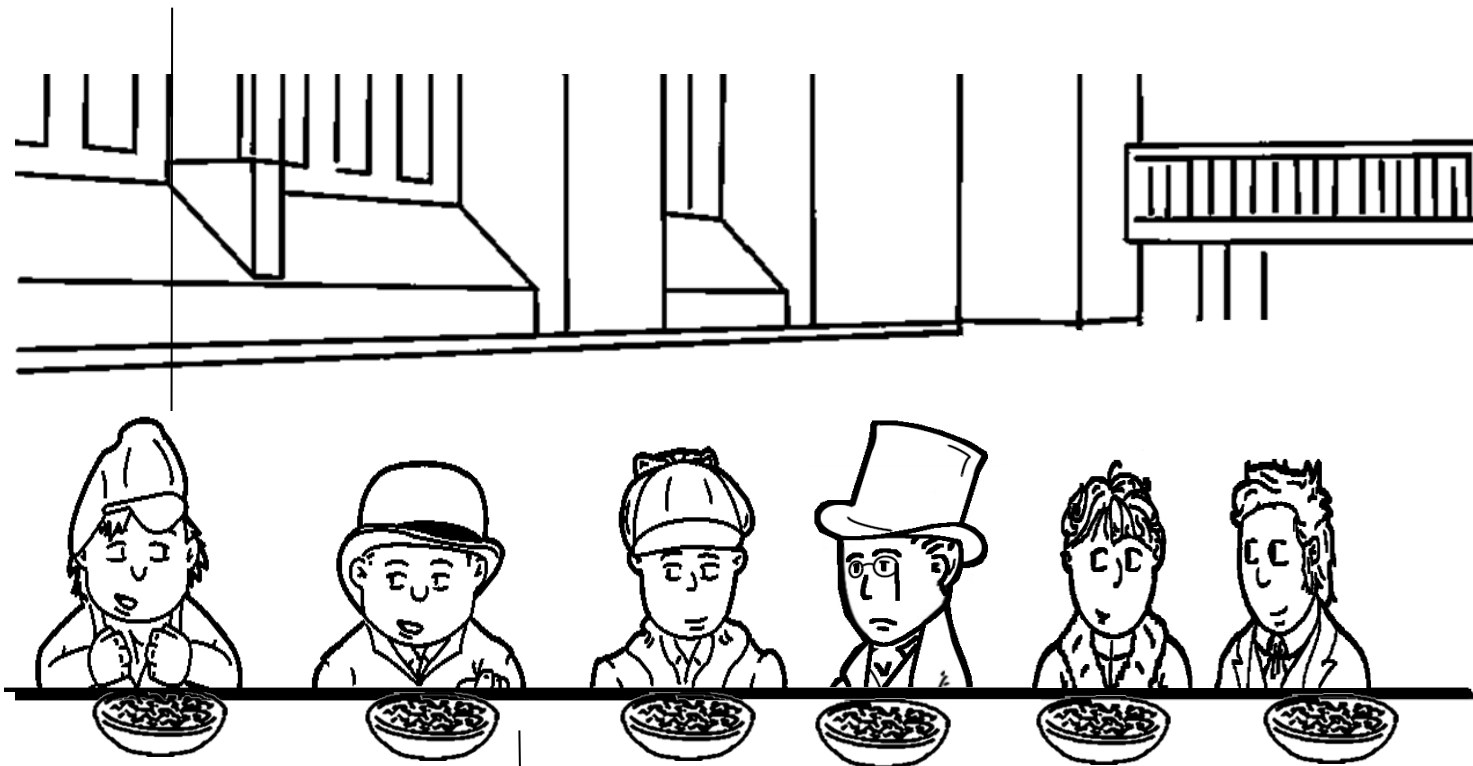
YOU'RE ANGRY ROBERT... WELL, I GUESS
YOU HAVE EVERY CAUSE TO BE.

PRAY, MAKE... EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING,
MASTER STAMFORD... MAKE NO APOLOGY TO ME.



I KNOW I TREATED YOU REAL BAD; BUT I WAS RATTLED
AND FROM THE MOMENT I SAW FRANK, I JUST DID NOT
KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING OR SAYING.

IF WE WAIT MUCH LONGER, THE FOOD WILL BE COLD AND MUSHY.



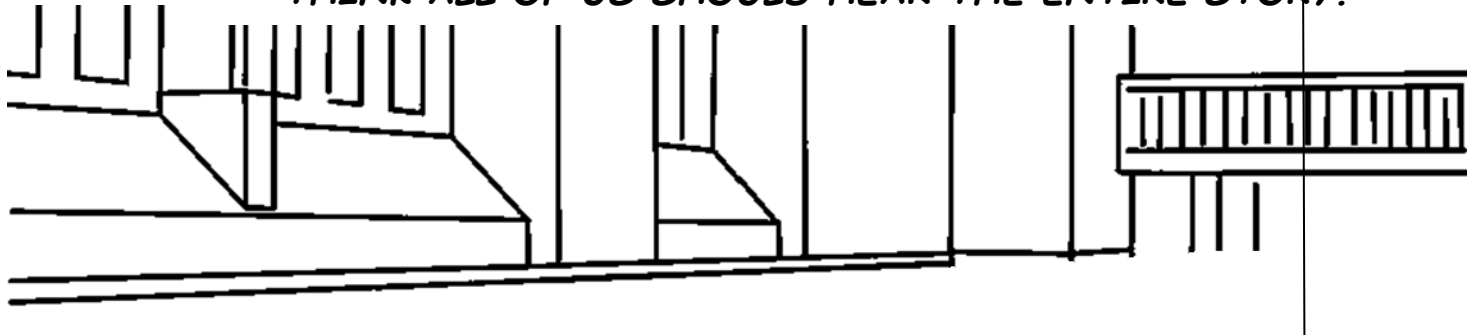
FOR A FEW OF MRS. HUDSON'S MEALS,
THAT COULD ONLY BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

I ONLY WONDER I DID NOT FALL DOWN AND DO
A FAINT RIGHT THERE AT THE DRINK TABLE.



