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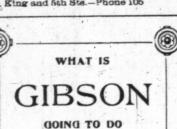
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J. P. TAYLOR



A NEW ENGLAND TALE. By the Author of "Sundries."

Unlucky Jonce! Had Peltiah but seen him at the moment while the wheel tire was yet unsettled, or while the age of the horse was yet unresolved: or had the image of Jonce been painted on the retina of Peltiah's eye a moment or two later, when that worthy would have been delivering his endorsed opinions on the wagon, things pertaining thereto, all might have been well. But the hapless boy crossed Peltiah's vision just at the one inauspicious moment, and was seized by the farmer, and soundly belabored with the emigrant's whip. Jonce exclaimed that Peltiah's son John rode the cow himself first all around the field; and that when he had poaxed Jonce to ride, he maliciously let down the bars, and sent the cow home at noon, to tell her own story, with Jonce on her back. For every accusation against John, Jonce received a harder whack as John stood by denying the whole Dipeachmen. When at length he was released, poor Jonce crept off, with every inch of his skin smarting, and Peltiah Perkins, as great bullies, when they have thrashed small men, or weak boys, invertably walked off with a most noble consciousness of power, and pride or victory.

CHAPTER II.

Poor little Margaret was a spectator nalucky Jonce's castigation: and while Jonce did not shed a tear, she cried as if her heart would break. "Lord-a-massey," cried her kind mis tress, "if you must bellow, do cry for

Whereupon she lent Margaret such a box upon the ear as made her too retire from the street almost at the same instant that Jonce Smiley carried away saches and pains. Margaret retreated through the house to the bottom of her garden, where it was her usual astom when she had need to cry, which was no seldom to repair to shed tears which it might not have been ic to drop before Mrs. Underwood. might, too, have been some attraction to the spot in the fact that just at that place in the fence there a knot-hole, through which our little heroine and hero had more than ce conversed, like Pyramus and Thisbe. And hardly had she reached lace before her own tears were ed by hearing poor Jonce, who, he other side of the fence, was givent to the boo-hoolngs which his corn courage would not permit to

scape before taunting witnesses.

If there were any remarkable feaures about this trysting-spot of the oung lovers, we should feel bound to escribe them, like other annalists of ove's vagaries, but the only noticeable oints were as follows: First, a large apple tree sheltered this particular part of the fence, and the garden adjacent; second, the shade of the tree aforesaid revented cabbages from growing, and the spot was, therefore, left unimproved by garden culture; and third, and wise economy of space about his home-stead. had placed a large grindstone nere, thus improving the shade and the

Now it so happened that Peltiah Perkins, who was the Deacon's next-door neighbor, being mercilessly disposed to improve his mood of furious daring by some deed of high emprise, determined after having whipped Jonce, to grind his axe, by way of letting off the valor which oppressed him; and he applied to the Deacon for permission to use the stone, the situation of which we have already remarked upon. As the Deacon gave permission, his wife added: "Margaret's out there somewheres-

she'll turn for you." Peltiah inwardly resolved that his axe should have such a whetting, as axe never got before; inasmuch as Margaret had dared to cry when he heat Jonce Smiley, and the extra turns at the grindstone should be her punish-

"Here-you Margaret!" he commenc ed shouting, as soon as he reached the place, "come and turn this here grind-

Margaret hesitated, for she saw John following at a distance, and she saw no propriety in her being called upon, while Peltiah's own son was coming. John, however, was not perceived by the father, and was in no haste to be. for two reasons. He had a mortal aversion to the grindstone at all times, and in his father's present mood he knew that whoever did turn the stone would have a long task at it. AndJohn felt not quite easy on the cow score. He wished, and still feared to speak to his father, to repeat his lying de-nial of any agency in that transaction, and thrust all the blame upon Jones, but he preferred to wait until his honored parent had put a portion of the keenness of his anger into the edge of the axe. Margaret at length reluctantly came forward, and as she very innocently happened to turn the wrong way. Peltiah in the most manly and magnanimous manner struck her in the face with his open hand.

Jonce, who had watched proceedings through the fence, was upon the top of it in an instant; but as Peltiah's back was turned, he was not perceived. The blow was not repeated, and Jonce was just thinking about getting down again, when he was perceived by his old enemy John. That young gentleman could conceive of no other motive for Jonce's presence there, than a desire to exculpate himself from the cow-riding. He feared that young Smiley might succeed in persuading his father of the truth, could he once get his ear.

