



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

His Last Bow

Adventure XLV -- The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax

1. "All my instincts tell me that she is in London, but as we have possible means of telling where, we can only take the obvious steps, eat our dinner, and possess our souls in patience."
2. "And a singularly consistent investigation you have made, my dear Watson. I cannot at the moment recall any possible blunder which you have omitted. The total effect of your proceeding has been to give the alarm everywhere and yet to discover nothing."
3. "Besides, on general principles it is best that I should not leave the country. Scotland Yard feels lonely without me, and it causes an unhealthy excitement among the criminal classes."
4. "One of the most dangerous classes in the world's the drifting and friendless woman. She is the most harmless and often the most useful of mortals, but she is the inevitable inciter of crime in others. She is helpless. She is migratory. She has sufficient means to take her from country to country and from hotel to hotel. She is lost, as often as not, in a maze of obscure pensions and boardinghouses. She is a stray chicken in a world of foxes. When she is gobbled up she is hardly missed."



5. "Should you care to add the case to your annals, my dear Watson, it can only be as an example of that temporary eclipse to which even the best-balanced mind may be exposed. Such slips are common to all mortals, and the greatest is he who can recognize and repair them."
6. "There is one correspondent who is a sure draw, Watson. That is the bank. Single ladies must live, and their passbooks are compressed diaries."
7. "Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just."
8. "What has become of any brains that God has given me?"
9. "When you follow two desperate chains of thought, Watson, you will find some point of intersection which should approximate to the truth."