McCULLOCH'S SHOES

wish to tell this story because statements have been made which no from my mention to amuse, to say the thing which is not or to show signs of temper. But if there is a door from my grasp. man who could keep calm and colthat hider is day, then I can only you wish me to lose the train or to remark that that person has a different temper ment from mine.

McCulloch came into my room with a pair of parent leather shoes in his hind him with a bang. The train

sciousness of their being where they himself. ought not to be, and I replied: "It won't

He went on: ear the things, so asil can't. senow you can't. for twelve-and-six."

thing elsc. I cyed them. They seemed decent shees. I was nettled by the man's unecessary and untruthful allusion to the size of my feet. Then, I was going to Crosbys at Burnhamtasteful pedal coverings might be an embellishment in the eyes of Jane we were passing. The action was Crosby, particularly as my own shoes so unexpected, the outrage so unheart there was a disposition to oblive McCulioch-that fatal inclination realize what had actually occurred to which I am so frequently a vicanother.

The long and the short of it was that I bought the shoes-to oblige he man's proneness to A. Culloch misstatement was evinced by the fact that they fired me like gloves, as he himself almost. So by way of do ing him a sec. ice I took them off his hands, though he haggled about the as if he were an old clothe We wasted half an hour before we compromised for half a sov-My idea was that since the were no use to him, seven-and-six would be ample. But the man's nature constrained him to extract the uttermost farthing from a friend whose only wish was to do him a good turn. So he insisted on squeez

ing out of me an additional two.and-The result was that when we had fu ished our discussion and I had passed belief. I endeavored to colrushed into my clothes, there were lect my scattered senses. I made only a few minutes left to catch an effort-a somewhat feeble one, I the train. Of I tore. I hate tear- admit-to reason with the man. ing, but there was not a cab in "You address your language to me, sight, and i was perfectly aware sir, under an entire misapprehen- mire. that if I missed that train there sion. Before dwelling on the crime was not another for at least three of which you have been guilty, and on the inconvenience to which it "We want to be off-we're late alpalmed off on me a pair of shoes which were inflicting on me the most sangumary tortures. How I ever miracle; the sufferings inflicted by choose to buy sweated, slop-made the Spanish Inquisition were not to goods which no decent creature ought be compared with those which were to wear!" He would not give me endured by my mangled feet. By the a chance to explain that the shoes time I had purchased a ticket, charg- had cost McCulloch five-and-twenty ed down the platform, been pushed shillings. into the starting train by an overme through the opposite door, I felt fort to induce him to listen to reathat I was better fitted to be the son. subject of a surgical operation than to pay a visit to the Crosbys. As the train glided out of the station I removed McCulloch's shoes. Oh, be calm, but I will ask you if a man the relief! l'lacing them on one seat who is suffering from tight shoes is and my feet on the other, I enjoyed not entitled to relieve himself for a a few minutes of almost perfect few moments of the torture he en-Presently we were approach- dures." ing a station. Presently we stopped in such things. It is persons such tural delicacy suggested that I should as you who make railway traveling replace the shoes. This I proceeded in England a public scandal and an to do, or, rather, to try to do. Be- actual danger. If I did my strict cause it soon dawned upon me that duty as a magistrate I should give proached the impossible. Too late I company's by-laws and for an outremembered that in the first instance rage on public decency. I had used a shoe horn, and that then they had been difficult to per- tremely probable that I shall give strive seemed vain. How was I shoes." to find such an article in a railway carriage?

that so whing would happen to my ger than I was and apparently of a disposition which enjoyed a disturbwaistcoat approaching an apoplectic fit, the virigar quarrel with him in a railway that it was beginning to rain. In a lated. sense, inside it was raining, too, for things which he would have enjoyed dow as we entered a station, I was more of his society I should have immensely relieved when I saw no marked my sense of his conduct in a one who se med at all likely to come way he would not have forgotten.

my way. I mopped myself with my At the next station he alighted. wretched footwear on the opposite dogs he stood there in the rain and resolved that when we were shouted to the guard: e clear of the station I we my coat and waistcoat first-class carriage with nothing on n to the attack on McCul- his feet! under circumstances bet- be allowed.

before the carriage window. emphatic.

