Only a brakesman! been called by death! gong. Why should the eye glisten? Why should the

'Tis only a brakesman who's set his last brake Only a brakesman! is flashed through the air Only a brakesman! for his body prepare; On the morrow its shipped as poor common

As only a brakesman who has gone to his fate Only a brakesman! the editors write; Only a brakesman! 'twas late in the night, He was doing his duty-the train broke in tw When down to his death the brakesman fe

Only a brakesman! but the pride of so heart; Only a brakesman! but in some busy mart Are eyes that are weeping, and homes that are hushed,
Because a poor brakesman was yeste

Only a brakesman! but a true-hearted boy; Only a brakesman! but some mother's joy, For whom there's no muffle for the coarse iro

where the coarse iron when there's no muffle for the coarse iron when the coarse iron coarse iron coarse iron coarse iron when the coarse iron coar ory pupil; and he entered the church with me. We were in the midst of an argument respecting the best mode of dealing with stubborn children, he advocating severity, and I kindness, when Cripps with his basket of tools arrived.

looked at it.

"There be writing on this, I see, sir," he said, handing the scrap to me.

I looked at it, and found from the phraseology that it was evidently part of some kind of legal document, though of what nature I could not tell. But I was curious to know if there were any more of these fragments, and told Cripps to pry off the board carefully. As he shook the front of the desk in his efforts to remove it a few more pieces of crumpled paper fell out of the same aperture and lay at my feet.

"Here's a lot of rubbish," said Cripps, touching the scraps with his hob-nailed boot. In the meantime I had picked up the pieces.

"Perhaps some old manuscript," said the schoolmaster. "Do read it, sir, for it may throw some light on the hiding-place of the silver vessels that were said to be hidden from Cromwell, and have never been found."

"In for we firmly believe it is the will of your late father."

"My father left no will," said Mr. Scruby, if and I refuse to read this forgery, for such it is."

"Take care what you say, Mr. Scruby. I affirm it to be a perfectly legal document, drawn up by my old friend, the late Mr. Collyer, the well known solicitor of Boston, with whose handwriting you must be well acquainted, seeing he managed your father's business for so many years. I beg you to examine it."

"I deny the existence of a will altogether," said Mr. Scruby, sid Mr. Scruby.

"I deny the existence of a will altogether," said Mr. Scruby; but as he said the words, I remarked that his hand, which rested on the table, trembled, in spite of his efforts to appear calm.

"See i" continued Mr. Shaw, "here is your father's signature, and those of the witnessess—namely, Thomas Kirby and Mary Greenwood."

"Thomas Kirby, indeed!" cried Mr. Scruby, scornfully; "a paltry farm-bailiff that I had to turn war for dwarder.

I granced over its contents. "What's this? Why—it is—it is a will!"

I shall never forget the excitement of that moment—the schoolmaster, the sexton, Mrs. Dumps, and the carpenter who couldn't read writing, all crowding to look over my shoulder. With hands trembling with excitement I put the torn pieces of paper together and ascertained the document to be perfect, dated five and twenty years before, signed John Scruby, and duly attested by two witnesses—old Scruby's will, doubtless.

Pretty witnesses you have brought forward, truly!"

"Doubtleas they were the only available ones at the time."

"It is a deep laid conspiracy," he cried, furiously, as he moved toward the door. "I see through it all. I deny your statements. Go to law if you like, and I'll fight you inch by inch." And seizing his hat, Mr. Scruby strode from the room, casting on us a withering look of contempt, expressing that he had unmasked a set of rogues, and fathomed their plot.

the mysterious visitor to the church that evening I was there for the marriage extract, and the opening and shutting of the Scruby's pew door. But I kept my thoughts to myself.

thawing at the kitchen are. I therefore the would prove more communicative on this occasion than I had previously found her.

Mr. Shaw had his own way of opening the control of the control

stock. The upper farm at Lincoln and some smaller ones in the north of the county, with their stock and product, were left to his only son, Seth. Coryton were left to his only son, Seth. Coryton Farm, stock, implements, with the land in this parish and half the sum in the funds, were left to his dearly beloved and only daughter Jane and her heirs forever, after having paid legacies to several distant connections and servants, and subject to many annuities to old servants; and I saw mentioned with much sadness an annuity to be paid quarterly to the poor old shepherd Jacobs, of whom the sexton had so recently spoken.

Another surprise awaited me at the end of the bequests, for after the signature of John Scruby one of the witnesses' signature of Wait till I've told my story all through.

of the bequests, for after the signature of John Scruby one of the witnesses' signatures was Thomas Kirby,—the same handwriting I had seen in the register as witness to the marriage of the parents of Phœbe Meadows,—the old woman Kirby's husband. It must, yes, it must be the now am. I was in my younger days as genuine will—that which never was found.

It was dark when I drove up to Mr. Pullingtoft's door; but as I descended from the dog-cart and came within the range of light, with which he had hastened to greet his visitor, It was with the exclamation of "Bless my heart!" and a hearty shake of the hand, that he recognized and welcomed me.

After most hospitable entertainment Mrs. Pullingtoft discreetly withdrew; my host heaped up the fire, and drawing our chairs closer in, I unfolded the tale of my memorable night's adventure to the

bars. Pullingfort discreetly windrew; my host heaped up the fire, and drawing our chairs closer in, I unfolded the tale of my memorable night's adventure to the good man, who listened with open mouth and open eyes; but when I came to the events of a few hours ago, namely, the the finding of the will, who can describe his astonishment and delight? I opened and smoothed out the crumpled pages on the table, the farmer reading it attentives ly word by word; he had been familiar with old Scruby's signature, and, firmly declaring the will to be genuine, bestowed an unlimited number of choice epithets on the son. In vain I tried to convince him that a man may not be called bad until he be proven so. Mr. Pullingtoff to the mphatically declared Seth Scruby to be a knave, "And not only that, sir, but a villain!"—with a slap of his fist on the table that made the glasses dance and jingle.

