



The Hounds of the Internet

"A singular set of people, Watson."

the time Sherlock Holmes was 34 years old and Doctor John H. Watson 36.

Main Characters:

Mary Morstan, a young governess who appeals to Holmes for protection. Captain Morstan, Mary's dead father. Thaddeus Sholto, English gentleman who wants to right a wrongdoing done to Mary by his father. Bartholomew Sholto, Thaddeus' greedy brother. McMurdo, Pondicherry Lodge porter and gatekeeper. Lal Lao, butler at Pondicherry Lodge. Mrs. Bernstone, housekeeper at Pondicherry Lodge. Major Sholto, Thaddeus and Bartholomew's father. Jonathan Small, English escaped convict. Mahomet Singh, Abdullah Khan, and Dost Akbar, associates of Jonathan Small. Tonga, native Andaman islander, devoted to Small. Athelney Jones, Scotland Yard Detective. Mordecai Smith, steam launch owner. Mrs. Cecil Forrester, Mary's employer.

Notable Quotes:

"My mind rebels at stagnation. Give me problems, give me work, give me the most abstruse cryptogram, or the most intricate analysis, and I am in my own proper atmosphere. I can dispense then with artificial stimulants. But I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation."

"The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward."

"I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection."

An Inquiry into:

"The Sign of the Four"

Vol. XV No. 2 • November 26, 2024

The Sign of the Four was first published in *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* on February 1890. It never appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. It is the second of the four Canonical novels.

The majority of our Canon chronologists point to 1888 as the year in which this case took place. If that is so, then at

The Sign of the Four

Chronologist	Date of the Adventure
Canon	July or September 7, 1888
Baring-Gould	Tuesday, September 18, 1888
Bell	Wednesday, September 7, 1887
Blakeney	July 1888
Brend	July 1888
Christ	Tuesday, September 25, 1888
Dakin	Thursday, September 27, 1888
Folsom	Tuesday, July 17, 1888
Hall	July 7, 1887
Keefauver	Tuesday, September 4, 1888
Klinger	1888
Zeisler	Monday, April 16, 1888

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.

“Detection is, or ought to be, and exact science, and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have attempted to tinge it with romanticism, which produces much the effect as if you had worked a love-story or an elopement into the fifth proposition of Euclid.”

More than once during the years that I had lived with him in Baker Street I had observed that a small vanity underlay my companion’s quiet and didactic manner.

“I never guess. It is a shocking habit—destructive to the logical faculty.”

“In an experience of women which extends over many nations and three separate continents, I have never looked upon a face which gave a clearer promise of a refined and sensitive nature.”

“It is of the first importance not to allow your judgment to be biased by personal qualities. A client is to me a mere unit,—a factor in a problem. The emotional qualities are antagonistic to clear reasoning. I assure you that the most winning woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance-money, and the most repellant man of my acquaintance is a philanthropist who has spent nearly a quarter of a million upon the London poor.”

“Women are not to be entirely trusted—not the best of them.”

“When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”

“[L]ove is an emotional thing, and whatever is emotional is opposed to that true cold reason which I place above all things. I should never marry myself, lest I bias my judgment.”



The Guilty Irritability

As Watson opens his account of this case, he tells about his feelings of irritation and guilt over his reticence to say something about Holmes’ drug use. If we assume that the Good Doctor was not exaggerating for effect (as he sometimes does), our sleuth’s use of opiates was considerable—*injected* cocaine and morphine “three times a day for many months.”



Perhaps Holmes fell into the same trap Sigmund Freud did, when he experimented with cocaine and fell prey to its addiction. He later recommended morphine as a cure for cocaine addiction, almost killing a friend who followed his advice.