PERHAPS, MISS DORAN, YOU WOULD LIKE MY FRIENDS
AND ME TO LEAVE WHILE YOU EXPLAIN THE MATTER.

IF I MAY GIVE AN OPINION, WE HAVE HAD JUST A LITTLE
TOO MUCH SECRECY OVER THIS BUSINESS ALREADY... I
THINK ALL OF US SHOULD HEAR THE ENTIRE STORY.



THEN I SHALL TELL OUR STORY RIGHT AWAY.

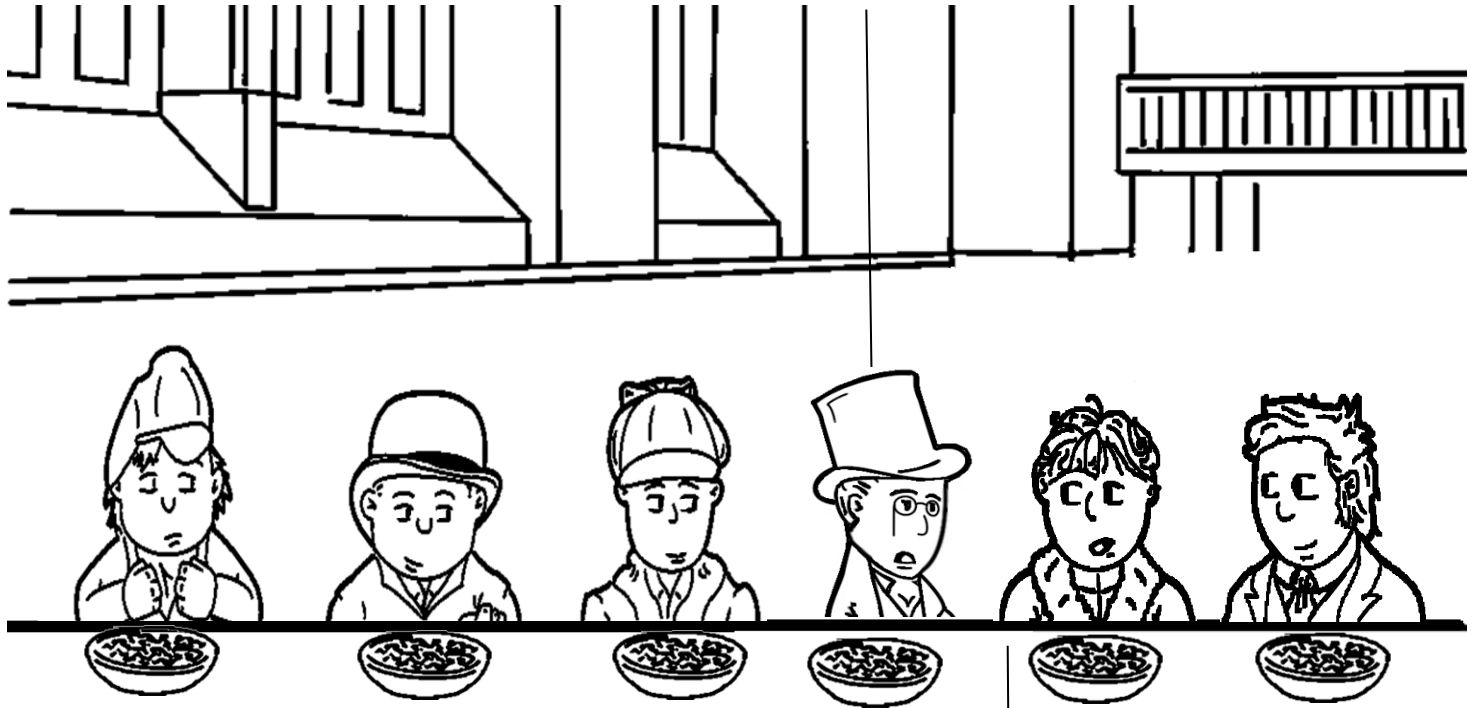


THIS MAY SEEM VERY CONVOLUTED, AND
HARD TO FOLLOW... LIKE A BOUNCING
BALL... BUT STAY WITH ME.

FIRST, ROBERT, SINCE WE HAVE KNOWN
EACH OTHER, I HAVE HEARD YOU REFER
TO YOURSELF AS 'ST. SIMON, LORD ST.
SIMON, AND ROBERT ST. SIMON...'

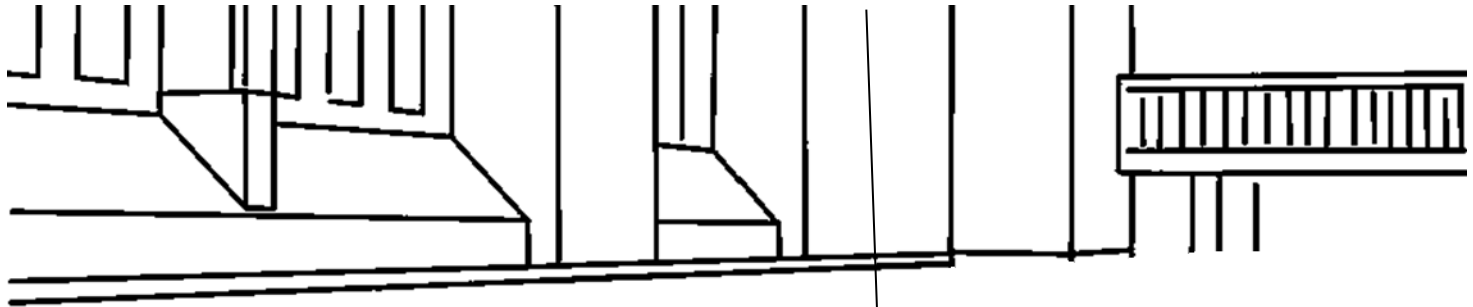


I BELIEVE THAT IS MY PERROGATIVE.



