



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XII -- The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor

**First published in:**

*The Strand Magazine*, April 1892

**Time frame of story (known/surmised):**

Autumn (given) of 1887 or 1888 (given by age and birth year of client). First half of October, as indicated by hotel bill. A few weeks before Watson's marriage.

**Holmes & Watson living arrangements:**

Sharing bachelor quarters at 221B Baker St.

**Opening scene:**

Letter from Client. Holmes & Watson review newspaper accounts of case. Client arrives at 221B and is interviewed by Holmes. After client departs, Holmes tells Watson he has solved the case.



**Client:**

The Noble Bachelor, Lord St. Simon. Referred to Holmes by Lord Backwater.

**Crime or concern:**

Client's wife disappeared shortly following wedding ceremony.

**Villain:**

None. The least sympathetic character in the story seems to be the client himself.

**Motive:**

Bride departs having discovered an earlier husband whom she believed was dead, is in fact, alive.

**Logic used to solve:**

Circumstantial evidence (the trout in the milk) and knowledge of similar cases.

**Policemen:**

Inspector Lestrade, who does not distinguish himself in his detecting.

**Holmes' fees:**

Not mentioned in story.

**Transport:**

Holmes traveled "thither" by unspecified means.

**Food:**

A quite epicurean little cold supper was laid out upon Holmes & Watson's table. There were a couple of brace of cold woodcock, a pheasant, a pate de foie gras pie with a group of ancient and cobwebby bottles. Holmes had ordered this from a confectioner in anticipation of being joined for supper by his noble client, the bride, and her husband.

**Drink and Vices:**

Holmes had a whisky and cigar after questioning St. Simon. Extra tumbler and cigars offered to Lestrade when he came to see Holmes shortly after.

**Other cases mentioned:**

The problem of the Grosvenor square furniture van.

Some previous dealings, arrangement, or relationship Holmes had with Lord Backwater.

**Notable Quotables:**

“They often vanish before the ceremony, and occasionally during the honeymoon; but I cannot call to mind anything quite so prompt as this.”

“It is very good of Lord St. Simon to honour my head by putting it on a level with his own,”

“I believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes.”

**Other interestings:**

In this story, Holmes & Watson have a page-boy.

Holmes does a put-down his snobby client by mentioning previous client “of the sort” was a King.

**McMurdo's Camp**