

A STUDY IN SCARLET VOCABULARY WORDS

Fusiliers (15) - infantry soldiers who originally carried a fusil
which was a type of flintlock rifle
passes (15) - routes through the mountains
Jezail bullet (15) - bullet fired from a heavy long-barrelled
musket made by Asiatic natives
subclavian artery (15) - principal artery of the root of the neck;
found under the collar bone
orderly (15) - soldier who attends to a superior officer by
carrying orders or messages
veranda (15) - partly enclosed porch extending along the
outside of a building
enteric fever (15) - typhoid
jetty (15) - a structure that projects into the water to protect a
harbor from storms or erosion
kith nor kin (15) - friends nor relatives
shilling (15, 42) - 1/20th of a pound
private hotel (15) - hotel not licensed to sell wine or beer
rusticate (16) - live in the country
dresser (16) - intern, one who dresses wounds
lath (16) - thin strip of wood
desultory (16, 20) - disconnected; random
vegetable alkaloid (17, 80, 81) - a compound such as
morphine, quinine or caffeine
and derived from plants
malevolence (17) - wishing harm to others
dun-coloured (17) - dull, dingy grayish-brown
retort (17) - laboratory vessel with an outlet tube, used for dis-
tillation, sublimation, or decomposition by heat
Bunsen lamp (17) - small laboratory burner consisting of a verti-
cal metal tube connected to a gas source

bodkin (18) - sharp-pointed, needle-like instrument,
guaiaicum test (18) - uses resin of the guaiacum tree, alcohol,
hydrogen peroxide, and ether to test for
the presence of haemoglobin
linen (18) - shirt
score (18) - twenty
piece of plaster (18) - band aid
diggings (19) - lodgings
enigmatical (18) - inexplicable; a riddle
piquant (19) - appealingly provocative
portmanteau (20, 51) - belted suitcase
torpor (20) - mental inactivity; lethargy; apathy
Copernican Theory (21) - theory that the earth and other planets
revolve about the sun, first proposed
by Nicholas Copernicus (1473 - 1543)
belladonna (21) - extract of deadly nightshade, contains atro-
pine and is used to enlarge the pupil of the eye
singlestick (22) - 34" long wooden stick with a basket to
protect the user's hand; used as a battering
weapon and for saber training
sonorous (22) - full, deep, rich sound
sallow (22) - sickly yellowish complexion
Euclid (23) - Greek mathematician who developed a system
of geometry (circa 300 B.C.)
necromancer (23) - sorcerer, conjures up spirits of the dead
puerile (23) - immature; childish
callosities (23) - calluses
ineffable twaddle (23) - indescribable foolish talk
paradoxes (23) - seemingly contradictory statements that
nonetheless are true
Underground (23) - London subway system
chimerical (23) - unreal, imaginary
sardonically (25, 28) - in a scornfully or cynically mocking
way

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cavalier (25) – carefree and nonchalant
 querulously (25) – in a complaining way
 bumptious (25) – loudly assertive; pushy
 commissionaire (25) – former non-commissioned soldiers
 employed in jobs that require trust; for
 example, messengers, watchmen, etc.
 brusquely (26) – abruptly; bluntly
 side whiskers (26) – side burns
in statu quo (26) – Latin for ‘in the condition in which it was
 before’
 hansom (27, 79) – two-wheeled, one horse carriage seating two
 with the driver mounted behind and reins
 going over the roof of the hood; invented by
 J. A. Hansom, a Yorkshire architect who
 patented the cab in 1834
 disquisition (27) – formal discourse on a subject
 minatory (27) – menacing; threatening
 cataract (27) – blurring the sight
 footsteps (28, 84) – foot prints
 flaxen (28) – pale grayish-yellow color
 frock coat (29) – close-fitting double-breasted, knee-length coat
 waistcoat (29) – vest
 prognathous jaw (29) – protruding jaw
 Albert chain (30) – a watch-chain made of heavy links, named
 for Queen Victoria’s husband,
 Prince Albert, who wore such a chain
 depreciatory (31) – disparaging; belittling
 Trichinopoly cigar (32, 33, 85) – cigar made of dark tobacco
 grown near Trichinopoly in
 southern India
 off fore-leg (32) – right front leg
 florid (32, 33, 38) – flushed with rosy color
 Parthian shot (32) – comment thrown backward over the
 shoulder; so named because the ancient
 cavalry of Parthia shot arrows backward
 behind themselves as they fled
 sere and yellow (33) – old age

