A PICTURE OF NEW ENGLAND HOME LIFE. .

小 多 CHAS. FELTON PIDGIN.

country town. As children they loved

anything like that, 'Zekiel?'

for my services than he does

price, Dr. Pettengill?"

Huldy looked up. "What will be your

"I think I shall charge," said 'Zek-

"one hundred thousand dollars, and

'Zekiel inquiringly.

point.

Quincy thought that it was notice- say, "Come in, 'Zekiel." So he was still ably evident that the Pettengills were 'Zekiel to Huldy. He opened the door noted for plainness of speech. office, and he said you'd started for But there she stood before him, the on his face which had not been there home. I'll be down in a few minutes, same Huldy as of old. Not exactly the Alice, and read your letters for you." same, however, for her cheeks had lost And Uncle Ike showed the man the much of their rosy tint and there was way up to his domicile.

Quincy arose, expressed his pleasure new to it, which 'Zekiel saw, but could or other the at having met Miss Pettengill, and pre- not understand. suming they would meet again at dinner, took his leave.

It was short, but was long enough to the other, which he took. cause Quincy to smother an oath, crush "I thought I would find you abed," as meal time was for eating he prothe letter in his hands and throw it insaid 'Zekiel. "I didn't know you were posed to give his attention to that exthe letter in his hands and throw it into the open fire. The flames touched up."

"Oh, yes," said Huldy. "I got up and "Oh, yes," said Huldy. "I got up and the doctor took the not go with it. The letter had said, arm. I felt so much better I couldn't topic. when he remembered his not go with it. The letter had said, arm. I left so inden better I condit.

"Quinnebaug stock has dropped off 5 stay in bed any longer."

points. Foss & Follansbee have writting "Well," said 'Zekiel, "when the ten Miss Putnam that she must put up schoolmaster used to tell me to take day.

Patter my jacket off I didn't feel near as well the spoke of visiting Mrs. Putnam, the spoke of visiting Mrs. P 5,600 shares to cover margin. Better my jacket off I didn't feel near as well he spoke of visiting Mrs. Putnam, see her at once and tell her the drop as I did before," and then they both and Alice's face immediately shope is only temporary and the stock is sure laughed heartily.

o recover."

They sat silent for a few moments, py! I Quincy sat in his easy-chair, facing when Huldy, turning her face with that I can." the tire, upon which he put some more sad look towards him, said "There is wood, which snapped and crackled." something on my mind, 'Zekiel, that I "I won't go near that girl again," said wish I could take off as easily as the a determined look upon his doctor did that lacket. face. The next moment he had ban- "On, nonsense," cried 'Zekiel, "why you with me. ished Lindy Putnam from his mind, and should you have anything on your "He won't is

knew that Alice's letters were being "No," said Huldy, "that isn't it. I read to her. Then he fell into a reverie have wronged a person and I am afraid as the twilight shadows gathered round that person will never forgive me. I and said, "Any time you wish to go, him. As the room grew darker the am real sorry for what I have done. fire grew brighter, and in it he could and I am going to tell the person and evident interest to a young man who must be pretty mean-spirited if he or you

was reading to her from a newspaper. she don't forgive you after you say his arm and asked a question. The ise not to do it again. young man dropped the paper and gazed into the flirl's face with a look Huldy. "Once has nearly killed me. I read until it was time to retire. of tenderness, and placing one of his suffered ten times ten times more from hands upon that of the young girl, that than from my broken arm." clasped it fondly, and Quincy saw that the face of this young man was his don't forgive you I don't want any- to Eastborough Centre, so he might own. He sat there until there came a thing more to do with him." loud rap upon his door and Mandy's voice called out, "Supper's ready."

CHAPTER XVIII

The Courtin'. Quincy was taking his first love really grew stronger, though not often lead to the high road of Matri- thought mony, 'Zekiel Pettengill had reached the end of his lane, which had been very to be his wife. Did you ever hear of 'Zekiel. long, with many devious turns, and he found himself at that point where the next important question was to fix

Zekiel was a strong-minded, self-"Yes," said Huldy, eagerly, "and that the presence of Huldy Mason he was as big a coward as the world ever saw. It was reached when a young man the city, whose father was known from the city, whose father was known Huldy have parted, and was 'Zekiel and Huldy have parted, and was 'Zekiel and Huldy have parted. ternoon, and he knew their fates would be decided that day. He was hopeful, but the most hopeful lover has spasms that," said 'Zekiel. of uncertainty until his lady love has said yes and yes again.

