

262      *Our Old Friend Neverfail*

**O** IT'S good to ketch a relative 'at's richer and don't run  
 When you holler out to hold up, and'll joke and have  
     his fun;  
 It's good to hear a man called bad and then find out he's  
     not,  
 Er strike some chap they call lukewarm 'at's really red-hot  
 It's good to know the Devil's painted jes' a leetle black,  
 And it's good to have most anybody pat you on the back;—  
 But jes' the best thing in the world's our old friend  
     Neverfail,  
 When he wags yer hand as honest as an old dog wags his  
     tail!

I like to strike the man I owe the same time I can pay,  
 And take back things I've borried, and su'prise folks that  
     away;  
 I like to find out that the man I voted fer last fall,  
 That didn't git elected, was a scoundrel after all;  
 I like the man that likes the pore and he'ps 'em when he  
     can;  
 I like to meet a ragged tramp 'at's still a gentleman;  
 But most I like—with you, my boy—our old friend Never  
     fail,  
 When he wags yer hand as honest as an old dog wags his  
     tail!