

## A Double Joke and Its Fun.

"Now, John," said Aunt Clara, as she cuddled Baby Fay a little closer, "have we got everything in the sleigh, dear?"

"Well, I should hope so," laughed Uncle John. "Here are all the lap robes and the handbag and three children and two dollies and the great big dinner basket. It it were not first class sleighing I should expect old Prince to object to such a load."

He tucked the robes about Kitty and Jessie, who were nestling and giggling on a snug little seat at his feet. Then he shook the lines, and gave the word to Prince, and away they flew toward Uncle Charley's farm.

"Let's take the spring road this time, papa," said Kitty, "it's such a lovely day, and Uncle Charley's folks might be coming to see us."

"And they always come by the spring road," put in Jessie. "Harry told me so."

"And such dinners as they bring!" cried Kitty. "You can't get such things in town."

Now I must tell you about the dinners. Uncle John's folks and Uncle Charley's folks were very fond of visiting each other; and they liked to have the dinners ready beforehand, so that the two aunties could have plenty of time to talk together, and to play games with the children. That's why each family took a great big dinner basket when they went to see each other.

It was a little later that same morning when Uncle Charley put an armful of sweet hay into his big farm sled, and tucked the quilts and blankets around Aunt Mary and their three children.

"We must go by the hill road this time, papa," said Harry, "for what if Uncle John's folks should be coming to see us? You know they always come that way; Jessie said so the last time I saw her."

And so, just as Uncle Charley is fairly out of sight on the hill road, here comes Uncle John on the spring road.

"Well, I declare!" he says, as he knocks and tries the door. "We've missed them, sure enough."

"You will find the key," said Aunt Clara, "under the left-hand edge of the kitchen doorstep. Aunt Mary would want us to go in and warm, of course."

So they went in and found the fires still bright.

"Why, they've only just gone," said Uncle John.

"And what's this? Oh, what's this?" cried Jessie.

"It's the dinner! Oh, it's the dinner! Their great big dinner basket," exclaimed Kitty. And they began to jump and dance about it, and to peep under the cover, giggling and talking both at once.

"They forgot it. Oh, doughnuts! Oh, chicken pie! A big, big chicken pie!"

By this time Aunt Clara had taken off her wraps and Baby Fay's, and had made up her mind what to do.

"They will soon be back," she said. "I will lay the cloth, John, and set things to warm. Aunt Mary shall not do all the work this time."

So Uncle John put old Prince into the barn and Aunt Clara put the big, big chicken pie into the oven. And Kitty and Jessie played with Baby Fay while she set the table. When all was ready, and Uncle John had come in and sat reading the Daily News, there came a loud knocking at the door. They all went to open it, and then what fun there was!

"Why, how do you do, Mrs. Brown," said Aunt Clara to Aunt Mary. "I'm very glad to see you. I hope you are all well. We thought you might possibly visit us today."

"And how do you do, Mr. Brown," Uncle John was saying. "How do you like our new house? Finest farm

in the country, Mr. Brown. Come and put up your horses. Plenty of room in our barn."

The little folks laughed very hard

at this, and the two babies chuckled and crowed as if they knew all about it.

And there was more fun that day

than ever before, for you see there was a double joke and a double sleigh ride and, best of all, a double dinner.



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