

Be Ye Wise as Serpents.

(Continued from page 6).

plied Angus, but I'll see the barrel is weel rinsed."

"Mr. McRae," said the minister con-

trolling his voice with an effort, "kindly call off your dog at once."

"Ye'll excuse me," replied Angus entirely ignoring the request, "if I smoke a wee bit tobacco,—it keeps aff the 'meakitties' ye ken."

Now MacDuff had been for some minutes unpleasantly conscious of the said mosquitos, who were having a glorious

feast upon his unprotected back and shoulders. This last remark, therefore, caused him to lose all self-control:—

"Call off your dog at once, McRae," he shouted; "have you no respect for a minister of religion?"

"Dinna owerheat yersel, Mr. MacDuff," replied the imperturbable farmer; "'tis a terrible dangerous thing to do in cold water

Ye ken weel I respect the ministry fine—wi' its claes on, ye'll understand. 'Tis wonderful the difference a few bit claes makes till a mon;" he continued, puffing away at his pipe; "it puts me in mind o' the time—"

But this was more than MacDuff could stand:—

"Stop this disgraceful conduct, he rudely interrupted: "The water is most confoundedly cold, I'd have you know!"

"Och, MacDuff, for shame! I'm fair shockit to hear a minister use sic awfu' language," said the unsympathetic Angus. "As I was saying," he began again, "it puts me—"

"I have no desire to hear your profane recollections," shouted the exasperated minister, whose face was now taking on a bluish tinge.

"Ye'll just listen till me and no interrupt," said McRae, in a very firm tone of voice. "I'm in the pu'pit the noo, ye'll understand. As I was tellin' ye,—'twas just after Flora and me was wed; y' 'll recollect the time, MacDuff?" he continued significantly.

But what this story was the minister was never privileged to know. Cold and mosquitos had made him well-nigh desperate. Placing both hands upon the edge of the barrel, with a great effort he got his two feet up beside them, and balanced there precariously, while he screwed up courage for the next step.

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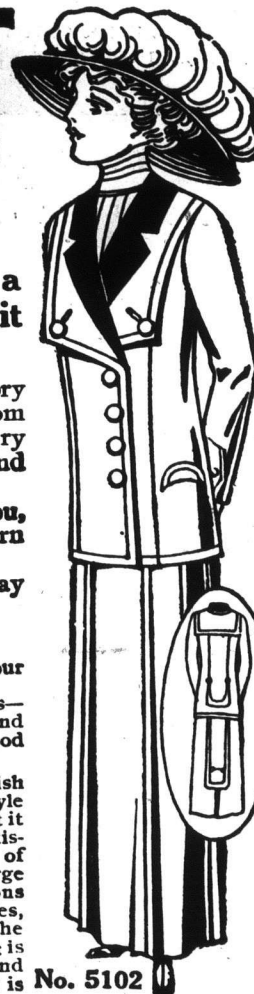
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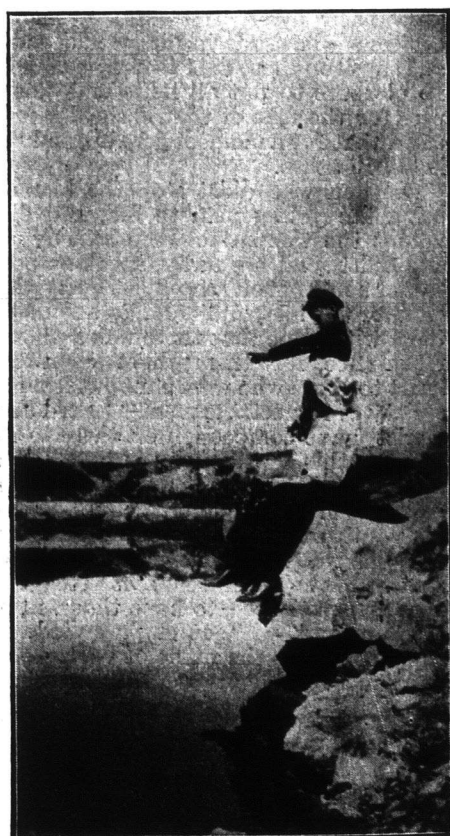
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No. 5102



At the Old Quarry, Stony Mountain, Man.

barrel, now less than half-full, swayed ominously. The next instant, amid the frantic barking of the dog, and the unholy laughter of the unfeeling Angus, 200 lbs. of ministerial nakedness alighted with a "thwack" in a mud-hole, while the barrel pursued by the excited animal trundled gaily along until it brought up at a tree.

The minister stood not upon the order of his going. Seeing the dog engaged, and disregarding the black mud covering his back, he seized clothes in one hand, and catching up bag and stick in the other, dived head-formost into the trees, and made good his escape.

Such a story was naturally too good to keep, and Angus McRae did not scruple to repeat it with full details. The loss of prestige in consequence was great, and even now a sly reference to cold water was occasionally indulged in at the minister's expense by the more irreverent members of his congregation.

To-day, as he progressed slowly onwards down the hot white road, his thoughts were busy with his present difficulties. On one thing he was firmly resolved, viz. that if he could accomplish it by hook or crook the farmer should not marry the widow.

Suddenly the sound of wheels broke upon his ears, and directing his gaze ahead, he saw a farm wagon approaching at a smart trot.

The minister regretted that it was not travelling in his direction for a lift this hot afternoon would be most welcome.

Though covering by far the larger por-

tion of his spised, and for any cl partiality these jolt ing flat u hay, a po to sharing wagon w with no p was Angu ing. The conversat usually day," wi to the w him, the interest son: but his team. "Good the friend day?" "My l replied th "Terri we no?" "It is again an warily ar farmer i "Ye'll b night, I Now t without buddy," the very so turni

tones: my inte Now was in to seek a smile a deal Mr. M this ver "I tr sober a pompo brazen "Ayo I'm no women continu reverer "We ye were replied I'll tel talk th the vic na doc nodded askit mak' t me w seems wilder she fir answ "Th minist menta vice o strong "T she w