



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

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure V -- A Case of Identity

1. "A certain selection and discretion must be used in producing a realistic effect. Depend upon it, there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace."
2. "I can never bring you to realize the importance of sleeves, the suggestiveness of thumb-nails, or the great issues that may hang from a boot-lace."
3. "Indeed, I have found that it is usually in unimportant matters that there is a field for the observation, and for the quick analysis of cause and effect which gives the charm to an investigation."
4. "It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important."
5. "It is a curious thing that a typewriter has really quite as much individuality as a man's handwriting. Unless they are quite new, no two of them write exactly alike."
6. "It is my business to know things. Perhaps I have trained myself to see what others overlook."
7. "Life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent."



8. "Never trust to general impressions, my boy, but concentrate yourself upon details."
9. "Oscillation upon the pavement always means an *affaire de coeur*."
10. "That fellow will rise from crime to crime until he does something very bad, and ends on a gallows."
11. "The case has, in some respects, been not entirely devoid of interest."
12. "The larger crimes are apt to be the simpler, for the bigger the crime the more obvious, as a rule, is the motive."
13. "When a woman has been seriously wronged by a man she no longer oscillates, and the usual symptom is a broken bell wire."
14. "You did not know where to look, and so you missed all that was important. I can never bring you to realize the importance of sleeves, the suggestiveness of thumb-nails, or the great issues that may hand from a boot-lace."
15. "You may remember the old Persian saying, 'There is danger for him who taketh the tiger cub, and danger also for who so snatches a delusion from a woman.' There is as much sense in Hafiz as in Horace, and as much knowledge of the world."