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thing that alarms me," said Kent, "I'd never have a tooth filled or speak to a woman under seventy. I'm a timid soul, Sedgwick; but I don't think I shall be in any danger in Annalaka so long as I'm Here we are. Out with alone. you! I'll be back by evening."

The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer

CHAPTER VII.

Simon P. Groot Does Business.

To his surprise, Kent, turning into the village Square, found the crowd still lingering. A new focus of interest had drawn it to a spot opposite Sterrett's store, where a wagon, decorated in the most advanced style of circus art. shone brilliant in yellow and green. Bright red letters across the froat presented to public admiration the legend :

Simon P. Groot Simon Pure Goods

A stout projection rested on one of the rear wheels. Here stood the proprietor of the vehicle, while behind him in a window were displayed his wares. It was evident that Simon P. Groot followed the romantic career of an itinerant hawker, dealing in that wide range of commodities roughly comprised in the quaint term, Yankee notions." Before the merchandizing voice came to the new arrival's ears as anything more than a confused jumble, Kent was struck with the expansive splendor of the man's gestures, the dignity of his robust figure, and the beauty of a broad whitening beard that spread sidewise like the ripples from a boat's stem. Two blemishes unhappily marred the majesty of Simon P. Groot's presence; a pair of pinhead eyes, mutually attracted to each other, and a mean and stringent little voice. Freed of these drawbacks his oratory might well, one could not but feel, have rolled in any of our legislative chambers more superbly and just as ineffectually as much of the other oratory therein practised. That the Annalakans were truly spellbound by it was obvious. Indeed, Kent was at a loss to understand the depth of their absorption until he had come within the scope of the high-piping words.

"There, gentlemen and ladies," Simon P. Groot was saying, 'there in that place of vast silen. ces and infolding shadows I met and addressed one who was soon to be no more. 'Madam,' I said, 'you are worn. You are wan. You are weary. Trust the eniv-alry of one who might be your father. Rest and be comforted as with balm.' Standing by the roadside, she drooped like a flow-"There is no rest for me," 'I said she in mournful tones. must away upon my mission.' Stay! I bade her. 'Ere you go, but touch your lips to this revivi-



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