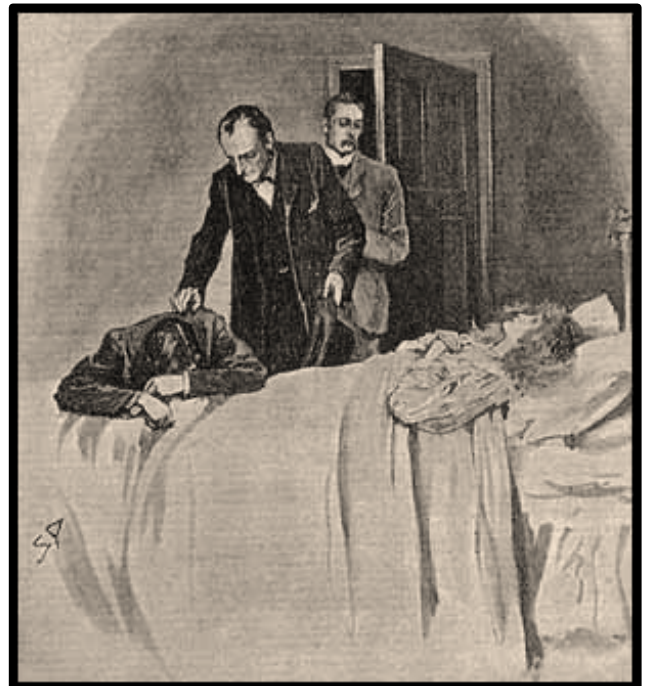




## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XXXVIII – The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter

1. What was the real point of Overton's telegram?
2. At what point did Holmes know some sport was involved?
3. Was the drug danger exaggerated by Watson?
4. Would a match between Oxford and Cambridge be played in London?
5. Was Staunton's father-in-law alive?
6. Is gout humorous?
7. Why didn't Holmes and Staunton shake hands?
8. Why did Staunton use the words ending his telegram?
9. Why would Staunton take letters, bills and notebooks with him for a football game?
10. What was Staunton's financial situation?
11. Would a male telegraphic clerk have been so obliging?
12. Were bicycle lamps available in those days?
13. Do bicycle shops stay open evenings during winter?
14. Did Holmes overrate Armstrong or underrate Moriarty?
15. Does Sleepy Hollow refer to Washington Irving?
16. Should Holmes have suspected the detour?
17. Should private scandals be hushed up?
18. If Holmes was no longer using cocaine, why did he take a hypodermic syringe with him on the trip to Cambridge?



19. How familiar does Holmes appear to be with Watson's accounts of his cases? What does his opinion of them suggest to us about Holmes' professional attitude to what he calls "the whole art of detection"?
20. Is there anything in Lady Brackenstall's statement to Holmes and Stanley Hopkins that you consider to be singular? If so, what does this suggest?
21. What do the three wine glasses suggest to Holmes? Can you think of any alternative explanation for the "beeswing" being present in only one glass?
22. What assumptions about the reader's general knowledge of world events must the author of this narrative have made? Do you think such assumptions were justified?
23. What view of justice is demonstrated by Holmes' actions in this story? Has this view of his changed during his career?
24. There seem to be some echoes of past cases in this story. Find as many as you can which can be considered traditions of the genre and which earlier cases are called to mind?

**Ralph Edwards, BSI**

**May 12, 1995 / January 03, 1994**