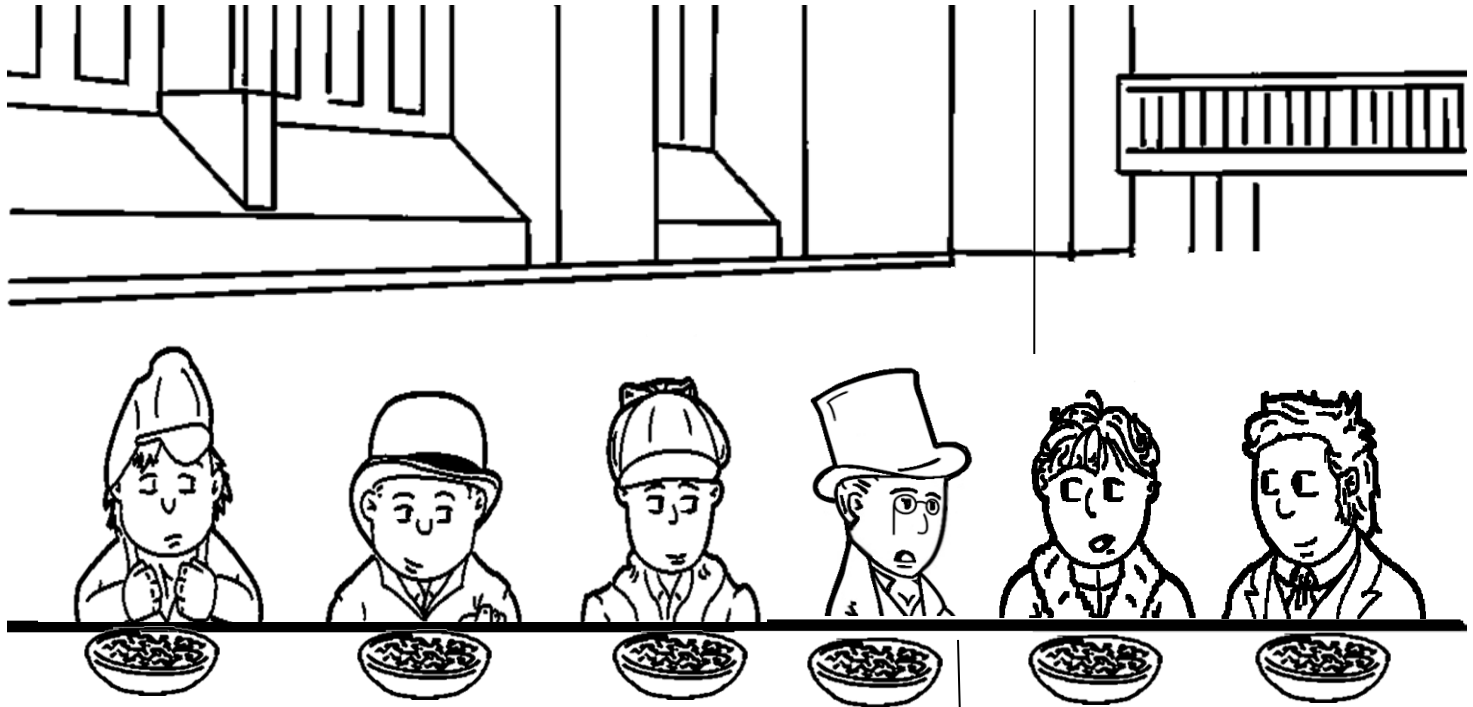
ACTUALLY, THE THIRD OPTION, 'ROBERT ST. SIMON' IS THE TECHNICALLY CORRECT ADDRESS.... BUT I HAVE CONSIDERED OTHER 'NAMES' TO CALL YOU IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

WHY WOULD THAT BE THE CASE?



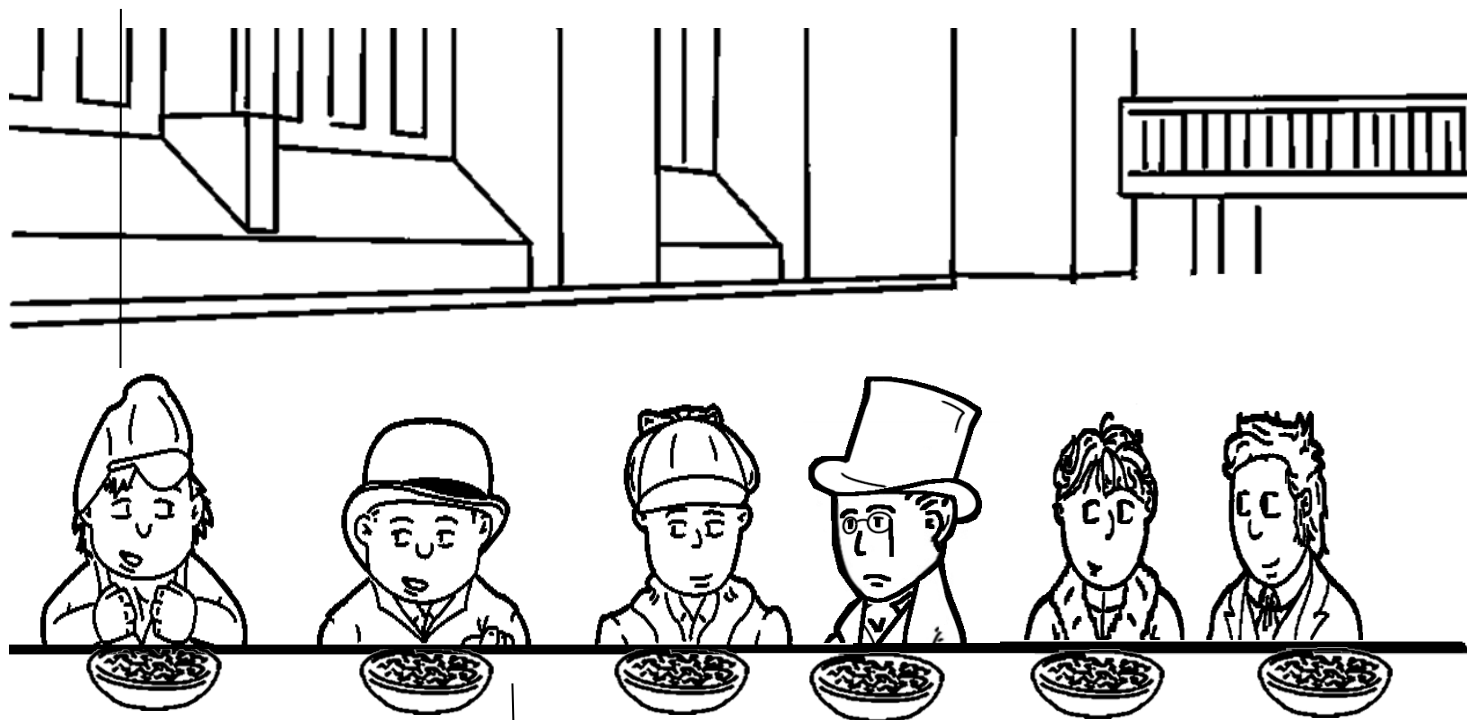
WHILE I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON PEERAGE, I BELIEVE YOUR FATHER,
THE DUKE, WOULD ADDRESS HIMSELF AS SIMPLY 'ST. SIMON'.

