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MRS. BROWN IN AMERICA.

BY

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ETC. ETC.

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PREFACE.



TO THE EDITOR,—

SIR—It is werry nat'ral as you should 'ave been took aback, as I'm sure I were myself, at me a-goin' to Merryker, and as to bein' curious to know wherefore is in course your dooty, or else 'ow ever would you know anythink as bein' in ignorance would never suit them as 'ave to make papers out of their own 'eads every week, and 'ow ever you do it I can't think; but as to them double a-cross sticks they're things as I can't never get over, nor didn't think as ever I should the oshun waves thro' not 'avin' a consumption as 'Merryker took over ten days to get there, and fresh meat every day, not as the pantry where they kep' it were a nosegay when you ketched a wiff on it as I 'ave many a time a-settin' on the deck for the fresh air as was coolin', leastways would 'ave been but for the machinery a-sendin' up such 'eat from them bilers and a smell of oil as they're a-pourin' over constant, as a gentleman did say would keep the sea under if cast on the waves.

I says, "Excuse me, Sir, but wherever could they get the oil from to do it?"

"Oh," he says, "out of wales."

I says, "I never 'eard as it growed there, tho' my

own mother's sister's 'usband were Welsh come from Pontypool."

He says, "I means the fishy wales as is full on it, and may be seen any time a-spoutin' all over the place."

I says, "Indeed!" not a-wishin' to contradict 'im, but a-knowin' as he were a-talkin' rubbish, tho' certingly they're a fishy lot in Wales, and that's 'ow it were as I come to go to Merryker, a-thinkin' it were like France as is only six 'ours if you goes the long way round as is thro' the Brighton and Deep, as I've done myself in MR. COOK'S excursion train as I'd go over the wide world with and trust myself to 'im anywheres; not as ever I should go to 'Merryker for pleasure as is a wild place thro' not a likin' their wittles nor 'oldin' with their ways, tho' a-many on 'em is nice parties, and I'm sure MRS. SKIDMORE'S been a mother to me over and over again and will never believe as she's kep' back my stockins tho' there aint a pair as isn't odd ones with the 'eels out, but that gal BRIDGET 'adn't no more 'ead than a pin, as the sayin' is, as must 'ave ironed my white petticoat with a red 'ot iron as there's the mark on plain burnt in; and as to my night-cap borders as I 'adn't time to do myself they looks as if she'd set 'em with the poker, and the colour as my 'abit shirts is turned they're that yaller as you'd think they'd 'ad the glanders. But preaps I'm a-talkin' too free and not a-wishin' it to be know'd as them corsets as I got in Paris 'ad give way in two places, and yet warranted 'lastic to give with the figger, tho' preaps never meant for to bear a

sea woyage as is a constant strain; not as ever I was able to bear 'em after the fust day; and so in course under them circumstances I felt it a duty to give way to BROWN and go to 'Merryker, as anyone would as 'ave been a mother, but never would 'ave believed it till I see it; and as to the world bein' round why it's rubbish as any one can see for their selves as goes to sea thro' it bein' straight on to everywhere, or else 'ow ever could them wessels ever do it, as is a wonderful invention no doubt, but 'ow ever any one ever come fust to think on it as they do say was all found out thro' 'im a-watchin' 'is aunt's tea-kittle, as is what I always was set to do by my aunt as couldn't a-bear to 'ave it bile over jest as the 'arth were cleaned and 'er fender polished like diamonds; not as ever I found out anythink from that kittle except what dreadful stuff to scald steam is thro' a-takin' of it off tho' told never to touch it, as is the way with young folks, but 'ave been a warning to me; as scraped pertater from the wrist to the elber certingly drawed the fire out, tho' I shall carry the marks to my grave; and I'm sure 'ow them engineers ever bears the 'eat and the smell and not bring their 'arts up as the least smell on it makes me 'eave agin; but as I was a-sayin' whatever you do mind and 'ave a little of the best brandy with you, not to use in a general way but close at 'and in the night when you feels a-sinkin', as is a nasty feelin' on dry land but downright hawful at sea.

So them as wants to know about me a-goin' may read wot I've wrote down as is what 'ave 'appened;

but as to ritin' a book I'd as soon think of readin' one as is a idle 'abit and never ends well except it may be of a Sunday arternoon, but even then a great strain on the eyes, and as to BROWN's specs why they draws like blisters, as can't be good for the 'uman eye. As will I hope esplain everythink clear thro' bein' always open and above board myself and don't 'old with no deceit, and never would say "Not at 'ome" to a friend when a settin' with the parlor door ajar and could hear the rattle of the cups and saucers that time as MRS. ELWY denied 'erself to me as 'ad gone all the way to the Brixton-road, and a-droppin' for my tea, and call 'erself a friend, and as I could see the back of 'er widder's weeds thro' the wire blind; but never no more, my lady, not if I was a-dyin' for a cup, and to 'ave the face to come and stand me out as she'd been at Margate. So no more at present from

I remain your obedient

MARTHA BROWN.

