

Let's see, I deduce from your appearance. Hair - you keep a black rooster spaniel. - Not the tiny black hairs upon your left trouser leg. You have recently purchased some flowers or at least banded flowers. The small grains of pollen upon your lapel.

Oh yes, I think that your eldest brother has died. Probably in an accident. I am sorry Davis, very sorry."

I was thunderstruck. The spaniel, the flowers - but my poor brother, how could he possibly...

"I see by the look of amazement Davis that I was right about your brother. I can tell you that that was not pure ~~guesswork~~ deduction but involved quite a bit of guesswork. The pocket watch Davis - the pocket watch. It is an antique. I knew that your father had died. I assumed that it had belonged to him, and probably to his father before him. Now where do heirlooms, such as this one go upon the death of the owner. Why to the eldest son of course. I knew that you had an older brother. And yet you are the possessor of this admirable little piece of jewelry. How could that be unless your brother had died and left it to you. He was

me to deduce, ~~in~~
simple.

"You astounded me Wellington."

I assure you my dear fellow there should be nothing at all of the astounding about my little deductions. They are based upon pure logic, and nothing else. So you see Davis, there could have been, a Sherlock Holmes. He was not impossible. Perhaps now ~~in~~ a half century later, fiction has become fact. But I flatter myself."

"Not at all, not at all," I said.