himself. All of these have been told too well by Mr. Stevenson, and I will hasten on to the startling disclosures which so change the entire aspect of the mystery, and lift the shadow from the memory of poor Harry Jekyll.

CHAPTER II.

To say that these remarkable letters, ending and apparently clearing up this remarkable case, did not deeply impress me, would be untrue. On the contrary, they completely upset me. I was overcome by an overwhelming realizing sense of the horror of it all. For awhile, my little world seemed completely upside-down; the things with which I had been familiar all my life seemed strange and changed, and the most commonplace incidents became clothed with an element amounting almost to uncanniness. I was haunted with a vague, intangible fear, like that which I experienced as a child when some unusually ghostly tale had been told. I cannot begin to tell the mental suffering I underwent during those days. In course of time it wore off, however, and I soon began to take a more sensible view of the situation. I remembered my old fears and suspicions, and, besides, I was inclined to be skeptical even in the face of the evidence of my own eyes. I have always been a practical man, with little or no sentiment, and it now stood me in good stead. I could not bring myself to believe in the conclusions which were arrived at. It did not seem possible for Dr. Jekyll, or any other man, to accomplish what Jekyll claimed to have accomplished. It was contrary to all nature; it was simply defying the laws of God's universe, and I could not believe in it. I was filled with a fast growing conviction that there was something more, something which had escaped us, and, moreover, that that "something" was the key to the situation. My old suspicions returned with renewed force, and I determined to satisfy myself once for all. I believed that in the past of the creature Hyde lay enlightenment, and diligently, yet secretly, I set to work to find it.

I visited the office in Soho, but found an office, and nothing more. There were chairs, a table or two, and some old periodicals—nothing else. Then I turned my attention to Jekyll's home and Hyde's quarters, which had been closed since the death of these men. For days and weeks my search was unavailing, and I had about given up, when finally one afternoon, after I had spent most of the day in the cabinet where Hyde died, I entered the handsome room, that was Hyde's, to rest. I leaned carelessly against the wall near a mirror, for a moment, when all at once I felt a rush of cold air, and turning with a nervous start I saw the mirror slowly swing inward, disclosing a dark passage floored with marble slabs. I was startled, and it was several moments before I gained courage to take a candle and explore the passage. It was like entering an ice-house, and I had scarcely taken three steps before I was suddenly thrown violently forward on my face, extinguishing the light and leaving me in total darkness. I scrambled to my feet thoroughly frightened, and rushed back into the room, where I stood panting, awaiting the danger I was sure would follow. But none came, and I picked up courage, and relighting the candle, cautiously entered the passage. Then I discovered the cause of my fall. It was simple enough. One of the diamond-shaped slabs in the flooring was loose; I stepped upon it, tipped it, and consequently was instantly tripped up. How I laughed at my superstitious fears of a moment before, and what a hollow, mocking sound the marble walls sent back. Stooping, I was about to replace the slab, when I noticed loose earth, upon which was scattered bits of torn paper, still fresh and white. Scrapping away the loose dirt with my fingers I soon laid bare a piece of cloth wet and clammy, and I became aware of a faint stench. In less time than I can tell it I was out of the house, and making my way to the home of Poole, Jekyll's old butler. Quickly telling him of my discovery, we were soon back again with a shovel and hoe.

I cannot go into the details of that next hour. My worst fears were realized. There, by the