'er mark x.



THE BROWN PAPERS.

MRS. BROWN IN AMERICA.

No. 1.

How She came to Go there.

WHAT!" I says to BROWN, "go off to 'Merryker the same as that fellow MANDERS, in the middle of the night, in debt down to the milkman, as were over three pounds, and him with a sick wife and seven infants; as is a country I don't 'old with, where they're all a-runnin' about in nothink but beads and a few feathers, as ain't common decent; a-yellin' of their war 'oops, and flourishin' about their Tommy 'awks, as is certain death, as I well remembers that pictur' of one myself, as did used to 'ang over the dinin'-room mantelpiece in my fust place, a-settin' on his 'aunches a-watchin' the dyin' agonies of GENERAL WOLFE, no doubt a-waitin' to dewour 'im afore the breath were out of 'is body, like a ragin' wultur', and a savage beast as killed CAPTING COOK when 'is back were turned, as is a cowardly act, and would have done for ROBI'SON CRUSOE, all but for FRIDAY; but what can you expect from a uninabited island? as it wasn't no better than

when fust discovered, long afore steam were invented, as is a long time to look forurd to, but nothink when it's gone, as is only a wapour arter all." So BROWN, he says, "Do 'old your clack, for I'm blest if you won't drive me into the Diworce Court, or Bedlam, or somewheres." "Well," I says, "MR. BROWN, there's your betters as 'ave come to Bedlam through inflic-tions as is calamaties a-overtakin' 'em, but as to the Diworce Court, never, for I scorns your words, as 'ave never laboured under no sich amputations as could bring a blush in a 'onest woman's cheek;" and I was that 'urt as I walked out of the room in a 'uff, with my feelin's 'urt, and didn't see nothink more on 'im till supper; as when it were over, he says to me, "I wasn't a-jokin' about 'Merryker, as I'm a-goin' to." So I says nothink, but I busts into tears. He says, "Hallo! What's up with you?" So I says, "BROWN, I've got a 'art and not a stone in my bussim, as can't think of bein' deserted in the evenin' of my days, and left behind the same as that wagabone TITTERTON as left 'er with eight." "Well," says BROWN, "any'ow, I can't leave you with eight, old gal." I says, "BROWN, it's 'ard to jest when the 'art's a-breakin'."

He says, "I 'adn't no thoughts of leavin' you behind, old gal, if you've the pluck to come." "Well," I says, "I did 'ope to 'ave died in a Chrisshin country, and been berried in my own nat'ral symmetry, as the sayin' is; but," I says, "if you're a-goin' over there I'll foller, if it's to death's door, as the sayin' is." "Well," he says, "I thought as you'd come, if it was only to see JOE." "What!" I says, "Are you a-goin' near him? Then I'll go too."

"Well," he says, "there's the sea to be thought on, as is a trial, partic'lar at your age." "Well," I says, "as to age, I'm younger than a many as 'ave gone, for look at MRS. WHEELER, as were over eighty,

and went reg'lar to Margate every year." "Ah!" he says, "you don't know what the sea is." I says, "Don't I, tho'?" as certingly is not a life I should ever 'ave took to, tho' females 'as been known to go for sailors, but in general thro' disappointed love, the same as that young gal in 'William Taylor,' as must have looked werry foolish when discovered by the Capting afore all the crew."

So BROWN he says, "Well, you may go for a sailor if you like, but I don't think as it would suit you." I says, "None of your jeers, but do talk serious," and so he did, and if he wasn't a-goin' to start that werry Saturday next as were a-comin', and me not a thing ready, and here was Saturday night. 'Owever I did get ready I don't know, but ready I was by that Friday, as put MRS. CHALLIN out, me a-startin' on a Friday, as I says "Rubbish!" and off we goes to Liverpool.

It certainly did give me a turn when we was bein' took aboard the steamer in a little one as were that crowded it's a mercy we didn't go far in it or upset we should 'ave been. When we got aboard the big steamer it certingly were wonderful for size, and I says to BROWN as I didn't believe as she could be moved; but law bless you! the bell rung, and we was off like nothink; and when the parties aboard the little steamer, as 'ad come to see us off, begun a-wavin' their 'ats and cheerin', I did feel a little choky, a-thinkin' as I was a-bein' committed to the deep, as the sayin' is.