Dressed in his best, 'Zekiel knocked time lover. She thought the young seat opposite to Quincy. He bent forat Deacon Mason's front door. For an man from the city was learning to love ward and placed his hands upon his instant he wished himself safe at home and debated whether he could get round to her. She thought it would be very was opened. He turned his head to live, but the young man soon under the point. Huldy Mason and me are measure the distance, but at that mocceived her. He took her to ride one day engaged to be married." ment the door was opened, and Mrs. and on their way home he told her he Mason's smiling face was before him, was going to leave her father's house. He arose, stepped forward, and exand her pleasant, cheery voice said, She wished to know the reason, but he tended his hand.

He felt reassured by this, for he argued to himself that she would have of the horse she was driving. The bug-gratulations, Mr. Pettengill. I have called him Mr. Pettengill if there had gy was overturned and her arm was known Miss Mason but a short time, been any change in her feeling toward broken." She looked up at 'Zekiel. His but any man ought to be proud of her him. They entered the parlor, and Mrs. face grew grave, but he nodded for her and happy in her love." Mason said, "Take off your things and to go on. "She stayed in bed for three The doctor's been and gone. He took thousand times; she knew that her us have what we consider good reaall right, now, only she must be keer-ful, not do any heavy liftin' with it till it gets good and strong. He said was what had nearly broken her heart. sistance of a mutual friend." it would be some time before she could Supposing you were the man, 'Zekiel, help me much with the housework, so and I were the woman, in this little I am going to get a girl for a month story, could you forgive me if I said I are at your disposal." or two. I heerd your sister got home, was s'Zeke. They say she's blind. I am awagain?" fully sorry, 'Zekiel. Hope she will get better of it. I am coming over to see him come to board in my house. He told be vexed at what the gossips said about better of it. I am coming over to see him come to board in my house. He told you and her: she's mad as a hornet her just as soon as I get me my girl. Uncle Ike why he left your father's herself, and she wants to teach them a But you go right up, there's nobody house. The folks were talking about there but Huldy. Mr. Sawyer is coming after the nurse tomorrow morning that you were in love with him, or and she is up in the spare room trying to catch up with her sleep. We told would have of any passing acquaint-her there was no use in setting up ance." with Huldy, but she said she had her orders from the doctor, and she would! not mind a thing we said. But we will tor, 'Zekiel," and she dropped her head get rid of her tomorrow. Now you go upon his shoulder. right up, 'Zekiel," and Mrs. Mason took 'Zekiel was struc

way up the front stairs before she reed to her work in the kitchen. 'Zekiel went upstairs deliberately, one step at a time. His footfalls, it seemed to him, must be heard all over the house. He paused before Huldy's door. He opened it a couple of inches, when as I know you haven't got the mo the thought struck him that he ought and can't raise it, I think I shall have

him by the arm and saw him on his

Jim Sawyer's Funeral.

Quincy obeyed the call to supper with alacrity. Possibly he thought he would cussion, "I will ask him to send you be the first one at the table, but Cobb's one," mentally resolving, when it was said Huldy. "I am perfectly confident as to set the day exactly," said Hiram. and walked bravely into the room, but twins were in their places when he enbefore.

Uncle Ike came down with Alice, and for the first time since her arrival she a pensive look to the face that was sat beside Quincy. For some reason new to it, which 'Zekiel saw, but could or other the conversation lagged. Quincy surmised that 'Zekiel was too There were two chairs close together happy with his own thoughts to wish to before the fire. She sat down in the talk, and Uncle Ike rarely conversed The letter was from Quincy's father. left-hand one and motioned 'Zekiel to during meal time. He said he could take short, but was long enough to the other which he took.

clusively. Quincy ventured a few commonplace ablaze up the wide-mouthed chimney. dressed as soon as the doctor took the remarks to Alice, to which she replied But Quincy's unpleasant thought did jacket, that's what he called it, off my pleasantly. He was at a loss for a

> with pleasure. "Dear old Aunt Heppy! I must go and see her as soon as "If you can find no better escort something on my mind. 'Zekiel, that I than myself, I trust you will command

my services, unless," said Quincy, "your brother thinks it unsafe to trust was thinking of that other girl who mind? You are a little bit low-spirited was sitting not six feet from him. He because you have been cooped up in could hear Uncle Ike's voice, and he that hed so long."

