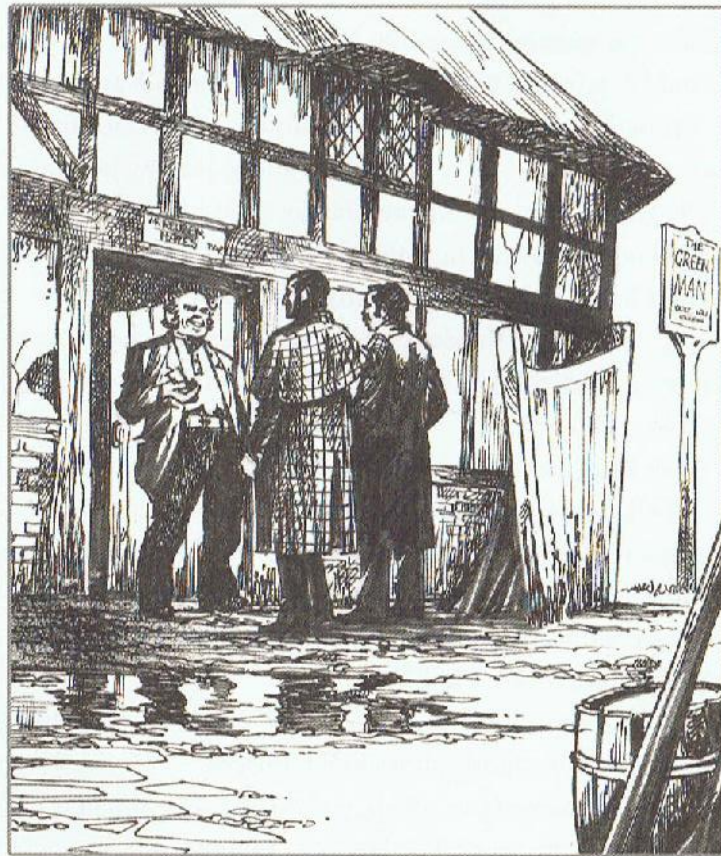


carefully. 'That's . . . er, that's good news. I worked for the Duke once, but he wasn't good to me. I don't like him, but I'm pleased about the boy.'

We all went into the inn. 'Now,' said Holmes,



'Ob, friends of the Duke, are you?' Mr Hayes laughed.

'something to eat first, please. Then you can bring round the bicycle.'

'I haven't got a bicycle,' said Mr Hayes.

Holmes put a pound on the table.

'I tell you, man, that I haven't got a bicycle! You can have two horses to take you to the Hall.'

He brought us something to eat, and we ate hungrily. Through the window we could see the stables at the back of the inn. Once Holmes got up and walked round the room, then stood, looking out of the window at the stables. Surprisingly, his foot was now very much better.

Suddenly he laughed, and looked at me. 'I've got it!' he cried. 'Yes, of course that's it. Watson, did you see any cow tracks today?'

'Yes,' I said. 'Lots of them. Everywhere.'

'And how many cows did you see on the moor?'

'I don't remember any,' I said.

'Isn't that strange, Watson? Lots of cow tracks, but no cows? And do you remember those tracks, Watson?' He took out his notebook. 'There were tracks like this:

: : : : : : : : :

and sometimes like this:

: . . . : . . . : . . .

and sometimes like this:

.

Do you remember that, Watson?'