

auction was commencing. My object being principally the search after amusement, I thought the scene there would afford me some, nor was I disappointed. It was a curious medley; where I beheld a motley group of buyers and sellers surrounding the auctioneer, the Caleb Quotem of the village, the cock of the walk.

The property consisted of some odd parcels of odd things belonging to an odd old maid. Notice was given of the commencement of the sale, by part of an old cowbell, rung by the palsied arm of Scrub, the shoe-black, Caleb's first aid-de-camp. The important gait of Mr. Quotem himself, announces that he has figured in the militia during the war, and that he conceives himself to be the fittest person in the world to fill the various Quotem-like offices which he holds. As to time and place, the sale was admirably planned to suit all purposes; Caleb being both a seller and a buyer, it was desirable to have the effects *chez lui*; and they were arranged with discrimination in the court-yard at the back of his dwelling-house. It was the general opinion that they had been so judiciously lotted in consultation with Mrs. and the Miss Quotems, who graced the opposite windows, well-laced and braced, in their holyday clothes, to bid, and to be bid for.

Our knight of the hammer, although an inexperienced auctioneer, with but little practice, strained

ent meaning in English from what it has in the Yankee-tongue; so has town. But what they call a village is a town, and what they call a town is a township. The following are the correct English definitions of the terms applied to the larger or smaller collections of human habitations that figure in maps and gazetteers. A city, when applied to places in England, means exclusively one which is a bishop's see, but applied to places in other countries to such as have magistrates or courts that have jurisdiction and power of life and death. A town, is a place that has a corporation, and where a market is held. A borough one that sends representatives to the national councils. A village, a place with one church, and no market. A hamlet, a number of houses together, but without a church. In the proper English sense of the word, the place alluded to by my correspondent is certainly not a village.

L. L. M.