Desperate cases require prompt and desperate measures, and Master John Perkins picked up a stone. Unluckity, however, John had not calculated the force and direction of projectiles. He threw with all his strength—but the stone intended for Jonee Smiley, knocked Peltiah flat and insensible upon the grass. Jonee, insensible upon the grass. Jonce, rightly judging that the sin would be imputed to him. ran away for his life



Songs of Praise

Ottawa, Jan. 20, 1899.
I have used SURPRISE SOAP since started house and find that it lasts longer and is better than other soap I have tried J. Johnston.

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Having used SURPRISE SOAP for the past ten years, I find it the best soat that I have ever had in my house and would not use any other when I can get SURPRISE. Mrs. T. Henry Troup.

SURPRISE. Mrs. I. Henry Iroup.

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SOAP is the only soap to use. We tried every other kind of soap, and I tell everybody why our overalls have such a good color.

Maudie Logan.

Montree!

Can't get wife to use any other soa; Says SURPRISE is the best. Chas. C. Hughes. SURPRISE to a pure hard SOAP.

John sneaked into the Deacon's had frightened almost to death, and Mar garet ran screaming into the house, "Mr. Perkins is killed! Mr. Perkins is

killed! The Deacon and all his lourgers-the emigrant and all his family, and, in fact, all the neighborhood, were out in the garden in an instant. The Decon tooled at Politich, as he lar-at everybody else looked alternately a the Deacon and at the corpos, as they fully believed it was. "Bleeding," said the blacksmith and ferrier-no loud, but low, for the Deacon had see yet spoken. Wormwood rue, kot flanuel, ew rum, and other specifics were buzzed among the women-but still noncon still kept silence. To acknowedge the whole truth, the oracle was ponplussed. Never in his whole experience had he met before a case like his. He felt that he was bound to say something-and yet he knew not what o say, a fact that it would not answer or his to acknowledge. Peltiah stood a fair chance, so far as he depended upon assistance, of going out of the world insensible, when at last the Deacon, suiting the action to the word said, "Somebody must go for the doc tor!" and as Deacon Abijah Under wood trudged off to call the physician all his retinue started too-men, wo men, and children. Before they were out of the garden they broke into run, as if nothing short of a scrub race of a whole village to the doctor's door could impress that functionary with a due sense of the great importance o the case. The emigrant remained, and as soon as he found himself alone, he coolly took up the grindstone buck and dashing the contents in Peltiah's face, refilled it, and dashed again. Un der this discipline, Peltian so soon re covered, that when the doctor, the lawyer and the minister arrived, at door of the Deacon's house, Peltiah, th wonder and admiration of the wh village, walked forth to meet thema little ghastly in countenance, and rather blue and swelled in the fore-

being a dead man. The first subject of inquiry naturally was, how all this came about. Margaret was the only witness, and she could only say that she heard the stone strike, and saw Peltiah fall-farther than this she could not with certainty depose, and would accuse no one. Deacon, who was ex-officio presiding tudge of the inquiry, at length asked,

head, it is true, but far enough from

with judicial solemnity: "Where is Jonathan Smiley?" "Sure enough!" was the response All the village was there even John Perkins, finding his father alive and well, had come boldly out of his hidingplace, but Jonce Smiley was nowhere

visible. "If that boy could be found," continued the Deacon, "he might tell who threw the stone, if he had a mind to. "Ay—ay," said every one, "there's no doubt of it." And Peltiah added "I believe he throwed it himself." "Certainly, father," said John, "I know he did, because you gave him that whipping for almost killing our

brindle cow to-day." "I know he didn't," said Margaret. "Come, now," screamed Mrs. Underwood, "you'd better go in, and do up your work, miss, if you don't want to tatch it. We've heard quite enough

of you to day!" Poor Margaret did as she was bidden. She was sure that Jonce did not throw the stone, and almost as certain that Peltiah's own son did; but as she felt afraid that she should only commit her friend by speaking, she wisely held her beace. Jonce, at any rate,

In the Springtime Ladies' fancies . . lightly turn to . . . thoughts of



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was in no immediate danger, for all the boys who had been despatched as scouts made the same unsuccessful return; and we are not to wonder, under these circumstances, that all present Jonce as the guilty one. The Deacon

at length said:
"That boy must go to the poor-house or the county jail. We've stood it long enough—and to put up with his actions any longer, would be the rulnation of him, if it wasn't the death of some

