

Neighbor Cripsey's Dog

BY J. T. TROWBRIDGE.

IN TWO CHAPTERS.—CHAPTER I.

The old folks had gone off on a three days' visit to their married daughter, leaving the younger children, Marion and Hubert, to keep house in their absence, and look after things, to quote good Mrs. Warner's parting words.

Hubert was in the kitchen, and he had a good fire on the stove; and there, too, was the empty gridiron on the table, and a broken plate on the floor. But no steak anywhere, broiled or raw.

Alarmed at the aspect of things, particularly at sight of the shattered crockery, Hubert put away his basket and ran out, in time to see his sister coming around the trellis, from the little garden behind the house.

Marion entered into the grim humor of the idea, "can't we just say, 'It's just possible Nero'?" "You don't mean Nero; for we are not going to call any names," he interrupted her.

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Marion was not in the kitchen. The door was open, and there were the un-

covered ready coals in the stove; and

—in Mr. Warner's own garden where he

own premises, I hope.

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