THE DEACON'S DINNER.

hood often said that Mrs. Smart ought to be the happiest woman in the world. 'Such a nice house that she lives in ! said Miss Bryce, who, poor soul, taught the district school and 'boarded around,' like the scape goat in the Scripture

'Such a pious man as the dear deacon is !' added Mrs. Hopkins, whose better half had once been a sea captain, and who was still apt to be profane by fits and starts, when the cattle got into the clover field, and the midnight weasel marauded on his hencoops and turkey-

'With a store carpet on the best room floor!' put in Mrs. Jones, and the weekly newspaper, and white sugar in her tea every day of her life, and a horse and a waggon to take her to meetin' Sundays !'

Such was the opinion of society as represented in Glen Hollow. Perhaps Mrs. DeaconSmart was a happy woman. But we are told on the very best authority, that,-

china, ore morning, preparatory to giv ing a grand tea-party, and her cousin, Ella Dale, was helping her, when the deacon put his shining bald head in at

My dear, he said, here's a paper o Mrs. Smart nearly dropped a giltedged saucer in her consternation

More pins! said she. Yes, my dear, said the deacon, un tuously. Pine are always useful. Oh, yes, pins ! said Mrs. Smart, giving her glass towel a toss as she wiped the last globule of moisture from a goblet. But not rows of rusty wire! I do

say for it, Ebenezer-I'm going to Glen Depot, amy dear, the deacon somewhat hurriedly interrupted, at this juncture; and perhaps shan't be home till one o'clock.

He withdrew, and Mrs. Smart turn to Ella Dale with a half laugh. There, my dear, said she, throwing down the faded green roll of pin-paper on the dresser, there, you behold the secret of my domestic unhappiness—the

skeleton in my closet! Ella opened her round hazel eye I can't think what you mean, Juliana, she said. You unhappy ? and the dear deacon such a truly good man?

That's the trouble, said Mrs. Smart. he is too good. But I don't hardly see how that can be possible, protested Ella, more perplexed than ever. And it's all at my expense, said Mrs.

per of pins? Why, of course I see it, said Ella. Well, Mr. Smart has bought that here. This house is a Mecca to the race of peddlars. They know that Mr. Smart always buys of them-he's too good hearted to say no; or, rather-let us speak the truth, and shame him who shall nameless between us—he is really too indolent to resist their importunities

But what an insignificant little trial . Oh, yes, I dare say! said Mrs. Smart. The sting of a hornet isn't so very terrible in itself, but when a whole swarm is let loose upon you, what then? A whole swarm ? repeated innocent

Ella burst out laughing.

My dear, said Mrs. Smart' lowering her voice to a confidential whisper, up stairs in my bed-room closet, I have eighteen papers of just such cheap pins -utterly useless for anything but to bend themselves up double when you try to put them through a single thickness of calico, and to deprive you of your temper just when you need it most; six cards of porcelain buttons, an machine oil, five papers of rusty needles; a dozen pairs of shoe strings, and eight rolls of tape, which is an insult to one's common sense! If I could reconcile it to my conscience, I'd fling the whole collection into the fire; but I was brought up to economize. What do you think, Ella, would it be a sin to annihilate all these pitfalls to my equanimity? It's rather a hard problem, said Ella,

soberly. And with all this, said Mrs. Smart, waxing vehement as she went on, tapped on the door. Ebenezer is unwilling to give me money can't make my dresses last a little longer and thinks I am extravagant in littlewanting a new feather for my old velvet bonnet. He says that I use too many raisins and spices, and asks me why I can't raise poultry and have eggs to exchange for groceries at the village Smart's triumph for good and all. store. And yet-oh, the inconsiste of men-he expects me to give a bow of coffee and a sandwich, to say nothing of wedges of apple pie, and three-cornered bits of cake to every able-bodied tramp and stout peddler woman who

happens to come along. Doesn't he make any allowances for it in the housekeeping money? asked

Not he! Just look here! Mrs Smart opened the drawer of the kitchen-table This is where I keep the housekeeping money-which he gives me every week -and he came here twice this morning once to get a quarter for a lame beggar, and again to get ten pennies for that same outrageous paper of pins! And she cast a paleful glance at the

article, which still lay on the dresser. This is piracy, said Ella, judicially. It's highway robbery ! declared Mrs. Smart. And there comes the butcher's single steak, and here it is only Wednesday.

Can't you buy on credit? Never! said Mrs. Smart, with spirit. Its a thing I never have done, and I

Nothing, to-day, she said. JOHN ELLIS, THOS CRIMMEN WM. KERR. Mrs. Smart dashed away a tear. Give me some of that shelled corn, hatham March 3r, 1886-

Ella, she said. I suppose I can catch a chicken for dinner Do nothing of the sort, my dear, said

But what are we to do? Why, have a picked up dinner, answered Ella. 'You just leave me to manage it for you. But I'm afraid the deacon won't like t, said Mrs. Smart.