The lawyer, who, as squire, had the ostensible disposal of the auministra-tion of the law, nodded his assent; and everybody considered Jonce's flint as fixed-if they could catch him. Even his mother, though the son's disgrace and danger awakened more maternal pity than she had ever felt before, could but admit the justice of the sentence, while she went weeping home. The emigrant had seated himself in his wagon, and taken up his reins. Still he lingered, listening to the conversation. At length the Deacon asked him:

"Well, Mister, taking it altogether what do you think?" "Looking at it all round,' said the stranger, "I don't know exactly what I do think-but there's one thing I will say. Judging from what I've seen and heard, that boy Jonce, or Jonathan whatever his name is, don't owe many thanks to any of you"—the Deacon started!"—"and if he had a throwed the stone, which arn't proved yet, -I

won't say, after the thrashing he got

for nothing that, I for one should want to hang him, if he'd killed the man!" An earthquake could not have startled all Hardscrabble more than this speech of the emigrant did. But he waited no answer, and was soon on his way, leaving the villagers in earnest discussion of his daring wickedness. The universal conclusion was, that they did not wonder he had to move away from folks, and go into the woods if such were his notions. But the stranger had watched both Jonce and Margaret with unprejudiced eyes—he saw that the girl knew more than she dared to speak, and that Jonce bore more blame than he enacted evil When he stopped for the night at the next inn, he was not sorry at all, after he had taken his own children from the wagon, to find the identical Jones Smiley creeping out, and looking un into his face with that sneepish expres-

sion of deprecation of expected wrath

which had become habitual to the per-

secuted boy.

CHAPTER III. The sun rose the next morning upon Hardscrabble, just as calm as if Jonce Smiley had not been whipped, or Peltiah Perkins knocked in the head. And Peltiah Perkins's cow sauntered away as leisurely to her pasture, under the guidance of one of the little Perkinses, as if she had never been the cause and abettor of a great commo-tion in Hardscrabble. And Deacon Abijah Underwood was, as he had been on every pleasant morning for forty years, punctual as the sunrise upon the top of the little knoll behind his barn. Thence he watched the rising sun, first evident by the gilding weather-vane, upon the steeple of the old "meetinghouse;" then diffusing golden light over the pleasant plain in which was sitnated the ancient settlement which is the scene of the opening of our veritable history.

The Deacon, despite his little eccentricities, and the whimsicalties of his character, was a good citizen, and a ristian. could watch and love the kind manifestations of Supreme Benevolence, in the cheerful features of the creation which he who made it pronounced good, could not be insensible to the true and kindly influences of that religion which breathes "peace on earth, and good will to men." Doctrinal subbrow; sectarian and other prejudices might occasionally lead him into theoretical illiberality; and the unlucky influences of his position might now and then betray him into practical injustice; but all the time he thought he was doing right, and earnestly labored and

strove so to do. Fresh from his untroubled sleep placid in thought as the scene around him; grateful to Heaven for his happiness, as the little birds whose throats were bursting with their matin song; the old man scanned the prospect from the knoll as he had a thousand times done before, not in the expectation of seeing any thing new, but silently to welcome to the light of day each object so long familiar to his senses. He would have pained, indeed, rather than pleased, at any charge in the landscape -improvement would have seemed an intrusion—a foreign daub introduced by an enemy into the picture. That is not the way he would have expressed it, for beyond the Washington with his nose beaten out by the weather, upon his tavern sign, the Deacon knew nothing of pictures. The print of John Rodgers at the stake, with his nine small children, their tears being prominent as ordnance balls, was, the very perfection of art. Of poetry, beyond Watt's simple and beautiful lyrics, he knew nothing, as a mode of expression. No heathen images of Aurora and Hesperus came to his mind at morn and eve, no fauns and satyrs haunted his thickets and meadows, no images borrowed from mythology aided his thoughts. Still had he the true innate feeling and inspiration of poetry
-the elevation of thought from earth to heaven, the suggestion of the Creator in the creatures of his hand. He felt the holy enthusiasm of the Psalmist, when with pious David he ex-claimed, "Great and manifold are thy works; in wisdom hast thou mad

To be Continued.

NOT DISPOSED TO RECEDE Keldon-You wouldn't believe it, I suppose, if anybody should tell you that a cat eats straw? Stout-No; I shouldn't believe it, Keldon-Well, it's a fact. I saw cat doing it this morning. Stout-Well, you heard what I

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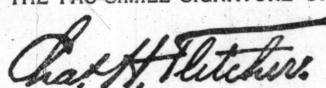
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