It was not the sound of the busy streets below that awoke him but the smell of breakfast that allured him from his sleep. Sitting up in bed, his vision still blurry, he looked around the bedroom. Thoughts of his responsibilities for the day and things he may encounter began to stir in his head. This day, Monday, August 20, 1888, was to be a day typical of most every other day in his life. He knew that it would be a day filled with complaints, decisions that affect the lives of others, and suppression of his own views and beliefs so that he could remain impartial and deal out justice equally. A day in the life of a London Metropolitan Police Inspector was long and busy because he had to deal with crime, responsibility of leadership, politics, issues and complaints brought from all classes of citizens, all while he kept his personal life strong and separate from his professional life.

Stepping out from comfort of his bed, the Inspector took a moment to breathe in the smell of breakfast again. He never gave much thought to the housemaid who prepared it. It was her job to do such things. She began her day about six in the morning. First she lit the kitchen fire and then opened shutters. After completing these tasks, she swept the floors, dusted, and polished things that needed to be polished. After those tasks were completed she carried hot water up the stairs for the bath of her master and mistress. She was then free to sit down to her breakfast. Who cooked breakfast? Is this a “complete” middle class household with a cook? Or not? You skip a rather pertinent fact in this household.

The Inspector stretched and looked around the room. In the center of the bedroom was the bed, placed slightly out from the wall. The footboard of the bed was made of iron, with two iron rails in the center that curve up in a heart shape. Four other iron rails extended from the base of the heart shape design, two on each side, rolled out like gusts of air to the two posts at the ends. The canopy was tall and had long fabric extended across the top and down both sides.

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1 E.S. Turner, What the Butler Saw (London: Penguin Books, 1962), 145,
Elsewhere in the room were a couple of sitting chairs, an oak dresser and cabinet, paintings depicting various scenes with Jesus, and trinkets which sat on top of the mantle above the fireplace.² The bed sat in the middle of the room in the case that if lightning struck the building, the bed, as well as any furniture in the center of the room, remained unharmed.³

After he washed, the Inspector prepared to dress. The attire would be no different than any other working day. He slipped on his blue pants and long blue tailcoat. He secured his belt around his waist and slipped his tipstave into its place on the belt. The regular police constables carried a truncheon made of hard wood for their weapon. However, the Inspector was in a leadership position, so he carried a tipstave, as did some other senior officers, as a symbol of authority.⁴ He checked to make sure everything was straight, and he thought back to when he first began his career as a policeman. He was told that when Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829, the pay was only three shillings a day.⁵ The pay had gotten a little better since then but is not the reason he took the job. His desire to be a “Peeler” extended further than just wanting to make a difference. The middle class considered itself the moral center of society and the rest of society should follow its example.⁶ The Inspector, being a part of the middle class society, believed no differently. Police work provided him an opportunity to help morally reform society. It also provided him with a sense that he was carrying out a small amount of justice in a society filled with injustice. He worked hard to retain his enthusiasm and had risen through the ranks in a few short years from constable to sergeant before his promotion to Inspector.

³ Turner, 146.
⁵ Ibid., 78-83.
He walked down the staircase, looked at the clock, and noted the time of eight o’clock. His wife had been up since early morning and was waiting for him in the breakfast room. She was dressed in a long white summer dress with a draped and gathered bustle in the back of the dress. Her high band collar was accented by pleated material that flowed down, much like a tie, to her beltl ine. Her long brown hair streamed down her back and was tied in the middle.\footnote{Madeleine Ginsburg, Victorian Dress (New York: Holmes & Meier Publishing, 1983), 81.}

The Inspector and his wife sat down and were served by the housemaid. He had married his wife when she was in her mid-twenties. He was slightly older because he had waited until he was secure in his career and able to maintain a middle-class standing. They had no children due to the rising costs of the middle class lifestyles. The Inspector reasoned that they could use the money to pay for their progression rather than on a child.\footnote{F.M.L. Thompson, The Rise of Respectable Society (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988), 53-61.} He did not concern himself too greatly with how his wife felt about having children. He believed, as many Victorian men believed, that he was head over his wife and she was not as free as he was.\footnote{W.J. Reader, Life in Victorian England (London: B.T. Batsford, 1964), 8.}

After breakfast, the Inspector, his wife, and the housemaid gathered to read Bible passages and pray. The Inspector and his wife were Evangelicals. They believed that it was their responsibility to teach the Bible to their housemaid and any other person whom they believed was in need of religion and moral reform. Though her first duty was to the home, the Inspector’s wife left the house almost every day to perform charitable acts, such as visiting and caring for the sick, finding food and clothing for the poor, and comforting those who had lost loved ones.\footnote{Thompson, 250-253.}