Holmes use of the opioid may have begun as simple curiosity. One should recall what Stamford told Watson in *STUD*: “Holmes is a little too scientific for my tastes—it approaches to cold-bloodedness. I could imagine his giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do him justice, *I think that he would take it himself with the same readiness.*” [Italics mine]

Supposedly, Holmes turned to drugs whenever there were no cases to work on. Even so this sounds doubtful, even during this early part of his career. Let us recall that he told Watson that, “I am the last and highest court of appeal in detection. When Gregson or Lestrade or Athelney Jones are out of

their depths—which, by the way, is their normal state—the matter is laid before me. I examine the data, as an expert, and pronounce a specialist’s opinion. I claim no credit in such cases. My name figures in no newspaper. The work itself, the pleasure of finding a field for my peculiar powers, is my highest reward.”

It is a certainty that there were no fees forthcoming from the official police or any of its members. However, “as an expert,” besides his “highest reward” he would have received a fee commensurate to the magnitude of the client’s problem.

Another indication of his rising career can be deduced from his publishing activities, which must have had a reading audience. Somewhat pedantically he informs Watson that, “I have been guilty of several monographs. They are all upon technical subjects. Here, for example, is one ‘Upon the Distinction between the Ashes of the Various Tobaccos.’ In it I enumerate a hundred and forty forms of cigar, cigarette, and pipe tobacco, with coloured plates illustrating the difference in the ash.” (Are there—even now—*140 different kinds* of distinctive tobaccos producing distinctive ashes?)

Although Holmes was yet to become the world-famous investigator that we know, he unquestionably already was a recognized authority in crime. This is reflected by the attitude of the official police force, as well as by his colleagues—François le Villard, for example.

Thus, it seems highly unlikely that living in the middle of London, the planet’s most populous capital, the seat and center of a fabulous global empire he could find himself without a single important consultation for three months. Besides, now his practice did not limit itself to Britain; as he nonchalantly informed his biographer that his “. . . practice [had] recently extended to the Continent.”

It seems that even when he was not lacking in cases Holmes still needed the stimulus of drugs. If Watson did not exaggerate regarding the proportion and rate of drug use, by modern standards Holmes would have to be considered a hopeless addict. However, the fact remains that he was able to



function—most formidably—without resorting to the hypodermic when on a case. Had he been truly addicted, he would have had to continue the regular use of drugs even when involved in a fascinating investigation. Even more distressing is the fact that he would have required increasingly higher dosages to reach the desired effect.

Later we learn that Watson rescued him from wasting his life at the point of a needle. Even so, as he put it in *MISS*: “I was well aware that the fiend was not dead, but sleeping; and I have known that the sleep was a light one and the waking near when in periods of idleness I have seen the drawn look

upon Holmes’s ascetic face, and the brooding of his deep-set and inscrutable eyes.”

Although Holmes abandoned this dangerous indulgence it is interesting to note his comment to Watson in *TWIS* when our medico found him in the opium den: “I supposed you imagine that I have added opium smoking to cocaine injections and all the other little weaknesses on which you have favored me with your medical views.”

What could those “other little weaknesses” have been? Surely Holmes did not have just tobacco in mind—room for ample scholarly speculation here.

Incidentally, if anyone doubts Watson's medical ability it must be noted that he warned Holmes about the drugs' "pathological and morbid process, which involves increased tissue-change and may at last leave a permanent weakness." In 1888 cocaine was considered a wonder drug; it was sold over the counter and indiscriminately added to many products, from snuff, candy, and ointments, to soft drinks (the "Coca" part in the Coca-Cola brand was there for a reason!). There was little indication in the medical literature of the time about deleterious effects.

Doctor Watson was ahead of his time.

Watson's Health

When Holmes offered Watson a hit of his seven-percent solution of cocaine, our medico declined the offer stating that, "My constitution has not got over the Afghan campaign yet. I cannot afford to throw any extra strain upon it." I think that from this statement one can deduce that there has been some improvement since the first time he and Holmes first met; in fact, when Holmes asks him whether his leg will bother him if he joins him, Watson answers negatively.

It appears that by now, Watson no longer considers his health "irretrievably ruined." In fact, he is keeping up with developments in his profession (he attempts to read readily handy material on pathology to get Mary Morstan out of his mind), which would indicate that he is already considering the possibility of getting back into harness.

