



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

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XVI -- The Adventure of the Cardboard Box

1. "Appreciation of nature found no place among (Holmes') many gifts, and his only change was when he turned his mind from the evil-doer of the town to track down his brother of the country."
2. "I repeat that there is no practical joke here, but that we are investigating a serious crime."
3. "I should prefer that you do not mention my name at all in connection with the case, as I choose to be only associated with those crimes which present some difficulty in their solution."
4. "That Lestrade may be safely trusted to do, for although he is absolutely devoid of reason, he is as tenacious as a bulldog when he once understands what he has to do, and, indeed, it is just this tenacity which has brought him to the top at Scotland Yard."
5. "The case is one where, as in the investigations which you have chronicled under the names of 'A Study in Scarlet' and of 'The Sign of Four,' we have been compelled to reason backward from effects to causes."
6. "The features are given to man as the means by which he shall express his emotions, and yours are faithful servants."



7. "There is no part of the body which varies so much as the human ear. Each ear is as a rule quite distinctive and differs from all other ones.
8. "We approached the case, you remember, with an absolutely blank mind, which is always an advantage. We had formed no theories. We were simply there to observe and to draw inferences from our observations."
9. "We must strike while the iron is hot."
10. "What object is served by this circle of misery and violence and fear? It must tend to some end, or else our universe is ruled by chance, which is unthinkable. But what end? There is the great standing perennial problem to which human reason is as far from an answer as ever."