YOUR OLDER BROTHER WOULD BE ADDRESSED AS
'LORD ST. SIMON'... YOU, AS THE SECOND SON,
WOULD BE ADDRESSED AS 'ROBERT ST. SIMON'



THAT WOULD BE LOGICAL, EXCEPT I AM AN
ONLY CHILD, MUCH MORE, AN ONLY SON.

ONLY CHILD? THAT WOULD EXPLAIN SOME
PERSONALITY ISSUES I HAVE NOTICED.



I BELIEVE THE TERM YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS 'BRAT'.



THAT LEADS TO THE REST OF THE
STORY... I AM NOT SURE YOU ARE
AWARE YOU HAVE AN UNCLE, WHO
IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF
YOUR FATHER, THE DUKE.

YOUR UNCLE, ALOYSIUS, HAD CHOSEN SEVERAL
YEARS AGO TO IMMIGRATE TO AMERICA TO
SIMPLY HIS LIFE... THE MOVE WAS NOT
INTENDED TO BE PERMANENT, BUT LONG
ENOUGH TO RE-START HIS ENTHUSIASM AND
VIGOR TO HELP IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS.



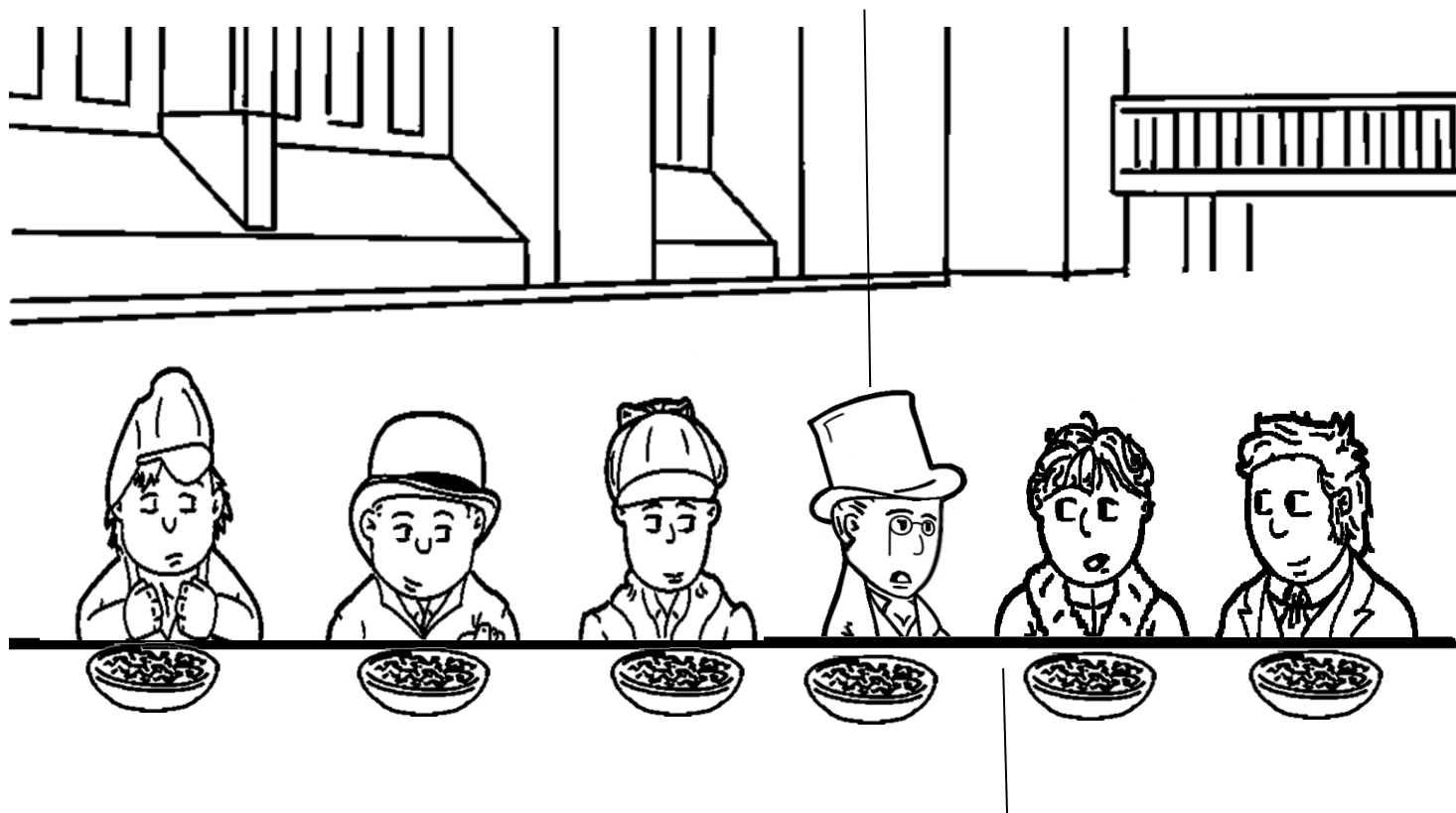


YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER, FOR
FINANCIAL REASONS, REQUESTED THE
UNCLE TAKE THEIR ELDER CHILDREN, A
SON AND DAUGHTER, TO AMERICA
ALSO... THEIR YOUNGER SON, YOU,
WOULD REMAIN WITH THEM.