Eit er the things had shrunk

A huge fellow, over six feet high, "I with a moustache in proportion. He turned the handle. I clutched at the of

"Pardon me, sir," I began, "but one who als any regard for his hon-or could endure in silence. It is far and if you wouldn't mind I should be to the middle of a corn field, I

He cut me short, wrenching the I want a policeman—that's what I door from my grasp. "What the deuce do you mean run the risk of an accident owing to your confounded folly?"

He entered, shutting the door behand. He placed them on the table. "It's no use," he said. "It won't wished feet. Under the circumushod feet. I made a forward when I reach it the law will be immediately put in motion." We were off. Eurnham-by-Swash was the pert

"One moment, sir! You are about to sit on my shoes." sputter:

"You scoundrel!" He picked up McCulloch's shoes. Before I had a notion of what he designed to do he threw them out of

Then the whole enormity of the thing came on me with a rush. "Do you-do you know you've thrown my shoes out of the win-

Instead of showing the slightest sign of contrition he spoke and behaved as if the fault were mine "And if you're not careful, in two seconds I'll throw you after them! How dare you put your filthy shoes on the cushions of a first-class carriage? How dare you sit in a firstlass carriage in such a condition at

I was almost petrified into speech-That an individual, for absolutely no reason whatever, should throw my shoes-my only shoes !into a field of standing corn, with the rain coming down in bucketfuls, and should then assault me as if I were a pickpocket-the thing sur-

the speed at which I was rushing I will inevitably subject me, allow me

He waved his hand in the air. "I don't want to enter into gusting details of your wardrobe! the station at all was a It's no business of mine if you

So soon as his flow of language officious porter, who nearly hurled gave me a change I made another el-

"Let us be calm, sir--'

"Don-t ask me to be calm!" "Well, sir, I will not ask you to

was essaying a feat which ap- you into custody for infringing the

"Give me into custody! It's ex-Without a shoe horn to you into custody for stealing my

"Stealing your shoes." Leaning I tried to think of some- forward he glared at me in a manthing which could be utilized as a ner which induced me to compress substitute. What had I got on me? myself into the corner. "You speak Keys-watch-knife-cigar case-mon- to me like that again and, magisey. I ende vored to make the most trate or no magistrate, I'll break of the half-crown. It would not do. this stick across your back!" He Either the coin was useless or my shook the weapon in question at me fingers were awkward. A half-crown in a fashion I did not like. "Were was not going to induce McCulloch's I to set forth my conduct to any shoes to replace themselves upon my gathering of my fellow-countrymen I should have no fear of its not meetor my feet had swollen. It seemed ing with their entire approbation, or impossible to get more than my if they were to blame me, it would toes instead a more unfortunate be for showing undue leniency. "You position for a man who had a sense wretched bounder! to dare to travel of dignity it would he hard to conceive. I am becoming momentarily spectable persons!'j

more conscious that my personal ap- I never encountered such an indivipearance s ferred. It is not always dual before. I trust I never may person of certain figure again. He seemed to be under the to put on a pair of refractory shoes impression that the fact of his havin public. My coat was a little jog deprived me of my shoes-my on-tight under the arms. I knew that ly shoes!-entitled him to load me the starch was coming out of my with every sort of abuse. It was felt that my tie was no use trying to argue with him. Each second I expected Not the least. He was much bigas I feared that I was ance for its own sake. To have a boots that I knows on. Ticket, te in to slow. I perceived carriage was out of the question. I the weather had changed and should have been practically annihi-Probably there were few perspiration was streaming down more. Still, I am convinced that Glancing through the win- had I been compelled to endure much

sighed, replaced the Although it was pouring cats "Guard, here's a person in this

Such conduct oughtn't to e bulated to achieve success. His monstrous insinuation I did then, of my consternation resent, and that in a manner which inet as we were off, some one I have no doubt he found sufficiently

"Nothing on my feet!" I shouted.
"I beg to inform you that I've a pair socks on my feet, sir! And, guard, if this man hadn't thrown a pair of brand new patent leather should have had something more.

ing individual that he can't with that hider is day, then I can only you wish me to lose the train or to strangers of their shoes." The guard held the door wide open.
"If you want a policeman you-li have to get out and find one."

"Get out! In this rain! What do you take me for? Certainly not.

