



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

The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXXIX -- The Adventure of the Abbey Grange

1. "As a matter of fact, burglars who have done a good stroke of business are, as a rule, only too glad to enjoy the proceeds in peace and quiet without embarking on another perilous undertaking."
2. "At present I am, as you know, fairly busy, but I propose to devote my declining years to the composition of a textbook which shall focus the whole art of detection into one volume."
3. "Come, Watson, come! The game is afoot. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!"
4. "How slow-witted I have been, and how nearly I have committed the blunder of my lifetime!"
5. "I must admit, Watson, that you have some power of selection, which atones for much which I deplore in your narratives. Your fatal habit of looking at everything from the point of view of a story instead of as a scientific exercise has ruined what might have been an instructive and even classical series of demonstrations. You slur over work of the utmost finesse and delicacy, in order to dwell upon sensational details which may excite, but cannot possibly instruct, the reader."



6. "I should not sit here smoking with you if I thought that you were a common criminal, you may be sure of that."
7. "If I had not taken things for granted, if I had approached everything with care which I should have shown had we approached the case *de novo* and had no cut-and-dried story to warp my mind, should I not then have found something more definite to go upon?"
8. "It is unusual for burglars to operate at so early an hour, it is unusual for burglars to strike a lady to prevent her screaming, since one would imagine that was the sure way to make her scream, it is unusual for them to commit murder when their numbers are sufficient to overpower one man, it is unusual for them to be content with a limited plunder when there was much more within their reach, and finally, I should say, that it was very unusual for such men to leave a bottle half empty."
9. "Let us know a little more before we act."
10. "Once or twice in my career I feel that I have done more real harm by my discovery of the criminal than ever he had done by his crime. I have learned caution now, and I had rather play tricks with the law of England than with my own conscience."
11. "Perhaps, when a man has special knowledge and special powers like my own, it rather encourages him to seek a complex explanation when a simpler one is at hand."
12. "The lady's charming personality must not be permitted to warp our judgment."
13. "*Vox populei, vox Dei.*" ('the voice of the people is the voice of God')
14. "Watson, you are a British jury, and I never met a man who more eminently fitted to represent one."
15. "We are moving in high life, Watson."

16. "We have not yet met our Waterloo, but this is our Marengo, for it begins in defeat and ends in victory."
17. "What I know is unofficial; What he knows is official. I have the right to private judgment, but he has none. He must disclose all, or he is a traitor to his service."