ALOYSIUS, ALONG WITH HIS NEPHEW
AND NIECE, LOCATED IN SAN
FRANCISCO, WHERE THEY HAD LIVED
UNTIL EARLIER THIS YEAR.

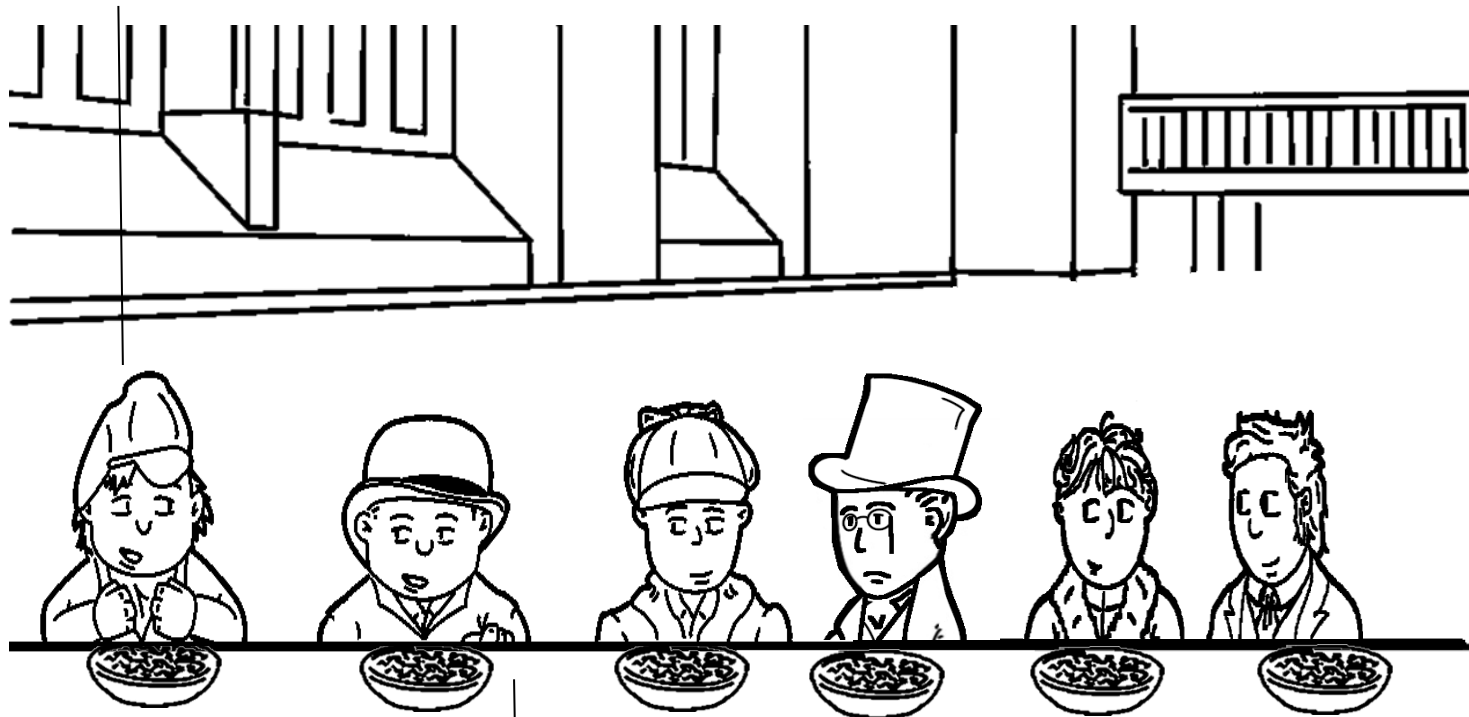


I'M STARTING TO SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING... I'M NOT PLEASED.



I DIDN'T SAY YOU WOULD ENJOY IT... ANYWAY, WHEN YOUR FAMILY CAME TO VISIT THE UNCLE AND HIS NEW 'FAMILY' LAST YEAR, IT WAS APPARENT YOUR PARENTS WERE READY FOR THEIR DISPLACED CHILDREN TO COME BACK TO LONDON.

TECHNICALLY, IS IT STILL CONSIDERED SUPPER
IF NONE OF US ARE ACTUALLY 'SUPPING'?



IF THIS DRAGS OUT MUCH LONGER, YOU WILL BE 'BREAKFASTING'!



THUS, I MOVED BACK WITH ALOYSIUS
EARLIER THIS YEAR... MY BROTHER, AND
YOURS, FRANCIS... OR FRANK... STAYED
BEHIND TO FINISH HIS SCHOOL YEAR,
AS HE WAS VERY INVOLVED WITH THE
SPORTS TEAM AT THE SCHOOL.

IT WAS DECIDED TO SLOWLY READJUST
FRANK AND I BACK INTO LONDON SOCIETY,
SO WE WERE TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH
OUR UNCLE UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.





YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, UNTIL THE
LAST DAY OR TWO, I HAD NO IDEA
THAT YOU AND I WERE RELATED, MUCH
LESS BROTHER AND SISTER.

OUR FRIENDSHIP, WHICH NOW SEEMS MOST
NATURAL AS WE WERE SIBLINGS WITH
SIMILAR PERSONALITIES, FLOURISHED.





