SOLUTION

the Queen's Park Affair



ANSWERS

THE QUEEN'S PARK AFFAIR

1. a. Who was responsible for Franklin Kearney's disappearance?
   Professor James Moriarty
   b. Why? To enlist or coerce his assistance in exposing and ruining Jabez Balfour
2. a. Did Ormond murder Cole? No
   b. What happened to Ormond? He was murdered and decapitated by Johnny the Jackal
3. a. Who stole the Balfour jewels? Balfour himself
   b. What happened to them? They were stolen by the Mills brothers during an attempt to fence them at Lambert's. They were later recovered by Colin Kennedy for Balfour.
4. Who killed Joslin? Donald Mills
5. a. Who killed Leland Johnson? Colin Kennedy
   b. Why? Tortured for whereabouts of jewels; Johnson had arranged for theft
6. a. Who killed Leo Mills? Colin Kennedy
   b. Why? Tortured for whereabouts of jewels which he and his brother stole
7. Lloyd Perkins was in the employ of what two people?
   a. Professor James Moriarty
   b. Jabez Balfour, president of Worthingdon Bank
8. Who killed Lloyd Perkins? Sir Miller Brandon
9. Who sent Holmes the Vincent Derrick letter? Rose Derrick
10. a. Who killed Peter Northrup? Johnny the Jackal
    b. Who gave the order to kill Peter Northrup? Professor Moriarty
    c. Where are the counterfeit five-pound plates hidden?
    In the Mace of the House of Commons
11. a. Who planned the bombing at the cricket match? Moriarty
    b. Why? To provide a diversion for Northrup's escape and as a warning to Balfour's associates



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A refreshed Holmes enters the sitting room, the rough and dirty labourer's clothes replaced now by a mouse-coloured dressing gown. We all look at him expectantly, but he says nary a word as he meticulously fills his cherrywood pipe from the Persian slipper and lights it. We can barely contain ourselves, when Holmes finally speaks. "How does it feel, Mr. Kearney, to have been a pawn in a chess match between London's two great forces of evil?"

"To be quite frank, Mr. Holmes, the experience has been very confusing. My head is still spinning."

"Yes, I trust the Professor has filled your head with more information than even an excellent journalist such as yourself can well digest."

"The Professor? I never knew the name of the gentleman. He was extremely tall and thin, his forehead domed out in a white curve, and his eyes were deeply sunken in his head. He was clean-shaven, pale and ascetic-looking. His shoulders were rounded, and his face protruded forward and was for ever slowly oscillating from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion. He was treated with great deference by those around him."

"Deference born of fear, no doubt. He is ex-Professor James Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, and in this great battle for control of London's underworld, he possessed an important advantage over Marion Jabez Balfour. While Balfour had a reputation with law-abiding society to protect as well as his reputation with the underworld society, Moriarty was not so encumbered. Nothing but evil is expected of him. He realized that Balfour's respectability was his Achilles heel, and he needed a respectable mouthpiece to tell the world the truth about the man. Who better than a member of Balfour's own Temperance Society. You should feel honoured, Mr. Kearney. Moriarty singled you out not only because of your membership in the Temperance Society but because of your skill as a reporter and your unquestionable integrity.

"When I first received the letter from Mr. Ledgard I was already aware that evil forces were lining up to do battle. I knew that I must direct my energies in that direction, and thus I turned over the case of your 'disappearance' to Wiggins and his friends. It was not until later that I realized that they were, in fact, one and the same case. As I quickly recognized that you were in no real danger, there seemed no reason to interfere with the little play that was unfolding."

Watson has been listening patiently, as have we all, but he can contain his curiosity no longer. "I say, Holmes, how did you know that there was no danger to Mr. Kearney? And why the deuce did you not let us and his friends know?"

"I will ignore your second question, Watson, but the answer to the first was available to you all even before we received Mr. Kearney's letter if you had but applied the logic of which I so often speak. Someone broke into his rooms and removed his clothes and toilet articles. The intruder was not Mr. Kearney himself, or else he would not have entered through the window. Yet the articles removed were not of significant value except as they contributed to Mr. Kearney's comfort. Moriarty had no reason to inconvenience his 'guest' any more than necessary. He sent someone to recover those items which might make Mr. Kearney's stay with him as agreeable as possible.

"And now, perhaps, you will tell us how you have spent the last week, Mr. Kearney."

"Last Sunday evening—I can hardly believe it's been but one week—a young lady came to my door and told me my dear Alice needed me at once. Perhaps it was foolish of me, but I asked no questions and went with her. We traveled some distance through the city while the woman protested ignorance as to both our destination and the reason for Alice's summons. At last the brougham stopped and I was led into a cellar smelling of hops and malt. As you said, Mr. Holmes, I was treated quite well, and efforts were made to make me comfortable, but it was an unsettling experience nonetheless. It was not until the following morning that I met the man you call the Professor. He asked me many questions, more to stimulate my own thoughts than to hear my answers, I later realized."

Kearney pauses to sip some of the hot tea which Mrs. Hudson has just brought. Holmes sits in the wicker basket chair and takes up the tale.

"Yes, it was clear from the contents of your desk that you had already begun to be suspicious of Balfour and his dealings. The clippings from the *Pall Mall Gazette* indicated this interest. And the unfinished draft of your article covering the Wormwood Scrubs cricket match breaks off at a very interesting point, suggesting that a mental discovery had been made, much as a physical discovery can be deduced from an unfinished search of a room."

