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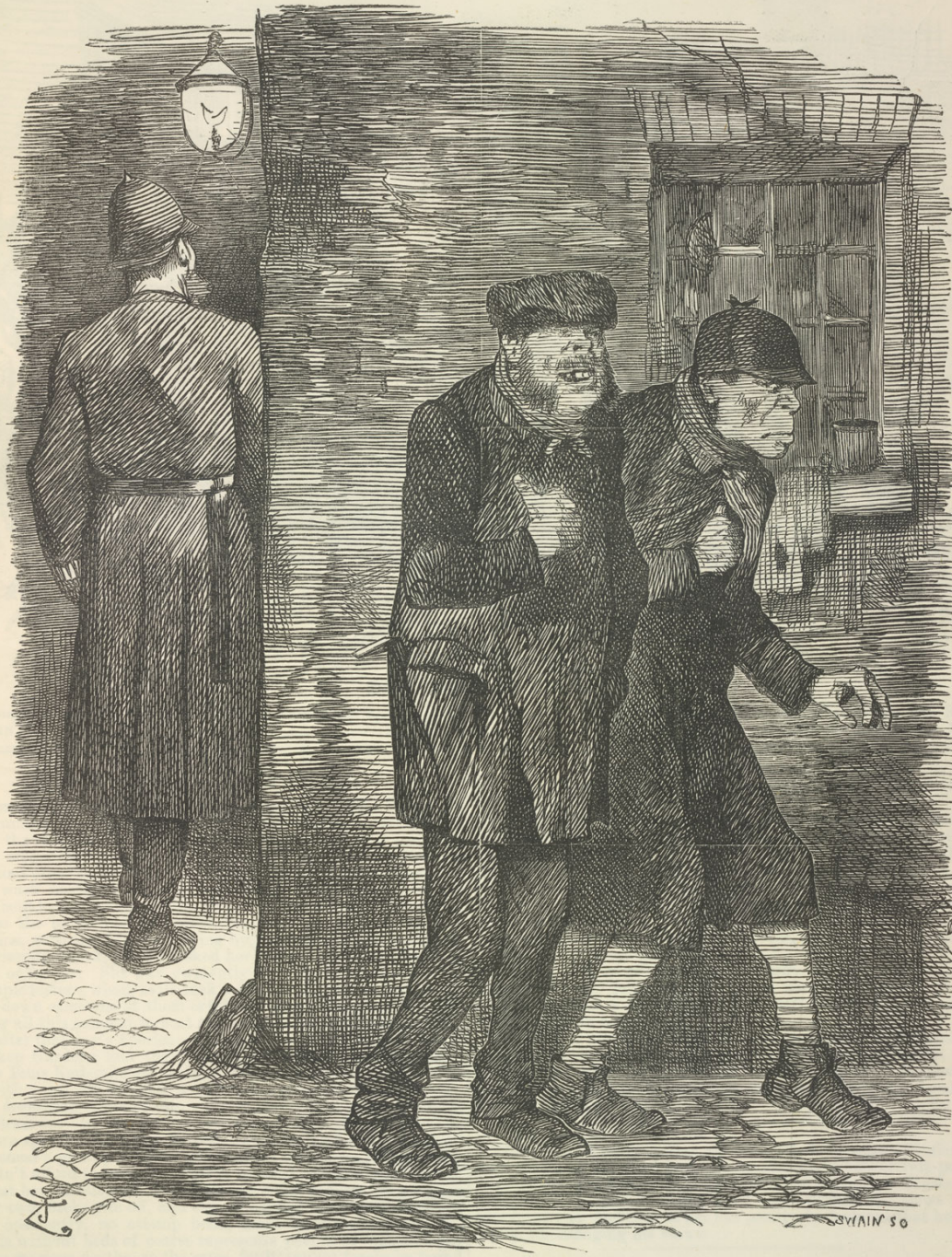


The press—not just in Britain—widely covered the ongoing story of “Jack the Ripper” and his infamous deeds in London’s Whitechapel area. This image depicts an artistic impression—created in 1891 by Beltrand and Clair-Guyot, E. Dete—published in *Le Petit Parisien*. The work is entitled: “A Street in Whitechapel: The Last Crime of Jack the Ripper.”

The age of Queen Victoria was not far from its end when the Ripper’s mayhem struck fear into the heart of Whitechapel.

Living in a straight-laced society, as they had for decades, London’s residents could not read enough about the infamous murderer and his female victims. The population developed an almost ghoulish obsession with the gory details which were minutely and sensationally reported in the press.

But as their fascination with the story grew, so did the public’s skeptical attitude toward the police. With no apparent clues and no suspects in custody, people wondered if investigators were doing all they could to track down and identify the Ripper.



WHITECHAPEL, 1888.

FIRST MEMBER OF "CRIMINAL CLASS." "FINE BODY O' MEN, THE PER-LEECE!"

SECOND DITTO. "UNCOMMON FINE!—IT'S LUCKY FOR HUS AS THERE'S SECH A BLOOMIN' FEW ON 'EM!!!"

"I have to observe that the Metropolitan Police have not large reserves doing nothing and ready to meet emergencies; but every man has his duty assigned to him, and I can only strengthen the Whitechapel district by drawing men from duty in other parts of the Metropolis."—*Sir Charles Warren's Statement.* "There is one Policeman to every seven hundred persons."—*Vide Recent Statistics.*

An initial understanding of the police's predicament soon gave way to scathing articles. Was there any legitimate reason why the police were so baffled?

If one believes the story uncovered by Stephen Knight—then told by [Alan Moore](#) and Eddie Campbell—there was indeed a reason.

According to their version of events, the Commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, [Sir Charles Warren](#), knew the Ripper's identity all along but covered it up. And ... so the story goes ... when the truth was discovered by Inspector Abberline and Robert James Lees, their retirement was made a little more comfortable because of their silence.

Now ... if there were just a way to confirm the truth of this version of the story ...

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/REACTION-TO-THE-CRIMES-Jack-the-Ripper>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/REACTION-TO-THE-CRIMES-Jack-the-Ripper>

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