HOWEVER, ONCE IT BECAME APPARENT
THAT YOU WANTED TO START UP A
COURTSHIP, FRANK, WHO HAD JUST
ARRIVED BACK TO LONDON, DETERMINED
TO HANDLE THE SITUATION HIMSELF.

THUS, HE SHOWED UP AT THE PARTY LAST
SATURDAY, WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE HE
HAD RETURNED TO LONDON... THUS, MY
SHOCK AND DROPPING OF MY CORSAGE... AS
HE HANDED THE CORSAGE BACK TO ME, HE
ALSO HANDED ME A NOTE HE HAD WRITTEN.





THE NOTE SIMPLY ASKED ME TO MEET HIM IN FIVE MINUTES IN THE COURTYARD OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL... IT APPEARS THIS HAD BEEN ARRANGED WITH MY BEST FRIEND, ALICE, WHO ALSO KNEW FRANK WHILE IN SAN FRANCISCO... HER FATHER, AS YOU KNOW, WORKS FOR OUR FATHER AND UNCLE.

THUS, I GATHERED MY COAT AND LEFT THE BUILDING, WITHOUT SAYING A WORD. FRANK AND ALICE EXPLAINED THE ENTIRE SITUATION TO ME.



"EYEBRIGHT"

METAL POLISH

IS
THE
BEST



FOR ALL METALS

1ST JOHNNY: HELLO, CHAPPY, YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, BEEN RE-PLATED?
2ND JOHNNY: NO, DEAR BOY JUST HAD A DOSE OF "EYEBRIGHT." IT'S MADE A NEW
SPOONRY OF ME! TRY IT, YOU'RE LOOKING DULL.

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FRANK WAS ALL FOR OPENNESS, AND
THAT I SHOULD RETURN INSIDE AND
TELL YOU THE ENTIRE STORY... BUT I
WAS SIMPLY TOO EMBARRASSED TO
FACE YOU AT THE TIME.

I LEFT WITH ALICE AND HAVE BEEN AT HER
HOUSE SINCE THEN... I KNOW I HAVE
WORRIED BOTH OUR PARENTS AND UNCLE, BUT
I JUST DID NOT KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.





FRANK AGREED TO MAKE IT LOOK
LIKE I HAD RUN AWAY BY TOSSING
MY PARTY DRESS INTO THE
FOUNTAIN, WHERE THE PREFECTS
WOULD EASILY FIND IT.

I AM SURE I WOULD HAVE BECOME
BRAVE ENOUGH TO FACE THE ENTIRE
FAMILY IN TIME, BUT THIS KIND
SOUL, MASTER HOLMES, CAME ROUND
TO FRANK AND ME THIS EVENING.



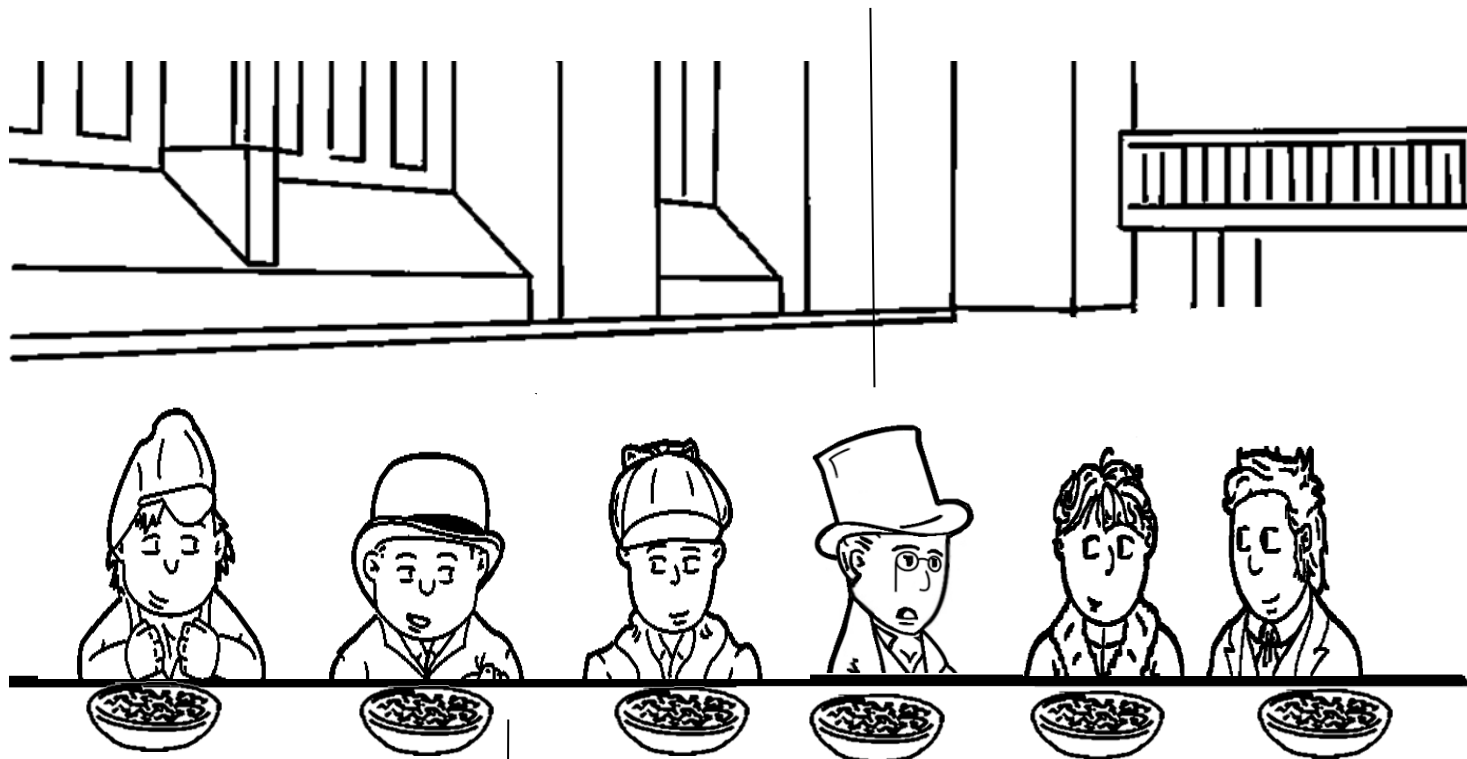


HE CONVINCED US THE TIME WAS
RIPE FOR THE ENTIRE STORY TO
COME OUT INTO THE OPEN, AND
CONTINUED SECRECY WOULD ONLY
HARM THE SITUATION MORE.

