Yes, sir, I've been in the show busi-ess, one way and another, nearly hirty years, and I've had, my ups and

Well, sir, it's a business, which either makes or loses big. I've made two or three fortunes, and lost about as much as I made. I've got a moderate provision for the time when I get too old to travel about in this way. I reekon that's as much as most of 'em come out with, and I ought to be pretty well satisfied. But I tell you, time has been when I did not know where 'the next meal would come from, and half a dozen or a dozen players to be provided for as well as ryself. I remember one of the bluest times I ever struck was at Albury—ha! ha! I can laugh now to think of that girl's sharpness, but it was no matter for laughing at that time.

I was starring it through the country with a specialty troupe—musical acts. "phunny phellows," ventriloquists, tricksters, and minstrels, with a small comedy thrown in.

omedy thrown in.

Mam'selle Susine Allonette was with

Mam'selle Susine Allonette was with us (she was Sue Allen off the stage) as leading lady, and also in several daring tight-rope and trapeze acts.

Sue was a sharp little midget and used to give us some spice off hen tongue when she got riled a bit.

But she helped me out of a bad fix grandly, the time I speak of, and I felt like giving her a little liberty.

We had been having a fortnight of bad weather before we struck the town I alluded to, and of course had played to very peor houses.

o very peor houses.

I hadn't been able to pay my company's salaries for three weeks, hadn't a shilling to send home to my wife, and things looked pretty bad. I tell you.

When we got to the town, I had hardly money enough to pay the boys who distributed my bills, and not a penny

pany.

We came on at night from the last town, and I reselved to see what the weather was in the morning before I decided what to do.

When I get up I saw the streets covered with mud and a sharp, cold

would get no house at all.

My heart sunk like lead, and I wished I hadn't sent the bills out.

We should have to play that night, but it would be the last time.

I thought I would speak to my leading lady, so I went to Sue Allen's room and rapped.

cts—we were too poor to have umes just then.

"Why, we've made nothing for a month, Sue. I can't pay any of you, and I know you need your money."
"Well, this is a fair-sized town," says

night, and I can't even put a puff into the papers to coax people out. It's no use, Sue, we'll have to give up!" "Not if I know it!" says Sue, striking

an attitude. "Can't you get up a sensation that will draw?" "I've tried to think of something, and I can't," I answered. "There isn't

"Well, I've been trying to think, too," says Miss Sue, coolly as before.
"And I think we will have a crowded

"I am," returned Miss Sue, demurely.
I gave a low whistle of incredulity.
"O, I mean it," said Sue.
There was an air about the girl which

struck me.

"Mr. Lane," said she, as I looked silently at her, "I want my salary, and I don't want this company to go down. If you'll let me do as I please, and ask no questions, I'll fill that hall full tonight and we'll all get our money."

"Then do as you please!" I groaned.
"Anything to help us, just now!"

"You give me full liberty, and no questions?" asked Sue.

"Yes! Go ahead!"

"All right. I'm going out for a ten mines.

"All right. I'm going out for a walk in ten minutes. Make some of the men walk in the direction. I do, but order them on no account to come near or in-

"Yes, I will, Sue. Where are you "Never mind that Isn't there a rail-

"Never mind that. Isn't there a ran-way bridge near here?"
"Yes. We came past it."
"I thought so. What time does the next train from Melbourne arrive?"

looked at my watch.

'In just half an hour," said I.

'Then I've no time to lose," cried
Sue. "There, be off, so I can go."

'Look here, what are you going to
do first?" I asked, anxiously.

'Nothing that will hurt me, I assure

you," answered Sue, laughing. "And you promised to ask no questions. You stay here, and if you hear of anything extraordinary, why then come. Order the men to do as I told you, but they must not try to stop me. I can take care of myself, and they shall share the

I began to catch a dim idea of what Sue intended. I said: "Sue, you shall not run into danger."
"Be off, I tell you," commanded Sue.

"Pil be in no danger. Do go or Pil. miss that train."
Well, I submitted to go out, and told two of the men that when Sue walked

eut they must go, too, and keep her in sight, but on no account disturb her.