"He won't be likely to let you drive. Alice," responded "Zekiel dryly, "so I don't think there will be any danger." Huldy had told 'Zekiel the facts of the case, but he maintained his composure

As they arese from the table 'Zekiel seem to see a picture of a fair-haired ask for pardon." said to his uncle, "I am coming up in girl sitting in a chair and listening with "Well," said 'Zekiel, "the person your room tonight, Uncle Ike, to see said to his uncle, "I am coming up in Quincy knew by this that the pleas-The young girl placed her hand upon you are sorry, 'specially if you prom- ant chat in the dining-room beside the fireplace was to be omitted that even-"Oh, I shall never do it again," said ing, so he went up to his room and Quincy was up early next morning. He knew his uncle could not live long, "Well," said 'Zekiel, "if that person but he wished to take the trained nurse

Miss Pettengill, I am at your service.

"Let me tell you a little story," said time left to him on earth. Huldy. "A little boy and girl whose He found 'Zekiel at th He found 'Zekiel at the breakfast homes were not a quarter of a mile table, and beyond a few commonplace told you Mandy's mother kept it." apart grew up together in a little remarks the meal was eaten in silence. "Are you going to Eastborough Cen-

that one day they would be get "I'll speak to Jim about it," said lekiel. "If you will step into the parler, Mr. Sawyer, I would like to have "Well," remarked 'Zekiel, "I have in a few mirutes' talk with you." 'Zekiel went out into the barn and my mind two persons whose relations

ere pretty similar up to a certain Quincy walked into the parlor, where he found a bright fire burning on the to be very wealthy, came to board in Huldy have parted, and was Zekiel her father's house." Huldy looked at glad of it? Quincy, as the saying is. passed a "bad quarter of an hour," for he did not like suspense. The truth, however bitter or unpalatable, was bet-

"For a time," continued Huldy, "the ter than uncertainty. 'Zekiel entered the room and took a young girl was unfaithful to her old-

her because he was polite and attentive knees.

"Mr. Sawyer," said he, "I am a man "Mr. Sawyer," said he, "Mr. the corner of the house before the door nice to be rich and go to the city to of few words, so I will come right to Quincy was equal to the occasion would not give it. She divined it, how- and grasped it unhesitatingly. Quincy "Accept my most sincere ever, and in her agitation lost control said,

"Thank you, Mr. Sawyer. leave them right here, and go right up weeks, and during that time she lived | iel, "I agree with you in both the parand see Huldy. She is waitin' for you. over her short life a hundred, yes, a ticulars you've mentioned, but both of that plaster off Huldy's arm, says she's fancy had been but a fleeting dream. A sons for not having our engagement

"If I might aspire to that honor." "my time and services said Quincy. "That's what I told Huldv." said 'Zeksorry and would never do it tel, "but she was afraid that you would

you and him, but he never imagined "Personally," said Quincy "I don' care what the gossins say, but I was thought any more about him than you both sorry and indignant that they should have referred to Miss Mason in

the way they did." am so glad," said Huldy, "you "Well," said 'Zekiel. "we have hatchhave done me more good than the doced up a sort of a plot, and if you will help us, all three of us will have some fun out of it." Zekiel was struck with an idea. "If "Well," inquired Quincy, "what's my I am a better doctor than the other one, "It's this," said 'Zeikel, "you know Huldy, I ought to get a bigger price

you used to take Huldy out to ride with you. To help out our plan would you be willing to do it again?" "Certainly." replied Quincy, "Miss so long I think she ought to have some

fresh air."

