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## Sherlock Holmes has a visitor

When visitors came to see Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, they often did surprising things. Sometimes they put their heads in their hands and cried. Sometimes they talked and talked, and couldn't stop. And sometimes they just sat there and didn't say a word. But nobody was more surprising<sup>1</sup> than Dr Thorneycroft Huxtable.

He was a large man, tall, well-dressed<sup>2</sup>, and important-looking. He came into the room, walked to one of the big chairs, and suddenly fell into it. He sat there, with his eyes closed, looking white and ill.

I ran to get some water for him. Then I got my doctor's bag, and looked at him carefully.

'What is it, Watson?' said Holmes.

'He's all right, I think,' I said. 'He's just very, very tired – and probably<sup>3</sup> hungry too.'

Holmes looked in the man's pockets – and found a train ticket from Mackleton, in the north of England.

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<sup>1</sup> **surprising** *adj.* causing surprise 令人惊奇的, 出人意外的 || <sup>2</sup> **well-dressed** *adj.* clothe oneself up in a good, right manner 穿着考究的 || <sup>3</sup> **probably** *adv.* almost certainly 可能



*He sat there, looking white and ill.*

‘Mackleton – that’s a long way,’ said Holmes. ‘It’s not twelve o’clock yet, so he probably left home before five o’clock this morning.’

After a minute or two the man began to move, and his eyes opened. A second later he got quickly to his feet. His face was now red and unhappy.

‘Mr Holmes, I am so sorry! I forgot to eat or drink anything this morning – that’s why I felt ill.’

‘When you feel better ...’ I began.

‘I’m better now, thank you,’ said our visitor. ‘And I want very much to talk to Mr Holmes – to ask him something. Please, Mr Holmes, come back to Mackleton with me by the next train.’

‘I’m sorry, that’s not possible,’ said Holmes. ‘I’m working on two important cases<sup>1</sup> – the Ferrers case and the Abergavenny case. I cannot leave London at the moment.’

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<sup>1</sup> case *n.* a question or problem being dealt with by police, lawyers, etc. 案件