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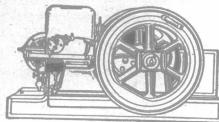
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put off the task as long as she could, but she really must, she knew, set about applying for a school now. At least, one afternoon, with a sort of

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Latimer and Ridly expression, as Ted diagnozed it, on her face, she had collected her courage, some paper, en-velopes, and several school clerks' velopes, and several school clerks' addresses, and was grimly preparing to convince them of the peculiar adap-tability of her talents for their several schools, when the postman's whistle came like a welcome summons. Everybody tumbled out of the house, and somebody seized the budget, and bore it in, in triumph. "Nan, that's, partiality," Ted grumbled, "I believe you're Uncle Sam's favorite niece. "Whew—here's a business-like envelope."

a business-like envelope. "The Homemaker,"

her mother glanced at the corner of the envelope. "Why-Nan-it's too thin to be-Oh, do you think-"

do you think—" "Oh, no," said Nan hastily, "it's only

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some notice or other, of course. She pulled out a slender blue slip of paper then stared at it with a dazed expression

then stared at it with a dazed expression in her eyes. "Mother, take it, and see what it says. I can't be seeing straight. Oh, quick!" her voice shook. Everybody clambered to look over Mother's shoulder. "Pay to the order of—" began Ted "Three hundred dollars," should Kenneth

Kenneth.

"Oh, Nan!" Lollipops flew at her. "You've won, dear," her mother was smiling at her, proudly. Nan's eyes shone. College, college

the check seemed to chant joyously a her.

her. She opened her lips to speak. But in that instant came a piercing odor from the kitchen, and the check fluttered unnoticed to the floor.

"The beans are burning," cried Nan, and vanished through the door.--American Cookery.

## R NEW SERIAL S Serial Rights Secured from the Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company,

The Brown Mouse

#### BY HERBERT OUICK.

### CHAPTER II.

REVERSED UNANIMITY.

The great blade of the grading machine, running diagonally across the road and pulling the earth toward its median line, had made several trips, and much persiflage about Jim Irwin's forth-

coming appearance before the board had been addressed to Jim and ex-changed by others for his benefit. To Newton Bronson was given the task of leveling and distributing the earth rolled into the road by the grader, a labor, which in the interests of fitting a muzzle on his big monoral dog he a muzzle on his big mongrel dog, he deserted whenever the machine moved away from him. No dog would have seemed less deserving of a muzzle, for he was a friendly animal, always wagging his tail, pressing his nose into people's palms, licking their clothing and otherpalms, licking their clothing and other-wise making a nuisance of himself. That there was some mystery about the muzzle was evident from Newton's pains to make a secret of it. Its wires were to make a secret of it. Its wires were curled into a ring directly over the dog's nose, and into this ring Newton had fitted a cork, through which he had thrust a large needle which protruded, an inch-long bayonet, in front of Ponto's nose. As the grader swept back, horses straining, harness creaking and a billow of dark earth rolling before the knife, Ponto, fully equipped with this stinger, raced madly alongside, a friend to every man. but not unlike some people, one man, but not unlike some people, one whose friendship was of all things to be most dreaded.

As the grader moved along one side of the highway, a high-powered automobile approached on the other. It was attempting to rush the swale for the hill opposite, and making rather bad weather of the newly repaired road. A pile of loose soil that Newton had allowed to lie just across the path made a certain maintenance of speed desirable. The anavish Newton planted himself in the path of the laboring car and waved its driver a command to halt. The car came to a standstill with its front wheels in the edge of the loose earth, and the chauffeur fuming at the possibility of stalling—a contingency upon which upon which Newton had confidently reckoned. "What d'ye want?" he demanded, "What d'ye mean by stopping me in this kind of place?" "I want to ask you," said Newton

at the sudden end of what had promised to be a very friendly acquaintance. I have known instances not entirely dishave known instances not entirely dis-similar among human beings. The pointer's master watched its strange flight, and swore. His eye turned to the boy who had caused all this, and he alighted pale with anger.

"I've got time," said he, remembering

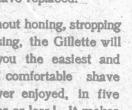
Newton's impudent question, "to give you what you deserve." Newton grinned and dodged, but the bank of loose earth was his undoing, and while he stumbled, the chauffeur caught and held him by the collar. And as he held the boy, the operation of flogging him in the presence of the grading gang grew less to his taste. Again grading gang grew less to his taste. Again Ponto intervened, for as the chauffeu stood holding Newton, the dog, evidently regarding the stranger as his master friend, thrust his nose into the chauffeu palm—the needle necessarily preceding the nose. The chauffeur behaved much as his pointer had done, saving and excepting that the pointer did not swar It was funny—even the pain involved

could not make it otherwise than funny The grading gang laughed to a man. New ton grinned even while in the fell clutch of circumstance. Ponto tried to smell the chauffeur's trousers, and what had been a laugh became a roar, quite general save for the fact that the chauffer did not join in it. Caution and mercy departed from

the chauffeur's mood; and he drew back his fist to strike the boy—and found it caught by the hard hand of Jim Irwin.

"You're too angry to punish this boy," said Jim gently,—"even if you had the right to punish him at all!" "Oh, cut it out," said `a fat man in the rear of the car, who had hitherto manifested no interest in anything save Ponto. way!'' "Get in, and let's be on our

The chauffeur, however, recognized



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"I want to ask you," said Newton with mock politeness, "if you have the correct time."

The chauffeur sought words appropriate to his feelings. Ponto and his muzzle saved him the trouble. A pretty pointer leaped from the car, and attracted by the evident friendliness of Ponto's greeting pricked up its ears, and sought, in a spirit of canine brotherhood, to tough moses with him. The needle in Ponto's muzzle did its work to the agony and horror of the pointer, which leaped back with a yelp, and turned tail. Ponto, in an effort to apologize, followed, and in an effort to apologize, followed, and finding itself bayonetted at every contact with this demon dog, the pointer de-finitely took flight, howling, leaving Ponto in a state of wonder and humiliation

in a man of mature years and full size, and a creature with no mysterious needle in his nose, a relief from his embarrassment. Unhesitatingly, he released Newton, and blindly, furiously and futilely, he delivered a blow meant for Jin's in the set of the se for Jim's jaw, but which really mis-carried by a foot. In reply, Jim countered with an awkward swinging uppercut, which was superior to the chauffeur's blow in one respect only —it landed fairly on the point of the jaw. The chauffeur staggered and slowly toppled over into the soft earth which had caused so much of the rumpus. Newton Bronson slipped behind a hedge, and took his infernally equipped dog with him. The grader gang formed a ring about the combatants and waited. Colonel Woodruff, driving toward home in his runabout, held up by the traffic blockade, asked what was going on here, and the chauffeur, rising groggily, picked up his goggles, climbed into the car and the meeting dissolved, leaving Jim Irwin greatly embarrassed by the fact that for the first time in his life he had

struck a man in combat. "Good work Jim," said Cornelius Bonner. "I didn't think 'twas in ye!"