"That's true." remarked 'Zekiel: "she's lost considerable flesh staying in so long; but if I took her out to ride would jump at conclusions right off and say Huldy and 'Zekiel have made up, and they will guess we are going to make a match of it. Then. again." 'Zekiel continued, "Huldy says she's bound to have it out with the one that started the stories. There's no use von know as well as I do who is at the of all this tittle-tattle. ry and drive you out of town, he has talked about me almost as had as he has about you, 'So,' says Huldy to me 'von know he is the only teacher of music in Eastborough. I want to take music lessons very much, and so I have got to have him for teacher.'

Quincy did not think it polite to assent to this last remark, and changed the subject by remarking. This is a about four o'clock this morning. Sam Quincy.

"Yes," said Mr. Waters, "he died "I paid about four o'clock this morning. Sam Quincy.
"Yes," "Yes," beautiful day. I am going to drive the sat up with him till midnight and I

alled out that the team was ready.

house he found the latter just coming out of the front gate. As Quincy leand from the team the Deacon came forward and shook hands with him. "You are just the man I want to see." Boston doctor, but I want to know what the bill is for the Boston doctor and the nurse.

"I don't know yet," said Quincy, "but there will be nothing for you to pay. It is my duty to settle that bill myself."

"Well," remarked Mr. Waters, "I called in the town undertaker and he has got him all ready."

"When does the next train leave for Boston?" asked Quincy, taking out his watch.

"I don't know yet," said Quincy, "but there will be nothing for you to pay. It is my duty to settle that bill myself."

"Well," remarked Mr. Waters, "I called in the town undertaker and he has got him all ready."

"When does the next train leave for Boston?" asked Quincy, taking out his watch.

"In just twenty minutes," Waters body—you know who—is giving Huldy about her anyway; but he says he can't understand how 'Zeke Pettengill is my duty to settle that bill myself."

To be Continued Next Saturday.

Some pictures are like some people—in hanging is too good for them.

"I prefer," rejoined the Deacon, "that at the hotel to drive you home, Miss asked Hiram. me bill should be sent to me."

"Well," said Quincy, to close the disme to leave you in this way."

sent, it would be a receipted one. "Here are three letters for you, Alice, his bravery forsook him when he had and here is one for you, Mr. Sawyer. I taken a few steps. He had expected thought I would bring it over to you, to find her in bed, as she had been as I met Asa Waters down to the day before when he had called. The complete twins were in their places when he entered the room. 'Zekiel came in next, and Quincy's quick eye discerned that there was a look of quiet contentment that he had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all there was a look of quiet contentment on his face which had not been that the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all there was a look of quiet contentment that he had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all there was a look of quiet contentment that he had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was all the had a message for Miss Mason who said the nurse had her things packed and was a "If anything happened to you, cy. ready to go. He then told Mrs. Mason your father and-" Huldy glanced at that he had a message for Miss Mason him. "I mean," said Quincy, "I should from Mr. 'Zekiel Pettengill, and Mrs. never forgive myself, and your father "I am no speaker, but I hear a thing or

Quincy with a happy face and without any show of confusion.

"I had a long talk with Mr. Pettengill," said Quincy, "and he has induced me to become a conspirator. The duced me to become a conspirator. The first act in our comedy is to ask you. first act in our comedy is to ask you just the same way we came, and there he had been patient, and he had borne if you will ride over to Eastborough are no hills or sharp corners, you Center this morning with the nurse know." She laughed heartily and admyself, and get a little fresh air." ded, "I shall enjoy it very much, it is had come to change all that, and from should be delighted," said Huldy, part of the comedy.

you can wait long enough for me to ress."

"rebellious young woman, do as you will, and bear the consequences. I When I you?

Fifteen minutes," said Huldy. "It is now half-past seven," remark- deliver my message. ed Quincy, looking at his watch. "You he shook hands with her, mean you will be ready by quarter of "We will get out here, Miss Miller."

been an expense to you."

the bill should be sent to me."

ter of an hour. You can time me. Mr. run in order to keep up with room.

was quickly at her side.
"You can sit in here, Miss Miller," seats; and when she was seated Quincy told Hiram to put the valise on the

seat beside her. having Huldy take a back seat. True to her promise, Huldy made her toilet in the appointed time, and taking a seat beside Quincy, he took up reins. Turning to Hiram he asked, "If I drive by Hill's grocery and take the road to the left, will it bring me round to the main road to Eastborough Center again?"