I HOPE YOU DO NOT THINK
VERY MEANLY OF ME.



WELL, AT LEAST I STILL HAVE FLORA MILLAR TO RETURN TO.



SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE GENTLEMAN!

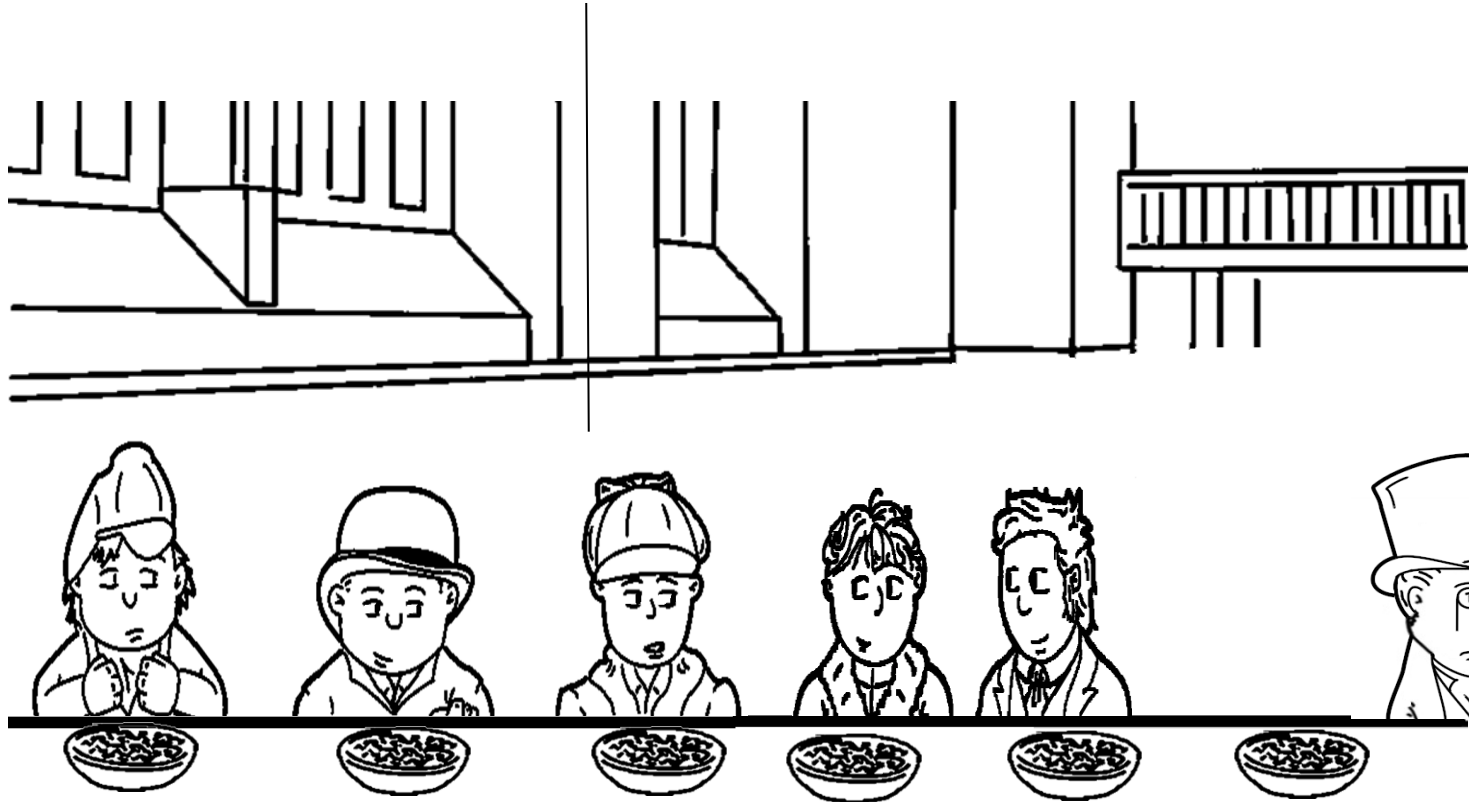
WOULD YOU JOIN US IN A FRIENDLY SUPPER?

MORE LIKE
MIDNIGHT
SNACK.



I THINK YOU ASK A LITTLE TOO MUCH... I WILL NOW WISH YOU
A GOOD NIGHT, AND DETERMINE WHERE I GO FROM HERE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THIS ACTION WILL INCLUDE
ACCEPTING YOU HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER AND SISTER
WHO WILL NOW BECOME PART OF YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.

