



## The Hounds of the Internet

"A singular set of people, Watson."

ogy for this adventure displays differences of opinion amongst our chronologists.

If the case took place in 1889, as the majority states, at the time Holmes was 36 years old and Watson 38.

### Main Characters:

Neville St. Clair, well-to-do businessman. "Hugh Boone," Neville's alter ego, a filthy, disfigured beggar. Mrs. Neville St. Clair, Neville's concerned wife. Isa Whitney, hopeless opium addict and Watson's patient. Kate Whitney, Isa's wife and old friend of Mary Watson. Mary Watson, Doctor John H. Watson's wife. Inspector Bradstreet, a Scotland Yarder.

### Notable Quotes:

It was difficult to refuse any of Sherlock Holmes' requests, for they were always so exceedingly definite, and put forward with such a quiet air of mastery. I felt, however, that when Whitney was once confined in the cab my mission was practically accomplished; and for the rest, I could not wish anything better than to be associated with my friend in one of those singular adventures which were the normal condition of his existence.

"A trusty comrade is always of use. And a chronicler still more so."

"You have a grand gift of silence, Watson."

"There is nothing so important as trifles."

"I have seen too much not to know that the impression of a woman may be more valuable than the conclusion of an analytical reasoner."

"It is better to learn wisdom late than never to learn it at all."

## An Inquiry into: "The Man with the Twisted Lip"

Vol. XIV No. 8 • November 16, 2023

"The Man with the Twisted Lip" was first published in *The Strand Magazine* in February 1892. It is part of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

As is almost always the case, the table showing the chronol-

### The Man with the Twisted Lip

<i>Chronologist</i>	<i>Date of the Adventure</i>
<i>Canon</i>	<i>June 19, 1889</i>
<i>Baring-Gould</i>	<i>Saturday, June 18, 1887</i>
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Friday, June 14, 1889</i>
<i>Blakeney</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>
<i>Brend</i>	<i>Late June 1889</i>
<i>Christ</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 19, 1889</i>
<i>Dakin</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>
<i>Folsom</i>	<i>Tuesday, probably June 18, 1889</i>
<i>Hall</i>	<i>June 17, 1889</i>
<i>Keefauver</i>	<i>Friday June 21st 1889</i>
<i>Klinger</i>	<i>1889</i>
<i>Zeisler</i>	<i>Friday, June 21, 1889</i>

Please note that Canon chronologists may differ on pivotal dates and comparative periods between cases, thus a simple majority is not necessarily correct. Most Canon scholars settle on a single chronologist's results for their research framework.

## *The Impressive Physician*

Even considering that the Pharmacy Act of 1868 restricted the sale of opium products to pharmacists, products such as laudanum (a tincture of 10% opium—the equivalent of 1% morphine—dissolved in alcohol) were regularly prescribed, often sold over the counter, for pain relief or other symptoms.



Laudanum was so ubiquitous it is sometimes referred to as “the aspirin of the 19th Century.” The label directed how many drops of the concoction could be given to toddlers: one drop for a three-month-old, 4 drops for a one-year-old and so forth.

While in 1889 opium dens and the use of cocaine and other narcotics might have been frowned upon by polite society, they were not illegal. Abuse of these

opioids was viewed instead as a societal, rather than criminal, problem. Although overwhelmingly these establishments were operated by criminals, these felons were not necessarily murderers. Sometime they were “recruiters”—many a client would awake from his opium-induced dreams and find himself aboard a vessel well out to sea. Back then, “Shanghai” did not necessarily refer to a Chinese port city on the southern estuary of the Yangtze River.

Although opium dens in Victorian London were usually run by foreigners, (usually belonging to one of the, well, “lesser races”) because no Englishman would involve himself in such a dastardly trade. In actuality, many of these establishments—usually along the port cities—were owned by white English criminals; as owners it was their job to “convince” the police to be tolerant.

While usually, these places were situated in the kinds of neighborhoods in which even the rats walked in pairs, it should be noted that opium dens were not exclusive to Limehouse. As was the case with brothels, there were some really posh ones in fine parts of the Imperial City for those toffs who cared to indulge in considerably more pleasant surroundings.

