

ress Mrs. Lydia W. Ladd, Windsor, Ont. ING DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

> brush you, Aunt will be angry with us, as you are all over snow." "Soo are you," retorted the boy

> You've had the worst of it. Look a "How can'I, you stupid boy?" retort-

ed Jeanne; "yes, it's Mr. Bell." "Poor Mr. Bell!" said Hal; "he'li come in bleating like a sheep, and wiping the snow off his spectacles. Have you prepared your studies, Harry, my boy?" Ha-ha-ha!" and Harry laughed loudly, Jeanne, I am sorry to say,

"I wonder what he'd say if I told him you and I had been having a setto at snowballing, instead of worrying over Euclid. I don't suppose he ever had a snowballing in his life, Jeanne!" and Hal stopped short, as if struck by an inspiration.

"Well?" asked Jeanne, making a futile attempt to shake the snow from

ball; not a hard one like you and I slowly the rgiid lines of her mouth rehave been making, but a good-sized soft one that wouldn't hurt him, but just give him a shock, eh?" "All right," says Jeanne, with sub-

ime carelessness, "I don't mind." "Don't mind!" echoes Hal. "That's all very well. You haven't the pluck to do it yourself, though,"

"Haven't I?" says Jeanne, with daring smile.

"No," he says, "you'll run in and watch me do it; and I shall get a hundred lines as sure as eggs are eggs." "No, you sha'n't," says Jeanne stooping down and gathering up a huge but soft snowball, "I'll do it."

"You will!" exclaims Hal, with unounded admiration. "You're a brick, Jen! Look here, be quick! that one will do. Run around to the small gate. and wait till he has passed; then give it to him straight in the back-haha!"-and I'll wait in the hall and brush him down. Will you?"

making for the gate at which the trades-people enter, and which Mr. Bell, the curate and Hal's tutor, must

As she stands, upright and erect. ready to deliver its arrow, the foot- with astonishment, drops his book, and clutches nervously at his gingsteps sound more clearly on the walk. Presently they reach the gate behind which she lurks, and slowly pass. In a moment she is outside, and the snowball, thrown with all the force of

"All right," says Jeanne, already "Bravo!" says Hal. "Be quick-here With a bound Jeanne gains the side



ACKWOOD

air, and alights on the neck of the

ugh to see her victim wince and his hand to his collar, down which he cold snow is falling onto his back;

ut. alas! in her excitement she has lled it behind her, and before she self turned and is upon her! With a gasp, half of dismay, half of laugh ter, Jeanne struggles with the handle

Looks around, not to see the smooth pale face and weak eyes of Mr. Bell the curate, beaming reproachfully at her through his spectacles, but the handsome face of a stranger, and a pair of dark eyes gravely regarding her in all their naked sternness.

Jeanne gasps for breath, and, in he mazement and discomfture, leans defiantly against the obstinately closed

For a moment they regard each other in silence, she meeting the stern, halfsarcastic gaze of the dark eyes; he taking in comprehensively the graceful figure, like a stag at bay, the bronze-gold hair, from which the blue shawl has long since fallen, and the amazed, wide-open eyes.

Then, with a low bow, he takes off his hat, and smiles ironically. "To what am I indebted for this attention?" he says, in a deep, musical

Jeanne stares, speechless and appar ently frozen.

"Do you wish to speak to me?" h continues, "or is this the regular formality with which a stranger is greeted in Newton Regis?"

Still Jeanne is silent. The stranger puts up his hand, and, still bare-headed, rakes the snow from the back of his neck.

The action rouses Jeanne to a sens of the ridiculous in the situation, and oozes from between her rich, red lips. For a moment the stranger looks

gravely at her; then under his mustache his own lips bend, and he smiles. "I am glad," he said, smiling, "that I have been able to afford you any amusement. Have you any more snowballs in your pocket?"

Jeanne shakes her head slowly. "No? Then I may turn my back in safety. Thanks! Good-afternoon!" And, with a bow, he replaces his hat scrapes another handful of snow from his neck, and strides off.

And Jeanne stares after him lik

MRS. BROWN'S LODGER.

Before the ili-used stranger has had time to get out of sight, almost before Jeanne has opened the side door, another footstep sounds on the hard path. This time it is a lighter, more hesitating step, and it belongs to a a bland, simple face. He is dressed in quite a scientific gentleman." the regulation long-skirted coat which Her lodger nods, and takes up the spectacles and a huge comforter, Brown winces; gate, opens it, and stands ready to able length around his neck. He carspring out and deliver her harmless ries a thick umbrella in one hand and Jeanne, standing bareheaded and with arm upraised and body like a bow sprinkled with snow, he stops short tram. They're orphans. A rare Turk

> "Miss Jeanne, is that you?" he demands, in a weak, soft voice, which struggles through the comforter; "out without your-your hat, and in all this

"Good-evening, Mr. Bell." says Jeanne, demurely, "Does it snow?" It is "Yes, Miss Jeanne, it does.

catch your death-" "Then I had better go in," says Jeanne, promptly, and darts off like an ar-

Mr. Bell looks after her blushingly for a moment, then follows, and, entering the little, cozy parlor, finds Master ly poring over Euclid, as if he had been sitting so for hours.