Watson's Watch

As a boy, I remember that it was this particular deduction about Watson's late brother based on his watch that made me a lifelong fan of the Great Detective. Whenever I reread it, I become a kid again and am as delighted by it as I was the first time.

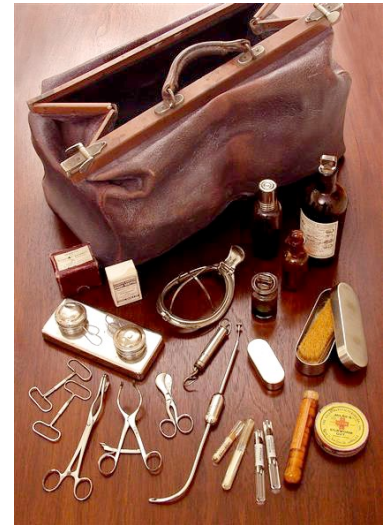
Just to be contrary, however, the data Holmes gathered from Watson's watch is open to other interpretations. Although Holmes considered guessing a "shocking habit," in this case he might have been doing just that. While it is true that he knew that Watson's father was dead and that traditionally objects such as jewelry and watches pass on to the eldest son, because the doctor did not display the watch earlier on, the conclusion that it had gone from his father to his oldest brother was justified.



However, some of the details seem somewhat unfounded. For example, "When you observe the lower part of that watch-case you notice that it is not only dented in two places, but it is cut and marked all over from the habit of keeping other hard objects, such as coins or keys, in the same pocket. Surely it is no great feat to assume that a man who treats a fifty-guinea watch so cavalierly must be a careless man." Again, reasonable; however, when it came to the watch's former owner's character, our sleuth ventures into supposition.

It could have been that Watson's brother had been as sober as a judge and it was his father who had the bad luck and the drinking problem. After all, there was no way to determine when the various dints and pawnbroker etchings were made.

There was no indication either of which Watsonian hand left all the scratches near its winding key-hole.



This little vignette is quite revealing, however. Watson's family must have originally been very well off. A watch worth 50 guineas then would be worth about \$20,000 now. Not an outrageous price for first-class timepieces, considering that today a Rolex can cost upwards of \$15,000 and more.

A Doctorial Attraction

“What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking-account, that I should dare to think of such things?” Watson sadly soliloquizes about his attraction to Mary Morstan. In the end, of course, the lady is pleased with the treasure's loss and our medico is beside himself with joy: Mary's poverty has put her within his romantic reach.

But just how poor would our governess have actually been? Discussions over the value of Mary's six matched pearls are not uncommon amongst Canon students and scholars. Pearls today (at least those in jewellery stores) range in cost from <\$80 to \$2,500, sometimes more.

From everything said, we must assume that Miss Morstan's pearls were nothing short of extraordinary. Valuable enough to command, say, twice that price—\$5000. In 1888 this would roughly amount to ≈£13 per pearl, £80 for the lot; considerable for a governess earning £30 (≈\$11,300) per annum. Back then, £80 prudently invested and left untouched until the proper time could have supplemented a comfortable retirement.

But by no extent of the imagination was it a fortune.



The (Possibly) Revealing Possessions

Something that falls in the realm of the curious is Holmes' strange disinterest in Captain Morstan's last possessions. One must imagine that for someone able to deduce so much about a watch's former owner there had to be a more than a fair chance that amongst the clothing, books, and “considerable number of curiosities from the Andaman Islands,” there would have been some clues to be discerned.



Yet we see him reacting excitedly to the wrapping paper of the pearl boxes, but being dismissive of the Captain's last possessions.

When Mary Morstan speaks of “a curious paper was found in papa's desk which no one could understand,” almost immediately Holmes declares it to be “a document of importance.” This brings up a question similar to that of where Cain found his wife.

Where was the desk in question? According to Mary her father sent (meaning that they were not in England at that time) her to a boarding

school when she was “quite a child,” which I take to mean when she was very young, because she was only 17 when her father returned to London on leave.

So where had this desk been for all those years and when would have Morstan put the paper in it? Again, Holmes' peculiar indifference towards Captain Morstan's possessions is puzzling.

