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VALIANT JOHN FALSTAFF NORQUAY!

"A PLAGUE OF ALL COWARDS, I SAY, AND A VENGEANCE, TOO! MARRY AND AMEN! —Shakespeare.

The barber's old "four poster" spares,
And hastened down the creaking stairs.
Now from a distant door ajar
He heard the tumult of a war,
Where fiercely yelled each drunken brute,
With horrid oath and loud dispute;
But Jack, undaunted by the din,
Approached the door and peered within,
When he beheld a gambling crew
That cursed in turn the dice they threw,
While in their midst in guineas told
There lay a heap of shining gold.
Jack opened the door without a sound,
And just one moment looked around,
Then uttered 'midst the fools and knaves
In deep sepulchral voice, "Who shaves?"
As if a thunderbolt had fell,
Or Palisser or Whitworth shell
Had burst with extra charges in it,
The room they emptied in a minute,
Save one and that was ostler Bill,
Who'd had what some folks call his "fill,"
So, drunk, he stumbled on his way,
And shook with terror where he lay.
Jack laugh'd, but feeling somewhat cold,
Betook himself to bed—the gold
Now, as I am ever bound to tell
The truth—why, Jack took that as well;
The morning broke with ruddy glow,
The sun's rays sparkled on the snow,
The storm had ceas'd, the air was still—
Jack woke, and so did ostler Bill,
Who hastened down to room and feed
And, saddle, too, the stranger's steed,
Which Barker mounted, and then gave
The usual fee that ostlers crave;
But scarcely had he touch'd the prize
That Jack had given, than his eyes
(As down the roadway Barker went)
Were fix'd in blank astonishment,
"What's up," exclaimed the puzzled host,
"What's up?" cried Bill, "Why that's the ghost!"
R. CROOKENDEN.

AT PARTING.

"You are a strong-minded woman," he cried,
"And I don't care for strong-minded women," said
he.
"Well, you are a weak-minded man," she replied,
"And I can't endure weak-minded men," said she.
A. W. E.

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