However, the Bar of Gold, where Watson went in search of Isa Whitney, was far from being



first-class and, as we learned from Holmes, it was an extremely dangerous place run by criminals who did not hesitate to cut a throat if deemed necessary. Just going by the address Mary should have realized what kind of hellhole she was sending her husband to; yet she did not seem to raise any objec-



tions about it, or suggest that the Good Doctor pocket his trusty service revolver or even ask that he pick up a constable or two on the way. Did she believe him to be that formidable and impressive? It must be remembered that these establishments were not overly hospitable to those were not customers.

I prefer to view this as innocence on her part, instead of a lack of concern for Watson's safety.

### *The Tedious Patient*

Once would think that by this time Watson—both as doctor and friend—must have become a little weary of Isa and his recurring problems.

While Holmes' eagerness to get Watson to join him is understandable, it is obvious that the Good Doctor needed very little convincing to unload Isa, readily packing him off to his long-grieving wife under the uncertain care of a cabman. Although it was very likely that Holmes was right and Whitney was "too limp to get into any mischief," Watson exhibited a marked unmedical lack of concern over the subject of the mission he undertook to perform both for Mrs. Whitney and his own wife.

Maybe Mrs. Watson's apparent indifference over the Good Doctor's safety stung just a little, hence the short note sent along with semi-conscious Isa: "Oh, by the way, I've hooked up with Holmes again, let Jackson know so he can take over my patients. I'll be back, but don't know when. Love, John, James, or whatever."



### *St. Clair's Hidey-Hole and His Reaction*

Holmes tells Watson that as Mrs. St. Clair walked about shabby Swandam Lane looking for a cab, she heard a loud "ejaculation or cry" and looked up to see her husband looking down at her from a second-floor window.

Some students of the Sacred Writings identify the eerie and narrow Upper Swandam Lane with Swan Lane, which back then time was quite populous and noisy. It was not a place where quality folk would want to loiter because, as Watson rightly described it, it was "a vile alley lurking behind the high wharves which line the north side of the river to the east of London Bridge. Between a slop-shop and a gin-shop, approached by a steep flight of steps leading down to a black gap like the mouth of a cave. . . ." It would appear St. Clair chose his lair well.

However, there is no explanation as to why St. Clair uttered a cry from a second-storey window, loud enough to be heard over the street noises. Holmes specified that Mrs. St. Clair looked up only *after* her attention was attracted by her husband's unexplainably loud howl. On his part a nor-



mal reaction would have been a low mutter, “Oh, butterscotch!” or some other piquant exclamation, followed by a hurried but discreet retreat into the darkness of Boone’s room.

However, instead it appears that at the top of his lungs he cried something like, “Ye gods, the wife!” while desperately waving his hands at her.

Aside from all this, considering that he probably went to “work” every day, why he would have been disposed to place himself in the hands of the rascally Lascar? Surely he could have rented a room in some ramshackle, out of the way place instead. Just as today, back then there were many such places where someone could come and go as needed without anyone noticing (or even better yet not wanting to notice) who he was and what he was involved in. A good example of this is Saucy Jack—he gamboled his way across the East End with impunity searching for ladies of the evening without any of the numerous Whitechapel residents taking any notice or interest.

### *The Impenetrable Disguise*

Although we all know that Sherlock Holmes was a master of disguise, it is clear that Neville St. Clair could not have been too far behind, considering that regardless of his considerable expertise in the art of disguise our sleuth could not penetrate the “Boone” persona in the Bow Street cell; otherwise, this would have been a considerably shorter story.



So what was the tipoff for the Great Detective? How did he come, during his overnight deductive session in the company of a sleeping Watson and an ounce of shag tobacco, to conclude that Neville St. Clair and the beggar Boone were one and the same?

The only explanation that I am able to come up with is that he is Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street and we are not.

### *The Beggar’s Income*

Neville reveals to our friends that the first time he attempted beggary, he netted 26s 4d in seven hours ( $\approx$ \$493, or \$70 per hour). After becoming professional he claimed that an income of £700 ( $\approx$ \$263,000) would have been *below* his average yearly earnings. There is little surprise, therefore, in the fact that he could afford to invest in various business, buy a house, marry, and raise a family.

Although Neville said that he had been well educated, considering that he had tried and abandoned acting and that he took up working arduously as a journalist for a measly £2 ( $\approx$ \$75) a week, it seems unlikely that he could have had anything remotely approaching a profession. He surely was not a lawyer or physician and did not seem to possess any other kind of substantial career.

According to St. Clair, “it was a very bad day in which I failed to take £2.” For the sake of calculating his yearly earnings, let us assume that he averaged about £3 ( $\approx$ \$1,130) per day. That would have put his yearly at about £720 ( $\approx$ \$270,000). Small wonder that besides all his other interest and family he had a balance of £220 ( $\approx$ \$83,000) in his bank account!



