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## ...... AN HUMBLE

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But presently a change came over her, and the paleness of disappointment on her face slowly gave way to the flush of anger. If she could love with a passion that but few women know, she could hate equally well. Fixing her eyes on Sim, with such an expression of deadly hatred as he had never seen in any human eyes before, she said:

"Sim Banks, you are a fool, a poor, pitiful, mis'able fool, an I despise you with my whole heart and soul. I despise you wuss'n I despise the meanest snake that ever drawed the breath of life or crawled in the dust. I hate you! I hate you!"

Ordinarily Sim would have been astonished at this sudden and vehement outburst, but at that moment he was not in a state of mind to be astonished at anything. With a wan, weary smile, he said:

"That's a different tune, Mis'us Mann, to what you sung that night up thar when you told 'bout lovin me." "What if it is?" she snapped vicious

"Oh, nothin. It don't make no difference to me what kind of tune you sing, nary a particle on earth. I'd jest as lief you'd sing this kind as the other, an I don't know if I wouldn't liefer. But seems like you've changed a beap.' "S'pose I have? Is it any sign 'cause

a body's a fool once they're goin to allus be a fool? An I was a fool then, Sim Banks, a plumb downright idiot fool. If I hadn't 'a' been, I'd never 'a' thought that I loved the likes of such a mis'able thing as you. Lord, you make me plumb sick with your fool clingin to Loueesy's skirts when she's doin her very best to kick you off. You ain't got as much sense nor as much backbone as a fishworm."

A flash of anger swept over Sim. "Mary Mann," he said, with some spirit, "what I do is my own business, an as long as I don't step on your corns you ain't got no cause to squeal. No matter what I do nor what Loucesy does, it ain't takin no hide off of your back, as I kin see, so I reckon you mought jist as well save your breath

for some other purpose." "Humph! I reckon you mean to say that it ain't none of my business."

"I do, Mis'us Mann; I mean jest that "Waal, mebby it ain't my business: but, for all that, Sim Banks, I'm bound to say that you're a fool an that ev-

"Waal, if I am it's the Lord's doin's. He made me that a-way, an I can't help it. If you got any quarrel to

make about it, you better go on to him." "You're sich a sot an determined fool," Mrs. Mann said, ignoring Sim's last remarks, "that you wouldn't believe a thing ag'in Loueesy if you see it with your own eyes. Them words I told you are the truth, the plumb gospel truth, an I'd be willin to sw'ar to 'em with my hand lifted up to heaven

an the Bible open before my eyes." "I don't b'lieve nary a word of it Mis'us Mann, an I wouldn't b'lieve nary a word of it if you was to stan' up here an sw'ar to it till you drapped in your tracks. It's ever' speck a mis 'able lie!"

"It's ever' speck the God's truth."

"I say it's a lie!" Mrs. Mann was silent for a little while, but hers was not the silence of the vanquished. She was only pre



"I don't b'lieve nary a word of it, Mis'us Mann."

paring to deal a harder blow. As she stood with her eyes fixed on Sim she marveled at the change that had come over her. She thought of how dearly she had once loved that man and of how thoroughly she now despised him, of how once she had longed to make him happy and of how now she delighted in making him suffer. Of a truth "hell has no fury like that of a woman scorned." Truer words were never uttered, nor ever was there a woman to whom they more perfectly applied than they did to Mary Mann.

Calmly, far more calmly, than she felt, she said: "I reckon you know Sam Morgan,

Sim glanced up in surprise "Me know Sam Morgan!" he exsak! Ain't I knowed Sam Morgan from the day he was borned?"
"An, knowin him that a-way, I want to ask if yen ever knowed him to tell a

Sam Morgan air!

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"Then if he was to tell you anything

you'd b'lieve it?" Sim began to suspect to what Mrs. Mann's questions were leading, and a sensation of fear came over him. However, after a little hesitation he answered.

"Yes. If Sam Morgan was to tell me anything for a Bible truth, I'd b'lieve

"Even if it was them words I spoke to you 'bout Loueesy an that Mr. Mel-

Sim's face bianched to a deadly whiteness, and a dreadful trembling seized him. If Sam Morgan said those things, he couldn't doubt them, and in spite of himself, in spite of all his earnest desires, he would have to believe all Mary Mann had told him. It was hard, however, to relinquish the last vestige of the fond faith he had in his wife, and, beaten back to the last ditch, he made a final stand in her de-

fense. "Sam Morgan won't say no sich words!" he cried in tones half pleading, half deflant. "Sam Morgan won't never do it!"

"He will," Mrs. Mann persisted, with unrelenting cruelty. "He has said 'em already, an he'll say 'em ag'in."

"I don't believe it. Sam won't lie." "Sam won't lie, but he'll say them words."

"How do you know he will?" "'Cause he has already said 'em, an he won't never take back his words. It was him that seen the meetin between Loueesy an Melvin, an it was him that heard them two talkin love. If you wa'n't a fool, Sim Banks, a plumb, senseless idiot, you'd know from what you've seen an heard that Loueesy loves that man. My Lord, ever body else knows it an has knowed

it for weeks!" Sim shook his head. "I don't b'lieve it, I don't b'lieve it." he repeated. "Loueesy wouldn't never do no sich a thing."

"No, you wouldn't b'lieve it, I guess, if she was to tell you so herself."

