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bet me a pint I can't prove that two of these yur prongs be furder apart than t'others !" "Ees fay will I, or a gallon if thee

likes," cried Harry, laughing.

"Then," said Job, taking one of the outside prongs in his right hand, "these yur prong be furder from that prong"here he took in his left hand the other outside one-"than he is from heither one of t'others, now bain't he?" and Job looked triumphantly around.

There was a loud laugh at Harry's discomfiture, which seemed somewhat unfair, as all the company had been taken in as well as he; but he was the only one rash enough to bet. However, he had not to pay, as the landlord, declaring he would not allow betting in his house, magnanimously stood Job the pint.

"Where did 'ee get thiccy evil too," asked John. "He looks as tho he hadn't done much work eet."

"Nor won't neither, zo long as Job hath 'un," added the carpenter, getting the laugh on his side by this little sally. "Geddout, 'Arry," exclaimed Job, "I only bought 'un yesterday, and I've dood more good work wi' 'un already than thee'st dood all the week. I sticked a furt old haidgyboar most zo big as thy haid, and wi' all so much zence inzide un; he won't zuck no more cow's milk, I wat'nt."

"Nasty varmints they be, sure enough," said one of the company, whose velveteens proclaimed his profession. "Tis terrible funny how they hincrease, zeeing that haidgyboars don't bear no young.'

"What's thee mean, keeper, they has young zame as other creatures, don't mun ?"

"No, they don't, I tell 'ee, and that I knows for zartain."

"What do mun do then," inquired Job, "lay haigs?"

'No, my son, they don't lay haigs," said the keeper, "and since you'm so hignorant I'll instruct 'ee. The haidgyboar don't bear young, but the sow

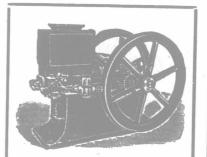
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"Ah, Keeper Stevens, you'm too sharp. Mind thee doesn't cut theezel. If thee knows so much about hanimals as thee ought for do, canst thee tell me what sticks rooks make their nesteses wi'?" "All zorts of sticks," said Stevens,

shortly. "Noi they only use two zorts," as-

serted Job. "Get along with 'ee, I know better'n that; I've zeed mun breaking off bits of beech, and hoak, and hash, and syca-

"Rooks honly use two zorts of sticks," repeated Job dogmatically, "and that I can kiss the Book to."

more, too, and carry mun to their

nesteses."

"Well, what zort of sticks be mun, then ?'

"Straight sticks and crooked sticks, and no others," said Job, with a very solemn countenance, "and I zim that keeper, being a keeper, ought to ha' knowed it.'

The latter, rather a surly individual, was evidently annoyed; and as it is always to the interest of farmers and workmen of a sporting turn of mind to be on good terms with the gamekeeper, a grimfaced old man, commonly called, as I afterwards gathered, Foxie Jack, tried to give the conversation a more pleasant turn.

"I zeed you a-shutting on the warren this forenoon, Mr. Stevens, when I wor working to Grange; and I zaid to Jan Reddaway that I'd never zeed prettier sport. A rabbit you vired to come awhizzing droo the vearns (ferns) home by me. He wor travelling like a hexpress train; frighted most to death, he

"Ah, I believe I did miss one," said the keeper; "but he went like the vert" same, twisting and turning, as Foxie saith. I reckon he was an old customer I've a-shot at before to-day."

"I reckon not," said Job in an undertone, which, however, reached the keeper's ears, as it was doubtless intended to do. He turned sharply upon the speaker, and demanded:

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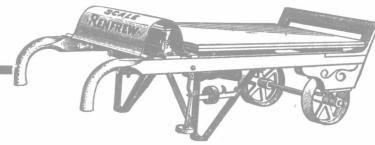
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