"Yaas," said Hiram, "you take the have the best of care during the short house is on the corner. You remember that big yellow house. You know I 'All right," said Quincy, and off they

Quincy gave a side glance at Huldy. Courtin'.

was taking his first Lane, which steps so plainly shown or spokea. Everybody just as seen as one of the boys could be ach other, and as they grew older that ter today. Mr. Sawyer?" asked 'Zekiel. Quincy gave a side glance at Huldy. lot.

He discovered she was throwing a side glance at Huldy. On his return to Boston he made arbuilded to go by feet off. The side glance at him. They both smiled, rangements for two plain marble stones whizzin' along and but said pathing. He drays around the but said pathing. He drays around the but said pathing. but said nothing. He drove around the square in front of the grocery, which brought the team quite close to the store platform. No one was in sight, but just as he reached Mrs. Hawkins' boarding-house the door opened and Obadiah Strout came out. Huldy placed her hand on Quincy's arm. 'Please hold up a minute, Mr. Saw-

Quincy brought the horse to a standstill with a ferk and looked straight "Ah, good morning, Mr. Strout," said "Did you get the letter I sent Huldy. up by Hiram last evening about my taking music lessons?"

"Yes," said Mr. Strout, "and I was coming down this morning to settle en the best time for you taking them." "Could you come tomorrow afternoon from two to three?" asked Huldy. Strout took a well-worn memorandum book from his pocket and consulted it. Three to four would be the best I could do," he said, "for I have a lesson from half-past one to half-past

"That will do just as well," replied Huldy. "Three to four tomorrow after-Isn't this a beautiful day, Mr. Strout? I am taking a little drive for my health," and she nodded smilingly Strout, who had recognized Quincy as her companion. "That's all, Mr. Sawyer," said Huldy,

and they drove on.
"By thunder," said Strout, "they say hair of a dog is good for his bite. Just as soon as she got well, off she goes riding again with the same fellow who tipped the team over and broke her arm. I guess 'Zeke Petten-gill's chances ain't worth much now. ler board in his house, but I suppose he city chap don't mean to marry her, and my feelings nor anybody else's. if I don't make the best of my chances when I get to teaching her music, my name ain't Obadiah Strout, which I Quincy. name ain't guess it is." And he walked across the

square to Hill's grocery to smoke his On the way to Eastborough, Quincy wondered what he would do with Huldy when he arrived there. He did not care to take her to the Poorhouse, and particularly he did not wish her to see his uncle. Quincy was proud but he was also sensible, and he decided upon a course of action that would prevent

anyone from saying that his pride had made him do a foolish act. As they neared the Poorhouse, Quincy turned to Huldy and said, "The Jim Sawyer who has been at the Eastborough Poorhouse for the last five years my father's brother and my uncle. His story is a very sad one. I will tell it to you some day. He is in the last stages of consumption, and I am taking

Miss Miller over to care for him while said until they reached the Poorhouse. who was close at hand, to hold the horse. Sam looked at him with a peculiar expression that Quincy did not short flight of stairs entered the room had rallied and would soon advance that served as the office for the Poor- from five to ten points. What's the house. Mr. Waters was there writing next confounded yarn?"

at his desk. He turned as Quincy en
"Well, thirdly," continued Hiram.

"How is my uncle?" asked Quincy. "He is better off than us poor morexpect she is going to flirt with him, tals," replied Mr. Waters with a longdrawn countenance. "What do you mean?" asked Quin-

us. That is, if you can trust her with Quincy. "Huldy had to pay pretty dearly for said Waters. "He didn't know what so the town pays the undertaker on getting made at the wrong time. Be- was going on after two o'clock, and that calculation; but this year, you see, sides. I don't think she will want to you couldn't have been of any use if only two have died, and there ain't anrive a horse again for a long time." you been here. If't had been daytime other one likely to die before town Mandy rapped on the parlor door and I should have sent for you. He only meeting day, which comes the first spoke once after I went upstairs and Monday in March, so you see the under- off towards Deacon Mason's.