It's all werry well for to call 'em "state rooms" where you sleeps, for a nice state the one was in as I were a-goin' to 'ave, and BROWN he'd been and give up 'is bed-place to a woman, for lady I won't call 'er, thro' 'er behaviour, as were reg'lar low-life, for I'd been and took the underneath bed, as is one a-top of another like shelves, and that narrer as turn

you can't, not to save your life ; and while my back was turned if that creature didn't get into my bed, and when I went down agin was a-snorin' like a 'og. So I says, "Mum, you'll excuse me, but this is my bed." "Oh!" she says, "I'm that awful bad I can't be moved." So I calls the stewardess, as says, "P'raps, Mum, you wouldn't mind a-takin' the upper berth." I says, "Me climb up there!" I says, "Never!" "Law," she says, "it's nothink for a springy figure like yourn."

Well, the wessel were a-beginnin' to roll, and the way as I were pitched about in that cabin, a-comin' sich cracks agin the sides on it, so I turned that giddy as I says, "Get to bed I must!" but law, the work it were to get me into that place, as I says, "You may well call it a berth, as 'll be the death of me!" and so I thought it would, for many a day (BROWN, he couldn't come for to see me, thro' that party as were underneath a-sayin' she were a single woman, and couldn't be seen by no he creeturs), and I don't think as ever I did pass sich a five days, a-takin' next to nothink, and should 'ave perished but for that stewardess, as were a mother to me, and don't think, if she hadn't persuaded me, I ever should 'ave come to light agin, as I did at last, tho' I must say, when I got on deck and see nothink but a world of waters, it give me a dreadful turn, and a lot of passengers a-walkin' about, and some a-sittin' on chairs, and me that figure, for in my 'urry to get out of that cabin I'd been and forgot to put on my 'air.

I must say the meals is wonderful reg'lar, and that plentiful as five times a day is too many for me, tho' parties says as you require it at sea, but don't seem natural to me. 'Owever they can wash the things up I can't think, tho' in course 'avin' the oshun that 'andy is a convenience.

I 'adn't no patience with that party as 'ad took my

bed, for, bless you, she'd eat 'ot ducks and pickles with onions and fried 'am, to say nothink of fruit and vegetables, and all in 'er berth; and when she come on deck, wanted every one for to wait on 'er.

I ain't got nothink to say agin that steamer in fine weather; and as to the captin, he were constant smiles, and when I asked 'im if there was any dangers, only said as he was sure of fine weather with me aboard; but, bless 'is 'art, he were wrong, for that werry night it took to blowin' like mad, and if that underneath woman didn't 'owl like a lunatic, a-sayin' as we should be blowed into hice and perish, or be lost in a fog, as sure enough it did come on werry thick, and they were a-blowin' a whistle like mad nearly all night, as is fearful for to 'ear, and at last I couldn't stand it no longer, so I thought as I'd get out of bed and see what was a-goin' on. I 'ung on as well as I could with my arms, a-kickin' about my feet for to rest 'em on the side of the under bed. Well, jest then the wessel give a lurch as sent me nearly a-flyin', but I 'eld on and put my foot down with all my force as come agin something soft as proved to be that woman's face as were a-layin' close agin the hedge of the berth for fresh air. She give sich a shriek as made me let go, and sent me a-flyin' out of the door agin the stewardess as were a-comin' in to see what was up, as I took for some one else, and in my fright 'ollers "Fire!" thro' 'avin' been told as it is safest to call, as brings every one to the spot, as p'raps "Murder" might keep away.

It certingly did bring 'em all out of their berths in a jiffey, and you never see sich a sight, and the way as they made a downright thoro'fare of me, as were layin' in the passage, as were that narrer as pass they couldn't. If you'd 'eard the names as them passengers called me, as stupid old fool was nothink to, you'd 'ave said as I did, that if there was real fire

you'd never give no alarm. I was most 'urt at BROWN, for though a party come up on deck the next day and says to 'im, with me a-sittin' by, "Did you hear the row as some old ass of a woman kicked up last night with a alarm of fire?" and if BROWN, though he know'd 'twas me as 'ad done it, never took it up, but I was a-goin' to, only jest then they was a 'eavin' of the log as they calls it, and the capting were a-lookin' through a thing as looked like a bit broke off a wheel. I says to a party, "What is he up to?" "A-takin' 'is obserwations," says he, I says, "Oh, indeed," and see 'im a-lookin' 'ard at me. So I says, "I 'ope he won't make none of his obserwations to me, as 'ave 'ad quite enough of 'em, as is werry uncalled for, I considers."

