

get enthusiasm in work, work. Work creates enthusiasm for work. Charles F. Thwing

## John Fixes the Cuckoo Clock

(From Farm and Fireside.) BY ELLIS PARKER BUTLER.

the melodeon, "we got a cuckoo but it don't cucl.oo no more. clock; but it don't cucloo no more. I don't know as I mind it not cuckooing either. First off, when you get a cuckoo clock you take real enjoyment out of hearing it. Seems sort of com-panyish to have the door flop open and the little bird come out and say, 'Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! now and

'Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! now ag'in, and the children just go mortally wild over it; but bime-by you get sort of cuckooed out you get sort of cuckooed out your dinner ain't ready and you know John will be home in a minute, it sort of riles a person to the proper of the pro out at ye and start squawkin' 'Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! at ye a dozen times hand runnin'.
Many's the time I've shook my
fist at it and said, 'Oh hush!'
Yes'm! Gettin' on my nerves that way!

"But John he never felt that way about it—not until the end. First off, when he bought it, him and me and the children we used to stand in a row and wait for the little birdy to come out and

"Along about hour time John would start lookin' at his watch, and begin to get uneasy, and start roundin' up the children. 'Ch. Georgie', he'd holler, 'come quick! The cuckoo's goin, 'come, 'coulded', and 'Hurry, he little produce of the could be with the could be cuckoo. 'Along about hour time John

Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

"It's all right for a man that's away at business all day, and just comes home meal times and to sleep, to take pleasure in a cuckoo clock, but when a woman is around the house day in and day out and has one of them clocks hootin' at her all the time she gets mortally tirel of it.

"Bout two months after the novelty has worn off the cuts little birdy don't look nothin' but a piece of carried wood, and the noise it makes don's sound like no sound ever made within' critter. It don't sound like 'cuckoo' no more at all, but sort of like 'hookhoo.' I got soil allmost wish of the sound was the sound sound sound sound sound sound like 'cuckoo' no more at all, but sort of like 'hookhoo.' I got soil allmost wish. like 'hookhoo.' I got so I almost wished the house would burn down, if
might be that clock would burn with
it, with it hookhooin' at me wherever It, will it nowmoon at me waerever I happened to be. If I was in the parlor, I'd hear 'Hookhoo!' and If I was 'lown cellar I'd hear 'Hookhoo!' 'Drat It!' I used to say, 'I wish the thing would hookhoo its head off and be done with It!'

be done with it!"
"Well," said Mrs. Higgins with a

ES'M," said Mrs. Higgins, cast- sigh, "I had my wish. Come a day ing her eyes at the shelf over when the cuckoo didn't hookhoo no the melodeon, "we got a cuckoo more. "Stead of that the clock just

more. Stead of that the clock just started whirrin' when the hour come — "Whir-r-r-!" Whir-r-r-! Whir-r-r-!' and the door flopped open and the bird come out on its shelf and flapped its wooden wings and opened and shut its beak like a chicken with the pip, like it was dyin' of thirst. 'Land sakes!' I says, it was so comical. I

Flowers Add Greatly to the Attractiveness of Any Home. The beautiful hydrangea here shown is a beauty spot on the lawn surrounding the home of Miss lementi, of Peterbore, Cnt. There are many spots around furm bosins where flowers which bloom as profusely as this one, might well find a place.

he says.
"So he did.

hadn't no idea a deaf an' dumb cuckoo clock could be so comical. It was real funny to see the bird come out real funny to see the bird come out at eleven o'clock and gasp, for water eleven times and then back into the clock sort of disappointed like. 'Serves you right!' I says. 'I hope you choke to death, drat ye!'
"But when John come home he was "But when John come home he was the company of the

"But when John come home he was real worked up about it. 'Ain't that too bad!' he says, like it had been one of the ch-ldren got the measles. 'But don't you worry,' he says. 'To-morrow is Sun iay, and 'll fix her!' 'He's a wonderful fixer, John is. 'He can fix most everything, give him plenty of time. He's a real mechanical genius, I tell him, the way he can fix looks and my sewing machine, and

cal genius, I teil him, the way he can hix locks and my sewing machine, and put washers in the sink pump, and all. So Sunday he went to work and he worked all day, and by nine o'clock he had the cuckoo as good as ever it was, except that it hoosed before it booked.

hooked.
"There!' he says, real triumphant.
I knew I could fix her, give me time enough. How's that, 'Mama?' and he turned the hands around.
"'Hoohook! Hoohook! Hoohook!' mornin'.