We were off. Furnham-by-Swash was: the Indeed! I did not look station. He looked behind him. As he did cqualimity. I had sever be to the Still, it's a pity lar kind came on his countenance. He that it was a hole-and corner village your feet should be so much larger looked down at my feet. When he in which it might be difficult to prothan mine, because there's a pair of saw the condition they were in the cure boots or shoes. I should have brand new shoes for which I paid expression intensified. I really fear-five-and-twenty shillings, to be sold ed that he was going to assault me. He seemed in a towering passion. It nominious situation! No doubt the I took them off the table—as much is possible that I did shrink a little whole place would be on the grin. I had not told the Crosbys by what train I should arrive, but as there they cannot them from which was between a gasp and a shrink a little back. He exclaimed, with a sound which was between a gasp and a shrink a little whole place would be on the grin. I should arrive, but as there appeared to be only one by which any appeared to be only one by which any which any one could come, it was just possible that they might send some sort of vehicle to meet me. Suppose it contained Jane Crosby, by-Swash, and could not but feel that the carriage window, wide of the and I had to show myself to her in line, right into a field of grain which my stockinged feet! I should sink into the ground with shame. At the notion of such a disaster were a trife worn. Then in my provoked, so unjustified, that it was had half a mind to go right through some moments before I was able to the place and not get out at all.

It would have been well for me if I had done so. The dreadful reality surpassed my most hideous expecta-

It turned out that the station at Burnham-by-Swash consisted of a single platform—a mere strip of single platform—a mere strip vestage of cover. There was wooden structure about the size and shape of a gypsy caravan. Nothing else. And the wooden strucwas ever so far from the point at which my carriage had stopped. · In my stupefaction at the discovery of the sort of place it was I fancy I lost my presence of mind. I had not the faintest glimmering of an idea what to do. Without an umbrella-the sun had been shining when I left!-with a new top hat and a nearly new frock coat, to descend-in my stockinged feet!-into the sea of mud which did duty as a platform suggested the act of a lunatic. The guard gave me no time to reflect. He came paddling through the quag-

"This is Burnham-by-Swash. Now, "We want to be off-we're late al-

'Lend me an umbrella-at once, you please!" The lout grinned "Umbrella!j"

'We ain't got no umbrellas. don't use 'em."

"Don't use them?" I gasped. He himself was enveloped in what looked like a tarpaulin if he had his deserts that blustering Culloch a kind and a generous taken from the top of a truck. with which he could accommodate me who suffered. While McCulloch's when that wretched guard started shoes were in the cornfield I was in worrying again.

"Now, sir, are you going to get out or aren't you?"

He reached up his hand. Really unconsciously I took it. In an instant, dragging me out of the carriage, he carriage door, waved his flag and the train was off. My hat had slip-ped on one side. I had gone over my ankles in slush. The passengers were enjoying from the carriage windows the spectacle I presented, and I was the subject of some most impertinent remarks.

"Ticket, please!". Those were the words which greeted me before I had really realized my situation and the fact that the departing train was leaving me behind. I turned upon the lout with a most unnatural burst of anger.

"Ticket! Don't talk to me about a ticket! Take me into the station. It will be time enough to talk about a ticket then." "Can't go into the Station.

Station's going to be closed." "Station's going to be closed? What do you mean? Send the station master to me at once." "Station master's over at sports. I'm going, too, now train's gone.'

'Sports! In this weather!" "'Tisn't often anything happens round these parts. A little weather won't keep us away when anything do. Mostly do rain sports day, though this time it do be raining more than usual."

"Get me a cab, please. Where's the village?" "Village is about a mile down the road. Ain't no cabs there. No cabs this side Uffington. That's about five

mile. Might be a little more, I can't get you no cab. ATell you, I'm going to the sports. Ticket, please!" "Where can I get a pair of boots?" I don't know nothing about no boots. There ain't nowhere round

these parts where you can get no I was conscious that I was becom-

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inarticulate. If I only had McCulloch within reach at that mo- more than half an hour.' ment there would have been murder "As I have been waiting here since done. Fate was against me. I sur- the last train went, without an umearth, no more. Buildings, property say. Presently I found myself stand- not count. so called, there were none, not a ing in what was meant to be a road. A gate was slammed in my face. The station was shut.

