

sentence, for I shall only have two or three days more at the furdest, and that's too short to quarrel in.'

"'Well,' said he, 'I believe you are half right. Scipio, some champain.'

"'But what makes Uncle Sam so good-natured to-day?' said I.

"'Why,' said he, 'some college don called here, a sort of crack man, a double first, I think they called him; and he and Uncle Sam had a discussion about some Greek passage. Since he went away the old coon has been up to his eyes in Greek; and I rather guess, from his manner, that he has found out that he is right.'

"'Sais I, amovin' up to his eend of the table, 'What does your Excellency think of the Latin of the middle ages?'

"'Sais he, 'Sam, don't call me, when we are located and domesticated together, 'your Excellency,' it's all bunkum, you know.'

"'Well,' sais I, 'we are in a land of titles, Sir, a place where folks thinks a great deal of 'em; and if we don't do it when alone, perhaps we will be too free and easy in public.'

"'Well,' sais he, 'and it's no use talking. People do like handles to their names, perhaps there is some truth in that.'

"'Besides,' sais I, we approbate it all over our great nation. Do you recollect the horseferry above Katskill on the Hudson?'

"'Perfectly,' said he.

"'And old Rip Van Hawser the ferryman, and his two splendid galls Gretchen and Lottchen. Oh, my sakes! weren't they whole teams of themselves, and a horse to spare? That wicked little devil Gretchen was as quick as a foxtrap, and as strong as a man. If she clinched you, it warn't easy to break her hold, I tell you. I recollect a romp I onct had with her.'

"'Well never mind that, at present,' sais he, good-naturedly; 'but I recollect old Rip Van Hawser perfectly.'

"'But don't you mind his darters?' sais I; 'for it caused more than half the people to cross the ferry jist to gib a squint at them beauties.'

"'We won't mind them just now,' said he; 'but what of old Rip?'

"'Well,' sais I, 'just to show you how universal titles are even in our almighty everlastin' country, and how amazin' fond fellers are of 'em, I'll tell you what Rip Van Hawser said.

"'The first time I ever crossed over that ferry,' sais old Rip to me: 'Gineral,' sais he, 'just stand near your horse, for it's more rougher as common to-day; for you see and onderstand and know that when the wind blows so like the teyvil den it is rough, and when de wind go down den de wave go right down too more faster than it got up. So, gineral, just stand near him.'

"'I aint no gineral,' sais I.

"'Well den, colonel,' sais he.