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ST. JOHN.

The Sun

VOL. 8.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1886.

NO. 56.

HOW THE HADDOCK GOT HIS MARKS.

BY DR. WILLIAM HALE.

The Devil one day went fishing for
"The devil he did," they say,
Crawling right along ago
Over the waves of the outer bay.

'Twas there that he caught his first haddock—
"O I know the story well!
It's a favorite tale with fishermen,
And one they all love to tell.

He fished awhile on the quarter-raft,
"Then the Devil he went to the waist,
Then he drew in his hook and line,
And a school of porpoise chased.

And when he had tired of porpoise plumb,
"He fell to fishing once more,
And the Devil he went to the waist,
Flashed quickly on as before.

At last he caught a big haddock prime,
"A royal old one for size,
And the Devil he went to the waist,
With finger and thumb in his eye.

"Now, Mr. Haddock, I've got you, sure!"
"Was his majesty's welcome half;
And he laughed as he held him by the head,
And bally up on the raft.

And he raised a most ardent cry,
"But while the Devil was having his fun,
The fish came in for his bait.

For all of a sudden the haddock jumped—
"So the fish was told to me,
And sipped three times the Devil's scorching grip,
And dove down into the sea.

And so poor Satan lost his fish,
"What devilish luck was his!
For the fish was told to me,
But on land conducts his "biz."

Although he fishes no more off-shore,
"Since he lost his fish in the sea,
On shore he is thriving yet, 'I'm told,
And a true haddock he is.

But that haddock was washed ashore, they say,
"Dead, on the first flood tide;
For the fishy clutch proved far too much,
That blackened his silvery side.

And there were the marks of the Devil's claws—
"Thus the honest fishermen speak—
The Devil's own marks from the stern;
Two spots and a long black streak.

A big black spot just above each eye,
"That the Devil's thumb did brand,
And a deep black wall from gills to tail,
When the fish was squashed 'round his head.

And they carry these marks to this very day,
"And as long as a haddock swims the sea
They evermore will, I know.

And this is the way the haddock came
"By his most unseemly mark,
Twas just the Devil's dirty work,
Two spots and the long black streak.

Now ponder this tale that the fishermen tell,
"For the moral lies just here,
Beware how you handle the things,
And from fish and dirt keep clear!

He that touches filth cannot keep clean,
"For it surely will defile;
Refrain from doing the mean and low,
And from even appearance of guile.

Beware of reaching Satan's touch!
"In the end he'll surely win,
For in the long run he always wins,
And will handle and mark you too.

THE NIGHT OF FIRE.

'T was getting along near the anniversary
of the big fire, said an old detective to a
Chicago reporter not long ago. "Perhaps
you'd like to hear a story of that fire that
has never been printed."

The reporter wheeled his chair around
nearer the grate where a piece of coal was
blazing pleasantly and expressed a willing-
ness to listen.

"Well," exclaimed the old man, "I'll reel it
off. It's a good while since then and no
harm will be done. I came into possession
of the facts some time ago and they're
straight. A few days before the fire a young
man who was employed in a wholesale house
of that day was found to be an embezzler.
His employers were at work on the case
when the fire came and swept everything
away. Up to that time they had not fully
decided what course they would pursue.
The cashier, whom I will call Everett, was
an agreeable fellow. He had wealthy rela-
tives here and in New York, and his wife
was one of the handsomest women I ever
saw. In fact, it was supposed that it was
her account that Everett had got into
trouble. She was a dandy dresser and it was
no secret that her desire to shine in society
had led him into expenditures that were be-
yond his means. The possibility of that the
defaulter's relatives would help him and the
honest desire of one of his employers to save
him from disgrace both contributed to the
delay which occurred in his prosecution.

"On the Saturday night before the big fire
a long consultation was held at the store be-
tween the defaulter or two of his friends
and two of the partners. At this
conference no arrangement was reached and
there was an intimation that if something
was not done by Everett's friends by Mon-
day morning the law would have to take its
course. It was late when the meeting
broke up and the heavens were bright with
the reflection from the first fire when the
men came out on the street. Everett did
not go home directly. He first crossed the
river, took a look at the fire a few minutes
and then proceeded to the residence of a
friend in the neighborhood of Centre
avenue. When he recrossed the river and
pursued his way toward his own home on
the north side it was long past midnight.

"That Sunday he remained at home for
the greater part of the day, but toward
evening he again proceeded to the west side,
had a long consultation with his friend and
at 10 o'clock started for home. A new fire
had broken out and as he reached the river
he could see from the bridge at Madison
street that it was already beyond his con-
trol as the one that had preceded it. Per-
plexed over his own great trouble and be-
lieving that nothing could now save him
from disgrace and punishment, Everett
walked leisurely toward the burning district
and when near enough to observe the opera-
tions of the firemen, paused and took a sur-
vey of the surroundings. It was evident
that the fire was already beyond control.
Great arcs of flame were reaching out
toward the north, and the spotter could
see the path of destruction widening every
minute, when the firemen had been beaten

back repeatedly and at length compelled to
abandon their position altogether. Everett
saw the fire leap the river, and recognizing
the fact that the brigade was now helpless,
he saw with keen perception the fate which
awaited the city.

Absorbed as he had been in contempla-
ting the awful scene before him, Everett had
not lost sight of the doom which was hang-
ing over him. Clutching at straws, like a
drowning man he thought occurred to him
that if the city was to be destroyed there
might in the confusion be a chance of escape
for him. In the tremendous wreck and
ruin of that night and the day which was to
follow what would one more or less human
escape amount to? If Chicago was to be
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fortunes, records, landmarks, business and
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be some escape for him? Filled with these
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