So what happened to Neville St. Clair after his seeming redemption? We venture here into unexplored country. Regardless of how good his investments were it is unlikely that a £700 cut in income did not severely impacted his earnings and standard of living.

This brings us to the main question: Could he have afforded to be true to his word, or did economic conditions move him to fashion another highly successful beggar?

Although disgraceful in polite society's eyes, beggary was not unlawful. Because his family still knew nothing about his life as Boone and had no reason to even remotely suspect that he would engage in anything of that kind, nothing would have prevented him from resuming his customary, extremely gainful schedule, by creating a new persona for his flourishing professional beggary.

### *Neville's Legal Position*

#### **== Neville's Legal Position ==**

Neville got away with his beggary because no crime was committed. Although begging on the streets was not approved by the law, he several times paid a fine for his street begging. Thus, Bradstreet's decision to let St. Clair go on condition that it would be the end of Hugh Boone is not at all surprising.

### *Speaking of Earnings*

In THOR, we witness Holmes coldly informing Gibson, the disreputable American multimillionaire that "My professional charges are upon a fixed scale. I do not vary them, save when I remit them altogether."



With all due respect to the Great Detective and his fee ethics, he still was extremely pleased to get that £6,000 (£12,000?) check from the Duke of Holderness in PRIO. Add to this his comment in SCAN which is also revealing of what seems to have been a very flexible scale: "There's money in this case, Watson, if there is nothing else." It is logical to speculate that on occasion that "fixed scale" slipped somewhat.

Nevertheless, all else being equal, what was Holmes' "standard" fee?

At the zenith of his profession with a practice that extended to the Continent as well as the United States, it seems fair to compare his rates to those of other top professionals, such as physicians.

An eminent physician (the equivalent of a consultant today) could command a fee in the range of 6g (≈\$2,400) or more per visit. Because doctors were gentlemen (and gentlemen were supposed to be independently wealthy and not bother to charge for their work), the fee was usually placed in an envelope discreetly left on a convenient table within the doctor's reach.

In view of his reputation, it is logical to assume that Holmes' average fee hovered at the consultant's level; after all he already described himself as a consulting detective even back in the days of STUD.



Surely, if the client was poor and the problem interested him, Holmes would have charged far less or even forsaken a fee. In the case of someone like Holdernes, he would not have hesitated to adjust his fee upwards to coincide with the man's personal worth.

And St. Clair could certainly have afforded a good, solid fee.



### *What else happened in 1889:*

Great Seal of the United Kingdom is affixed to the charter of the British South Africa Company. Company is assigned trading and other rights over a vast territory, with the express reservation to the Crown to take over at any time the works and buildings of the Company.



◀ Transvaal claimed to be “encircled” by Rhodes’ concessions in East Africa. Rhodesia established.

At Cairo, Henry Stanley ends his three-year African expedition. He is knighted upon his return to England. Writes *In Darkest Africa*.

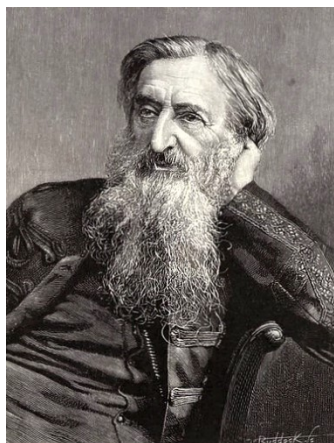
Colonel Woodehouse defeats Dervish horde in Sudan. General Grenfell, commanding British troops on the Nile attacks and defeats

Dervish troops, with 500 killed and wounded, and as many taken prisoner.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is completed from coast to coast.

### *Britain*

Great London Dockers’ Strike; the “Dockers’ Tanner”; growth of unskilled workers’ unions; New Unionism; Gasworkers’ Union formed. Strike is finally arbitrated in the workers’ favor by the popular Catholic Cardinal Henry Manning.



Parnell vindicated as all charges are revealed as false. *The London Times* apologizes.

◀ General Booth publishes *Survey of London Life and Labour*.

Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, opens.

Technical Education Act: County Councils to levy 1d for technical and manual education.

Establishment of the telephone company.

John Bright, orator and politician, leading spirit in the Anti-Corn Law League, dies.

Board of Agriculture becomes government department with minister.

