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and substance of it was this TWO DESPERATE MEN.

and substance of it was this:

TWO DESPERATE MEN.

Gentlemen,—

I received your letter to-day by post, in regard to the ransom you ask for the return of my son. I think you are a little high in your demands, and I hereby make you a counter-proposition which I am inclined to believe you will accept. You bring Johnny home and pay me two hundred and fifty dollars in cash, and I agree to take him off your hands. You had better come at night, for the neighbors believe he is lost, and I couldn't be responsible for what they would do to anybody they saw bringing him back. Very respectfully.

"Great Pirates of Penzancet" says I; "of all the impudent—"

"Great Pirates of Penzanee!" says I;
"of all the impudent—"

But I glanced at Bill, and hesitated. He had the most appealing look in his eyes I ever saw on the face of a dumb or a talking brute.
"Sam," says he, "what's two hundred and fifty dollars after all? We've got the money. One more night of this kid will send me to a bed in Bedlam. Besides being a thorough gentleman, I think Mr. Dorset is a spendthrift for making us such a liberal offer. You ain't going to let the chance go, are you?"
"Tell you the truth, Bill," says I, "this little ewe lamb has somewhat got on my nerves, too. We'll take him home, pay the ransom, and get away."

We took him home that night. We got him to go by telling him that his father had bought a silver-mounted rifle and a pair of moccasins for him, and we were going to hunt bears the next day. It was just twelve o'clock when we knocked at Ebenezer's front door. Just at the moment when I should have been abstracting the fifteen hundred dollars from the box under the tree, according to the original proposition, Bill was counting out two hundred and fifty dollars into Dorset's hand.

When the kid found we were going to have leave him at home he started up a how!

lars into Dorset's hand.

When the kid found we were going to leave him at home he started up a howl and fastened himself as tight as a leech to Bill's leg. His father peeled him away gradually, like a porous plaster.

"How long can you hold him?" asks Bill

Bill.
"I'm not as strong as I used to be;"
says old Dorset, "but I think I can
promise you ten minutes."
"Enough," says Bill. "In ten minutes
I shall cross the Central. Southern, and
Middle Western States, and be legging
it for the Canadian border."
And, dark as it was, and fat as Bill
was, and good a runner as I am, he was
a good mile and a half out of Summit
before I could catch up with him.

What He Left.

what he Left.

Residing in a little village is a lawyer who is famous for drawing wills, in which branch of business he has long enjoyed a monopoly of the country for miles around.

miles around.

A few months since a wealthy man died. There was much speculation as to the value of the property, and the town gossip set about to find out the facts. He hunted up the lawyer, and, after a few preliminary remarks about the deceased, he said rather bluntly:

"I suppose you made Brown's will?" Yes."

"Tes."
"Then you probably know how much he left. Would you mind telling me?"
"Not at all." the lawyer answered, as he resumed his writing. "He left everything he had."

What Was the Use?

"Now, Tommy," reprimanded the mother, "don't let me catch you throwing any more stones,"
"Well, what will I do when the other fellows throw 'em?" asked Tommy,
"Just come and tell me," his mother replied.

replied.
"Tell you!" he exclaimed in astonishment.
"Why, you couldn't hit the broad side of a barn!"

Correct.

Teacher: "A train leaves Winnipeg travelling thirty miles an hour. It is followed, thirty minutes later, by a train travelling sixty miles an hour. At what point will the second train run into the first?"

Boy: "At the hind end of the rear

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urech (mit a shell of wood) permits a month of the shell of wood permits a shell of wood) permits a management of the shell of the shell of wood permits a management which costs \$4.00 extra on other guns)—Free Sutton Carridge Release—tho tors—Take-Down Feature—Trigger and Hamner Safet working through action) Double Extracing ability price standard Grade ("A" 12 squage gun, \$2.200. 116 or 20-squage, \$2.400. in shoot-least, all Martin repeating shottums (hammer and hammer less), all Martin repeating shottums (hammer and hammer less), all Martin repeating shottum; the short of the short

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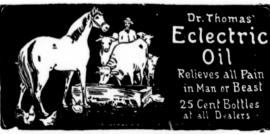
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