He looks up with an admirable start of surprise, and says, as innocently: "Is that you, sir?" and, unusually attentive, respectfully adds: "Let me help you with your comforter, sir." "Thank you, Harry, thank you!" says the little man, cheerfully, so cheerfully that Hal eves him and handles

the comforter curiously. There is no snow on his beloved utor's back: the comforter is quite dry. Despair and disappointment! ne's snowball must have missed him! And it is with a decided change of voice that he replies to Mr. Bell's

idies, Harry?" Meanwhile, the stranger strides down the street, stops at a small cot-tage a little distance from the Gate

which runs the legend:
"JOSIAH BROWN, CARRIER." Mrs. Brown opens the door, drops a ourtesy, and follows him into a little ing fire and a table ready set for

"Is there anything you'd like, sir? "Yes, a towel or cloth of some sort," says, taking off his coat.

A towel! why, bless me, sir, you're over snow! Some o' those drefful a have been snowballing." ething of the sort, Mrs. Brown, ents, smiling grimly as the vision



GEORGE NEAL

of the lithe, graceful girl whom he left leaning defiantly against the gate rises before him; "it's of ltitle consequence. If you will be good enough to wipe the snow off my coat, I think I can shake it out of my neck. Thanks!

"The audacity of them boys is dreadful!" ejaculates Mrs. Brown, as She carefully wipes the coat. "To think as they should have thrown at you, sir, a perfect stranger! They ought to have known better. It's all off now, sir-I'd better air it, though."

"Don't trouble," he says. "Is this th tea?" and he eyes it gravely.

"Yes, sir," says Mrs. Brown. "I hope you'll find it right; and if you please sir, my husband has brought your things, sir," nodding at the easel which 36 inch material. stands in the corner of the room; "he's taken great care of them." "I'm quite sure of that," he responds, carelessly.

Mrs. Brown bustles about the table 2 yards with plaits extended for a moment, and is about to leave the room, when her lodger looks up, to any address on receipt of 15c. and says, indifferently enough: "There is a large, old-fashioned

house behind a wall just by the street Who lives there?" "The Gate House, sir, do you mean? He nods.

"Very probably." "That's Mr. Dostrell's," says Mrs. Brown. "Mr. Dostrell and his sister, Miss Dostrell, live there. Do you know

them, sir?"

"Not at an." he answers, promptly Mrs. Brown looks around the room, and her eyes rest on the easel. Instantis the good woman jumps to the conclusion that this lodger of hers, being an artist, is anxious to give lessons, or why should be come to New ton Regis? And she smiles benevolent

"A very nice gentleman is Mr. Dos trell, sir, and so is his sister. Quite the scholard. A very quiet gentleman, indeed he is. They do say as he might do wonders in the chemistry way, for he spends all his time in making experismall, slight-looking young man, with ments; I don't know what for. He's

our curates have adopted, and wears teapot, but so clumsily that Mrs

them?" he asks.

"Only their nephew and niece," rea book in the other, and at sight of plies Mrs. Brown; "that's Miss Jeanne and Master Harry. Their name's Beris Master Harry, and Miss Jeanne has plenty, of spirits, though she is so quiet. Ah! Miss Jeanne's got as much pluck as many a boy, sir. Down by the cliff they keep a boat-the Nancy Bell she calls it; and they do say that she can sail this boat as if she was fisher born. She's never so happy as when she's sailing out in the bay. A rare. daring young puss she is, sir. They've lived at the Gate House ever since they were children, Mr. Bell, the curate, teaches Harry-but he don't teach

them drawing, sir." Mrs. Brown's lodger looks rather perplexed at this piece of information then he smiles.

"I see," he says, almost inaudibly. But Mrs. Brown hears him.

"No offence, I hope, sir, but I thought you might be looking for pupils, sir.' "I may," he says, slowly, and with the same quiet smile, "and if I should be, you think Master Harry and Miss Jeanne would be eligible?"

"Just so, sir," assents Mrs. Brown delighted at her own shrewdness. "Mr Dostrell's just the gentleman to have the young people learn as much as they can; and there's plenty of others besides them; there's Miss Maud and Georgina, Mr. Lambton's daughters, up at the park; they'd be only too pleased to learn drawing and painting, I'll be bound; and---"

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