I shouted a last despairing appeal: "Can you tell me where Mr. Cros-

by lives?" come to a stile. You go over the boots-against a deposit of money. little puzzling."

eering at me I do not know unto appeared that if you only waited long

cult to depict it without seeming to In less than the twinking of an eye like to point out to you that they were a fair was regards fit, as regards am to the fickleness of the English, ham-by-Swash a second time. climate. I had no suspicion that we were about to have such weather. The position was rendered absolute-

> less. It was no use endeavoring to heart-rending and tragic experiences console myself by the reflection that which resulted from my doing Mc-I ruffian would probably be hanged for vice.—Richard Marsh in Cassell's Mawas about to ask if he had another murder. In the meantime it was I the mud. I could make no serious attempt to seek for shelter. I am not accustomed to go about in my stockinged feet. I understand that there are parents-of a respectable position in life-who train their children to do jerked me into the mud, banged the without shoes and stockings. I had thing but "Tick tock, tick tock." not been brought up on those lines. On that afternoon I heartily wished I had. Whenever I tried to move my feet either stuck in the mire or else cannot make music, like the piano, or I brought them down on some sharp- amuse us with his drills as did the fancy that it was alive. edged object like a stone. I had not Captain." been outside that station a quarter of an hour before my socks were in He went on with his cheerful song,

> > on them. Besides, there was no shelter to be But when the Toy Piano began the had. Wooden palings about five feet story of the Bugle, he became very high marked the station. There was much interested. At first he ticked a hedge on either end. On the opnos- very slowly in order to listen better. ite side of the road was a ditch, 'then he ticked very fast to make up with another hedge beyond it. No- for lost time: At last he stopped, thing in the shape of a house barn and, when the Piano finished, he liftor reasonable sized tree was to be ed his hands as if he were going to seen. Even had there been, I per-strike midnight, and clapped them. ceived that the road to my right and , "That was a very good story,"

left had been newly metalled. The said in his queer voice. idea walking barefooted over undress- had known that Bugle." ed flints was one which was not to The Nursery People were very much be entertained for a moment. What surprised to hear him say anything had become of the lout of a porter I but "Tick tock, tick tock," and the cannot say. I imagine that the little Cuckoo came out of her house his dreams, with outspread wings sports were held on the other side to see what was the matter. of the line, and that he had trudged . "If you like, my friends," he add to them across the fields. I only ed, "I too will tell a story." know that I called to him feebly, yet

a creature took the slightest notice. that she started to go back into her No. I turned up the bottom of my nest. trousers and the collar of my coat. I tied a handkerchief round my neck. I here, and listen to see if I make any rammmed my hat down as far as pos- mistakes.' sible over my eyes. And I clung to So the Cuckoo did as she was bid the palings in the pouring rain, prac- and all the Nursery People gathered tically barefooted, up to my ankles around the clock shelf to hear better. in mud, through the long hours of "The story is about the Cuckoo," what was theoretically a summer af- the Clock began. "She is so timid ternoon. It is frightful to contem- she never could tell you about it plate—awful to look back upon. I herself, and, besides, she was not felt as if I was there forever. Why taught to say anything but Cuckoo, a station had been planted there is cuckoo,'-were you, birdie?" more than I can even guess. Not a soul came near it all the time I was say "No," but the only answer she finished, and Elsa carried it to the in its neighborhood, nor did I see made was "Cuckoo."

a sign of life of any sort or kind. I was just forming a resolution to mark my abandonment of hope by sitting down in the mud when a voice addressed me from the other side of the palings;
"Hullo! What are you doing

What was I doing there? The irony of the question! But I was too far gone to show resentment. An individual in a long black waterproof was standing on the "platform." "If you are connected with the I mildly railway company," marked. "I shall be obliged if will allow me to take shelter in the

station till the next train comes,'

"But there isn't another train for

rendered my ticket without a mur- brella and without shoes, a further mur. Whether I went of my own ac- half hour is but an added trifle. And cord or whether the lout assisted me you will understand that I have by the collar of my coat I cannot reached a period at which trifles do He hardly seemed to know what to make of me. But he opened the gate

