

people in the following year, proved as capable a surveyor as Sam, and a great deal more trustworthy in point of time.

What Sam did after that it is doubtful whether he himself could tell. He seemed to get a sudden start in the world when a new and well-to-do storekeeper employed him as private tutor to his half-dozen large children. We say advisedly that this employment gave him a sudden start, for it enabled him to obtain a much needed suit of clothes on credit—an achievement which would shortly before have been impossible. The merchant's children made considerable progress, but hardly in the direction contemplated by their parents; the boys learned more college songs than mathematics, while the oldest daughter found Sam so agreeable that she exhibited symptoms of falling in love with him.

For a long time after Sam's discharge by the merchant, his only business efforts consisted in running in debt for his board. As a dollar per week was the price of board at New Rochester in those days, his transactions in this line were not large, but he could conscientiously say that in this respect, at least, he did his best. But, after receiving notices to quit from every one at New Rochester who ever took boarders, Sam conceived a desire to visit the sunny South, in which land he understood existence might be maintained without labor. He embarked for New Orleans on a flat boat, or rather he became one of the crew of such a boat, and for five weeks told jokes in the little cabin, and grumbled when he was called on duty. After he had parted from his mates at New Orleans, the citizens of New Rochester heard no more of him for a year, when suddenly he reappeared just after an upward-bound steamer had left New Rochester. His clothing was not over-neat, and the shoulders of his coat were rubbed through in the manner peculiar to the "roustbaut" (deck-hand.) He brought no baggage ashore with him, and made no secret of the fact that he had been very hard up, and had learned to work.

But the good-hearted storekeeper who employed Sam immediately on hearing the ex-surveyor's story, soon found that his new clerk had forgotten the excellent habit he had learned, but he had not been

so successful with certain other acquired accomplishments. He had learned to drink, and he parted with not a fragment of his knowledge on this subject; he had learned to make palatable beverages from raw materials, and he freely imparted his knowledge to the customers of the single liquor seller who had crept into New Rochester. He had profited so liberally by the free-lunch attachment to the Southern bar-rooms, that he suggested the idea of free lunches to the liquor-dealer, and the experiment resulted so profitably that the grateful barkeeper made Sam welcome whenever he called. Later, when Sam's patronage seemed rather expensive, the vender of poisons remembered that Sam had never been suspected of theft, so he employed him as barkeeper. Poor Sam was already so far gone that he could not understand why, after his taking this new position, the non-drinking inhabitants ceased to recognize him respectfully. But he had his revenge, although he had not the slightest idea of taking any; his beautiful stores of jokes, and his fine assortment of funny songs, drew into the backdoor of the liquor-shop many likely young men whose parents supposed their sons were visiting their neighbor's daughters.

At last Sam became too much of a drunkard to mix liquors correctly, so he lost his professional position. But Bayne, his late employer, was not a man to go back on his friends, so he let Sam sleep in the bar at night, fed him with his own hired man and woman, and occasionally gave him cast-off clothing, in return for which Sam took down and put up the shutters, made the fire, chopped wood, and made himself incidentally useful in other ways. His principal occupation, however, consisted in rambling about aimlessly, and chatting in a desultory manner to whoever would listen to him. He delighted in children, and they in turn loved him, as the little Dutch boys and girls loved Rip Van Winkle. Occasionally an observing parent would notice that while Sam could have the society of children he never asked for liquor, but no other parent ever thought of making practical use of his observation.

All the ministers tried their hands on Sam, and he cordially agreed with every proposition they advanced. Once, in the midst of an earnest sermon by the Metho-