"My uncle died this morning," said friends, aren't you?" are, turning to Huldy, "I must go to "Yes," said Hiram, "after we get over ence by the light of the fire, the Deacon said in a low tone to his wife, "I have thought so all along."

And as Mrs. Mason looked up into And as Mrs. Mason looked up into Personal Research of the said in a low tone to his wife, "I have without injury. I did not do so, and I arrangements for his funeral. He is the said in a low tone to make the necessary of the said in a low tone without injury. I did not do so, and I arrangements for his funeral. He is the said in a low tone to his wife, "I have been a said in a low tone to his wife, " for several days. I will get some one

that I am able to drive this team

Mason said she would send Huldy to the parlor at once. Huldy greeted Quincy with a happy face and without "My arm is just as good as ever."

"Well," said Quincy in an undertone, own defense, and even attack his op-

marked Quincy. "How long will it take will turn the team around so that you Hiram reappeared and resumed his seat won't have any trouble, and Hiram can take it down to Mr. Pettengill's and

said he, and he helped the nurse to "No," said Huldy with a flash of her alight. Grasping the heavy valise, he eyes. "I am no city lady. I am a plain started at a brisk pace for the stacountry girl and I mean just one-quartion, and Miss Miller was obliged to him. Sawyer," and she ran gayly out of the They boarded the train and took their seats. The train was ahead of time Quincy looked out of the window and and waited for a few minutes at the saw that Hiram had put the nurse's station.

heavy valise on the front seat of the Quincy did not know as he sped tocarryall. The nurse herself was stand- wards Boston on his sad errand that ing by the side of the team, evidently Miss Lindy Putnam was in the second uncertain which seat to take. Quincy car behind him, bound to the same don't suppose you'd call that a battle, place. Nor did he know for several remarked Hiram. days that Abner Stiles, who drove her said Quincy, pointing to one of the rear to the station, had seen Huldy driving towards Mason's Corner. She, too, had whipped up her horse and had reached He had no idea of home, and was in the house, calling Hiram. "He said that just to get even for Hiram, just as Abner turned into with you, when you were telling about the square by Hill's grocery.

Quincy made the necessary pur-chases, and with the city undertaker returned to Eastborough Center by the noon train. The body was placed in leaden casket and Quincy and the undertaker with their sad burden returned to Boston by the five o'clock

chased a small lot in the cemetery, to regimental reunions the boys just After a day's search he discovered the joke the life out of me. You see, I was place of burial of his uncle's wife and blowin' my bugle for a charge, and the children. the four bodies were placed in the little when a shell struck a fense about twen-

for his uncle and aunt, and two smal- eat, and I had a dozen stummick aches big tree that stood in the center of the ler ones for his little cousins, whom inside of half a minute. I just dropped he had never seen. The directions he left with the monument maker and the undertaker at boys told me afterwards that they were Amesbury were followed to the letter. afraid I had busted my bugle,' If one should pass by that little lot he would see on one marble slab these laughed heartily.

words: Eunice Raymond Sawyer, Aged 29 yrs., 6 mos. On the slab at her feet the simple Mary, Aged 4 yrs., 2 mos

ng only these words: Ray, Aged 6 yrs., 8 mos. Adhering strictly to his uncle's request, the other large stone bore no said it would be good for me, but I name, but on it were engraved these

At its side another little stone bear-

In Heaven We Know Our Own.

CHAPTER XX. A Wet Day.

When Quincy alighted from the train at Eastborough Center, after attending his uncle's funeral, he found the rain descending in torrents. He hired a closed carriage and was driven to he don't get no pay if he don't col-Mason's Corner, arriving there about lect. ten o'clock. He had taken his break-

fast in Boston. When he reached the Pettengill house he saw Hiram standing at the barn door. Bidding the driver stop, he got out and paid his score; he then took Hiram by the arm and led him into the barn. When he had primed the latter with a good cigar, he said, "Now, Hiram, I've been away It beats all how 'Zeke can let that fel- several days and I want to know what has been going on. You know our does it to let us folks see that he don't agreement was that you should tell care. Well, Huldy Mason is a bright little girl and I always liked her. That you understand?" said he to Hiram. Hiram nodded. "Then go ahead," said

"Well, first," said Hiram, puffing his cigar with evident satisfaction, got hold of the point that Miss Huldy drove back alone from Eastborough Center. Abner Stiles took Lindy Putnam down to the station and she went to Boston on the same train that you Huldy, so he could quiz her, but she whipped up her horse and got away from him."

