Come, smarty, here's the ball rollin about in the slack of your shirt above your belt."

"The deuce!" said Henry. "I ain't wounded!"

"Strike me dead," cried Smith, projecting himself into view with the gory bandage cocked over his right eye.

Jim had believed that he was alone with his brother, and at the appearance of such a menacing third party he took a precautionary step backward.

"How are they at home, sonny? How's mother's rheumatics?"

"Come and see!" cried Henry, and with a quick leap he fastened his grip on Jim's collar. At the same moment the flying section which had passed so recently opened fire from the opposite hill in reply to the Confederate guns. For a space the darkness overhead was streaked with burning fuses and between the shrieking of the shells and the roar of the guns Smith was unable to catch a word of the argument that was passing between the brothers, who were flopping about the ground like two chickens with their heads chopped off. As nature became exhausted, the two combatants rested in each other's arms, making an occasional spasmodic flop and then subsiding.

"I always was your match, Jim Price," gasped Henry, "and now I ain't wounded—like I thought I was—I'll send you home to mother—if it takes"—

What the proviso was did not appear, for Henry's jerky sentence was swallowed up in the rush of two shells trailing fire overhead, and the whites of Jim's eyes looked bloodshot in the light of the guns.

Henry never relaxed his grip on his brother until the firing ceased, and then he handed his prisoner over to Smith and deaf Spence, who tossed him on the back of the horse. Jim was too exhausted to talk at first, but before the party had proceeded far on the road he began to remonstrate against such unbrotherly treatment.

"Now you shut up, Jim," said Henry. "If you know what I've been through in the last three days on account of you, you'd know I'm fond of you. I'm a little beat myself, but there are some things I want you to explain to my captain."

Mascagni's Visit to Verdi.

In a Florentine musical paper, La Scena Illustrata, Mascagni tells the story of a visit which he paid to Verdi with his wife and children. Verdi was installed in his favorite suit of rooms at the Hotel Milana. He loves children, and before long he had the bimbi perched upon his knee. Mascagni had come to Milan to conduct some orchestral concerts at La Scala, and he had a great deal to say about his programmes and his novelties.

The old man listened with interest to his descriptions of works by Scandinavian and Slavonic composers, which are rarely heard in Italy, particularly those of Svendsen and Tschaikowsky. After a time Mascagni heard him murmur as if talking to himself, "Who would have thought in my time that people like that would know how to compose music?"

Remarkable Absence of Mind.

It is not an uncommon thing for one to devote himself to a foreign language, so that he dreams in it, but cases are probably rare in which men have even for a moment forgotten that they spoke their own tongue. One such case is related.

It is said that Frederick Horner, an Englishman, who spent his time in adapting plays from the French for the English stage, was dining once in an English hotel, when, after he had eaten, he was seized with a desire to smoke. He called the waiter, and said to him:

"*Peut-on fumer ici?*"

The man looked blank. "I don't understand a word of French, sir," he said.

Horner looked the picture of despair. "Then for pity's sake send me some one who does!" he exclaimed.

Seasonable Costumes.

TAILOR-MADE coats and skirts are again fashionable for ordinary wear during the earlier part of the day. There is very little difference in the style of the coats; the backs are tight-fitting, but the fronts are made to set somewhat loosely in order that an elaborately trimmed blouse may be worn beneath. The collar and lapels of all the newest coats are machine-stitched in the most artistic manner, and this class of work is of course too difficult for the amateur dressmaker to attempt, almost any sewing machine establishment will, however, undertake to do stitching of this kind for a small outlay.

Sack back reefers are very popular this season, as they can be quickly and easily made at home, and there is no more useful garment than a loose-fitting coat of this description for everyday wear; and as it still continues to be fashionable to have the skirt made of a different material to the coat, the cost of an ordinary costume is inconsiderable if made at home.

About 2½ yards of French coating serge or two yards of beaver cloth would be sufficient to make a reefer, and 5 yards of frieze homespun or Scotch tweed would make a useful skirt that could be worn with any kind of flannel blouse; and, now that the winter sales are on, suitable fabrics can be purchased for considerably less than their original value.

Some Recipes.

BANANA FRITTERS. Three bananas, two shredded wheat biscuits rolled, or half a cupful of granulated wheat-shred, half a pint of milk, three eggs, a quarter teaspoonful of salt, half a cup of entire wheat flour. Beat the eggs till very light, add the rolled shredded wheat biscuit, half a cup of entire wheat flour, a little salt, and the milk a little at a time. Peel and cut the bananas into pieces an inch in length. Stir into a batter, and then drop from a spoon into hot fat. Cook till a nice brown. Prepare apples or any kind of fruit in the same way. Serve with sweet sauce.

* * *

SHREDDED WHEAT CHEESE BALLS. One half a cup of grated cheese, one quarter cup of shredded wheat biscuit rolled very fine, or granulated wheat shred, whites of two eggs beaten light, salt and pepper to taste. Mix, and form into balls, and roll lightly in rolled and sifted shredded wheat biscuit crumbs, and fry in hot fat. Use old English or Worcester County dairy cheese.

* * *

SQUASH BREAD.—Dissolve one cake of compressed yeast in one-fourth cup of lukewarm water, add one cup of scalded milk (cooled), one third cup of melted butter, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half cup of sugar and two cups of steamed or baked and sifted Hubbard squash. Then stir in flour to make a smooth thick batter that will stay up in shape after you stop stirring. Cover the bowl and set it in a pan of water as hot as you can bear your hand in. Let it rise about one hour, or until it is light and puffy. Then flour it into a long, round roll, let it rise again in the pan, and when light bake in a quick oven. Or it may be shaped in small rolls or biscuit and baked when well risen.

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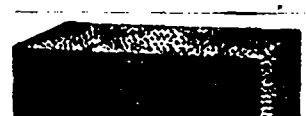

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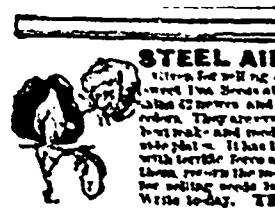

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