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she expected them to do. When they were out of sight, four boys peeked out from behind the school, and after making sure that they were not observed, they jumped over the fence, and walked away talking earnestly. Just one sentence might have been caught by a passerby. It was in Alex. McDonald's voice: "I say, boys, she's not bluffing."

"I say, boys, she's not bluffing."

Three days later at recess, two of the smaller boys came into the school crying very bitterly. Ida enquired into the difficulty and found that one of the larger boys had committed an offense which was deserving of most severe punishment. Ida was very angry to think that such a thing had happened in her school, and she sent at once for all who knew anything of the matter. She listened to all the witnesses, and finally decided that one boy was deserving of very severe punishment. She was prepared to give it when the boy whimpered, "Please, Sam Hughes did the same as I did."

Ida stopped at once and turned very pale. "Are you sure?" she asked.
"Yes," he said, and one of the smaller boys corroborated his statement.
"I will punish you," Ida said, and then I will investigate further, for it does not matter who did it, I will not have anyone capable of such conduct in this school."

She let the children go and she sat

anyone capable of such conduct in this school."

She let the children go, and she sat down to think the matter over. It did not surprise her that she had no thought of old Sam Hughes and her position.

She remained as usual to put the work on the blackboard for the next day. She had been alone in the school for sometime when she heard a noise at the door. She glanced and saw Sam Hughes standing there. She did not say anything, but went on with her writing. He did not speak until she had finished her work. Then, with his hat in his hand, he stepped up to her desk and said, "Miss Dyer, I believe that you said this afternoon that you did not wish me to remain at this school."

Ida turned and looked directly into his eyes. She was a young girl, but little older than the boy before her. The subject was a difficult one. "You know of what they accused you, Sam," she said; "if you were capable of that, I would not want you among the children."

"If you wish it, I will leave, and no

would not want you among the children."

"If you wish it, I will leave, and no one, not even my father will ever know the reason," he said.

"I don't care for your father," Ida said passionately, "I did once. But it's you, Sam, I banked on you. Tell me, boy, that you didn't do it."

The big fellow's lips trembled. He choked a minute, and then in a low tone he said, "I ain't any saint, but I didn't do that, and I kept the young liars who said I did outside to prove what I say. Alex. has them out there now."

Ida's white set face relaxed. A little Ida's white set face relaxed. A little colour came into her cheeks. She held out her hand, and when Sam took it she said, "I don't need any proof, Sam. Your word is good enough for me."

Sam hesitated a minute, and then said, "Thank you, but maybe you had better hear them for the sake of the school."

"Thank you," Ida said, "you are right, bring them in."

It's a funny thing the way that teacher can twist the men around her finger," Mrs. Hays said to Mrs. Mack over the back garden fence. "You should hear old Sam Hughes blow about the way his kids are getting along at school, and Jack Curson thinks what she does is just about right. I wouldn't be surprised if they would find out something queer about her yet."

"It wouldn't be any good to tell them anything. They wouldn't believe it. A pretty face can do anything with a man," rMs. Mack said.

"I wouldn't call her face pretty," Mrs. Hays said, "and her clothes are real shabby, but it ain't only men she can twist around. Mrs. Simpson won't say one word again her. And she wouldn't show me her dresses and hats and things, and I know her trunk ain't locked."

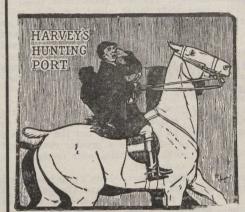
"You don't say," Mrs. Mack sighed, "and the way she carries on skating every night in that rink they have made with the boys is simply ridiculous. In my day a girl that did such things would lose her character."

"Times is changed," Mrs. Hays sighed regretfully.

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