

and then I shall see if the tune of these critters is altered and new set with variations.

"But I was speakin' of the lunch. Sais Preserved Fish to me the other *attaché*—awful name that, aint it? The fact is, the old Fishes of New Hampshire were Puritans of the strictest school, makin' Sunday a day and a half long, by beginnin' at twelve o'clock on Saturday; though Preserved has got bravely over that, he drinks, as he says, 'like a fish,' swears all the newest invented slang oaths, and plays cards every night, and the devil all the time. Well some hundred and fifty years ago, a baby or spawn Fish like to have died of the croup or the cholic, or some ailment or another, but got through it, and his mother called him that was so mercifully saved 'Preserved;' so there has been a Preserved Fish in the family ever since. Well his father, 'Old Presarved,' has great interest in Vermont, and Ma'ne, and New Hampshire, where he makes cookin' stoves with the barrel-oven top, at his celebrated factory at Maple Sugar Grove, and sets them up himself, which fetches him into every man's house. The women all swear by the stoves (and they are a first chop article, that's a fact), and in course by him, and the men ditto their wives. He can influence all the elections there up and down, and get his son on the embassy, as one of the paid *attachés*. If he would take care of himself that critter would get on, but he won't, he can't change his natur'. A herrin' remains a herrin', and a dolphin a dolphin, and a skate a skate, and this 'odd Fish' will be the same, till a shark or porpoise sucks him in, head, gills, and tail.

"'Well,' sais Presarved to me, 'if your friend Lord Dunk was here to-day, he wouldn't say 'Uncle Sam' was cold, I know. See how he smiles, and smirks, and rubs his hands; depend on it he feels good all over. And that reminds me of your bet; you don't intend for to go for to send that feller's cheque for the hundred dollars back, like a nateral born fool, do you?'

"'Sartainly, I do,' sais I. 'He was bit, and it don't convene to the character of our embassy to do the thing that's mean.'

"'The character of the embassy be damned,' said he. 'I raily thought you knowed too much of the world for that. Why you are the only Connecticut man I ever met with that even ever heard of a conscience, except on a Sunday.'

"'Well, if you stay here much longer,' said I, 'I guess the character of our embassy will be what you'd wish it. But if you had such a hook in your gills, Master Fish, you'd be glad enough to open your mouth, and have it taken out, and then be thrown back in the water, I know.'

"'Slick,' said he, 'if ever you dare to make fun of my name I'll—'

"'Take a glass of wine with you, say, that's the way to finish the