

I therefore decided to engage him, and told him that I would send Cassidy over to him to let him know when he was to start.

When Tim Cassidy returned I told him what I had done, and requested him to go over to Benny's house and tell him to be ready to start early next morning; but Tim objected promptly.

"Now what for will ye be engaging Benny?" he asked. "Can't I hunt wid ye meself, and don't I know more about it than any of them savages?"

"Tim," I said, "you know just as much about hunting as you do about the Hebrew grammar, and you'll just be good enough to go over and tell Benny to come at once."

"Did he say he'd come?" asked Tim.

"Of course he did," I replied.

"Then he tould ye a lie," said Tim, "he won't come at all; he'll niver come."

"But he promised me," I said.

"I tell ye he'll niver come," replied Tim.

I now saw that if Tim turned rusty he might lay himself out to prevent Benny joining our party, and so spoil my last chance of sport, so I thought it prudent to soften down a little and try the *suaviter in modo*.

"Well now, Tim," I said, "I am quite sure that you can persuade him well enough if you like. Just you go over and see him, and do your best at any rate."

"Well," said Tim, "may be I could persuade him too, but ye'll have to pay him."

"Why, of course I'll have to pay him," I replied.

"Ye'll have to pay him pretty smart, I mane," said Tim.