

## Cheese and Wildcats.

"One day a feller started fer town ter git him a drink, cause he were dry. Goin long he took out a big spring knife some body give him und tried to open it. He heered a yowlin behind him an sence he hadn't had the drink yit, he were a leetle scairt. He cut his finger on the blade, an as it bled some, he wiped his hand on a bush an then lit out fer town 'fast as blazes. Long come this here cat and lickt the leaves. That settled it. Next week a little boy wandered out in the bush an hain't never been heard of sence. Next week a little gal wandered away an she were never heard of sence. Next week a little boy-

"Get along," said the other man, "When were you appointed census enumerator?"

"This run on," said Fergy undisturbed "till everybody was a huntin that cat, but they never seen no sign o' him. The snow wer on the ground when Baptiste Lacroix come long heddin west. He'd been drunk fer two weeks an when his money were all gone they told him they was a lumber camp up the creek where he could work and get some more. Bap-bein full, lit out thout a nuther word, an as he come along he was fixin how to git even on the bar-keeper. Cause he were French, an not English nor Irish er Scotch, this scheme come to him: He stopt and pulled off his shoe. 'I weel be reevanched,' says he. 'I weel cut off zelar-r rge toe an haing eet on de bush. Some tam dey come long an see ze poor toe an say Ah-h! We haf don wr-r-rong to ze poor Baptiste; he good fellaire af h' all. Ze Fr rainchmon ees not to be eensolted.' So he slasht off his toe an hung it on a saplin. That cat come long bout half an hour afterwards an et the toe. That toe had in it beer, wis key, brandy, rum, absynthe, wine an wood alcohol—mostly wood alcohol.

One day goin thro the woods I heered the ol' songs soundin out over the silent wastes. They were the same an yit they was a unearthly screech runnin long o' em. Purty soon I see what were the matter. The cat had the jimjams. Meury was gittin the best o' it. The ol' nights in Blando, a camp were throngen upon it, and it were blendin with its song a desire for all sorts o' cheeses. It ud go all the way down thro Kom-em-bare, roke fort, groo-yare, e-dum an so on to limbugger, an then the han-spring act ud start. When it got to the limbugger stage I took five shots at it an never teched a hair. Last sight I see o' it, it were goin tail fust atween the trees an makin dam good time.

"Now, that cat had character and staminy. It got over them jummies an braced right up, an quit human blood an cheese an things. I took as much pride in that cat's goodness as if it had been my own chile. They come a feller up here from Chicager, with a bike soot an long hair an he lugged an ol' buffler gun what somebody give him fer a joke. The caliber o' this gun were 62, an it made a roar like 200 hipnertized bulls. This feller used to float round the river wi-the buffler gun an one day the cat come down there to git a sup o' watter. Remember it hadn't had no blood er cheese er drink fer near a year. Jest plain food an regler hours were good nuff fer it. This feller glanced up an see it, an bein scaret to death he raised the buffler gun an shut his eyes an pulled the trigger. Natrally under them circumstances he blowed the cat's head off. "Now," said Fergy, rising and pointing a gnarled foreffinger at his companion, "what's the moril o' that?" "The moril," said the other man, yawning, "is: Never steel cheese from an Indiana banker."

"It aint," said Fergy. "The moril is: Lake watter aint no good fer nothin cep feesh."

A. F. & A. M.

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