

of brotherhood and mutual help is evident everywhere along the line. And it is sacrifice for an ideal which the soldier at last thinks is tremendous. Despite the rigid military discipline, there is a certain feeling of equality between the soldiers and officers, and the professor fights and watches side by side with the peasant. It is such factors that make war all the more a menace. If it were only ugly we might hope that this would be the last war, but I saw men by thousands who were proud of having fought and will be eager to fight again."

• • •

That Mr. Sherlock Holmes is the most widely known character of fiction in all history is a fact pretty well established in the minds of those who do not travel beyond the borders of the United States. But to realise the full extent of his notoriety one must have rambled among the book-shops of Spain or of Spanish-American lands on this side of the Atlantic. There will be found, behind gaudily coloured covers, a Señor Sherlock Holmes of Iberian appearance and deportment, who is the hero of an endless series of adventures, the very titles of which would be enough to mystify and astonish Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. These paper-covered books are printed in Barcelona, they represent the imaginative work of hack writers, and they are sold by the tens and hundreds of thousands to satisfy the appetites of readers in South America, Mexico, and Cuba. At the top of the cover there is a portrait of the creator of the science of deduction, a portrait which in general conforms to the picture first drawn almost a quarter of a century ago by Dr. Doyle in the pages of *A Study in Scarlet*, but so unconsciously yet subtly altered by the crude artist that it is a Spaniard whom we see instead of the lean, athletic Englishman of the original invention.

• • •

We do not know how many problems have confronted Señor Sherlock Holmes, but here is a partial list of titles which serves to indicate his activities:

The Seller of Corpses.
 The Theft of the Blue Diamond.
 The Daughter of the Usurer.
 Blackwell, the Pirate of the Thames.
 Jack the Ripper.
 The Forgers of London.
 The Bloody Hammer.
 A Criminal Doctor.
 The Director's Testament.
 Sherlock Holmes and the Opium Smugglers.
 In the Pittsburgh School of Crime.
 At the Doors of Death.
 The Red Widow of Paris.
 The Human Beast.
 A Night of Terror.
 The Robbery of the Pearl Necklace.
 The Infamous Gang of Cairo.
 The Shipwreck of Corfu.
 The King of the Bandits.

• • •

Second in importance only to Señor Sherlock Holmes is Señor John C. Raffles, whose Spanish exploits "John C. Raffles" would be likely to puzzle Mr. E. W. Hornung quite as much as the Sherlockian adventures would puzzle Mr. Hornung's brother-in-law, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They, too, are products of a Barcelona publisher and the work of Spanish hacks. With the apparent idea of adding a touch of verisimilitude, Raffles has been endowed with a Christian name and a middle initial. Hence the John C. Here is an indication of the tempestuous life of Raffles as presented to Spanish reading lovers of sensational fiction:

1. The Mysterious Unknown—The Punishment of a Dishonest Jeweller—The Treasure in a Sarcophagus—The Strategy of a Banker.
2. A Robbery in the Royal Palace—In the Catacombs of Paris—Money and Love—The Hindoo Idol.
3. The Gambling Prince—The Duke of Norfolk's Diamonds—Sunken Treasures—The Fake Detective Sergeant.
4. The Assault in the Sleeping Car—The Silver Apostle—Among the "Apaches" of Paris—The Punishment of Don Juan.
5. The Red Master—The Mystery of the

Mutilated Children—The Negro in the Boudoir—Among the Ruins of Messina.

6. The Heir of Eaglestone—The Alchemist—The Bank President—Number R. 100.

7. The Secret of the Ring—The Sacred Treasure of Siva—The King's Club—Inspector Baxter in a Mad-house.

8. The President of the Colonies—The Hindoo Mystery—The Four Fathers—An Easy Death.

9. The Pretended Highwayman—The

Alarm Trumpet—Raffles and the Chinese Chief of Police—The Queen of the Diamonds.

