

"Think's I to myself, it's more than I do, then; for I didn't understand you, and I don't know the meanin' of what I said myself. But I'll pay you off bimeby, Master Dunk—see if I don't.

"Sais he, lowerin' his voice, confidential-like, 'what a pity it is that he is a Unitarian!'

"Now, thinks I, my boy, I've got you off *dead* languages in upon *livin'* subjects, I'll play with you as a cat does with a mouse.

"He wouldn't be an honest man, if he warn't,' sais I; 'he'd be beneath contempt.'

"Well,' sais he, 'I never argue about religion, and will therefore not pursue the subject farther; but it creates a great prejudice here.'

"Religion,' sais I, 'my good friend,' lookin' all amazed, 'why, what in natur' has religion to do with it? It has neither art nor part in it.'

"Exactly,' said he, 'that's the very point. People here think a Unitarian little better than an infidel.'

"Then you might,' sais I, 'just as well say a Tory was an infidel, or a Whig, or a Protectionist, or a Free Trader, or anybody else; there would be just as much sense in it. I believe in my heart the English will never understand us.'

"Pray, may I ask,' said he, 'what you call a Unitarian?'

"Sartainly,' sais I; 'for when folks go to argue, they ought first to know what they are talkin' about; to define their terms, and see they understand each other. I'll tell you in a few words what a Unitarian is.'

"Just then, Minister speaks up, (and it's a curious thing, talk of the devil, and he is sure to heave in sight directly), 'Pass the wine, Mr. Slick, I'll help myself.' 'And push it on, your Excellency,' sais I; 'but I never pass wine—it ain't considered lucky in Slickville.' This made a laugh and a divarsion, and I continues: 'You see, my Lord, our general Government is a federal one, exercisin' sartain powers delegated to it by the separate States, which, with this exception, are independent sovereignties. Every State is a unit, and those units form a whole; but the rights of the separate States are as sacred as the rights of the Government to Washington; and good patriots everywhere stand by their own units, and are called Unitarians; while some are for strengthenin' the general Government, at the expense of the individual sovereignty, and these are called Federalists; and that's the long and the short of the matter. And what on airth religion has to do with these nicknames, I don't know.'

"Sais he, 'I never knew that before; I thought Unitarians were a religious sect, being another name for Socinians, and I am very glad to hear this explanation.'