Metropolitan Board of Works replaced by London County Council.

Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, opens.

Early use of photographs in newspaper: *Illustrated London News* runs Cambridge and Oxford boat crews competition.

Woolwich Ferry starts.

White Hart Inn, Borough High Street, one of the last coaching inns, demolished.

Act to prevent cruelty to children.

Board of Agriculture becomes government department with minister.

## *World*

Japan's Meiji constitution. Arinori Mori, minister of education assassinated by Shinto fanatic.

*Wall Street Journal* begins publishing.

Moulin Rouge opens in Paris.

North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington admitted as U.S.A. states.



U.S.A. Senate, in secret session, passes resolution declaring against European control of the Panama Canal.

◀ Italy takes Somalia and Ethiopia. Yohannes IV (Kasa) Emperor of Ethiopia dies in battle.

Congress of French Revolutionary Labor Party at Bordeaux.

President Harrison, of the U.S.A., closes Bering Sea to all nations; issues proclamation prohibiting the killing of fur animals within Alaska without a special government permit.

Crown Prince Archduke Rudolph of Austria-Hungary and Baroness Maria Vetsera are found dead at the hunting lodge of Mayerling, outside Vienna, allegedly a murder-suicide. (In 1983, former Austrian empress Zita claimed it was an assassination by two conspirators when Rudolf refused to take part in a plot to oust his father Emperor Franz Josef.)

Treaty of Acciali: Ethiopia made Italian protectorate.

Ivory Coast is declared a protectorate of France.

Part of Oklahoma Indian lands open to homesteading.



Portuguese under Pinto try to extend influence in Zambesi Valley; Anglo-Portuguese dispute.

End of Portuguese Empire in Brazil; republic proclaimed and Dom Pedro, the emperor, exiled.

Abdication of King Milan of Serbia; accession of Alexander.

◀ Father Damien, worker among lepers in Molokai, Hawaii, dies of the disease.

Uprising in the island of Crete. Turkish authorities expelled and public archives destroyed. Turkey calls up 80,000 reservists, but promises to inquire into legitimate grievances.

Russian jurors to be nominated by government.

King Ferdinand II of Portugal dies at age 73.

Stanley's expedition reaches Bagamoyo in Indian Ocean.

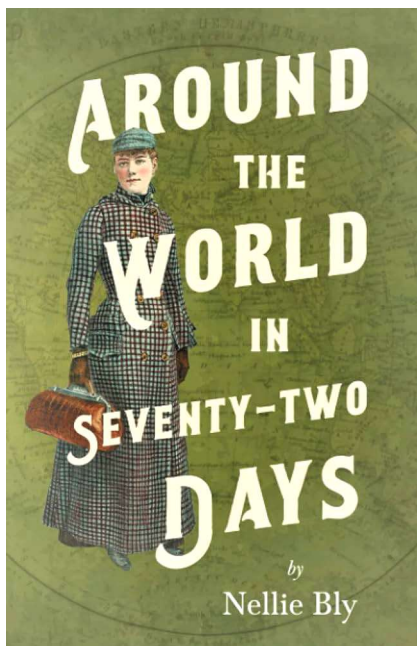
Aristocratic "Land Captains" replace elected JPs in Russia.

Influenza reaches Europe and America from Siberia.

General Boulanger, former French War Minister leaves country, addresses manifesto to his party that he left the country to avoid arrest, French Chambers authorize the Senate to try Boulanger and others in absentia, for high treason. The general and his staff are found guilty and condemned to life imprisonment.

Jefferson Davis dies in Mississippi.

Paris Exhibition: proof of industrial development in France. Continental monarchies abstain from all official representation. English and American ambassadors attend. Eiffel Tower built for the event is dedicated in a ceremony presided over by Gustave Eiffel, the designer, and attended by French Prime Minister Pierre Tirard. At 985 feet high, taller than the Great Pyramid, the Eiffel Tower becomes highest structure on Earth.



Lectures at Dorpat University to be in Russian; German forbidden in schools.

Brunner-Mond Salt Union formed; combine of 64 firms.

Private tolls abolished on French Canals.

◀ New York World's Nellie Bly (Liz Cochrane) begins world trip to beat Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg (*Around the World in 80 Days*). Takes 72 days.

The Pemberton Medicine Company (later the Coca-Cola Company), is incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia.

Work on Panama Canal stopped; French company bankrupt, U.S.A. takes over, finishes canal.