They promised, and I went out as quickly as I could. I knew that whatever Sue meant to do was connected with the railway, and I intended to see what she did without her knowl-

lge.
I took a circuit round, and posted myif where I could see all that passed

without being seen.

After a while I saw a little figure come tripping down the railway as it for a walk, and I knew it was our Suc. even before I could recognize her dress She came walking along and deliber

ately began to cross the railway bridge by stepping on the ties.

I glanced at my watch—it was just traintime—and even then I heard the amble of the oncoming train.

I began to tremble and feel cold, but

Sue walked calmly on.

If I had not known her skill on the But if she could trust herself I could

But when we rushed down under the ridge, followed by the crowd, there was our pluckly little Sue, clinging to he trestlework under the bridge, a bit ale, but not even a shred of her dress

We got her out quickly, and such a ne as there was on that bank I never And as for our company—well, you ver saw such antics anywhere! I didn't know whether to cry over the rling little minx or to scold her audly. of course the story flew like wildfire, d the streets were crowded with pectrying to get a glimpse of the brave le actress before we got back to the

in the afternoon we put reserved scats is sale at two or three places where cy had not been before, and by dark ery seat was sold.

Sue's ruse was a success. That hall was crowded half an hour afore the curtain rose, and when Sue me on the stage the applause was aough to pay our bills, nearly all the ack salaries, and make Sue a present

Our company did not disband, but as in luck for the rest of the season.

Last Sunday a young elergyman fron young congregation preached, by exhange, to a congregation which is one the serence, old-fashioned, undisturbed out, where everything theological assess placidly from one year to another, and where the rising generation's indoubted human nature is allowed for a quiet, sensible way. The visiting lergyman remained to the Sunday hool, and after the exercises were bout halt finished he rose to make a tite speech.

"I know that you are an enterprising unday school," he said, "because I see o many new books. I know that you are a happy Sunday school, because I see a happy Sunday school, because I see a happy Sunday school, because I see tre a happy Sunday school, because I see to many smiling faces around me. And know that you are a generous Sunday school, because that little boy over thereby, the long pew door offered me a pearut as I came in." The attention on he assembly was instantly directed to the little boy, who began to snicker uncontrollably to himself.

"Well, what's the matter, my little man?" asked the elergyman. "You're not sorry you offered me the peanut, are you?"

Sue, calmly.

"Yes, but look what wretched weather? We won't have half a house to snickering violently."

"Did you th-think that was a peanut I gave you?" asked the little boy, still snickering violently.

"Why, yes; wasn't it?"
"No-o-o! 'twas only a shell?"—
Boston Post.

There is at Leeds, England, an ornithological association. Among other things they study the songs of wild birds. Not long ago they pitted a full-song, and that I have not."

Well, I've been trying to think, "says Miss Sue, coolly as before and I think we will have a crowded se to-night."

I asked. I am," returned Miss Sue, demurely. gave a low whistle of incredulity.

There is at Leeds, England, an ornithological association. Among other things they study the songs of wild birds. Not long ago they pitted a full-song, acclimated nightingale against a Yankee mocking bird. They sang together, and they sang apart. First the nightingale led off, until everything he sang was duplicated and improved upon by our national songster. Then the mocking bird struck off into a new field of song. The nightingale listened, but did not repeat. He pined away and died within a week. There is at Leeds, England, an orni-

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Starlet Blinks up at the sky through the still, white

sea;
The river was strangled by cruel fingers;
The vagabond brooklet in prison lingers,
And is wed to the ghost of the willow-tree.

The days will not stay long where no mor

Paler and paler Dame Nature is growing. To see how her gay guests all are going. To leave her alone in the midst of he

Sweep the white snow-flakes, cluster or cluster. cluster,
Firelight leaps up from the chimney's wide
throat;
The wi dows are shining like beds of posies,
Little maids' cheeks are as red as roses,
The wind 'twas complaining his blither

Bells in the belfry break into singing,
Joyous laughter is everywhere ringing,
Home stray the footsteps so long apart;
Christmas is here with a beauty that bless
Rosy young Summer the eye caresses,
Wulte-baired old Winter g addons the her
—Susan Hartley Swet



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