Sholto said that, as children, he and his brother Bartholomew discussed with their father the disappearance of Captain Morstan. According to him, it caused a “sensation” and there was extensive newspaper coverage.

Although a passing mention in the newspapers of the disappearance of a relatively low-ranking returning officer would not have been extraordinary, it would have been news for only a day and fallen very short from creating a sensation.

Morstan was just one of hundreds of officers serving abroad returning to England—a widower of singularly little importance. What could this ‘sensation’ been all about?

The Unexpected Expectation

“Ah! I expected it. Look here!”

“It looks like a thorn,” said I.

Unfortunately, Watson did not reveal to us what led Holmes to expect such a murder weapon outside of the colonies. This expectation appears even more far-fetched considering that our sleuth had no idea yet that someone like Tonga even existed. It does not appear that he would have kept any special information of the Andaman Islands in his brain-attic.



of the Andaman Islands in his brain-attic.

Then, when they come upon the “child’s footprint” what did Holmes mean when he said that his “memory failed” him, or he should have been able to foretell this? What could have led him to expect that someone like Tonga was in Imperial London using a blowgun to eliminate British subjects?

However, for those of us whose minds function at the Watsonian, not the Holmesian, level, some of his conclusions are difficult to follow.

In this case, we find Holmes at his most brilliant best. His deductions, the way he uses the Baker Street Irregulars, and his talent for disguises are all captivating.

A rip-roaring yarn!

Thaddeus Sholto

Thaddeus Sholto turns out to be a far more interesting and complex person than one would consider at first glance. Although obviously well-to-do, yet lives in a rundown building in a somewhat disreputable part of London. However, his visitors were astonished by what they saw when brought before him. Watson’s description is worth rereading:

We were all astonished by the appearance of the apartment into which he invited us. In that sorry house it looked as out of place as a diamond of the first water in a setting of brass. The richest and glossiest of curtains and tapestries draped the walls, looped back here and there to expose some richly-mounted painting or Oriental vase. The carpet was of amber-and-black, so soft and so thick that the foot sank pleasantly into it, as into a bed of moss. Two great tiger-skins thrown athwart it increased the suggestion of Eastern luxury, as did a huge hookah which stood upon a mat in the corner. A lamp in the fashion of a silver dove was hung from an almost invisible golden wire in the centre of the room. As it burned it filled the air with a subtle and aromatic odor.

Also worth noting is the man himself. He constantly writhes his hands, his features jerk continuously, he has bad teeth, worries about his heart, and is emotionally fragile. These could all be symptoms of a progressing disease such as syphilis. Treatment at the time involved the ingestion of mercury; there



was even a saying about this remedy: “One night with Venus, a lifetime with Mercury.” Prolonged use of mercury affects the nervous system which might account for the constant twitching, whereas the advance of syphilis could affect the functioning of the heart.

Added to this is the fact that he lived alone, with few servants and apart from his family in a “questionable neighborhood”—possibly because those who live in such areas tend to ignore their neighbors. He is somewhat reminiscent of Oscar Wilde, who was similarly afflicted and also had less than exceptional teeth.

Undoubtedly, Watson would have immediately recognized the symptoms; however, his usual discretion would have doubtless compelled him to leave his readers ignorant of a fact which would have done little to advance his story.

One could hypothesize that, being well-acquainted with his own terminal condition, Sholto may have decided to set things aright with his own conscience by trying to ensure that Mary Morstan received the portion of the treasure that ought to have come down to her from her deceased father.

The Unfortunate Peg-Legged Man

It is impossible not to feel compassion for Jonathan Small—there was a man ill-served by Dame Fortune! He joins the Army, works on his training only to promptly lose a leg to a crocodile, only to be abandoned by the Army and his comrades. Nevertheless he carries on and finds work in a plantation where he succeeds on his labors only to be sucked into the whirlwind of the Sepoy Mutiny, again having to leave everything behind.

He conducts himself well during the conflict and is unexpectedly approached by the other three and forced, under threat of forfeiting his life, to join them. He now enjoys the prospect of leading a life of leisure, only to be sent to a penal colony for a crime he did not commit although he acquiesced to it.



