

from h-hamlet, field and town to speech ; during the melon feast, particular-I mean participate- band concert and fireworks ; and er-ah-w-w-we assembled here by young and old as the great today in h-h ham-hamlet. valley, day ended with a giant pavement and city, to take hold of, I mean dance that extended far into the share in that re-renowned anni- night.

versary celebration that has-uh " Felix, dear," said our hero's -aw. "Felix stopped. Beads wife the evening following the of perspiration stood on his celebration, "that was a wonderbrow. The corn stalks, having ful speech you made yesterday ears, heard and nudged each other afternoon. All the town is, still in a neighborly, gossipy way, and talking about it ; and they feel so the blackbird began to chirp with proud of you ! You big, big man, how did you ever do it ?" amusement.

Even against such odds Felix " A man that has a better half persevered. He plowed through that can keep a secret," said the entire speech, stuttering, Felix, laying down his paper, stumbling, repeating, making mis- should tell her everything. Listakes at every turn, but going ten ! While the races were going forward. He made pitiful ap- on I stood in that clump of trees peals to the blackbird, to the at the far end of the race-track. corn stalks, and to the sky; he I was, rehearsing my speech thundered and stormed at his giving it a last going over, hoping leafy bower and at the high that that would help me get it board fence. At last he finished, delivered in passable form. But then began to walk briskly back I was nervous, lacked confidence to the heart of the festival. and was dreadfully afraid, and I It was a tense moment. Felix knew it, I stuttered and stumbled. Schooner was mounting the plat- Then something happened that form to deliver Titonias message gave me mountains of grit. This of welcome and exhortation. may be hard to believe, but as I Behind him, waiting only for the live under God's Heaven, its the speech to be concluded, were two truth. While I was speaking huge trucks loaded high with under those trees, what did a jockey do but stop and listen to watermelons.

Felix walked to the edge of the me ! Through a knothole in the platform and faced the crowd. fence I saw the nose of his horse A rose adorned his coat lapel, and By the Rock of Gibraltar wifey, a calm smile played about his when I realized that I had lips. He was cool, collected, and oratorical powers that could make serene. His pose and bearing pres- a jockey stop his horse right in aged masterful elocution. Run the middle of a race, why I felt ning his eye over the crowd that like making a speech before the extended almost beyond the range Czar of Patagonia ! Then I of his voice, and throwing out his walked up and gave the people a right hand with an eloquent ges- sample of my speech making. Listen, I believe there's someone ture, he began : "Ladies, gentlemen, everybody ! at the door."

I as the mouthpiece of Titonia The caller was Dickey Stoval errand boy for Smith's grocery. and voicing the sentiments of her citizens, bid you a hearty welcome. ' De Strategy Board," exclaimed We are assembled today from Dickey, "send me here wid dis hamlet, field and town to par. Dey had quite a time tryin' ta ticipate in that famous annivermake one o' the big bugs come sary celebration that has dis- here and make yer presentation sembled its reputation broadcast speak, but de guys all got cold and afar. And, gazing out over feet. Non of 'em felt like making this sea of faces, I feel, and per- a speak in front o' de greatest

haps rightly feel, that gathered speaker in de woild." here today is a concentration of Felix took the proffered packhuman beings permeated with age and slowly unwrapped it. It the spirit and slogan of Titonia was a gold filled watch fob,"set itself-a gathering capable of with a diamond. Attached to it brotherly and fatherly miscibility.

We reciprocate the feeling. "And we will do more. As our good wishes and warm greetings shall sink into your receptive hearts, so will also a more concrete and substantial token sink into your stomach ! I refer to a carload of ripe, luscious, crystalized - honey - watermelons !

" Oh, Solomon, the race horse, said Felix comprehensively. "No I didn't attend the races, had too nuch other work on hand. Did he win?" " Naw ! " replied Dickey, bitng scorn in his voice. "All de boys in town bet dere last cent on 'em and here de old piker goes and stops in the middle o' de race. Stops, the wheezy old plug, lat's what he does, right over lere by dat bunch o' trees. But

dere's dirty work went ou yesterday. Barney Wattick up in de Bran, Middlings, Shorts airplane saw a man go into de unch o' trees just before de race. Dey tink he was from Spottsourg, 'cause all de sports from that burg bet again Solomon Barney was too far away and ow I 'spose dey'll never find out who de crook was, Jus' as good oo, 'cause if de had a hold of 'im ere sore enough to pull him

part and see how he's made." Ah, Felix! That nose you saw hrough the knot hole in the fence belonged to Solomon, on whose back reposed no appreciative and enraptured jockey ! But what of that, it but makes your oratorical powers the greater The birds in the trees paused to isten and the leaves of the trees ceased to rustle even as the racing uadruped halted his mad flight, Shades of Patrick Henry ! What divine, awe-inspiring revelation our voice must have been ! But somehow, as my mind wells upon it, I think Felix's oratorical powers are not extraordinary, Sometimes I feel that any lusty-lunged man and wellrained, intelligent horse would have achieved the same result. For such fate that Solonom, leadng the field by a comfortable nargin, was nearing the clump of rees, our hero Felix, redfaced and desperate, in a thundering oice was stumbling and stutterng away at the line, "Woe to ou ! Woe ! Woe !"

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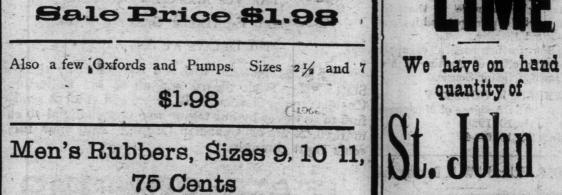
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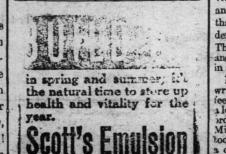
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