



I only quote
this as a
trivial
example of
observation
and
inference.

Adventure II -- The Sign of Four

1. "...while the individual man is an insoluble puzzle, in the aggregate he becomes a mathematical certainty."
2. "A change of work is the best rest."
3. "A strange enigma is man!"
4. "But love is an emotional thing, and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things. I should never marry myself, lest I bias my judgment."
5. "Crime is commonplace, existence is commonplace, and no qualities save those which are commonplace have any function upon earth."
6. "Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner."
7. "Eliminate all other factors, and the one which remains must be the truth."
8. "How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?"



9. "How small we feel with our petty ambitions and strivings in the presence of the great elemental forces of Nature!"
10. "How small we feel with our petty ambitions and strivings in the presence of the great elemental forces of Nature!"
11. "I abhor the dull routine of existence"
12. "I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection."
13. "I cannot live without brain-work. What else is there to live for?"
14. "I have a curious constitution. I never remember feeling tired by work, though idleness exhausts me completely."
15. "I never guess. It is a shocking habit — destructive to the logical faculty."
16. "I never make exceptions. An exception disproves the rule."
17. "It is of the first importance not to allow your judgment to be biased by personal qualities."
18. "It is the unofficial force – the Baker Street irregulars."
19. "I've had ups in my life, and I've had downs, but I've learned not to cry over spilled milk."
20. "My mind rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere."
21. "Some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them."

22. "The chief proof of man's real greatness lies in his perception of his own smallness."
23. "The emotional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning."
24. "The main thing with people of that sort is never to let them think that their information can be of the slightest importance to you."
25. "The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward."
26. "There is something devilish in this, Watson, what do you make of it?"
27. "Winwood Reade is good upon the subject; he remarks that, while the individual man is an insoluble puzzle, in the aggregate he becomes a mathematical certainty."
28. "Women are never to be entirely trusted — not the best of them."
29. "You know my methods. Apply them."