



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

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXV -- The Adventure of the Naval Treaty

1. "A very commonplace little murder. You've got something better, I fancy. You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson. What is it?"
2. "I have a peculiar taste in these matters."
3. "I suspect myself. Of coming to conclusions too rapidly."
4. "It is a very cheering thing to come into London by any of these lines which run high and allow you to look down upon the houses like this. Look at those big, isolated clumps of buildings rising above the slates, like brick islands in a lead-colored sea. . . Lighthouses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules, with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future."
5. "Mrs. Hudson has risen to the occasion. Her cuisine is limited but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotchwoman."
6. "Of all the facts presented to us we had to pick just those which we deemed to be essential, and then piece them together in their order, so as to reconstruct this very remarkable chain of events."



7. "Out of my last fifty-three cases my name has only appeared in four, and the police have had the credit in forty-nine. I don't blame you for not knowing this, for you are young and inexperienced, but if you wish to get on in your new duties you will work with me and not against me."
8. "The most difficult crime to track is the one which is purposeless."
9. "The principle difficulty lay in the fact of there being too much evidence. What was vital was overlaid and hidden by what was irrelevant."
10. "What a lovely thing a rose is! There is nothing in which deduction is so necessary as in religion. It can be built up as an exact science by the reasoner. Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our powers, our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers."
11. "Watson here will tell you that I never can resist a touch of the dramatic."
12. "We cannot expect to score every time."