

judices. Throughout most of his books are innumerable tales, or yarns as Sam Slick would call them. They display a great deal of ingenuity and imagination, as well as a keen relish for fun in every form; but they are often so long drawn out as to become very tiresome. His descriptions are often very forcible, but marred by grotesque comparisons. Thus he describes and characterizes Halifax: "It's well enough in itself, though no great shakes neither; a few sizeable houses with a great sight of small ones, like a half a dozen hens with their broods of young chickens; but the people, the strange critters, they are all asleep. . . . Halifax has got a dose of opium that will send it snorin' out of the world, like a fellar who falls asleep on the ice of a winter's night." The following comparison between city and country, in praise of the latter, is certainly beautiful:

"These are the pleasures, says he, of a country life. A man's own labour provides him with food, and an appetite to enjoy it. Let him look which way he will, and he sees the goodness and bounty of his Creator, His wisdom, His power, and His majesty. There never was anything so true as that our old sayin, "I an made the town, but God made the country," and both bespeak their different architects in terms too plain to be misunderstood. The one is filled with virtue, and the other with vice. One is the abode of plenty, and the other of want; one is a wareduck of nice pure water—and t'other one a cesspool. No! said the old man, a raisin' of his voice, and givin' the table a wipe with his fist, that made the glass all gingle agin, give me the country; that country to which He that made it said, "Bring forth grass, the herb yieldin' seed, and the tree yieldin' fruit," and who saw that it was good. Let me jine with the feathered tribe in the mornin' and at sunset, in the hymns which they utter in full tide of song to their Creator. Let me pour out the thankfulness of my heart to the Giver of all good things, for the numerous blessins I enjoy, and to intreat him to bless my increase, that I may have wherewithal to relieve the wants of others, as He prevents and relieves mine. No! give me the country." Haliburton possessed great insight into human character, and great power of showing forth the actions and motives of men, by short, witty, sententious sayings. Some of these aphorisms, taken from his different works, pretty well illustrate the philosophy and wit of their author.

"When I see a child, said the Clockmaker, I always feel safe with these women folk; for I have always found that the road to a woman's heart lies through her child."

"Encourage the timid ones, be gentle and steady with the fractious, but lather the sulky ones like blazes."

"A candidate is a most partikilar polite man, a noddin here, and a bowin there, and a shakin hands all round. Nothing improves a man's manners like an election."