

the war, was bitten by a dog, in fact, and every year he is so unfortunate as to have a return of some nervous disturbance resembling the rabies, which, if it is not stopped, sometimes lasts for two or three days, and it is just about now that they will be coming on again."

"The deuce!" exclaimed the colonel; "why, I might get bitten! is he very violent?"

"Yes, very violent, colonel," said Tom, "and that's what I want to tell you about, for I found out, while we were in camp together, that he can be made as gentle as a kitten by merely having a comb handy; and as soon as he begins to bark or act in a violent way, just comb his hair for all your worth. He'll jerk around a bit at first, but you must not mind that; grasp him tight around the neck and keep at it until he stops the barking, and then he will drop off to sleep as quietly as a child."

"Humph," half grunted the colonel, "that's kind of queer, but I suppose I can manage it."

Having seen the colonel to his room, Tom returned to the station to meet the major, who was to arrive on a later train. This soon steamed in, and after a hearty interchange of compliments, Tom led the way to a hack. During the drive he told the major of the colonel's arrival, and that owing to the lack of accommodation, they would have to sleep together. The major seemed very agreeable to this, and made no comment until Tom *incidentally* mentioned that the colonel was accustomed to have violent fits almost every night, commencing with a slight restlessness after retiring, and ending, if not stopped, in frightful paroxysms. At this declaration the major's face was a study.

"Cannon balls and sabres! My dear boy, I can't sleep with him!" he finally blurted out.

"Oh," said Tom, "but wait until I have finished. It seems that he has a sort of hallucination that some one is pursuing him, and we have found out that the barking of a dog makes him think that his pursuer is frightened away. So, just as soon as you notice that he is getting at all restless, all you have to do is to bark a little, and he will quiet down at once, and drop off to sleep."

"Well," said the major, after some hesitation, "I guess I can do that much for him."

And thus was the plan for the joke laid. As may readily be imagined, the introduction between the colonel and the major was somewhat constrained. The glances of suspicious sympathy which they interchanged during the day increased as the hour for sleep drew near. The colonel, who was an early riser, was the first to retire, and after he had entered his room he began to think over what Tom had told him, and the more he thought of it, the more he thought it would be advisable for him to get to bed with most of his clothing on. So, taking off his coat and boots, he selected from his baggage what seemed to be the strongest and most formidable-looking comb, and put it under his pillow. Then he got into bed and pulled up the clothes.

He had scarcely done this when he heard peculiar sounds coming from the hallway. It was the major, who, now that the critical time was coming on, began to wonder what kind of a dog-bark this friend of Tom's preferred, whether one of the black-and-tan sort would do, or if one of the bulldog species would be more effective. As he thought over this, he began to wonder whether or not he could make any kind of a dog-bark at all, and, anxious to settle himself on this point, he uttered a few specimens of bark in an undertone, as he ascended the stairway. Not feeling very well satisfied with the result, he uttered a few more in a louder key. It was these latter which the colonel heard.

"Good lordy," he murmured, "there's the major, and he's got the rabies already," and he broke out into a cold sweat, as the picture rose in his mind of that worthy officer frothing at the mouth and gnashing his teeth.

"Shades of Pontiac," he continued, as the sounds grew plainer, "I wonder whether I had better get behind the door and spring on him as he comes in, or wait and see if he has them bad."

Before he could well decide which to do, he hurriedly got into bed and the major entered, and, after glancing quickly around the room, half expecting to see the colonel in a fit, he sat down