Well, and if he doesn't ? You don't

like the peddler business, do you

quickly retorted Ella. At one o'clock the table was all spread, with three huge central platters carefully shielded with the covers which were ordinarily brought out only on state occasions, and Mrs. Smart and Ella were peeping out of the window and wondering what kept the deacon so

Good gracious me! And there is Willis Mildmay coming home with him! We never counted on his bringing company to dinner, Ella!

What signifies company? asked Ella s'outly maintaining her composure, although her pretty face had turned pink all over, Willis Mildmay won't care when he comprehends it all. Willis is a sensible man.

Come in, Mr. Smart-come in, Mr. Mildmay, said Mrs. Smart. You're half an hour late, Ebenezer. Ella and I TIN. could not imagine what had become of

I hope I'm not intruding,' said Mr. Mildmay, looking at Ella as if one glance of her rosy face was all the dinner he wanted. 'Oh not in the least! replied Mrs. Smart. Pray sit down. We have but

a plain dinner to-day, but it is all that my housekeeping allowance would ad-No apologies, my dear, said Deacon Smart-ne apologies. Hunger is the pest sauce, as we well know. Thereupon, they all seated themselves at the table, and the deacor

whisked off the big platter covers with

a countenance of expectation— Hullo ! said the deacon. Hullo! said the deacon.

There upon the centre platter lay the their sincere thanks to their many. and the rolls of tape and the shoestrings, while the bottles of machine oil and sixteen years, and to inform them

he was laughing at. The deacon stared | Aaron Harris. as if he had suddenly become all eyes. Juliana, he said, what is the mean-Smart, dolefully. Do you see the pa-

ing of all this? paper of pins of a peddlar at the door, I determined to serve them up to you are going to burn, and henceforward, Dame St. Montreal. whatever is bought has got to be of good quality, or I won't have it in the house! And if you give me money for housekeeping it isn't fair for you to spend it in buying articles which no one can use!

Certainly it isn't! said Ella, coming wm. wyse, valiantly to the rescue. The deacon's under jaw dropped he had half a mind to be angry, but he thought better of it, and broke into a

chuckle. Mr. Midmay, he said, turning to the young man, be warned in time! You

Ladies, he said, there's a bushel oysters out in the wagon, that I was taking home. If you will build up a good article which I never use; nine packages fire we'll have a good roast, and I'll be of stove blacking, thirteen bottles of head cook. I suppose you've got plenty of good bread and butter?

Yes, and nice hot coffee, said Mrs, Smart. Make haste, Ella, and start the fire to a blaze, and we will stimulate it a little with machine oil and

The deacon sat by and made no demur. He only laughed in a sheepish, silent sort of way. And they dined of hot roast oysters bread and butter and coffee. Toward the close of the repast a stout, itinerant vender, with basket on his arm

I hope I see your honor well?said he, to buy decent darning needles and re-with a regular professional whine. spectable tape. He wonders why I Will'ee buy something to-day? Pins, needles, shoe-laces, hairpins, or

> But Deacon Smart shut the door in the midst of his oily oration. No! he said. And that monosyllable sealed Mrs

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cart, and I haven't money enough left from my week's allowance to buy a ASSESSOTS' Notice. hain having received warrants for the Assessment en the said Farish of the following amounts, viz On; the Parish for County Contingencies, \$2,223 69 ... School Fund, \$2,231 62 ... Police District for Folice, 464 50 ... Police Marrier for Folice, 1,494 50 ... Fire "Firewards, 1,695 50

never will do!

Ella's hazel eyes sparkled, as she shook her head velvemently at the butcher, who was just checking his old horses at the door.

Total,

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ighteen greeu papers of pins. At the friends and customers in this and right and left, on smaller platters, were the Northern Counties for the arranged the cards of porcelain buttons very liberal manner in which they while the bottles of machine oil and packages of stove-blacking were arranged like a child's block-house on a side table, beneath a white napkin, by way of dessert.

Ella burst out laughing. Mrs. Smart joined in. Willis Mildmay, spurred on by the infectious sound, laughed too, although he had not the least idea what he was laughing at. The deacon stared

We are now in a better position than ever to fill all orders in our line at rock bottom prices. All It means, Ebenezer, that you have orders sent to either of our spent my housekeeping money for peddler's cheap wares, and that Ella and de to. I. HARRIS & SON. aid Mrs. Smart. Peddlers always come for dinner; and what you don't eat we Chatham, N. B. & 1602 Notre

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ways be up to.

But Mr. Mildmay, who had some how or other got hold of Ella's hand under the folds of the table-cloth, did not seem to heed these words of wisdom as deeply as he should have done under the circumstances.

Ladies, he said there's a bunched.

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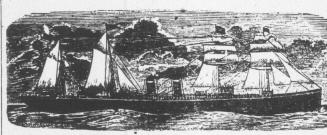
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