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A COOK'S STORY.

By Richard Finn (Uncle Dick). "My wife's stories, are they? Well, I'll tell you what happened to myself. It was when I was twenty years old, and lived as housemaid with Mrs. M. Whistler, and a hard lady she was to get on with, I must say. And she drove me night and day, threatened me with leaving my place, if I did this or didn't do that; and forty years ago, girls didn't go skipping about from place to place as they do now. If a girl left her place, it was hard to get another. So I did all I could, but as I was not a cook, and I went to bed one night, leaving a pile of clothes, damaged, in the basket, that she'd told me to iron, because I could stand on my feet no longer. "As well first as last," I said to myself. "I'll have to go sometime, and I'll take in a moment, so worn out was I, and I knew no more about it until the dawn broke. Then I wakened, with a kind of start, and I rushed into my mind how I'd left my ironing, and what should I do about it; and how I should be told to pack my things and go, and what the old man said, and what the old man said to me in a fright, and hardly dared to go in at the kitchen door—for, try as I might, I could do no more about it. I made the fire and got breakfast before the mistress came down. But when I got into the room and pushed open the shutter, what did I see!—all the clothes I'd left damaged, and ironed as smooth as satin and hanging on the horse! I thought I'd done it, I couldn't think, for I knew the mistress was in bed when I went to mine, and there was no one else but master, and I was all of a tremble, and could do nothing but stare and wonder, and at last, mistress came down in her slippers and wrapper. "You're late, Jane," said she, looking at me, and then she said, "What did you do with that ironing? It's all ruined. You've ruined it, and I don't know what she thought of me. "Well, I puzzled and puzzled, but nothing came of puzzling. Well, Friday night came round, and she went to bed, and I was up early, and soon said and said the kitchen, as we did in those days. But when I came down, what did I see!—there was half my Saturday's work done. I was frightened again, for who was there to do it. One in a day a person might have played a trick like that, but who'd work this way more than once for fun. "I said nothing to mistress, but I felt queer enough all day; and queer days and days after, when, no matter how I'd left things, all night, I'd find them done in the morning. I'd find them done, and nothing ever forgotten, and I suppose I might have been as idle as I pleased to this day, and found myself, for me when I read, but for my curiosity. "I could not help feeling that there was something more than a trick about it; but all the more I wanted to see what it was. No one else I went up stairs to bed as usual, leaving everything at six and seven, and then came down, and hid in a long pantry that had a pane of glass in the door that lighted in. There I stood, peeping through the pane, and I saw a queer little fellow, and a queer little light began to shine, and I saw more than the kitchen seemed to be full of the strangest little men and women. They were no larger than my thumbnail, and they had very little on, but each of them wore a cap with a little lamp set in it, such as mine were, and they hurried about from one side of the room to the other, soiling, as it seemed, in some strange language, and in a few minutes one was sweeping another with a broom, and then the big brass candlestick, one sorting the clothes for the wash, and the queerest little fellow in the room, I think it was, the pepper one of the dainties, was sprinkling into the bath—made me sneeze. "Ach! ach! says I, and with the sound every brownie of them all stopped working. "Somebody is watching us," said one in plain English as we were at work. "Yes, some one is watching us," cried the whole of 'em in chorus. And down they came in a body to the pantry door, and open it flew, and they all stood looking at me. "She's watched us," says one of them. "Yes, she's watched us," says another. "Good-by to her. We've done our last stroke of work for her!" And with that every brownie went out, and I heard the patter of the little feet on the floor, and then all was still as death again. "I don't know how I got up to my room, but I managed to do it; and from that time I did my own work; the brownies never helped me. "I was watching them, and watching, as all the world knows, but never say there are none, ma'am, for I've seen 'em with my own eyes, and what I've told you is the living truth. "FIRE TRENCH. "However large specified, and painlessly cured without knife, caustic or cauterization. Send six cents in stamps for pamphlet, reference and reply. W. H. Stone's Dispensary, 483 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE DIFFERENCE LAY. "You ought not to call your wife a duck," said Jones to Brown. "And pray, why not?" "Well, because there's a difference between your wife and a duck." "What is it?" "Why, your wife is generally dressed to kill, while a duck is dressed in dress, eh, boy?"

YOUNG MEN! READ THIS. THE VOLTAIC BELT Co. of Marshall, Mich. offer to send their celebrated ELECTRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRO APPLIANCES on trial for thirty days, to men (young or old) suffering with nervous debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also for rheumatism, neuralgia, neuralgic and many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor, and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred as thirty days' trial is allowed. Write them at once for illustrated pamphlet free. It is said a secret agent is in Italy endeavoring to recieve the Prince of Wales and to ascertain if the latter would have any chance of inducing him to enter into a formal alliance with England. This is Reliable. R. N. Wheeler, merchant, of Everton, was cured of a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs by Hayward's Pectoral Balm. This great throat and lung healer cures weak lungs, coughs, hoarseness, bronchitis, and all pectoral complaints. 250

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