

continue his ceaseless walk with bent
 down head before the other. I noticed that
 he never paused more than a moment
 never used a glass made nothing that
 I would call a careful scrutiny or
 comparison. When we first took them
 from the box, he took, it is true, carefully
 scrutinized the first named paper with a
 hand magnifying glass lens and had
 applied the ^{same} ~~other~~ rapidly to some of the
 others, ~~at~~ choosing, I noted afterwards, # six
 numbers of different dates.

By and bye, my task began to grow tedious.
 "Have you any objection to telling me why you
 do this?" I asked.

"None in the world; I am getting accustomed

with them."

"I should think you would make better progress to study each one separately and steadily."

"You would, eh? Is your mother alive?"

"Yes — at least she was a few days ago."

"Think you would know her if you should see her?"

"Why — certainly."

"Even if you should meet her unexpectedly?"

"Of course, and as far off as I could see her figure too."

"No doubt, did you ever study her face?"

"Not that I remember."

Ever observe her figure carefully.

"Do not think I ever did."

"Now her gait?"

"Not that I recollect."

a razor and took it off. Then of course
the hair had to come too, to preserve the
fitness of things. "Lounds!" he exclaimed "I
realize how a sheep must feel after being
shorn." -

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them glancing curiously, first upon one side
and then upon the other, talking about every-
thing except the signatures and apparently
paying little heed to my replies. Now and
then, indeed, he would recall what I had
said sometime before and proceed to dis-
cuss upon it as if I had uttered nothing
since. ~~I sat and watched him.~~

I sat and watched him. The other
shutters were closed so that the great
front chamber of the old country farm house
was ~~but dimly lighted~~ was in dim
shadow save where the light fell
upon the dark neutral expanses with the
dotted with oval apertures through which
white paper and glowing signatures showing
showed the glowing signatures.
~~through the holes cut in them.~~ Some-
times ~~the~~ he would turn one ^{or} ~~way~~
than the other more or less to the light. A-
gain, he would entirely cover one and