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AN EXTORTIONER

By MARTHA McCULLOCH-WILLIAMS

Janet sang as she spun, because her heart was in the spinning. It was so shady out under the big oak she had hung off her sunbonnet.

Oaklands lay broadside on to his fields. That, of course, meant line fences and, potentially, trouble over boundary.

"We had as well eat these," she said a little regretfully, setting the dish up on the flat piazza rail between them.

"Why did you let her go?" Rushton asked. Janet looked at him in amazement and said, a cherry between her lips: "Let her? You don't know Aunt Liza."

"I cannot very well have been," Major Weakley said penitently. "To tell you the truth, young man, my cows are hardly worth the corn they have destroyed for you."

"You can have her for the taking," Major Weakley said, laughing heartily. "Then soberly: 'Mr. Rushton, I shall try henceforth to keep my stock within bounds. Meantime, send in your bill of damages.'"

"Very well, and you are not to worry any more until I send it," Rushton answered. Janet from the doorway gave him a grateful glance. The next minute she said half plaintively: "Come in to dinner, gentlemen. It's all cold—just what Aunt Liza thought we ought to have."

HER ONE OPPORTUNITY

By JAMES BASCOMB

Aunt Mary Graham, widow, who lived on the outskirts of the village of Bakersville, was all alone on that Thursday evening.

"Let me see it," said the major, holding out his hand for the folded paper. Scanning it, he grew red, then white, then burst out: "Why, you Shylock! D'ye think any court on earth will believe nine thousand cows can damage a cow-herd \$100,000-worth?"

"I worked," a London commercial, who had a very rudimentary complexion, after "working" Glasgow, had some time to wait for his train at St. Enoch station.

"I am somewhat glad of that," said Aunt Mary. "A man who had just turned robber broke into my sister's house in Taylorville a few weeks ago, and I can't tell you of the mistakes he made."

"I am rather glad of that, if I had a robber for a husband I should always be worried about him. Have you any children?"

"Ob, I see. Well, I'm paying my hired man \$10 a month and board, but he complains that it is not enough. He may turn robber any day, if he does I don't believe he will make any great success at it, as he is too slow."

"A little girl was asked to write an essay about man. The following was her composition: 'Man is a funny animal. He has eyes to see with, hands to feel with and is split up the middle and walks on the snail ends.'" Glasgow Times

THE TOLLER

her as something like a grin crossed his face. "And his three children—they'll make it warm for me. The oldest is a girl of sixteen, and I've heard she's ready to throw tin pans at my head as soon as I step into the house."

"I think you'd be a fool to do it, and now I want to get through here and get away. You don't seem to remember that I'm here to rob the house."

"But you haven't robbed the house yet, and I wanted to ask you about—"

"The Battle Ground of the Ancees. In 1580 the Ancees came under the power of Spain, and in the history of the next twenty years their name is frequent as the favorite battle ground of the English and Spanish fleets."

"I'll try to clean up things in good shape," replied the robber, who had drunk a snort on the edge of a chair and was twirling his hat.

"I am a painter, and everybody said that Maize was sure to be a genius. It was her fate by inheritance. No one predicted the direction in which she would eventually turn, but when she was eight her Aunt Mirabel was sure she would be a great singer."

"The celebrated French physiognomist Gratiot admitted that does have what he called 'the smile of the eyes.' 'The smile of the mouth,' however, he regarded as peculiar to man. Scotch colliers certainly seem at times to smile at sights which are comical, and on occasions at their masters."

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Vol. III. No. 41

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