

CHAPTER VI. *AN EVENING AT THE STORE.*

REMARKS ON TEMPERANCE AND SOME NEWS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

LIGHTS twinkled in the windows of the old stone school, and the group focused at Limpy's remarked it was "meetin' night."

It was Friday evening, and after the heat of the early August day the villagers clustered about their open doors, and in the semi-darkness abandoned themselves to the delicious cool which lends a respite to the hottest day.

In Sunshine-Shadder the moon and stars had but slight competition in the distribution of light, for the lamp was generally extinguished, especially in winter, before the curfew hour. In summer still earlier retirement snuffed out the cheery twinkle, but season in and season out there was one exception to the order, and this was found in the illumination which emanated from the general store.

It was the one bright ray along the hillside, and many a belated traveller has exclaimed joyfully as he sighted the cheerful beacon. Limpy always lighted up at six in winter and eight in summer. The oil lamps within the store were always trimmed and ready, as were the two lanterns suspended from the rickety verandah fronting the store.