In prison he is mistreated, and then when he decides to trust Sholto and Morstan, he loyally risks his chance at freedom by refusing to abandon the men with whom he originally obtained the treasure,

only to be double-crossed by Sholto, who takes the whole treasure for himself also cutting off Morstan, his fellow officer. When Small finally makes it back and is prepared to confront Sholto, the man dies of shock when seeing him and the treasure is lost again.

Finally, when Small gets access to the treasure, Tonga kills Bartholomew Sholto without Small having asked him to, is inexorably chased down by none other than Sherlock Holmes and in the end, when he realizes that everything is lost, in his own way he still keeps faith with his comrades by tossing the treasure into the river. If they were not the ones who were going to enjoy it, nobody else would.

The Fabulous Agra Treasure

Regardless of how many times one has visited this adventure, it is impossible not to be fascinated by the contents of the Agra treasure:



143 diamonds
97 emeralds
170 rubies
40 carbuncles
210 sapphires
61 agates
Somewhat less than
300 pearls set on a
gold coronet
Assorted beryls, on-
yxes, cats'-eyes, tur-
quoises, and other un-
named jewels

Small wonder the
whole thing was worth
£500,000
(≈\$190,000,000 to-
day)! Mary Morstan
would have indeed
been a very wealthy

young lady with the £250,000 that would have come to her.

However, wealth does not solely consist of how much one has, is but a matter of perspective as well. Back then, for some of the many American heiresses who married into British nobility during the latter half of the 19th century a dowry of £500,000 was steep, but not considered excessive.

Regarding Fees and Finances

In this case Watson, rather than Holmes, came out the winner. He gained a bride that he first thought he would never be able to aspire to because of the great fortune that she seemed destined to receive. However, when that fortune ended scattered over a few miles of the Thames' muddy bottom, leaving Mary with only six pearls to her name, the desire of his heart came well within his reach.

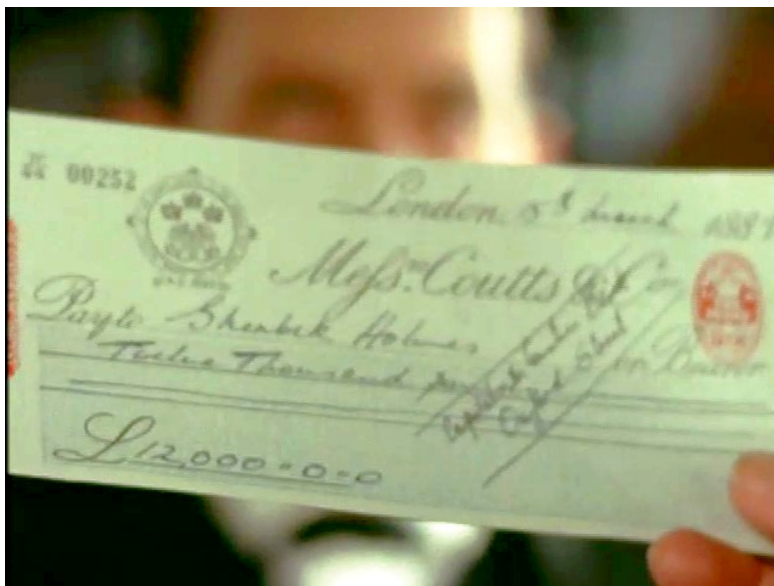
Although Watson makes no mention, by that time he may have started a practice while helping Holmes. It is highly unlikely that he would have dared propose to the lady on his limited, weekly £4 wound pension.

Rightly so, Victorians were reluctant to discuss their finances. Holmes himself is a good example of this. A couple of decades later, when he had become famous throughout the Empire and Europe, and consulted by some of the most prominent and influential people in the world, he rebuked a cli-

ent who brought up the matter of his fee: “My professional charges,” he said tight-lipped and coldly, “are upon a fixed scale; I do not vary them save when I remit them altogether.”