"Yes, it is ironic that I, a former slave to the demon alcohol, was so slow to recognize that several of the Marylebone gentlemen were quite intoxicated. It was also clear that this fact was not unknown to Balfour and thus confirmed my growing suspicions that his involvement in the temperance movement was but a charade.

"I have had a great deal of time and assistance to put together the many pieces of this puzzle, although many questions remain. The bomb apparently served a dual purpose. It was a warning to the gentlemen involved with Balfour and also a diversion to facilitate the escape of a convict by the name of Northrup. I know not what part he played in this drama."

"He was a master engraver involved in a counterfeiting scheme of Moriarty's. He did not realize the deadliness of his employer and foolishly tried to extract a higher-than-offered price for the revelation of the location of the counterfeit plates. The ruthless Johnny the Jackal made him pay dearly for his greed."

"I think I know where the plates are, Mr. Holmes," offers Wiggins.

"Do you now? And where, pray tell?"

"In the Mace of the House of Commons."

"I believe you are right, Wiggins, and Lestrade will undoubtedly be glad to find them. Although he will be less glad to thank us, I daresay.

"Moriarty kept the Jackal quite busy this week, and, from a detached viewpoint, one must admire the Jackal's cunning, as well as his dexterity. Ormond's murder was as brilliantly executed by him as it was deviously planned by Moriarty."

"Ormond's murder?" queries Watson. "I thought it was Cole who was murdered by Ormond."

"Cole was murdered as well, of course; that is the beauty of it," states Holmes. "Moriarty was able to eliminate both Parliamentary obstacles to his brewery and public house profits."

Holmes continues as his revelation is met by puzzled stares. "Follow this reasoning. Ormond had no current motive to kill Cole, if he found none in the passionate events twenty years ago. And why such a grisly end? The answer can be found at Tetley and Butler. Only the head of Mr. Cole, carefully exchanged for that of Mr. Ormond by the new 'tea woman,' Johnny, was identified. The body was clothed by Mr. Ormond's tailor, therefore it is actually Mr. Ormond's body. Thus, Moriarty disposes of two opponents by explaining the disappearance of one with the murder of the other. You will now understand the blood in the hatbox, Wiggins. And Mr. Kearney, you may now appreciate your great fortune in being merely abducted by Moriarty who had a hand in these murders as well as that of young Lord Goodwin."

"Lord Goodwin!"

"Yes, only Moriarty's organization has the resources to procure explosives from a French armoury. Goodwin was useful to Balfour for his land which Goodwin was willing to let him develop. Balfour is a despicable character, to be sure, but only on a local level."

"Why does Moriarty care about Balfour's activities?" asks Watson.

"Elementary: competition and revenge. No businessman, not even a criminal one, welcomes competition for resources, market or opportunity. Moriarty wants to cede no possible area of endeavour to another. Moreover, he has a score to settle with Balfour, who drove him from the boxing arena, as it were, in Southwark.

"Thus Moriarty has been for some time manipulating the stock market, seriously damaging Balfour's financial situation. We know from your own investigations, Mr. Kearney, as well as those of Jamison, Wiggins, and the unfortunate Mr. Perkins, the effect that Moriarty's plotting had on Balfour's empire.

"Moriarty hired the safe-cracker Willard Jaffe to retrieve Balfour's private business papers from his safe. But Jaffe was unable to open it with explosives before the butler and, close on his heels, Balfour himself returned home. Learning of the situation, he sent the servants in search of the burglar and went to check on the safe's contents which were untouched. He realized what an opportunity his rival had afforded him at a time when he was desperately in need of money with which to cover notes due for redemption, and he took his wife's jewels, hoping to both fence them and claim the insurance money.

"But if Moriarty was disappointed, so was Balfour, at least temporarily. Leland Johnson, with whom Balfour's minion Colin Kennedy had arranged the fence, engaged the Mills brothers to disrupt it and steal the jewels. Kennedy forced this information from Johnson, then killed him for his betrayal. He then extracted the whereabouts of the jewels from Leo Mills, and recovered them from Donald Mills, whom he tracked to the flat of Edna Wheelan."

"But how do you know it was Kennedy that killed these three?" asks Wiggins.

"Kennedy must surely not have endeared himself to Balfour at Romano's, when he brought him the news of the jewels' loss, so he was certainly motivated. The carriage logs make it easy to follow his path, and as you yourself noted at Miss Wheelan's, Wiggins, Donald Mills recognized the enormous former pugilist. Presumably, his employer rewarded him well after he recovered the jewels, and he returned to his homeland."

Watson volunteers, "So Balfour killed Perkins for informing to Moriarty?"

"Indirectly, Watson. The actual instrument was Sir Miller Brandon, who was to meet Perkins at eleven on the morning of his death. Clearly, his cryptological skills were less acute than yours, or he would never have left the cyphered note to Moriarty recommending further sales to depress the brewery stock in Perkins' study."

"Then Balfour also had Vincent Derrick killed in July?" asks Wiggins."

"Quite possibly."

Watson expostulates, "So Derrick actually did write the note?"

"Oh, you do disappoint, Watson. You yourself hold the evidence disputing this preposterous, if whimsical, notion. Did you not notice that every word in the supposedly posthumous note from poor Mr. Derrick was available for tracing in the autograph given you by Rose Derrick, and that the address on the typewritten envelope was not?"

"Well, Mr. Kearney, I presume you have quite a bit of writing to do. I hope that I have helped to show you how your rather minor role fits into the totality of the Queen's Park Affair. Perhaps you will oblige me by spending some time with me and providing me with as much detail as you can recall of your dealings with Professor Moriarty."