He was the station master. Having personally had enough of the sports, he had left his assistant to have his fill. He was good to me "Mr. Crosby? He lives about four on the whole. He took me into his miles t'other side of the line. You own room, six feet by seven. He lent go about a mile up the lane till you me a suit of clothes and a pair of stile across some fields till you come will not speak of the cut, nor-since to a pond. You go round the pond he was probably, six inches taller till you come to a wood. You go than I was-will I dwell on the fit. through the wood till you come to I will merely remark that on that ocsome crossroads. You take the road casion my feet did not suffer from to your right like, and then the first compression. As I knew that I turning to your left. Then you'd should never be able to wear my own better ask again, for afterward 'tis a clothes again, I let him have them as a keepsake-including my new silk Whether the ruffian was or was not hat. He saw me into the train-it

enough trains did sometimes come Conceive my situation! It is diffi- even on that line, and I went home. The next day I heard from Jane use the pencil of exaggeration. The Crosby. She informed me that ow-rain was descending simply in sheets. ing to the bad weather the garden garden party. Accustomed though could have induced me to visit Burn-

And if ever-if ever I oblige other man by taking a pair of shoes off his hands on any terms whatever, ly tragic by the fact that I was shoe- I shall merit a repetition of the

What the Cuckoo Clock Told

gazine.

Although the Cuckoo Clock was always talking, the Nursery People thought that he was rather a stu- prize of fifty marks for the most pid fellow because he never said any- lifelike cuckoo.

"He is good," they said to one another, "but he is not clever. He carvers since their baby days, and it seemed quite easy to make a bird so own in .

If the Clock heard he did not care. rags and my feet themselves so tend- and prided himself on the fact that er that I could hardly bear to stand he was never known to lose any time.

"I wish I

audibly, now and then, and that not little Cuckoo, who was so frightened

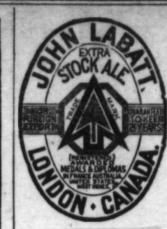
"No," said the Clock, "you stay

The little creature did her best to

is from the cuckoos in most clocks. That is where the story comes in."

He paused and looked thoughtfully at his listeners. "Tell us the story, please," said the

in a little village in the Black Forest, and was intended as a birth well," said the Paris Doll. day present for a wee German priness, and, if the little maiden had is?" asked the Cuckoo Clock, "I ing she found everything as usual, not died, I should have ticked awa have lost so much that I don't know save that the Clock was still as a 'ny life in her father's castle, instead where to begin again." of here in this pleasant nursery." "Now, because I was to be given to Jack-in-the-box.



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a nobleman's daughter, the master If you are carver who made me was very anxious to have every part of unusual beauty. So, when it was time to carve the bird, he did not wish to entrust the task to any one of his apprentices. Instead, he offered a

"The boys undertook the work readily enough. They had been wood- why not get a farm of your real that the little princess would

"Among the best of the workers was the slim, blue-eyed Carl. He had the deftest fingers and the quickest eyes of them all. He made up his mind at once that he must win the prize, not because of the honor but for the sake of his little crippled sister Elsa. For a long time he had been saving money to have her treated by a famous doctor, and the prize would give him enough to carry For particulars write to

out his plan. "Like the other lads, he spent all his spare time on his cuckoo, but for some reason or other he did not succeed. Although he wandered hours in the forest, watching the hirds, those he carved were only and uplifted head, he could not carve. was taken sick, and he lay on the bed by the window, his tools scattered over the coverlet within reach of the thin hands. "So it happened that a wren flew

slightly from her body and her little RIGHARD DISSETTE . head upraised as she sang. reached for his tools, and slowly and patiently began to work. "The wren had come in search

some bright threads for her nest, and when she saw that neither Carl nor Elsa would harm her she became quite tame. a short time the bird was

master carver. He was so pleased "There," said the Clock, triumphantly, "do you not see? Perhaps added another five marks to the you have noticed how different she prize. So crippled Elsa went away to be cured. And I, I have the most wonderful bird ever made in the Black Forest, though she is a wren instead of a cuckoo."

The Clock paused, out of breath. Piano in his sweet voice.

The fittle bird indector try them. The little bird fluttered her wings as "I am so glad the little girl got never do. I must wait until some vell," said the Paris Doll.

"Does anybody know what time it

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or working for someone else,

New Ontario

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Toronto, Ont

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Telephone Main 2677 "No," said the Clock, "that would

So when Nurse came in the morn-

mouce. But from that day he tick-"Try striking three," suggested ed steadily on, and never again stopped to tell stories.—S.S. Times.