Although not entirely true, this was consistent with his class’ attitude towards filthy lucre. Holmes was not far from immune to the upper-middle-class gentleman’s desire to show that his professional status absolved him from the necessity of having to earn his daily bread and cheese. His behavior towards the Duke of Holderness and his £6,000 (≈\$2,300,000 today) check, is understandable: in the presence of someone so far above him socially, he refused to lose face (“Let him pay through the nose, I say!”). Let us also remember that our sleuth was the proud holder of the *Légion d’honneur*, and had twice refused knighthood.

When Holmes first started his fees must have been modest. The average consultation fee was probably in the 5s (≈\$95.00) range, about the same as for a young attorney starting out in his profession. Scaling up from 5s to £6,000 only proves how considerable his success was. Later, once he had achieved fame and fortune, his fees were probably determined by his interest in the case (the more interesting, the smaller the fee), as well as on the client’s ability to pay.



This brings us back to our Biographer. We know that on no occasion did he decline the opportunity to join his friend on one of his dangerous endeavors. It may be logically wondered whether Watson did not only share Holmes’ danger, but his fees as well. Like all Victorians, Watson was also reticent about discussing finances, beyond just a passing reference. This would not have been something deemed proper to include in something that he was writing for publication, and which focused on the Great Detective’s accomplishments.

Consider, however, that on more than one occasion we have witnessed how our medico would unhesitatingly would drop everything (including his wife’s companionship), grossly neglecting his patients to heed Holmes’ sometimes thoughtless call to adventure: “Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient come all the same.”

A Couple of Factoids

The Langham Hotel, where Mary Morstan’s father booked his rooms first opened its doors in 1865. It still thrives in London, in its original building at 1c Portland Place, Regent Street, London. Depending on the package deal and the accommodations, room prices today range from about £492 (\$624) to £539 (\$863) per night. After 159 years, still a true luxury hotel!

The Lyceum Theatre is a 2,000-seat West End theatre located in Westminster, on Wellington Street, just off the Strand. There has been a theatre with this name in the locality since 1765, and the present site opened in 1834.

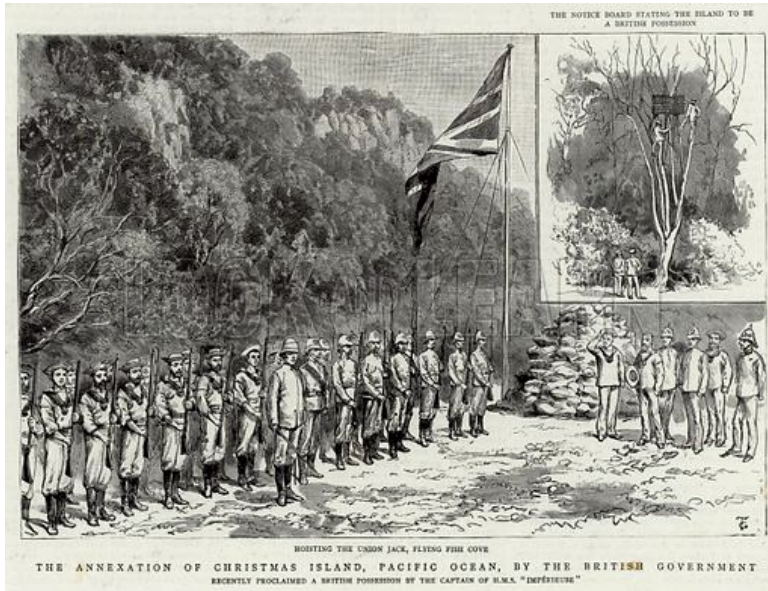


What else happened in 1888:

Empire

Mashonaland and Matabeleland declared British sphere of influence.

Suez Canal Convention signed: Suez Canal declared open to ships of all nations and free from blockade.



Sarawak and Brunei placed under British protection.

◀ Great Britain annexes Christmas Island.

A 7.0-7.3-magnitude earthquake strikes North Canterbury, New Zealand.

Queen Victoria grants a charter to the Imperial British East Africa Company, and it is incorporated in London, England.

