

boots, as if I was doing modest,) 'with two angeliferous females. Why, I had a leg, on each arm.'

"She fairly screamed out at that expression, rushed into a milliner's shop, and cried like a gardener's watering-pot. The names she called me ain't no matter. They were the two Miss Legge's of Albany, and cut a tall swarth, I tell you, for they say they are descended from a governor of Nova Scotia, when good men, according to their tell, could be found for governors, and that their relations of England are some pumpkins, too. I was as innocent as a child, Letty."

"Well," said she 'you are the most difficult man to understand I ever see—there is no telling whether you are in fun or in earnest. But as I was a-saying, there was some such talk afore General Smith went to Texas; but that story was raised by the Pawtuxet College folks, to injure this institution. They did all they could to tear my reputation to chitlins. Me engaged, I should like to see the man that—'

"Well, you seemed plaguery scared at one just now," said I. 'I am sure it was a strange way to show you would like to see a man.'

"I didn't say that," she replied, 'but you take one up so quick.'

"It's a way I have," said I, 'and always had, since you and I was to singing-school together, and learnt sharps, flats, and naturals. It was a crochet of mine,' and I just whipped my arm round her waist, took her up and kissed her, afore she knowed where she was. Oh Lordy! Out came her comb, and down fell her hair to her waist, like a mill-dam broke loose; and two false curls and a braid fell on the floor, and her frill took to dancin' round, and got wrong side afore, and one of her shoes slipt off and she really looked as if she had been in a indean-scrimmage, and was ready for scalpin.

"Then you ain't engaged Liddy," said I; 'how glad I am to hear that; it makes my heart jump; and cherries is ripe now, and I will help you into the tree, as I used to did when you and I was boy and gall together. It does seem so nateral, Liddy, to have a game of romps with you again; it makes me feel as young as a two-year old. How beautiful you do look, too! My, what a pity you is shut up here, with these young galls all day, talking by the yard, about the corollas, calyxes, and stammas of flowers, while you

"Are doomed to blush unseen,
And waste your sweetness on the desert air."

"Oh," said she, 'Sam, I must cut and run, and "blush unseen," that's a fact, or I'm ruined,' and she up curls, comb, braid, and shoe, and off like a shot into a bed-room that adjoined the parlor, and bolted the door, and double-locked it, as if she was afraid an attachment was to be levied on her and her chattels, by the sheriff, and I was bum-bailiff.

"Thinks I, old gall, I'll pay you off for treating me the way you did just now, as sure as the world. 'May I ask, Mr. Slick what is the object of this visit?' A pretty way to receive a cousin that you haven't seen so long aint

it? and though I say it, that shouldn't say it, that cousin, too, Sam Slick the attaché to our embassy to the Court of Victoria, Buckingham Palace. You couldn't a treated me wuss, if I had been one of the liveried, powdered, bedizened, be-bloated footmen from 't'other big house there of Aunt Harriette's.' I'll make you come down from your stilts, and walk naterel, I know, see if I don't.

"Presently she returned, all set to rights, and a little righter, too, for she had put a touch of rouge on to make the blush stick better, and her hair was slicked up snugger than before, and looked as if it had growed like anything. She had also slipped a handsome habit-shirt on, ank looked, take her altogether, as if, though she warn't engaged, she ought to have been afore the last five hot summers came, and the general thaw had commenced in the spring, and she had got thin, and out of condition. She put her hand on her heart, and said, 'I am so skarred, Sam, I feel all over of a twitteration. The way you act is horrid.'

"So do I," said I 'Liddy, it's so long since you and I used to—'

"You aint altered a bit, Sam," said she, for the starch was coming out, 'from what you was, only you are more forrider. Our young men, when they go abroad, come back and talk so free and easy, and take such liberties, and say it's the fashion in Paris, it's quite scandalous. Now, if you dare to do the like again, I'll never speak to you the longest day I ever live, I'll go right off and leave, see if I don't.'

"Oh, I see, I have offended you," said I; 'you are not in a humor to consent now, so I will call again some other time.'

"This lecture on botany must now be postponed," she said, 'for the hour is out some time ago. If you will be seated, I will set the young students at embroidery, instead, and return for a short time, for it does seem so nateral to see you, Sam, you saucy boy,' and she pinched my ear, 'it reminds one, don't it of by-gones?' and she hung her head a-one side, and looked sentimental.

"Of by-gone larks," said I.

"Hush, Sam," she said, 'don't talk so loud, that's a dear soul. Oh, if anybody had come in just then, and caught us.'

"Us," thinks I to myself, 'I thought you had no objection to it, and only struggled enough for modesty-like; and I did think you would have said, caught you.'

"I would have been ruined for ever and ever, and amen, and the college broke up, and my position in the literary, scientific, and intellectual world scorched, withered, and blasted for ever. Aint my cheek all burning, Sam? it feels as if it was all a-fire," and she put it near enough for me to see, and feel tempted beyond my strength. 'Don't it look horrid inflamed, dear?' And she danced out of the room, as if she was skipping a rope.

"Well, well," said I, when she took herself off. "What a world this is. This is bumkum learning; girls are taught in one room to faint or scream if they see a man, as if he was an in-