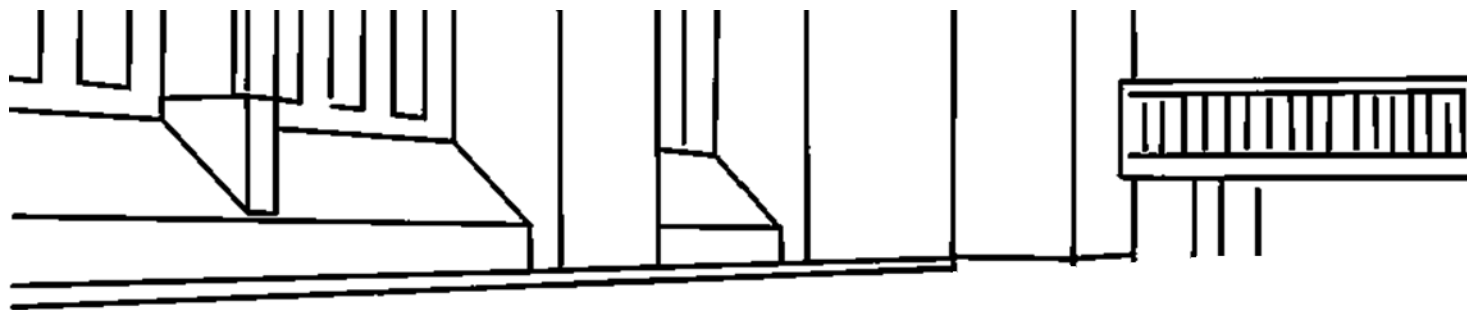




*I TRUST THAT YOU TWO WILL HONOUR
ME WITH YOUR COMPANY... IT IS
ALWAYS A JOY TO MEET SOMEONE WHO
HAS LIVED IN AMERICA.*

*I BELIEVE THE FOLLY OF A MONARCH AND THE
BLUNDERING OF A MINISTER IN FAR GONE
YEARS WILL NOT PREVENT OUR CHILDREN FROM
BEING SOMEDAY CITIZENS OF THE SAME
WORLD-WIDE COUNTRY UNDER A FLAG WHICH
SHALL BE A QUARTERING OF THE UNION JACK
WITH THE STARS AND STRIPES.*





WHAT ABOUT FRANCE?

LEAVE IT... HE'S ON A ROLL.

The next morning...

THE CASE HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING ONE, BECAUSE IT SHOWS HOW SIMPLE THE EXPLANATION MAY BE OF AN AFFAIR WHICH AT FIRST SIGHT SEEMS TO BE ALMOST INEXPLICABLE.

SIMPLE?? THIS SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY COMPLEX.



TWO FACTS WERE VERY OBVIOUS FROM THE START... SHE WAS WILLING TO BEGIN A COURTSHIP BY ATTENDING THE PARTY WITH ST. SIMON, AND THEN REPENTING WITHIN A FEW MINUTES OF ARRIVING.



OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING HAPPENED AT THE EVENT TO CAUSE HER TO CHANGE HER MIND... WHAT COULD THAT SOMETHING BE? SHE MUST HAVE SEEN SOMEONE, AS SHE COULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN TO ANYONE AS SHE WAS IN ST. SIMON'S COMPANY.

**SINCE SHE HAS BEEN IN ENGLAND
FOR SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF
TIME, I DEDUCED IT MUST HAVE
BEEN SOMEONE FROM AMERICA TO
HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT ON HER.**



**THEN WHO COULD THIS AMERICAN
BE? WHEN ST. SIMON PROVIDED
HIS NARRATIVE YESTERDAY, THE
LAD AT THE TABLE, AND THE
CHANGE IN DORAN'S MANNER, LED
TO HER RESORT TO HER AMERICAN
FRIEND, ALICE.**

**HER SIGNIFICANT ALLUSION TO
'BLOOD IS THICKER THAN PUNCH',
WHICH MEAN A FAMILY
RELATIONSHIP WAS INVOLVED, IT
BECAME ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.**



**SHE HAD GONE OFF WITH
ANOTHER, EITHER A BROTHER
OR OTHER RELATIVE, THE
CHANCES BEING IN FAVOUR
OF THE FORMER.**

AND HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU FIND THEM?

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT FRIEND
LESTRADE HELD INFORMATION IN HIS HANDS, THE
VALUE OF WHICH HE DID NOT HIMSELF KNOW.



THE INITIALS WERE OF COURSE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE...

MIGHTY COINCIDENTAL THAT TWO PEOPLE
IN ONE CASE HAVE THE SAME 3 INITIALS...

NONETHELESS, THE RECEIPT
WAS FROM ONE OF LONDON'S
MOST SELECT CANDY STORES.



HOW DID YOU DEDUCE THE SELECT?

*BY THE SELECT PRICES OF THE
CHOCOLATES AND OTHER ITEMS.*



AT THE SECOND STORE I VISITED IN
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE YESTERDAY,
I LEARNED THAT FRANCIS H.
MOULTON, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM
AMERICA, HAD PURCHASED THE VERY
ITEMS I SAW ON THE RECEIPT.



A SLIGHT INDUCEMENT FROM ME...
BY THE WAY, SHE WOULD NOT
ACCEPT OUR PLAYGROUND
BUTTONS... ALLOWED THE CASHIER
TO REVEAL TO ME WHERE THE
CANDIES WERE DELIVERED TO,
WHICH WAS ALICE'S RESIDENCE.

I FOUND THEM AT THE HOME, AND VENTURED TO
GIVE THEM SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE. I INVITED
THEM TO MEET ST. SIMON AT THE DINING HALL.

BUT WITH NO VERY GOOD RESULTS. HIS
CONDUCT WAS CERTAINLY NOT VERY GRACIOUS.



AH, PERHAPS YOU WOULD NOT BE VERY GRACIOUS EITHER,
AFTER YOU FOUND THE GIRL YOU WANTED TO COURT, AND MAY
SOMEDAY LEAD TO INCREASED WEALTH, YOU FOUND YOURSELF
DEPRIVED IN AN INSTANT OF GIRLFRIEND AND OF FORTUNE.

I THINK WE MAY JUDGE LORD ST. SIMON...

...ROBERT ST. SIMON...



*... ROBERT, VERY MERCIFULLY, AND THANK OUR
STARS WE ARE NEVER LIKELY TO FIND
OURSELVES IN THE SAME POSITION.*

NOW, OUR ONLY PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE TO SOLVE IS HOW
TO WHILE AWAY THESE BLEAK AUTUMNAL EVENINGS.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED TAKING UP A
HOBBY, SUCH AS COIN COLLECTING...
OR EVEN BEE-KEEPING?



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