Canadian Pacific Railway opens Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Hailstones kill about 250 in Moradabad district of Delhi, India.

Britain

County Councils' Act establishes representative county-based authorities.

Jack the Ripper has murder spree in Whitechapel, kills his last victim.

Annie Besant leads the London match factory girls on strike.

Commission to examine charges against Parnell.

General Buller founds RASC (Royal Army Service Corps).

County Councils Act: elects councils to take over administrative duties of JPs.

Foundation of London General Omnibus Company.

Miners Federation of Great Britain formed; demands minimum wage.

Foundation of Scottish Labour Party.

Final report on Commission on Elementary Education Acts in England.

English Priory of Knights Hospitalers authorized by Royal Charter.

World

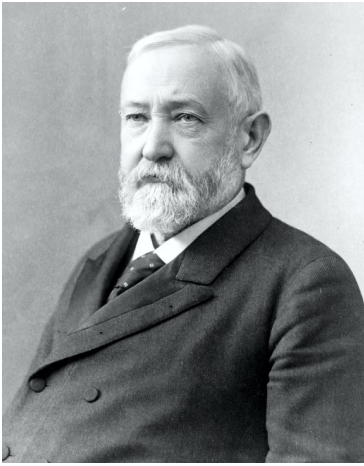
French Indochina formed.

Princess Isabel of Brazil signs *Lei Auréa* abolishing slavery.

Emperor Wilhelm I of Germany dies; Frederick III becomes Emperor from March to June, dies, and is succeeded by Wilhelm II.

Unemployment demonstration in Rome suppressed by the military.

Louisville, Kentucky, becomes first government in U.S. to adopt Australian ballot.



Marshal Bazaine, officer in charge of the French Foreign Legion in Mexico during Emperor Maximilian's rule, dies.

◀ Benjamin Harrison elected President of United States. Even though Cleveland received more popular votes, the Electoral College gives Harrison the election.

Agricultural depression causes Sweden to abandon free trade.

British Honduras adopts decimal currency.

Great Blizzard of 1888 strikes northeast U.S., 400 die.

Phil Sheridan, who fought as a Union General against the South during the American Civil War dies.

Clashes in Paris between Radicals and Monarchists. Anarchists riot in favor of weavers of Lille and glass blowers of Lion. Paris stone masons and waiters strike for higher wages and shorter work schedules.

More liberal constitution granted to Serbia by Milan.

Pennsylvania's Monongehela River rises 32 feet after 24-hour rainfall.

Bandai volcano in Japan erupts for first time in 1,000 years.

Use of Danish language forbidden in schools in German N. Schleswig.

Founding of the Dutch shipping line Koninklijke Paketvaart-Maatschappij (KPM). It supports the unification and development of the colonial economy.

Reconstructed free port of Hamburg opens.

The Washington Monument officially opens to the general public.

Italy and Spain sign military treaty.

King Leopold II of Belgium introduces the Order of the African Star.

Revolution in Haiti culminates in the destruction of public buildings and the flight of President Salomon.

Ferdinand de Lesseps attempts to issue a fresh series of 1,000,000 bonds "to finish the Panama Canal." Proposal is withdrawn, de Lesseps resigns his directorship, and the project collapses.

Italians near Alite relieved by the withdrawal of the Abyssinians.

The first beauty contest is held, the Concours de Beauté, at Spa in Belgium. Winner is 18-year-old Bertha Soucaret of Guadeloupe.

First organized rodeo competition held, Prescott, Arizona.

New York State establishes electric chair for method of death penalty.

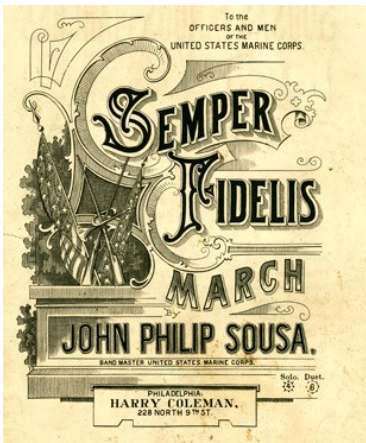
Boulangier supported by Monarchists in France; his popularity threatens Third Republic.

