
CHILD OF DESTINY

enemy o' the poor people,' he cried. Then he asked me for my opinion, but I said not a word. This made him angry. He did not like my silence, so he up an' says: 'There sits old, sleepy Matt Pensy over there, with his lips closed tight, afraid to say a word.' An' then later he up again an' says: 'I know now why he won't commit himself. He daren't say one word. The Arthur Gravenor he is working for is one of them "rusty cats."' My blood got boilin' hot. 'What did you say, Storms?' I cried. 'I said your master was one of them "rusty cats."' 'Take back those words, Bill Storms,' I cried as I rose from my chair, 'or I'll make you.' 'I'll take nothing back,' he snapped again. 'Gravenor's a "rusty cat." Isn't that so, Sims, Flare, Bates?' and he appealed to the other men. I jumped across the floor an' the next minute landed him a sweet one in the face with me fist, an' you can bet, Mister Arthur, I'm sure it never received such a warmin' before. I'll teach him to call you a 'rusty cat.'"

Arthur could not help smiling.

"What are you laughing at?" asked Matt, annoyed.

"Oh, nothing much, but I am afraid you made a mistake this time, Matt. I am sure young Storms would not call me such a name."