

## HOLMES WRITING HIS CONFESSION



# HOLMES' CONFESSION

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through the cover of which I made a small opening. Here I left them until I could return and at my leisure kill them. At 5 P. M. I borrowed a spade of a neighbor and at the same time called on Mrs. Pitezel at her hotel. I then returned to my hotel and ate my dinner, and at 7:00 P. M. went again to Mrs. Pitezel's hotel and added her to the Toronto for Ogdensburg, N. Y. Later than 8:00 P. M. I again returned to the house where the children were imprisoned, and ended their lives by connecting the gas with the trunk, then came the opening of the trunk and the viewing of their little blackened and distorted faces, then the digging of their shallow graves in the basement of the house, the ruthless stripping of their clothing, and the burial without a particle of covering save the cold earth, which I heaped upon them with fondish delirium. Consider what an awful act this was! These little innocent and helpless children, the oldest only being 12 years of age, a puny and sickly child, who to look at one would believe much younger; consider that for eight years before their death I had been almost as much a father as though they had been my own children, thus giving them a right to look to me for care and protection, and in

your righteous judgment let your bitterest curses fall upon me, but again I pray upon me alone. There is little more to tell. The next day was passed in burning the children's clothing and in resting from my terrible night's work, and upon the 27th I called an expressman to have the trunk removed from the house, and after giving the keys to a neighbor went away never to return. From Toronto I went to Ogdensburg, from there to Burlington, Vermont, where I hired a furnished house for Mrs. Pitezel's use, and a few days prior to my arrest in Boston I wrote her a letter in which I directed her to carry a bottle of dynamite and have previously left in the basement so arranged, that in taking it to the third story of the house it would fall from her hands, and not only destroy her life, but that of her two remaining children, who I knew would be with her at the time. This was my last act, and happily did not have a fatal termination. The eighteen intervening months I have passed in solitary confinement, and I am sure I am to be led forth to my death. It would now seem a very fitting time for me to do so, and with the expectation of coming to do so with the expectation of confession to the end, believing that in my depraved nature there is room for such feelings as I fear to express more than would be granted. I can at least do and refrain, from calling forth such criticism by openly reviling it.

Signed H. H. Holmes

Philadelphia County Prison,

Wednesday, April 9, 1896.

## HOLMES' BUSY DAY

The Murderer Realizes That His Time is Growing Short.

Holmes is now using every second of time that is left to him to put his affairs in shape. All day yesterday he sat in his cell hard at work with pen and paper. Once in a while he would turn about to chat with a keeper or a prison official who passed down the corridor. He was at all times cheerful and good-humored. It was evident that his confession has taken a great load from his shoulders. Holmes' cell presents an interesting picture. The furnishing is meagre. There is the usual cot and stool, and in one corner under the narrow-grated window is a table on which are paper and pencils. It is here that Holmes sits most of the time hard at work. To a staple in the floor of the cell is fastened a stout iron chain, such as are used to manacle unruly prisoners. Holmes has taken this chain and arranged it in the form of a cross. At times the eyes that have seen so many

How the Insurance Company Worked Out, the Great Case.

Soon after the body of Pitezel was discovered on September 3, 1894, and the insurance money paid, Inspector Gary of the Fidelity Mutual Life Association discovered that a fraud had been perpetrated against the company. With speed and energy he set out to unravel the mystery. The task was an enormous one. It is a fact that the company stopped at nothing in the way of expense. Agents and Pinkertons were sent everywhere and Holmes' movements were watched. The great exciting hunt through New England.

During that chase the insurance people picked up many things that afterwards led them to unravel the great mystery and convict the man of murder. At the time of the arrest the Fidelity people believed that Holmes had killed Pitezel, but they did not know the full depths of the man's iniquity. It was not until the authorities took little interest in the case.

The belief of the insurance company that Pitezel was murdered, and that Holmes was the murderer, is settled in an affidavit which was made by O. L. F. Perry prior to Holmes' arrest. From the time Holmes was taken into custody he maintained his innocence until he made his confession to The Inquirer.

## GEYER'S SEARCH

The Detective Writes a Book Telling How He Solved the Pitezel Mystery.

