A SHRELOCK HOLMES.

A Sharp Eyed Individual Whose Deductions Were Logical.

"The last man who used this 'phone," said a New Orleans Sherlock Holmes, preparing to wrestle with the instrument in a public station, "was a short little fellow in a deuce of a hurry, smoking a cigarette. He asked for the Illinois Central freight office, was told they were busy and repeated the request five times, getting madder at each call. Meanwhile his cigarette went out, and after vainly searching for a match"——

"Hold on there!" exclaimed a friend, who had accompanied him to the booth. "What kind of a fairy story are you giving me, anyhow?"

"No fairy story at all," replied the amateur sleuth, blandly. "I was merely stating a few facts."

"But how the dickens did you ascertain them?"

"Plain as A B C, my boy. To begin with, the adjustable mouthpiece of the instrument is pulled down, as you see, to its fullest extent, indicating clearly that the last user was very much undersized. Isn't that evident?"

"Y-e-e-es, I guess so; but how about the rest?"

"Well, look at that ledge, and you will observe five charred spots and an equal number of small piles of tobacco ash. What do you infer? Why, obviously, that the gentleman was smoking and laid down his cigarette each time he called. The piles of ash are still undisturbed, showing they were recently deposited, and they are small, proving plainly that the intervals of calling were brief.

"My logical conclusion was that the 'phone he wanted happened to be busy, and I looked instinctively for a memorandum of its number, which most men make under such circumstances. I found it, as I anticipated, on top of the box, scrawled in pencil and recognized the number of the freight office. Such memoranda are almost always rubbed out by the sleeve of the next customer, and as this one is still fresh and bright, it is fair to presume it was made by the last man in the booth—otherwise the short chap with the cigarette. Moreover, a freight office 'phone is usually busy at this hour, so the clews interlock and sustain one another. Not so, my dear boy?"

"But the matches?"

"Oh, deduce the match incident from those fresh toothpicks on the floor. Where a man in a hurry searches for a match he invaribly finds quantities of toothpicks. I would"

"Are you through with that 'phone?" asked a short, stout stranger, appearing suddenly at the door and vigorously puffing a cigarette: "because if you are I"——

"Certainly, sir," said the analyst, smiling. "I think you will find the freight office disengaged at present."

"Well, I'll be hanged," said the friend.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Leader Led.



"Whar yo' gwine wif dat calf, Eph?"

"I dunno. He don't seem to hab made up his min' yit!"

A Slight Reduction.

"Wretch! There's a letter in your coat pocket I gave you to mail three months ago!"

"It can't be possible, my dear."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because I'm pretty sure I haven't had that coat more'n ten weeks!"

More Select.

"If I were Postmaster General, "he said effusively, "I would put your picture on every stamp.

"Oh, I prefer being kissed by just one man," she answered.

And then they began on the second hundred.—Philadelphia North American.

An Illustration.

Teacher—John, illustrate the difference between sit and set.

Bright and patriotic boy—The United States is a country on which the sun never sets and the rest of the world never sits.—Detroit Journal.

What She Thought.

Husband—What did you think when you heard the chandelier fall in the night?"

Wife—I thought you had been detained on "business" again, and were getng upstairs as quietly as you could."—Tit Bits.

Superiority In Villainy.

"Why am I shook?" asked the wife murderer.

"The ladies," replied the jailer, "are now bringin' all the bouquets an' cakes to a guy on the other floor what killed his wife's pet dog."—Indianapolis Journal.

It Talked Louder.

Yes, the slender girl with the pale, serious face was confident she could act.

"Can you sing and play the mouth organ at the same time?" asked the manager of the theatre not unkindly.

"No, sir," faltered the girl.

"Then," said the manager, "go and learn to do these and come back here and I may be able to give you a job washing windows."

For he could not find it in his heart to discourage the aspirations of one so earnest.—Detroit Journal.

Perhaps He Will Grow.

Plumber—This is my son, Bill.

