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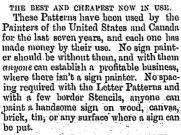


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Youthful Recollections.

By Rufus Reddy.

Once before, I had occasion to refer to my fathers peculiar temperament and so verity in the managment of his boys, and also the awe with which he was beheld by the boys in question. His maxim of "thrash first and investigate after" were thoroughly understood throughout the household, and indifferently appreciated. We were several brothers and unlike the birds in their little nests, did not at all times agree in questions frequently arising in a family of many brothers, and should one at any time feel himself wronged by the actions of the others, his onerevenge, was to so place him in some position before our paternal parent, as to insure his swift and summary punishment. Thus, many were the painful incidents so brought about, a few of which I am now about to relate. Once before, I had occasion to refer to

dents so brought about, a few of which I am now about to relate.

During the shad season, the old gentleman might be seen overy afternoon, wending his way towards the Bay, above the town, fishing rod in hand, accompanied by one or more of his boys, for a few hours shad fishing. The boys always were on these occasions, a solemn expression of countenance, indicative of a deep sense of responsibility, for should anything occur to ruffle the serenity of the old man's temper, sad would be the formination of that day's fishing trip, and to watch the sad visaged youths as they walked behind the old gentleman, suggested the idea of a funeral procession with the corpse a doing its own walking.

On this particular occasion my elder brother accompanied us on our excursion At the first point of the bay, our boat was taken, a flat bottom skiff, made for the purpose, and we rowed to deep water where the shad were generally found in great numbers. I sat at the oars that evening, and as we neared a favorrable looking spot, the old gentleman stood upon the seat at the extreme front end of the boat, anchor in hand all ready to cast. The boat was gliding noiselessly along, when that fiendish brother, leaned over and gave a sudden back water jerk with the cars which I had dropped a moment before. A plunging splash immediately followed. We rushed to the front to see our parent slowly sink out of sight. Being a very large man, there was great dienlesquent and her was present and deplecement and her was great despressed to the seat the seat and her was great despressed to the seat the seat the seat to the front to see our parent slowly sink out of sight. dately followed. We rushed to the front to see our parent slowly sink out of sight. Being a very large man, there was great displacement, and he went but slowly under, though the anchor which he clutched in his decent helped him someclutched in his decent helped him somewhat, and as his boots were disappearing from view, the breezes played idly with the dust upon their soles, and it struck me then, with a philosophy worthy of a higher aim, how very wet one end of a man could be, and how dry the other.

We sat at the end of the boat and awaited his poturn.

We sat at the end of the boat and awaited his return.

The old gentleman was a powerful swimmer, and we had no fear of the re sult. With a hippopotamus snort he soon reappeared, and clutching the edge of the boat, we towed him ashore. As the boat touched land one of its occupants suddenly disappeared through the under brush, and to the old man's anx ious enquiries. "where is Rufus?" made ious enquiries, "where is Rufus?" made no answer. It is needless to state that he was discovered however, later on, and the interview was lively and lasting, explanations were offered, with no takers, I was at the oar, and that was sufficient,

To force that elder brother into a like situation was now the one idea in my

situation was now the one idea in my-mind. The opportunity soon arrived. The old gentleman was the proud pos sessor of a very fast horse, and the best of care was taken of the animal, and one of the hired boy's chief duties was to give the horse an extra feed the last thing at

the horse an extra feed the last thing at night.

A few days after the painful interview above alluded to, I suggested to the brother in question, that we'd give the boy, a timid lad, a paralyzing scare that night, and explained that I would lock him in the stable, and as the boy on his nightly visit, would open the door, he was to leap upon him; the result surely repay-

ing all the trouble we might be put to.

The unsuspected brother entered eag-orly into the scheme. And that evening he was safely locked within the stable. My bird was securely caged and revenge would soon be mine.

My bird was securely caged and revenge would soon be mine.
To inform the old gentleman, who was in a particularly bad humor that night, there was something wrong with the horse, was but the work of a moment, and I soon had the satisfaction of seeing him heading for the stable, lantern in hand closely followed by myself, two younger brothers, and the hired boy, who had been informed of the deep laid plot, and to whom the attractions of a three ringed circus, paled into insignificance in the face of such an event.
The victim in the stable, had in the meantime, with the object of bringing the matter to a doubly successful issue, moved a large oat box conveniently near the door, on the top of which a milking stool was placed, a bushel measure crowning, the whole construction, and on the summit of this rickety elevation, he stood, anxiously availing the aprival of the hired.

mit of this rickety elevation, he stood, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the hired

anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Inreaboy.

The rapid approach of hurried steps were soon heard, the door quickly opened. At the first glimpse of an advancing figure the deluded youth, with a fairly intrated roar of an African lion, hurled him self down with out stretched arms, from his lofty eminence, and landed to his horror, square upon the broad back of his terror strick on father. By the flickering light of the lantern, the juvenile audience immeniately to the rear, were with asso of an oncounter of a most desperate nature.

ness of an encounter of a most desperate nature.

The old man imagining himself attacked by a mountain lion, struggled violently, calling loudly for help. The brother recognising the gentleman into whose hands he had fullen, strained all his energies to escape, and so the battle waged. The animals in the stable becoming agitated, their startled actions added to the exciting scene. The two rolled over, and over on the straw strewn floor, scattering everything before then. They presently rolled into the oat box, and the noises became muffled, the lantern fell into the bushel measure and cast a lurid light over the scene. Arms, legs, clutching fingers, and fragments of coat tails now filled the air in convulsive confusion. The juvenile audience crowded the doo, and juvenile audience crowded the doo, and with abated breath closely followed the course of the struggle, spenulating upon its result.

"See the old man chaw" whispered

Jim.

"Aye and Billy's clothes is a ginning," replied the hired boy.

The brother at last, with a herculean effort wrenched himself loose, and with a bound cleared the door, and went out sadly but sw.ftly into the darkness leaving enough of his clothing, however, in the old mans weakening grasp, to fully establish his i dentity, and I was avenged.

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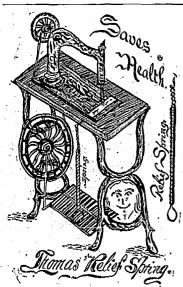
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