

STILLMAN GOTT

loafing around the village evenings, and a persistent endeavor to drink all the hard cider manufactured in the neighborhood, had brought him to a point where, although it could not be said that his family were in the poorhouse, yet they lived on the same road and knew all the inmates.

The road up hill to success had been too difficult a journey for Joe, while the descent from something to nothing was easy travelling, and required no exertion. A lazy man never has been successful since the Almighty sat down to rest after the stupendous undertaking of creating a world, and the first mistake Adam and Eve made was to begin life doing nothing. And when these two inexperienced beings broke one of the laws laid down for their guidance, Omniscience, pitying their weakness, punished them by conferring upon them man's greatest blessing, hard work.