Customer—"Isn't he rather small for a plumber's bill?

THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

Happenings of the Week in Washington Circles.

Wide awake as newspaper men are generally, they do not always get on to things as soon as they occur. For instance, none of the Washington correspondents knew until a day or two ago, that President McKinley had ordered a cablegram sent to Gen. Otis more than a week ago, telling him that the President was entirely satisfied with what he had accomplised and believed that he had done all that could have been done under the circumstances. The following is a portion of the answer of Gen. Otis: "I appreciate very much the confidence the President has expressed in me and assure the President that I have no other ambition or thought than to carry out his instructions. With the plans, now matured, I believe that we can suppress the rebellion in a reasonably short time, with honor to the United States and satisfaction to the President." It is highly creditable to the President that while the yellow journals were demanding the recall of Gen. Otis, because he had failed to please some of the correspondents and to accomplish impossibilities, he should have shown his confidence in him in such a marked manner. That the President and the entire administration had implicit confidence in Gen. Otis, has been known in Washington all the time.

Secretary Root arrived in Washington today and will, tomorrow, formally succeed Gen. Alger as Secretary of War. There are many rumors in circulation as to what his policy is to be, but they are merely guesses, mostly wild. There is no occasion for a Secretary of War to have any policy other than that of the President, under whom he serves, and no reason to believe that in that respect Secretary Root will differ in any radical way from his predecessor.

A great many kind words will accompany Secretary Alger into private life, and being spoken at this time, there is no possible reason to doubt their sincerity. The following remarks made by Representative Joy of Mo., are a fair sample of what is being said by many republicans of prominence: "I am not surprised to see Gen. Alger's election to the Senate predicted. I make the same prophecy. Instead of being the target for all manner of abuse and the victim of everybody's persecution, Gen. Alger will become the hero, and this will be especially true of his future in his own state. As Senator Elkins has said, he was at the head of the War Department during a most successful war. He equipped and put 250,000 men in the field in an incredibly short space of time, and when everything had to be obtained at almost a moment's notice. To be sure, the soldiers did not have pie for breakfast, nor were feather beds carried around for them, but on the whole, they fared remarkably well. The time will come when Gen. Alger will be given credit for his great work and the kindliness of heart which accompanied his executive admininistration."

Representative Smith, of Ills. thus summed up the amusing wobbling of the democrats on the issues of the Presidential campaign: "The democrats may try to run their campaign on a dozen issues, but the moment they nominate Bryan, they will force the silver issue to the front. They cannot escape it if he is the nominee, as now seems practically settled. Mr. Bryan cannot subordinate silver unless he descends to mere pettyfogging in politics, for he is the embodiment of the idea. If silver is not mentioned in the platform, and Bryan is nominated, the people will not be deceived. They know Bryan's position too well."

"Three hundred million bushels of corn and $50,000,000 on deposit in its banks," said Representative Curtis, have drowned out the calamity wailers and restored Kansas to its old place among the sure republican states. Thousands who voted for Bryan in '96, will vote for McKinley next year, and it can be classed among the certainties that Kansas will give the republican presidential elector not less than 25,000 majority."

All the democratic talk about political favors to be bestowed by the granting of public franchises in Porto Rico, was rendered useless, not to say silly, by the opinion of Attorney General Griggs, to whom the question was referred some weeks ago, by Secretary Alger, that the right to grant these concessions is vested in Congress alone. This case is another indication of the wisdom of waiting until something has been done to criticise, before opening your batteries. The hair trigger critic misses oftener than he hits, and every miss makes him more ridiculous in the eyes of sensible men.

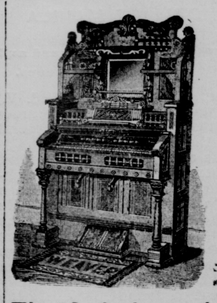
Secretary Long, and every officer on duty at the Navy Department, unite in expressing disbelief of the alleged interview with Admiral Dewey, which makes him say that our next war will be with Germany, and other things which are inconsistent with his general record for level-headedness.