surmise (34, 36, 85) – to infer something without
 sufficiently conclusive evidence
 conjecture (34, 49) – judgment based on inconclusive or
 incomplete evidence
 half-sovereign (34, 35) – a coin worth one-half of one pound
 white hart (34) – white, male deer
 four of gin hot (34) – 4 pence of gin with hot water and lemon
 cove (35) – slang for a person or fellow
 crone (39) – ugly, withered old woman; a hag
 Union boat (39) – steamship of the Union Line that sailed to
 South Africa
 circus (39) – a show performed by acrobats, clowns, and
 trained animals
 steward (39) – ship’s employee who attends to passengers’ wants
 ulster (39) – long, loose fitting, rough overcoat usually belted
 cravat (39) – scarf
 stolidly (39) – showing little emotion; impassively
 vent (40) – speaking forcefully
 leaders (41) – leading editorials in a newspaper
 despotism (41, 70) – rule by absolute power
 acuteness (41) – perceptiveness
Un sot trouve toujours un plus sot qui l’admire (42) – French for “A
 fool can always find a greater fool to admire
 him”
 beatitude (42) – supreme happiness
 paroxysm (43) – sudden outburst of emotion
 antecedents (43, 44) – ancestors
 sententious (43) – tersely and energetically expressed
 cudgel (45, 80) – short, thick stick used as a weapon
 demeanour (46, 49) – behavior
 the boots (47) – a servant who performs odd jobs including the
 cleaning and polishing of footwear
 skirting (47) – edging along the wall next to the floor
 mews (47) – stable yard; back lane; alley

joiner (48) – someone who makes doors, windows, etc.
 draught (49) – drink
 derisively (49) – mockingly; jeeringly
 inert (49) – inactive
outré (50) – unusual, weird
 irresolution (50) – being unsure of how to act or proceed
 deprecating (50) – disparaging; belittling
 forelock (51) – lock of hair that falls on the forehead
 staghound (51) – a variety of foxhound; used in hunting
 neckcloth (51) – collar
 pinioned (51) – immobilized by grasping with hands and arms
 alkali (52) – mineral salts found in natural water and arid soils
 Pawnees (52, 56) – large tribe of American Indians living
 in Nebraska and Kansas
 Blackfeet (52) – confederation of three Indian tribes:
 Blackfoot, Blood, and Piegan
 chapparal (51) – low scrub bushes growing in arid parts of the
 western United States
 gaunt (53, 56, 66, 73) – emaciated and haggard
 senile (53) – with impaired memory; unable to perform
 simple mental tasks
 decrepit (53) – worn out
 crag (53, 56, 70, 71) – steeply projecting mass of rock
 tousy (53) – rumpled; disheveled
 bullier (53) – better
 mica (54) – igneous or metamorphic rocks
 visage (54, 55) – face
 diffidently (54) – shyly
 grizzly (55) – flecked with gray
 precipitous (56) – extremely steep
 placid (56, 77, 83) – calm; quiet
 sinewy (56, 60) – lean and muscular
 tunic (56, 69) – long, plain, close-fitting jacket