With the morning reading and prayers completed, the Inspector took a moment to look around the house. His sanctuary from the everyday hassle of life was in his study. His wife
often retreated to the drawing room. The music room as well as the breakfast and dining rooms were common ground. Two bedrooms were upstairs, while the housemaid’s room was in the basement.\textsuperscript{11} The Inspector rented the house, though this did not mean that he shared any major commonality with people in the working classes. His lease, known as a repairing lease, was a good choice because it provided him with occupancy for a certain number of years, but provided the flexibility to move to a bigger house or better neighborhood.\textsuperscript{12}

The time was near nine o’clock, and the Inspector prepared to leave for work. He stepped outside to the street. His house was located at Russell Square in the Bloomsbury district of London. As a policeman, the Inspector had become used to walking the beat and preferred to walk to work at Scotland Yard; however he could have traveled in other ways. The railways were used by many people and provided an opportunity for them to live further away from the city. The horse bus was also a means of travel still used and had been one of the primary ways of travel before the suburban railways.\textsuperscript{13} Walking gave the Inspector the chance to see more of what was going on in the city. \textit{Combine into one paragraph with the one following.}

From Russell Square, he walked down Montague Street until he made a south turn onto Gower Street. He walked past the British Museum to Oxford Street. The streets were noisy with the clanking of horses, rattling of carriages, and the chatter of people. The walls of the buildings suffered darkening because of the soot from the smoke of the factories and the many chimneys.\textsuperscript{14} Everything looked older because of the soot-covered stones and bricks.\textsuperscript{15} The walk during the weekdays was quite different from a walk on Sunday, when the streets were mostly barren.\textsuperscript{16} \textit{Why barren on Sundays? Did this evangelical work on Sundays? Comment on...}

\begin{itemize}
\item[Ibid., 176.]
\item[Ibid., 169-171.]
\item[Reader, 64.]
\item[Altick, 76.]
\item[Augustus J.C. Hare, \textit{Walks in London} vol. 1 (London: George Allen, 1898), 3.]
\item[Ibid., 10-11.]
\end{itemize}
Past Oxford Street, he walked to Endell Street where he passed marble slabs that were once part of a bath known as Queen Anne’s Bath before it flooded in 1868. From Endell Street he made his way to Bow Street and then made a right turn onto Strand Street. Everyday, Strand Street was busy with people on their way to work in the City of London. After a short walk on Strand, he turned left onto Whitehall Street. The Inspector then walked to Scotland Yard at 4 Whitehall Place. The busy day of the Inspector had just begun.

The Inspector’s first responsibility was leadership. This meant that he worked long hours and was in charge of making assignments to the policemen. The Inspector’s shift started at 10 a.m. and he worked until 10 a.m. the next morning. He worked for one whole day, and then had one day off until he had to report for duty again. When the Inspector first arrived for duty, the Superintendent of the division gave him instructions. The Inspector proceeded to read the orders to the men under his charge. Included with the orders was a list of burglaries that had occurred, stolen property descriptions, and criticisms of the officers. The Inspector also familiarized himself with other crimes that happened while he was off duty the night before. There had been a murder involving a husband who killed his wife by hitting her in the head with a hammer while she slept. Then he attempted to kill himself by cutting his throat with a razor. In an unrelated incident, a man employed with the British Museum had been killed. He was found badly beaten and died after he had been taken to the hospital.

17 Augustus J.C. Hare, Walks in London vol. 2 (London: George Allen, 1898), 125.
18 Hare, vol. 1, 22.
19 Tobias, 82.
20 Tobias, 105.
After instructing his men, the Inspector dismissed them, and the sergeants marched each group out to their beats. The Inspector then went out on patrol to monitor his men. Usually, two Inspectors were at each station. One stayed behind at the station to receive prisoners and the other patrolled. It was important that one Inspector went out to monitor the men under his charge because some of the policemen acted contrary to their sworn duty. There were officers who took bribes or “allowances” from citizens on their beat if they overlooked minor infractions committed by those citizens. Some officers took property from drunks as they helped them back to their homes. In a leadership position, the Inspector had to be above such acts and report any man in his division that conducted himself in this manner. However, the leadership role was only one aspect of his busy day. In addition to the burden of leadership, he had to deal with crime.

Crime was something that penetrated all classes of people in London in 1888, even though many people believed that crime was committed by a separate criminal class. In dealing with crime, the Inspector’s power to arrest came from common law, statutes, and a warrant from a magistrate. However, aside from arrest, the main responsibility of the Inspector in the capacity as a policeman on the beat was to keep the peace and prevent the commission of offenses. Combine with the following paragraph into one. This is an introduction not a full development of a point.