"In my sewin' machine drawer, right hand, top,' I says, and I went to sleep again.
"I don't know when John come to

bed next. He wouldn't say, come

day on that clock, and then she didn't

coocuck or cuckoo or nothin'. I'm

soin to set up."
"Lie still, and don't be so foolish,"
I says. "You'll have plenty time come
mornin' to see about that clock."
"Can't set to sleep," he says, "for
wonderin' does she or don't she. "I
just set up and take a look at her,"

"So he did.
"I heard him fallin' over chairs and bumpin' into tables, and then i didn't hear nothin' more, and I guess I feli off asleep. What woke me up was John shakin' me by the shoulder.
"What's the matter?' I asys, sittin' right up in bed, for Toodles has the state of the shoulder.

croup off and on, and I always git

"Ma, says John in a whisper, where did you put that little screw driver when I got through usin' it this evening?" machine drawer.

says the bird-only one wing don't

flap any more.

"Pretty good for an amateur mender, ain't 17' he says, as proud as a parson. Next Sunday 17' fix up that wing and get her so she'll hook before the book and a good as a g she hoos, and she'll be as good as

'Hoohook! Hoohook! Hoohook!

Hoohook!' says the clock.
"John hoohooked her clear around the dial until she was at ten minutes before nine,—which was what time it before nine,—which was what time it was,—and then he went to bed. He was all tuckered out, poor critter, workin' so hard at the clock all day! But he was contented with his work.

"Well, I fixed her!' he says, after we was in bed. 'She was a good as gone; but J fixed her.'

"All right!, I save.

we was in bed. 'She was as good as gone; but J fixed her.'
"'All right,' I says. 'Go to sleep, and let me have my rest.'
"'So he was still for a while, and then he says, 'Mai!"
"I let on to be asleep.
"'Mai! he says again."
"Well, what?' I says, knowin' he'd keep on util I waked up.
"'Did you notice if that clock cuckoed at nine o'clock?"
"'No, il didn't,' I says, real provoked, 'and what's more, John Higgins, you know as well as I do that if it went off at all it didn't cuckoo! it coocicked. So go to sleep and forgit about it.'

about it."
"Say,' he says, 'I wonder if she did
coocuck, or if she didn't? It would
be the dickens and all if I worked all

"'Fix the clock?' I says.
"'Fix nothin'!' he says as grumpy

as you please. Won't she cuckoo?' I says "'Won't she cuckoo't I says.
"'No, she won't!' says John, crosslike. 'She won't euckoo, and she
won't coocuck, and she won't coo, and
she won't cuck.'

she won't cuck."
"Just then the clock went
"Whir-r-r-! Whir-r-r-! Whir-r-r-!' and
the little door slammed open like it was angry, and the bird popped out like a shot out of a gun, and she says, 'Hochookhoohookhoohookhoohook!' all in one breath like, and the door slap-ped shut so fast it hit the bird on the

'I thought you said-'I began; but 

"Look out! says John; and he says it just in time, for the bird comes clear loose and falls on the table right along my ham and egg. "Hoo——oo!" says the clock—and then says no more.

ys no more.

"But all three of the children were
fighting to get the bird. John
had to box their ears to get it
away from them.

"Now you let this bird be,"
he says, putting it up by the
clock. I don't want none of you

clock. 'I don't want none of you to touch it, because I'm going to mend that clock to-night, and you might break it. Don't touch

"Well, of course, after that all of them had to have a hand on of them had to have a hand on it before the day was over; but I guess they didn't harm it none, and I didn't say anything to John about it. He didn't ask me. He hurried through his supper and got out his tools. He had a gimlet, and a put tweezers, and hard, and the property of the same of the sewing machine, and he set right

"It took John a couple of nights to get the clock together again after he had it all apart, and then he says:
"'Now! Now, Mama!' just as

proud as pumpkins and he pushed the hand around to the hour mark. 'Now you listen to her!' he says, and the little door flipped open and out come the

Whir-r-r-r! " Whir-r-r-r! Whir-r-r-r!' goes the clock, and then the bird opened its mouth and it says 'Huk!' Just like that, it says it,

" "What's the matter with the con traption, anyway?" says John, real mad. 'You go to bee if you're so tired you got to be yawnin' like the Mammoth Cave,' he says. 'Tm goin' to fix this clock, or know why!'

this clock, or know wby!

"So I went to bed. John didn't come till I don't know when. I woke up when he come, but I didn't say anything. He wasn't in any mood to be said'to. So I kept still and waited to hear what time it was, but I couldn't hear. Birdy wasn't hookhooking. So I went to sleep.

"Next morning John didn't seem to wish to converse about the clock, so I let it pass; but he hadn't no sooner left the house than it come the full hour, and out popped the bird. 'Whir-r-r! Whir-r-r!' Whir-r-r!' went the I almost jumped out of my

"'Great snakes!' I says. 'What has] (Concluded on page 16.)

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eyesore. "Don't tle boy a sobs. Ti pulled up The ch beast and

"What horse?" driver stropenly. "She's

tached to away, the in view of had sold !