Main portion of Bremen incorporated into German Customs Union; parts of Wesser estuary remain free port.

Art

Van Gogh in Arles, Holland, paints *Sunflowers*, *Portrait of Armand Roulin*, *La Mousme*, and *Drawbridge at Arles*. Cuts off his left earlobe and gives it to a prostitute in Arles.

Oscar Wilde publishes *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*.



Casey at the Bat is published in *The San Francisco Examiner*, and recited publicly for the first time.

◀ John Phillip Sousa composes the military march *Semper Fidelis* for the U.S. Marine Corp.

Tchaikovsky performs *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor* at St. Petersburg.

George Moore publishes *Confessions of a Young Man*.

Cézanne paints *Peasant in a Blue Smock*.

Guilbert and Sullivan debut *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Iannis Psichari, one of the creators of modern Greek literary language, publishes *My Journey* in demotic Greek.

Morris publishes *Dream of John Bull*, on a socialist commonwealth.

Matthew Arnold, critic, essayist, and poet dies.

Fontane publishes *Irrungen, Wirungen*.

Monet paints *Cap d'Antibes*.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch publishes *Troy Town*, a novel about Cornwall.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec paints *Trace Horse of the Bus Line, Place Clichy*.

Stevenson publishes *The Black Arrow*, a novel about the War of the Roses.

Rimsky-Korsakov composes *Scheherazade*.

Charles Doughty publishes *Travels in Arabia Deserta*.

Seurat paints *Fishing Fleet at Port-en-Bessin*.

Thomas Hardy publishes *Wessex Tales*.

Kipling publishes *Soldiers Three*, and *Plain Tales from the Hills*; short stories of India.

Science and Technology

Dunlop's pneumatic tire developed, principle still unproven.

First wax drinking straw patented, by Marvin C Stone in Washington DC.

George Eastman registers the trademark "Kodak" and receives a patent for his box camera, which uses photographic paper roll-film.

Emile Berliner improves the gramophone.

Dr. Fitz, Boston surgeon, advocates the removal of the vermiform appendix in certain intestinal disorders, after several post-mortem operations. His advice is followed.

William Bundy patents the timecard clock.

First ballpoint pen patented.

The first known recording of classical music, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, is made on wax cylinder.

Clinton Merriam founds the National Geographical Society in Washington, D.C., for "the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge," and the first issue of its magazine is published.

Thomas Edison files a patent for the Optical Phonograph (the first movie).

Bertha Benz, wife of inventor Karl Benz, drives from Mannheim to Pforzheim, Germany in the first long distance automobile trip.



◀ Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer, crosses the Greenland icefield.

Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, formally inaugurates the Ewing duplex-pendulum seismometer, Ewing horizontal-pendulum seismometers, and Gray-Ewing vertical seismometers.

Hudson and Sclater publish *Argentine Ornithology*.

Mercerizing process introduced into cotton manufacture; facilitates later development of the artificial silk industry.

Spanish navy launches first submarine, designed by Isaac Peral. It features accumulator batteries, three dynamos, two 30-hp engines, electric propulsion, a torpedo tube, and periscope. Displacement is 80 tonnes, length 48

feet, and 6 feet beam.

Nikola Tesla makes first AC motor.

In the U.S., Leroy Buffington patents a system to build skyscrapers.

Incubators are first used for premature infants.

Pasteur Institute for the treatment of hydrophobia founded.

Theophilus Van Kannel of Philadelphia patents revolving door.

Sir J. Dewar and Sir F. Abel invent cordite.

William Seward Burroughs patents the first successful adding machine.

Louis Le Prince films the Roundhay Garden Scene, the earliest surviving film.

Heinrich Hertz produces electromagnetic waves, proves light and heat are both forms of electromagnetic radiation. Sir Oliver Lodge makes same discovery independently. Hertz used an induction coil; Lodge Leyden jars.

Next week's case: SCAN.

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..."

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If you would like to join the Hounds of the Internet, email us at CourageousMurray@aol.com.

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