skirt (56) – part of a coat that hangs freely from the waist down
 Angel Moroni (57) – son of the ancient prophet Mormon;
 the Angel Moroni showed the golden
 tablets to Joseph Smith (see next entry);
 Smith returned the tablets to the Angel
 Moroni
 Joseph Smith (57) – (1805 – 1844) had a vision in 1823 that re-
 vealed the hiding place of the golden tablets
 that were the basis for the foundation of the
 Church of the Latter Day Saints (the Mor-
 mons); after Smith translated the tablets,
 they were returned to the Angel Moroni
 and have not been seen again
 commiseration (57) – feeling of pity
 waifs (58) – homeless or forsaken persons
 tenacity (58) – holding on persistently
 resolute (58, 59, 62, 68, 69) – determined; unwavering
 artisan (58) – craftsman
 villa (59) – a substantial house
 tilling (59) – cultivating
 celibate (59) – unmarried
 heralded (59) – announced; proclaimed
 defiled (59, 70, 71, 72, 73) – marched in single file
 bullocks (60) – castrated bulls; steers
 motley (60) – incongruous; lacking in harmony
 peltries (60) – undressed animal skins with the fur still on them
 stoicism (60) – indifference to pleasure or pain
 cavalcade (60) – procession of riders
 curb (60) – strap attached to the bit of a bridle
 roan (60) – chestnut, bay, or sorrel coat thickly sprinkled with
 white or gray
 demurely (60) – shyly, modestly
 sombrero (61) – Spanish for 'hat'
 taciturn (61) – inclined towards silence

lodes (61) - veins of mineral ore deposited between layers of rock
 imperious (61) - regal; imperial
 halcyon (61) - calm and peaceful; tranquil
 on that head (62) - on that score; on those grounds
 bated (62, 69) - with reduced intensity; moderate
 Inquisition of Seville (62) - the Spanish Inquisition
 German Vehmgericht (62) - 14th and 15th century German secret society that provided some protection from lawbreakers
 omniscient (62) - having complete and infinite knowledge
 omnipotent (62) - almighty; having unlimited power or authority
 polygamy (63) - state of having more than one wife
 trepidation (63) - apprehension
 wax (63) - increase gradually in strength
 fain (64, 71) - gladly, willingly
 heifers (64) - wives
 shingly (64) - pebbly
 shin out (65) - clear out; get away
 tanning yard (66) - place where leather is made from rawhide
 sardonically (66) - bitterly or scornfully derisive; sneeringly
 canting (66) - moralizing
 outhouse (67) - small building adjacent to the main house
 haggard (67) - worn and exhausted
 insidious (68) - subtle or stealthy in a harmful way
 asprawl (68) - spread out
 voraciously (68) - ravenously; in an extremely hungry way
 basaltic (70) - dark volcanic rock having a glassy appearance
 Indian file (70) - single file; one after another
 larch (71) - deciduous trees having needlelike leaves clustered on short shoots
 inexorable (71) - relentless; not easily dissuaded
 beetling crag (71) - overhanging broken rock
 tethered (71) - restrained with a short distance to move about
 lethargy (73) - sluggishness; apathy
 conjure (74) - solemnly call upon or entreat

baleful (74) - portending evil; ominous
 sottish (74) - drunken
 incessant (75) - continuing without interruption
 privation (75) - lack of the basic necessities of life
 malcontents (75) - chronically dissatisfied persons
 sureties (76) - promises made to secure against default; bail
 affable (76) - gentle and gracious
 was a caution (77) - slang for 'something extraordinary'
 aortic aneurism (77, 80) - localized enlargement of the aorta caused by the blood acting upon a part weakened by accident or disease
 remonstrated (79) - pleaded in protest
 billets (80) - positions; jobs
 livid (81) - deathly pale; ashen
 jocosely (83) - jokingly
 warders (83) - prison guards
 ejaculated (83) - exclaimed
 synthetically (83) - reasoning from the general to the particular
 analytically (83) - starting from given truths and reasoning to a logical conclusion
 growler (84) - four-wheeled, horse-drawn cab
 brougham (84) - one-horse, enclosed carriage with four wheels and an open driver's seat in front, named for the Scottish-born jurist, Henry Peter Brougham, First Baron Brougham and Vaux (1778-1868)
 nocturnal (84) - night-time
 toxicologist (84) - person who studies poisons and their treatment
 jarveys (85) - Cockney slang for coachmen or cab drivers
 ferreted (85) - uncovered; brought to light by searching
Populus me sibilat, at mihi plaudo Ipse domi simul ac nummos contemplar in arca (86) - Latin for "People hiss at me, but I am satisfied with myself; I stay at home and contemplate the money in my strongbox" However, Watson misspelled *contemplor* as *contemplar*, and the quotation is about a rich Athenian not a Roman miser.