"She ain't never a-goin to tell me "I guess not. She'd be a fool if she did. What she'll do will be to deny it. A wife ain't likely to stan' up an tell some man she loves him, then go an

tell her husband all 'bout it." "She never told that man that, an you'll never make me b'lieve she did." "Waal, you ask Sam Morgan. That's all I got to say. You jest ask him." "I will, an I don't b'lieve he'll say

"He will say it's so, ever' word of it. "If he does, may God have mercy on me!"

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Granolithic Walks Laid on Short Notice.

"T'LL' DO MY DUTY." Sure enough, as Jacob Hicks had redicted, a circular came bearing the information that one Frank Shelton was wanted by the authorities of an other county and that a liberal reward would be paid for his arrest. The description of Shelton as given in the circular fitted Melvin so perfectly as to leave no doubt of his being the man that was wanted.

Hicks very prudently decided that the less noise made about the circular and the fewer people who were in-formed of it the better. So, in accordance with this decision, he took Pap Sampson, Jason Roberts and Sam Morgan into his confidence and excluded all others. Pap and Jason he knew he could trust implicitly, and, while he was not so sure of Sam, he was compelled to let him into the secret on account of his being the township constable, for when it came to making the arrest Sam would have to take the

That night he showed the circular to those three men in his store and asked their opinion on it. After reading it over carefully they all agreed, with one accord, that Hicks was right in his view and that Shelton and Melvin were certainly one and the same.

"That," Pap Sampson said, with an air of clear conviction, "is as plain as the ears on a mule. Thar ain't a shadder of doubt in my mind on that score. But what I'm pestered 'bout is what we ort to do next. That's the p'int I'd like for some of you to make clear to

They all exchanged an inquiring glance, but no one spoke. It was evident that none of them had any very well defined ideas as to what would be the proper course for them to pursue. When the pause had begun to grow awkward, Jason Roberts broke it by remarking irrelevantly:
"Lord, jest to think of that feller bein

wanted for murder! Ain't it awful?" "'Tis so," Sam agreed. "Wonder who it was he murdered. Does that paper tell?" "Of course it does," Jason replied

"Didn't you read it?" "Not all of it, I didn't. I never read nothin 'bout that." "What was the feller's name, Jake?"

Jason asked. "I've done clean forgot." "Marchand," Hicks replied. "Right putty name, ain't it?" Jason observed. "Rale high soundin, too,

like it might belong to some of them way up kind of people." "'Tis shore," Sam agreed, "an I bet he was a good sort of feller too."

"Mought 'a' been," Jason replied. "I dunno nothin 'bout that, though." "No, but I bet he was. Wonder what that feller killed him for any

"Lord, Sam, I reckon it'd be putty hard to tell what made him do it. Mebby they got into a fight an jest fit an was that a-way or some other.'

"Must 'a' been. I bet he jest got him down an stabbed him with a knife.' "I guess that's jest 'bout what he done, Sam-either that or else he shot

him or somethin. It's an awful thing any way you fix it."
"Ain't it, though? Lord, I'd hate awful to be done any sich a way."
"Yes, but I dunno if I wouldn't hate

most as bad to be the feller that done it. My land, don't you know he's moughty nigh skeered to death all the time for fear he'll be ketched an hung?" "C'ose he is. Then I bet he's ha'nted

"To be shore he is. I've hearn it said that when a feller done a murder he wa'n't never free from a ha'nt no more. Day an night, day an night, long as he lives, the spirit of the one he killed jest hangs round after him, never sayin nothin, never makin no complaint, but jest a-keepln its eyes on him an a-lookin so sad an mournful it's jest plumb techin."

"Lord, ain't that ter'ble? Why, I'd rother be dead than to have a haint al lus a-pesterin round after me that a-way an know I wa'n't never goin to git shet of it no more. My land, I'm awful glad I ain't never killed nobody an you bet I ain't never a-goin to kill nobody nuther."

Suddenly and unexpectedly Pap Sampson brought his cane vigorously down on the floor, causing Sam and Jason to jump and putting an end to their conversation. Pap and Hicks had been holding a consultation apart relative to Melvin and, having reached an agreement, were now ready to take the others into their confidence.

"You uns has said a-plenty bou them dead folks an ha'nts," Pap remarked, "seein's it ain't them things we uns air specially interested in jest now. So, if you uns please, we'll talk 'bout that Mr. Melvin."

"Waal, if you got your mind made up to anything, Pap Sampson, jest speak it out," Jason said. "I have got my mind made up to somethin, Jason Roberts—me an Jake

both has-an if you'll jest listen you can hear what it is." "I'm a-listenin with all my ears." "Waal, me an Jake has agreed that the proper thing to do is to arrest that feller at once, an accordin we figger

that Sam best jest go over thar to

Turner's tomorry an take him." Sam gave an uneasy glance around. "Yes, best jest nail him while we can," Hicks added. "He mought hang round here a long time yit, an he nought skin out tomorry; no tellin." "But," Sam remarked, "you all ain't figgerin that I ort to go over by myself

to take that thar feller?" "Lord a-massy, Sam, you ain't a-gwine to be afeard of him, are you?"

Pap asked.
"No-o, I a'n't afeard of him," Sam replied slowly, "but I 'low I'd ruther have so body go 'long of me. That man's killed one feller, an I have a notion he wouldn't hang back much to drap arother if he thought the safety of his rick demanded it." What is

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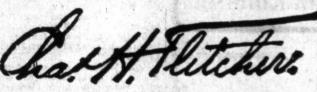
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