Up to the time the Supreme Court sealed his fate H. H. Holmes believed that he would escape to a gallows. Outwardly his front was as bold as a lion's in court and out he spun fairy tales to the authorities and mocked them in his sleep. He has been dealing with less careful men it is likely that he would even now be a free man. Holmes was arrested on November 17, 1894, in Boston on a charge of defrauding the Fidelity Mutual Life Association of the city. On September 3 of the same year the body of the man then known as Perry, afterwards identified as B. F. Pitezel, was found in the house No. 1216 California street. As soon as he was arrested Holmes expressed his willingness to tell the entire story of the case, and the collection of the insurance money.

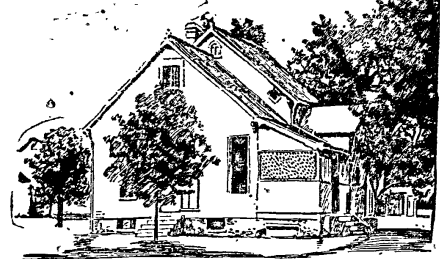
He was permitted to talk, and he proceeded on and on, a series of rambling statements that eventually tangled him up. For a long time he succeeded in keeping the authorities off the right track. But the officials were patient. Link by link they worked on the case, until they finally reached the conclusion that Holmes must have murdered the three Pitezel children.

HIS LETTER TO MRS. PITEZEL. It was decided to release Mrs. Pitezel from custody in June, 1896, and to take up the hunt in earnest. The day the sorrowing mother left Movamensing Prison she was handed a letter from Holmes. Viewed in the light of subsequent developments, that letter seems to be as great a series of cold-blooded lies as ever mortal penned. The document has but recently been made public by Detective Geyer in his book, "The Holmes-Pitezel Mystery." The quotations from Geyer are also from the same work. It reads: PHILADELPHIA, June 17, 1893.

Mrs. Carrie A. Pitezel! Dear Madam: I have been exceedingly anxious during the last few months to communicate with you, but have been headed off in every direction. I learn that you will shortly be set at liberty, and I shall take this letter to City Hall with me and then give it to my attorneys to be sent to you, as the prison regulations do not prohibit my doing so.

I have been repeatedly called cruel and heartless during the past six months, and by those who were at the very time doing more than I that was both cruel and heartless towards you. Within ten days after you came here arrangements were made with my attorney to furnish bail for you and a house to live in. We were refused permission to see you, although you remember coming here from Boston. It was promised I should see you. Later I offered to make arrangements with your lawyer for the same.

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THE IRVINGTON COTTAGE WHERE HOWARD PITEZEL WAS MURDERED



Benjamin F. Pitezel.



Alice Pitezel.



Howard Pitezel.



Mrs. Pitezel.



Nellie Pitezel.



Pearl Connor.



Minnie Williams.



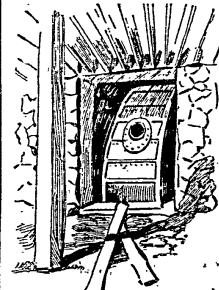
Nannie Williams.



Mrs. Julia Connor.



Detective Geyer.



The Gas Tank in the Castle, Chicago

death agonies turn furtively and glance at the crude reminder of the crucifixion as though the arch fiend were trying to gain some measure of forgiveness for his many crimes. Father Dalley, who is Holmes' constant attendant, is giving the murderer what solace he can.

Holmes fully realizes that his time is growing short, and that the hours are now slipping away faster than ever. Once yesterday the murderer turned and glanced at the calendar. "I haven't got much time left," he remarked, "and I still have a great deal of work to do." When he wrote his statement for The Inquirer, repudiating the false confessions he appeared in certain papers he tore a corner of the paper and kept it. "One block is getting short," he remarked, "and must look after the other and ends."



ST. QUINLAN. ARTICULATOR. BELLEVILLE. CHAPPEL.



District Attorney George S. Graham.

To The Philadelphia Inquirer  
I positively and emphatically deny the assertions that any confession has been made by me except one, which is the only one that will be made. This original confession to the one given to the Philadelphia Inquirer is alone is genuine, all others are untrue.  
Signed H. H. Holmes  
April 11/4 1896