L. A. W. MEET. BOSTON.

Reduced Rates via Pennsylvania Railroad.

For the Annual Meet of the League of American Wheelmen at Boston, August 14 to 19, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets, from all points on its line, to Boston at rate of *single fare for the round trip*. Tickets will be sold on August 12 to 14, good to return August 14 to 20 when properly executed before agent of initial line from Boston. Upon depositing ticket with city ticket agent of initial line from Boston, not later than August 19, and the payment of fifty cents, tickets may be extended to leave Boston not later than August 31.

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Dumont's Minstrels—Eleventh Street Opera House, Philadelphia.

Dumont's Minstrels are making great preparations for their fall opening, Saturday afternoon and night, September 2. The Grand Army Encampment will bring thousands to the city, and Dumont's Minstrels are so well and favorably known among the members of the G. A. R. that a burlesque has been prepared expressly to please them, called "Initiated into the G. A. R." That it will be funny there is no room for doubt, as Dumont's Minstrels aim to create laughter in abundance. In summer time this famous troupe does not travel nor appear at any seaside resorts, sandwitched in with cheap and tawdry amusements. None of its popular members are connected with any amusements save the Eleventh Street Opera House. Only the pronounced favorites of last season are retained for their grand re-opening, September 2—others being quietly dropped from the roll of honor and their places filled with the bright stars of minstrels. A list of the great company will soon be given, also the timely burlesques for the intial performance. The G. A. R. will find the Eleventh Street Opera House's doors wide open when they reach Philadelphia. tf

Concerning Life Insurance.

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via Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad in connection with the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway. Every Thursday July 13 to August 31 inclusive, 1899. Leave Oxford 6.45 A. M.; returning, leave Ocean City 4.30 P. M. same day. Only $1.30 round trip. t8-31

The Future of the Automobile.

There was a time when bicycles cost $150 each. Then every manufactrer whose plant was divertible to the manufacture of bicycles made bicycles. Now afer six or seven years of very active bicycle-building, any one can buy a first-rate bicycle anywhere for $40, and superior buyers can probably supply themselves for about half that sum.

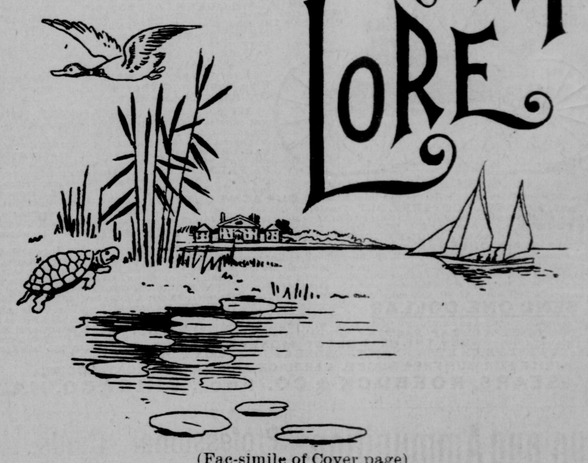
What automobiles cost at present is best known to persons affluent enough to purchase and play with these machines, but, reasoning by analogy, they will soon cost very much less, for every factory that can seems to be making them. Carriage factories and bicycle factories especially, all over the country, are taking orders for them. This year they are the toys of the well-to-do. By another season they will be so spread abroad that their value as playthings may have lessened; but that is of small consequence compared with the immense field that seems to be opening for them as vehicles for cheap and rapid transportation. That they will ever be brought "within the means of all" is not to be expected; but there seems to be a good prospect that they will soon be brought within the means of most persons who can afford at present to keep horses.—*Harper's Weekly.*

There is nothing more delightful to the little ones than a day at the seashore amongst sand and waves. One of the B. C. & A. Ry. Company's select excursions afford this every Thursday at little expense.

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