Johnstown flood kills more than 6,000, losses climb to \$40,000,000.

Civil war in Haiti ends. General Légitime defeated by General Hippolyte, who becomes president.

Bismarck introduces Old Age Insurance in Germany.

Erection of Tacoma Building in Chicago. First skyscraper, 13 storeys high.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad establishes the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, a reform sect of Islam.

Conference at Berlin guarantees an autonomous government to the Samoan Islands under the joint control of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany.

### *Art*

Sir James Barrie's *A Window in Thrums*, sketches of Scottish village life.

Robert Browning publishes *Asolando*, a poem. Dies later in the year.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle publishes *A Sign of Four*.

Jerome K. Jerome publishes stories, *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow*, *Three Men in a Boat*.

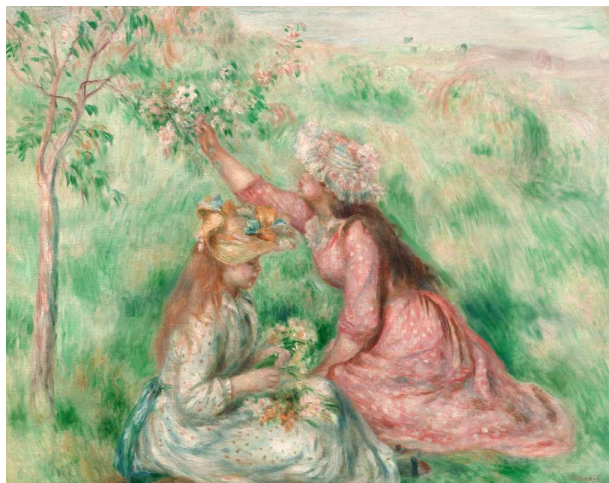
Mark Twain publishes *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

Robert Louis Stevenson publishes *Master of Ballantrae*.



William Butler Yeats publishes *The Wanderings of Oisín*.

Paul Bourget publishes *Le Disciple*, a psychological novel.



Gerhart J. Hauptmann publishes *Vor Sonnenaufgang*, German realistic play.

Sudermann publishes *Die Ehre*, a German play.

Dvorak presents *Symphony No. 4 in G Major*.

Gilbert and Sullivan present *The Gondoliers*.

◀ Renoir paints *Girls Picking Flowers*.

Seurat paints *The Side Show*.

Van Gogh paints *Man with a Pipe* (self-portrait), *The Olive Grove*, and *Starry Night*.

Cézanne paints *Harlequin*.

Tchaikovsky introduces *The Sleeping Princess* ballet.

Richard Strauss introduces *Tod und Verklärung*, tone poem.

### ***Science and Technology***

Hollerith's punched-card system widely used in industry.

First ship-to-shore wireless message is received in the U.S., at San Francisco.

The first General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) defines the length of a meter as the distance between two lines on a standard bar of an alloy of platinum with ten percent iridium, measured at the melting point of ice.

Eastman's Kodak camera comes into production, using photographic film.

Astronomical Society of Pacific holds first meeting in San Francisco, California.

Ferdinand von Zeppelin patents his "Navigable Balloon."

The first jukebox makes its debut at the Palais Royale Saloon in San Francisco, California. For a nickel, one can listen to a few minutes of music through a tube of an Edison tinfoil phonograph.



In Potsdam, Germany, Ernst von Rebeur-Paschwitz makes the first known recordings of a distant earthquake, taken place in Tokyo, Japan, an hour earlier.

◀ The brassiere is invented.

First dishwashing machine marketed in Chicago.

Mering and Minkowski show that the pancreas prevents diabetes.

Daniel Stover and William Hance patent bicycle with back pedal brake.

William Gray patents coin-operated telephone.

First linotype machine in use.

Thomas Edison shows his first motion picture.

Aspirin patented in Germany by Bayer Laboratories, first introduced in powder form.

Panhard and Levassor begin using Daimler's engines in French cars, using modern layout.

*Next week's case: SPEC.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Murray, the Courageous Orderly*

(a.k.a. Alexander E. Braun)

"I should have fallen into the hands  
of the murderous Ghazis had it not  
been for the devotion and courage  
shown by Murray, my orderly..."

*All Sherlock Holmes photos have been published by courtesy of ITV Granada.*

**If you would like to join the Hounds of the Internet, email us at [CourageousMurray@aol.com](mailto:CourageousMurray@aol.com).**

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