10. The Abducted Maiden—A Theft in a Museum—The Courtier of Belgrade—The Beautiful Lady.

11. The Negro's Gun—The Madman of Hanwell—The Two Who Bet and Won Nothing—Involuntary Vengeance.

12. The Rajah's Treasure—The Mysterious Comet—The Cocotte's Necklace—The Champion of Virtue.



ONE OF THE INNUMERABLE ADVENTURES OF THE SPANISH SHERLOCK HOLMES

13. A Wedding Journey—The Lady's Pearl Necklace—Mexican Gold—The Pirates of the Stock-Exchange.

14. The State Treasure—The Incurable Thief—The Palace of the Muses of Saint Helena—A Rung in Jacob's Ladder.

15. The Priest of the Sun—The Owner of the *Dolphin*—Between Honour and Crime—Under the Red Banner.

16. In the Rat-trap—The Georgian Prince—The Spirit of Lady Bertha Dunkel—The Most Difficult Task.

17. The Secret of the Treasure—The Usurper of the Inheritance—The Ruined Man—The Mysterious Aeroplane.

• • •

Reverting to Sherlock Holmes, there is the new story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Almost thirty years ago Dr. Doyle wrote an infinitely better tale according to the exact formula that he has used in *The Valley of Fear*. For *A Study in Scarlet* he received, for all



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN HIS FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR

rights, a sum amounting to about one hundred and twenty-five dollars. For that niggardly return he has since been amply compensated, but in actual value *The Valley of Fear* is worth perhaps about one-twentieth of what *A Study in Scarlet* was worth. Nevertheless, the new story is entertaining enough, and offers points for conjecture. At the time of his second visit to America, a year or two ago, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle met W. J. Burns, and listened to some of his experiences. There is more than a suggestion that on these experiences were based the American chapters of the new book, although there are reasons for thinking that the prototypes of the Scowlers were the Molly Maguires of former days. There is a point of resemblance between Doyle and Burns. Mr. Burns has recently been attempting to prove the innocence of Leo Frank, of Atlanta, Georgia. Twice has Doyle adapted the reasoning processes of Sherlock Holmes to real life; first in the case of Edjali the Syrian, and later in the affair of Oscar Slater. Slater was suspected of having murdered a wealthy woman in Glasgow under mysterious circumstances. He sailed for America and was arrested in New York. On his return to Scotland he was condemned to death. Two days before the execution his sentence was changed to imprisonment for life. Doyle's purpose was to clear an innocent man. He was not successful, but the reason for that, he believes to-day, is that the authorities responsible for the condemnation of Slater wanted to clear themselves of the accusation of error before they thought of restoring justice.

• • •

To Russia as well as to Spain has the influence of Sherlock Holmes found its way. Among the books published in 1908 there were more than a thousand sensational novels, classed as "Nat Pinkerton and Sherlock Holmes Literature," with such expressive titles as *The Hanged*, *The Stranglers*, *The Disinterred Corpse*, and *The Expropriators*. A Russian critic has found in this sensational literature the expression of a

national sentiment. It is significant of a revolt against three great ideas that have at different times dominated Russian literature: the quiet pessimism of Turgenyev, the Christian non-resistance religion of Tolstoy, and the familiar Russian type of will-less philosophy. The new craze for "Nat Pinkerton and Sherlock Holmes" stories, the critic thinks, foreshadows a complete change in the Russian reader, the decay of the literature of passivity, and the rise of a new literature of action and physical revolt.

• • •

The very extraordinary motion-picture film entitled *The Birth of a Nation* and depicting, among other scenes, the activities of the Ku Klux Klan during the Reconstruction days in the South, recalls a time when the discretion of Sherlock Holmes reached heights that were ludicrous. It was in "The Adventure of the Five Orange Pits." Holmes had been busy tracing the movements of the American barque *Lone Star* and was reporting the results of his labour to Watson in the seclusion of their rooms in Upper Baker Street. It was only after a cautious look about him and then in a whisper that he asked the question: "Have you ever heard of the Ku Klux Klan?" As a matter of fact, the query was one that at the time could have been shouted with perfect safety by any man, woman or child in any part of the United States. The work of the Ku Klux had been done, and the men who had worn its mystic insignia had gone back to their various peaceful occupations of farming, clerking, and building. To English readers the precautionary glance and the lowered tone may have brought a thrill; to Americans they were nothing more than a source of mild amusement.

• • •

The Anthony Trollope centenary, which comes the 24th of this month, is, with the exception of that of George Eliot, practically the last centenary of that particular group of novelists that is associated with the Victorian era.