Of course I stayed all night; and during the evening I had again to relate my experiences in the church on the night of the farmer's first visit to me, with the slamming to of what I took to be Scruby's pew door—the seeing it shut and after ward open—and the banging of the church door as after some one who had just gone out; and to this narrative my host listened with renewed attention.

"It may have been Scruby himself," and the daughter—this man Seth and the daughter—poor Jane, and at last he saw he must send her to school; for the poor girl had no mother, sir, and ran rather wild at home; and it was quite time she went, for she was twolve years old. So she was sent to Lincoln; and came some three or four times a year for holidays; and every time she was improved, and was growing prettier and prettier.

"Soon after she first went her father had a bad attack of gout, so bad that he set about making his will. One day, when my husband came home, he told me that he had been signed, he told him he'd left all his property in this parish and half his bank money to Jane, and she'd be one of the richest girls in these parts; and that my old ma

with me. We were in the midst of an argument respecting the best mode of dealing with stubborn children, he advocating severity, and I kindness, when Cripps with his basket of tools arrived.

"The first thing to be done, sir," said Cripps, after I had told him of my suspicions as to the infirm state of the beams, "is to get a fair look at it underneath and to do that, all that fret-work and carving must be taken down. That there bunch of happles and leaves is natural; and them two hoddities is Hadam and Heve; and that there snake a-twisting about like a heel is meant for wort tempted Heve, I suppose!" Such was Mr. Cripp's criticism on a lovely bit of carving worthy of Grinling Gibbons.

Well yes; it certainly was necessary to remove the front of the reading desk, and therefore, of course, part of Mr. Scruby's pew; and it must be done at once, as I should like to see how much orepairing was really required; for if extensive it would have to be submitted to the church wardens. This, however, lidd not think, from the trifling character of the repairs, would be necessary.

Cripps went forward to the desk for the purpose of removing the front, and stood for a few minutes, as is the habit of this class of workmen, looking at the structure he was about none at day when, on arriving at Crytorn, we despatched a mersuing at Corytorn, we despatched were propuly and the very promptely and with a lurking suspicion, probably, that it again concerned Phoebe Meadows. If so, he was right in his forebodings. What a waited him in reality, he little guessed. He entered my study with his face all puckered and pinched with six few lands and therefore, of course, part of carvel elsews, we land with the same and pinched with six few lan

hidden from Cromwell, and have never been found."

"Good heavens!" I exclaimed, as having unfolded a larger piece of the paper I glanced over its contents. "What's this? Why—it is—it is a will!"

I shell never forcet the excitement of the paper ward, truly!"

I shell never forcet the excitement of the paper ward, truly!"

scruby's will, doubtless.

Our astonishment was intense. How had it come there? It could not have been long in this place of concealment, or the church cleaners would have seen it before now.

"Perhaps it wor rats," said Cripps, "as tore it."

"But how came it all crumpled up and stumbled?" asked the sexton.

"It desire nothing better. And now, my dear sir, as time flies, may I ask you to introduce the witnesses one by one, if they are not here yet, that I may take down their depositions. I hope yon have summoned the old woman Kirby as well; I must have a talk with her before I go."

"But how came it all crumpled up and stumbled:" asked the sexton.

"It's my opinion there's been dirty work," suggested Mrs. Dumps, with the natural sweetness of her sex at jumping at charitable conclusions. "People as shall be unbenamed by me, who lets a poor woman open and clean their pew for nigh twenty years without giving her a single 'alf crown at Christmas time, is capable of anything."

Indeed it was my opinion also. It did look like foul play. And I thought on the mysterious visitor to the church that evening I was there for the marriage extract and the quening and shutting of the

tract, and the opening and shutting of the Scruby's pew door. But I kept my thoughts to myself.

"It ain't much consequence whether there's a will or no, now," said the sexton; for Mr. Seth has everything, and his poor sister's dead and gone long long ago. It was thought a queer thing at that time that there wasn't a will; for old servants as had lived with him for many a year, and done their duty faithful, were not provided for; and old Jacobs, as had been the shepherd forty odd year, died in the Union—he did."

Those items were entirely new to me, and confirmed my opinion of Mr. Scruby being a hard man, if not something worse. Leaving strict orders to Cripps to finish his carpentering as quickly as possible, I hastened to the stable, ordered the dogcart to be got ready immediately packed a few necessaries in my carpet-bag, and then spreading out the tumbled sheets of my treasure-trove on the table, made my self master of their contents. As far as I could judge this was a regular will, drawn up by a solicitor at Boston, unfortunately long since dead. It enumerated much property, in lands, farms, and stock. The upper farm at Lincoln and stock to the proceived it was his tactics to come down suddenly on people. Mr. Shaw had his own way of opening his campaigns; and I perceived it was his tactics to come down suddenly on people. Mr. Shaw had his own way of opening this campaigns; and I perceived it was his tactics to come down suddenly on people. Mr. Shaw had his own way of opening that time out was to come down suddenly on people. Mr. Shaw had his own way of opening that time out was taket to come down suddenly on people. Mr. Shaw had his own way of

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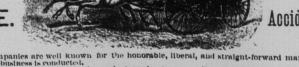


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