

AN EVENING AT THE STORE

min'," applauded Limpy; "'n' it 'pears ter me if the childre' here wus straightened up, 'n' tol' thet theer place wus not ter line up every meetin', say pass-word, give grip, 'n' swing lip twixt giggles, there would be more done, but I'm thinkin' theer would be fewer a-climbin' that theer hill; neow mark me words."

An unexpected silence settled over the group till Tommy Stead suddenly tossed his suspender button in the air and chuckled.

"S'pose ye heerd that Nell Horn has gone back on Jamsey Pompey?"

"Wall, never; aren't they ter be coupled at Christmas?" Limpy exclaimed in surprise.

"That might o' been, but she's declared it off, fer darter Susan seed her a-steppin' it home las' Sunday night with the new school teacher, although Jamsey be a-waitin' be the door ter see her home. Seems Jamsey got tight the Saturday night he driv' his Yankee cousin ter catch the train ter Kinglyville, 'n' thet was the cause o' the unexpected splittin'."

"Yees, it's all up with Jamsey, 'n' she's mighty pert about it," snickered Billy Parker, "fer the boys be sayin' ter the shop that she stood up in meetin' other night 'n' recited a piece called 'Whose lips tech licker shall never tech mine.'"

"Wall, seein' it's Jamsey's first offence, 'n' bein' one o' the best boys in this here part, she might o' done differ', 'n' maybe the day'll come to mak' her think on it," Limpy remarked as he stumped to the