"Smart girl," interjected Quincy.
"You can bet," said Hiram, "there ain't a smarter one in this town, though lace. of course, I think Mandy is pretty "Mandy's all right," said Quincy;

"go ahead."
"Well, secondly, as the ministers say," continued Hiram, "Lindy Putnam told Abner when he drove her home from the station that night that the copper company that Mr. Sawyer told her to put her money in had Huldy nodded and nothing more was busted, and she'd lost lots of money. That's gone all over Mason's Corner, Quincy jumped out and called to Sam, and if Abner told Asa Waters, it's all over Eastborough Center by this time.' "The whole thing is a Quincy, hotly; "the stock did go down, I refused to join hands with him to stop to fathom, but running up the but my father told me yesterday it

> of course everybody knows Jim Sawyer was your uncle, and somebody said you can guess who-that it would look better if you would pay up his back board instead of spending so much money on a fancy funeral and cheating the town undertaker out of a job."
> I paid him for all he 'did," said

said Hiram, "but this is how nurse over to Easthorough; perhaps stayed with him the balance of the it is. You see, the undertaker makes a contract with the town to bury all the sell out his grocery when Tilly gats "I am so sorry I was not here," said paupers who die during the year for uincy. so much money. They averaged it up, "It wouldn't have done any good," and found that about three had died, Quincy assured "zekiel that he understood his part and would play it to the best of his ability.

When he arrived at Deacon Mason's house he found the latter just coming out of the front gate. As Oningy learn of the front gate. As Oningy learn.

Spoke once after I went upstairs and that was to say that you should see that was to say that you should see though he didn't do it, and someone says—you can guess who—that he is going to bring the matter up in town meeting."

they sat there so long, happy in their mutual love, that the Deacon and his wife came upstairs and entered the room quietly. When they saw the picture of the has a husband to pay them for her."

"No," said the Deacon firmly. "She could recover himself, the young man out riding with Huldy, unless things is had left the room.

Quincy jumped into the team, grasped the reins, and started off at full speed of it," said Quincy, "Now, for in-"Now, for instance, Hiram, you and Mandy are good

ssary our little difficulties we are And as Mrs. Mason looked up into her husband's face she said, "I am glad on't."

trust that you will allow me to atone arrangements for his funeral. He is to be buried at Amesbury with his wife and children, so please get word to weeks, and the board of the nurse has weeks. "Been't they going to get married?"

> "Are you and Mandy going to get married?" asked Quincy. "Well, we haven't got so far along "And I don't believe 'Zekiel and Huldy will get married any sooner than "I never can consent to it," said you and Mandy will," remarked Quin-"But don't say a word about this

"Mum's the word," replied Hiram.

"Now, Hiram," said Quincy, "run in the slings and arrows hurled at him, now on he would take up arms in his

When he had reached this conclusion on the chopping block. Quincy asked, "In what regiment Good-by," and did the singing-master go to war?" "The same one as I did, -th Mass.,"

replied Hiram. "Did you go to war?" inquired Quin-"Well, I rather guess," said Hiram "I went out as a bugler. He was a corporal, but he got detailed for hospital duty and we left him behind be-

fore we got where there was any fight-"Was he ever wounded in battle? asked Quincy. "One of the sick fellers in the hospi tal gave him a lickin' one day, but I

"Well, how about that rigmarole he got off down at the grocery store that morning?" Quincy interrogated. "Oh, that was all poppycock," said

your grandfathers and grandmothers. Quincy laughed. "Oh, I see," said he. "Were you ever wounded in battle, Hiram?" "Well, I was shot onct, but not with a bullet.'