The Inspector was not limited to dealing with those in the lower classes who committed crimes. The upper class had their share of “gentleman-pickpockets” who dressed in a way that made it difficult to differentiate them from their prey. Some in the upper class received stolen

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23 Tobias, 85.
24 Ibid., 106.
25 Ibid., 57.
26 British Life and Thought (London, 1941), 96.
property and disposed of it to make a profit, as well.\textsuperscript{27} Shoplifting plagued the middle classes and was usually committed by women.\textsuperscript{28} The lower classes were prone to drinking and sex, which led some to commit crimes.\textsuperscript{29} Prostitution was a major problem as well. Some places in London were said to have prostitutes in rows, recognized as such because of their “dirty-white muslin and cheap blue silks.”\textsuperscript{30} Fraud came in a wide variety on the streets. Some tricksters knocked on the doors of houses and told the owner they wanted to buy certain items. Upon receiving the items, the trickster told the owner that their master was behind them and would later pay for the items. Others made fake cakes of soap by boiling animal fat and then sold the cakes. Collecting items for repair and then selling the items was also common. Children were hired by beggars in order to extract more money from anyone who passed.\textsuperscript{31} The Inspector knew what he was up against everyday as he dealt with these crimes. Furthermore, dealing with crime meant that he also had to deal with the political issues.

As a policeman, the Inspector could not let his personal political views interfere with the execution of his duty. Dealing justice meant suppression of personal feelings even though he was acutely aware of all the issues. The influx of Irish immigrants caused hardships and prejudice in social circles. Many people viewed the Irish as dirty, drunken barbarians. Most of them lived in foul conditions. They worked for low pay and were often afflicted with diseases.\textsuperscript{2} The Inspector could not allow his judgment to sway when he interacted with the Irish. The first Home Rule Bill had been defeated in 1886. Most English citizens opposed Irish Home Rule and the friction continued in Parliament.\textsuperscript{33} The immigration of Jews also caused social unrest

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{27}Tobias, 60-61.
\item \textsuperscript{28}Tammy Whitlock, “Gender, Medicine, and Consumer Culture in Victorian England: Creating the Kleptomaniac,” Albion 3 (1999): 413.
\item \textsuperscript{29}Thompson, 307.
\item \textsuperscript{31}Tobias, 68.
\item \textsuperscript{32}Altick, 42-43.
\end{itemize}
because they competed with the working class for jobs. The Inspector had to place his political concerns aside and treat the Jewish immigrants the same as everyone else. Whatever side he took on the idea of Irish Home Rule had to be suppressed while he served on duty. The Conservatives dominated Parliament. Political views of the Inspector, whether liberal or conservative, were unimportant as far as his job was concerned. His duty was to keep watch over his men, keep the peace, and prevent crime. If he allowed political views to affect his judgment in the performance of his job, he risked losing any respect he may have gained with the people.

The Inspector interacted with people to gain respect and rapport while walking through his district. In the park he came into contact with men dressed in top hats and waistcoats. Women were dressed in long dresses and carrying parasols. The weather threatened rain and the temperature was expected to be quite warm. The Inspector wiped his brow, hoping for a cool breeze, and continued his trek through the district. He walked down Strand and Charing Cross, and past 51 and 52 Frith Street where the eight-year-old Mozart once gave a performance on the harpsichord. As he came into contact with people within his district, the Inspector stepped into their lives.

Many of those he encountered spoke to him about complaints and issues important to them. Child prostitution was a major concern of many citizens. Large numbers of children around London begged and stole. He often told those who complained about the constables not doing enough to stop these juvenile offenders that they were doing the best they could. The people of London loved to read crime stories that were printed in the newspapers. He often

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34 Reader, 57-58.
37 Hare, vol. 2, 121.
38 Porter, 364-365.
stopped to answer questions and listen to the people rave about the articles. The middle class considered itself the moral fiber of society and generated many of the complaints about the moral ills of London society.\textsuperscript{39} The Inspector had no choice but to listen patiently to the complaints.

All of the crime, leadership responsibility, and complaints constituted most of the Inspector’s day. When evening approached, the Inspector returned to the station. The nightshift constables did not come on duty until 9 p.m., but some came an hour earlier for dinner. The dinner for the evening consisted of a pound of roast mutton, potatoes, and cabbage. The Inspector took the opportunity to eat dinner as well. At 8:45 he gave the new shift their orders and then they marched to their beats at 9 p.m.\textsuperscript{40} The nightshift officers were fresh and ready for duty, but the Inspector was only through half of his shift. His leadership responsibility continued and he reported to the superintendent of the division for the activities of the previous shift.\textsuperscript{41} Back out on the streets, his focus shifted from daytime thieves to nighttime burglars. However, he kept an even closer watch on the night shift officers to ensure that they remained true to their duty while under the tempting cover of darkness.

