

did not at all deserve the name often bestowed on persons of his peculiar degree of capacity, and Tommy Hicks was by no means an innocent.

The person to whom his shouts were addressed had reason to feel that such was the case, for following, incautiously the directions he received, he plunged up to his knees in a marshy piece of ground, and at another step would have had the swamp over his head, while Tommy Hicks stood looking on, with his hands in his pockets, enjoying the scene amazingly, but not suffering his satisfaction to display itself in any thing beyond a grin which stretched his wide mouth from ear to ear, and showed all his white, irregular teeth. The stranger was a tall man, a strong and a quick one, and perceiving instantly the trick which had been played him, he drew back a step or two, walked quickly round the edge of the swamp to the spot where Tommy Hicks still stood, and, catching him by the collar threatened to punish him on the spot for what he had done. For an instant the idiot struggled in his grasp with tremendous force, but he speedily found that his opponent was still stronger than himself, and ceasing his efforts, he said, in a sullen tone, "It is your own