"What was it," said Quincy, "a cannon ball?' "No," said Hiram "I never was so Quincy went to Amesbury and pur- thunderin' mad in my life. When I go They were disinterred, and boys were all goin' ahead in great style, ty feet off. The shell didn't hit me, On his return to Boston he made ar- but a piece of that darned fence came my bugle and clapped my hands on my stummick and yelled so loud that the

> Quincy laid back in his chair an "What do the boys say to you when you go to the reunions?" he asked. "They tell me to take a little whisky for my stummick's sake," said Hiram, and some of them advise me to put on plaster, and, darn 'em, they always take me and toss me in a blanket every time I go, and onct they made me present of a bottleful of milk with piece of rubber hose on top of it. They

chucked it at the feller's head, darn Quincy had another good laugh. Then he resumed his usual grave expression and asked "What town offices does the singing-master hold?" said Hiram, "he is fenceviewer and hog reeve and poundkeeper,

but the only thing he gets much money cent on about \$30,000, which gives him about \$10 a week on an average, 'cause

"Did he get a big vote for the place?" asked Quincy "No," said Hiram, "he just got in hy the skin of his teeth; he had last town meeting two more votes than Wallace Stackpole, and Wallace would have got it anyhow if it hadn't been for an unfortunate accident." "How was that?" asked Quincy.

"Well, you see," said Hiram, "two o three days before town meetin', Wallac went up to Boston. He got an oyster stew for dinner, and it made him kinde sick, and someone gave him a drink of brandy, and I guess they gave him a pretty good dose, for when he got to Eastborough Center they had to help him off the train, 'cause his legs were kinder weak. Well, 'Bias Smith, who lives over to West Eastborough, he is the best talker we've got in town meet in'. He took up the cudgels for Wallace, and he just lammed into those mean cusses who'd go back on a man 'cause he was sick and took a little too much medicine. But Abner Stilesyou know Abner-well, he's the Abner tried to catch up with best talker to Bias Smith-he stood up and said he didn't think it was safe to trust the town's money to a man who couldn't go to Boston and come home sober, and that pulled over some of the fellows who'd agreed to vote for Wal-

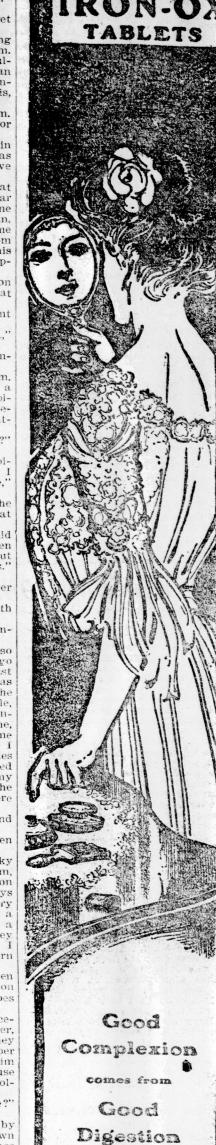
> "Has the tax collector performed his duties satisfactorily?" asked Quincy. "Well," said Hiram, "Wallace Stackpole told me the other day that he hadn't got in more than two-thirds of last year's taxes. He said the selectmen had to borrow money and there'd be a row at the next town meetin'.' "Well," said Quincy, rising, "I think I will go in and get ready for lunch. I had a very early breakfast in Boston. "Did you have oyster stew?" asked Hiram.

> "No," replied Quincy, "people who live in Boston never eat oysters at restaurant. If they did there wouldn't be enough left for those gentlemen who come from the country He opened the door and Hiram grasped his arm. "By gosh, I forgot one thing," he ried. "You remember Tilly James, cried. remember Tilly James, that played the planner at the con-

"Yes," said Quincy, "and she was a fine player, too. "Well," said Hiram, "she's engaged job." to Sam Hill, you known, down to the said grocery store. That ain't all, old Ben James, her father, he's a paralytic, you know, and pretty well fixed for this sell out his grocery when Tilly gets married and come over and run the farm, which is the biggest one in the town, and I heerd Abner Stiles say to 'Manuel Howe that he reckoned heyou know who I mean-would get some fellers to back him up and he'd buy out the grocery and get 'p'inted postmaster

pared for the noonday meal. While doing so he mentally resolved that the going to bring the matter up in town singing-master would not be the next tax collector if he could prevent

I guess that's all," and Hiram started



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