By the time the Inspector’s shift ended the following morning, he may or may not have slept. In either case, he was tired and ready to return home. It was important to keep his personal life separate from his professional life. The morality of the Inspector and his wife held their marriage together. Despite any pleasures he found at home, work remained his focal point.\textsuperscript{42} The Inspector could not allow the immorality he saw each day to interfere with the morality he clung to in his marriage. Likewise, the pleasures and comforts of home had to be

\textsuperscript{39} Altick, 29.
\textsuperscript{40} Tobias, 105.
\textsuperscript{41} Ibid., 87.
\textsuperscript{42} Reader, 142.
left there so that his mind could remain centered on his work. The one thing that the Inspector
could allow to cross the line between his personal life and his professional life were his
Evangelical religious beliefs. He considered work as a moral obligation that qualified him to
reach Heaven.\textsuperscript{43} He often took the opportunity to tell those who had been arrested about peace
and forgiveness they could find if they sought God. Some listened to him, but others just
sneered. Other than his religious beliefs, he kept the two spheres of his life isolated from one
another. It would do no good to tell his wife of all the nefarious things he had witnessed. Police
work was a job difficult to understand unless experienced first hand.

With his workday concluded, the Inspector returned home and rested until it was time to
return to work again. He greeted his wife and sat down to eat. Bible reading and prayers
followed. The rest of his day was free, but after working for twenty-four hours, the Inspector
went to bed. As he walked up the stairs to the bedroom, the streets were busy and noisy. He
took off his uniform and put on his bed clothes. The drapes over the canopy of the bed provided
some refuge from the bright sunlight that shined through the window. The day was over, but it
would soon be time to return to work. With the thoughts of all the good and bad that occurred
on his shift, the Inspector spread out on the bed and fell asleep.

In the Inspector’s time, London was the center of global economics.\textsuperscript{44} It was a place
marked by the Greenwich Meridian that had been put in place in 1884.\textsuperscript{45} Crime rates were
dropping because of the diligent work of the Metropolitan Police.\textsuperscript{46} The streets were busy and
the people were proud. However, London was a place marked by distinctive features of the
classes.\textsuperscript{47} The upper classes had ruled the society since the time of the Tudors. It was a class that

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{43} Altick, 168-169.
\textsuperscript{45} Porter, 225.
\textsuperscript{46} Ibid., 302.
\textsuperscript{47} Thompson, The Rise of Respectable Society, 246.
\end{flushleft}
pursued real estate and was given to drinking, gambling, hunting, and extra-sexual activities. The middle classes had a set of values and believed in the other classes following their moral example. The lower classes were distinctive within themselves, marked by poverty and hardship. Many novels of the day depicted lower class life as the subject. Combine with following paragraph.

In as much as London had some negative aspects, it had its share of beauty as well. Despite the smoke-darkened bricks and stones, London had some stunning architecture. Though many of the squares were not pleasing to the eye, the parks were green and beautiful. Westminster Abbey, London Bridge, St. Paul’s, the Tower, and other landmarks accented the landscape and added character to London.

Through all the good and bad, the beautiful and ugly, the excitement and boredom, the Metropolitan Police kept watch. The regular police constable’s day was busy enough, but the police Inspector’s day was even busier. The policeman who walked his beat everyday only worried about crime. The Inspector had leadership and political situations to deal with in addition to the crime. Each policeman realized that he was not guaranteed to finish his shift. Danger existed around every corner he turned. He carried no gun or sword. A wooden baton served as his protection against an attack. As much as the Inspector was responsible for serving the community, he also had to do everything he could to make sure that all of his men went home alive. All the crime, leadership, politics, complaints, and family responsibility made the Inspector’s day long and stressful. At the end of the day, the most he could have hoped for is that he had performed all of his duties with dignity, courage, and honor.

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48 Altick, 20-22.
49 Ibid., 28-29.
50 Ibid., 33-35.
51 Hare, vol. 1, 3-4.
52 Ibid., 8-9.
Bibliography

All Times material should be listed together. Utilize the Times more thoroughly.

What were the advertisements of the day? The weather? Context of the crimes committed? Check the next day or week to see if any were solved.


British Life and Thought. London, 1941.