Law! it was dull work aboard that wessel, as I says to one lady, "I wonder they don't stop somewheres on the way, as would break the monotony. "Ah," she says, "there's always danger along the coast of goin' ashore. "Owin'," I says, "no doubt to them sailors, as when they gets ashore will get a-drinkin' in low company, but," I says, "you might trust me ashore or any steady character."

We was a-chattin' away when her 'usband come up as were some sort of missionary, and says, "It's about this werry spot as the Sarah Ann is supposed to 'ave flounded, and every soul aboard perished." I says, "Why ever did they let her flounder, as couldn't 'ave knowed 'ow to swim proper?" "Ah," he says, "it were a iceberg." I says, "Why not get out of the way?" He says, "Bless you, they're as big as Great Britain, and is miles under water, and in a fog you're on 'em in a instant."

While he was a-talkin', it were a-gettin' rather foggy, as made me feel queer for the instant; but he went on a-talkin' about all dangers of the sea till at

last I says, "It's no use you're a-goin' on like that, for it won't keep off no dangers, and p'raps make 'me worse, if they should come." I should have been werry dull but for some of the hofficers as were that pleasant through bein' beknown to BROWN; and I must say as they made me a drink as did more for to get over sea-sickness than anythink; and one or two of 'em was sweet pretty singers, and would sing of a night like the birds on the trees, though 'ard work, through a thick fog with the whistle a-yellin' every minit. I don't think as ever I were more glad for anythink than when they said as we should be in next day, though the missionary said as there was great risks; "But," he says, "my mind is made up."

"Well," I says, "I don't know nothink about your mind; but your body's well provided with food let come what may;" for that man downright gorged at every meal, and brought such lots of wittles to his wife on deck, a ugly-lookin' thing, that it's a wonder she wasn't sick even on dry land.

We hadn't been none of us werry sociable all the woyage, but the last mornin' we was all like brothers and sisters, and I'm sure lots was that civil, a-sayin' as they'd be proud for to see me in 'Merryker. It certingly is a noble spot that 'Merryker, and the way as they brought that big steamer 'longside the wharf was wonderful; but it was dreadful work gettin' ashore, and as I were a-goin' to 'urry down the gangway, as they calls it, and if they didn't say to me, "Stand out of the way for the males;" I says, "I always thought it were manners to let ladies go fust; but never mind!" but they shoved me on one side, and rushed ashore with a lot of bags as were the letters. I was that scrouged on that deck that I watched my opportunity, and tho' I was reg'lar loaded with two bags and a bandbox, I made a rush for to get down

that plank, and some one come behind me with a large sack and sent me a-flyin' down it, and if a man 'adn't ketched me I should 'ave pitched 'ead foremost on to 'Merryker, and a nice dirty place, too, with coal dust over your ankles, and me dressed genteel for landin' in a nice barege, a light blue with a pink stripe, and a white silk shawl as 'ad cleaned equal to new. I 'adn't 'ardly got on my feet when a party stops me and says, "Don't come here—go back." So I did, but I says, "Let me put down my parcels," and jest as I was a-speakin' I got a blow from behind as sent me a-kneelin' on my bandbox and reg'lar squashed it. So I says "'Elp!" and if another thing didn't come slap on my back! Says a man, "What are you standing 'ere for, jest in the way of the luggage?" and up he pulls me, and sure enough I was a-standin' at the bottom of a slidin' plank as they was a-slippin' everythink down. I've felt 'eat in my time, thro' 'avin' often and often stood a whole day ironin' in July, let alone preservin', as is 'ot work; but never did I feel anythink like 'Merryker for 'eat, and no wonder so many on 'em 'ave turned black, as must be reg'lar burnt up.

If I set one minit on a packin'-case, a-runnin' down with 'eat jest agin a steam-engine as were like a furnace to my back, I must 'ave set there two 'ours a-waitin' for BROWN, as come at last, and blowed me up for bein' in such a 'urry to get ashore, as 'ad stopped and 'ad 'is lunch there in comfort, and me a-droppin' for somethink. I didn't see no 'Merrykins about, but only all English, as were werry perlite; so I says to BROWN, "Where is the natives?" "Why," he says, "all around you, to be sure." "What!" I says, "ain't they wild Injins?" He says, "No, not all; but here's a savage as says he knows you." And I turned round, and if there wasn't my JOE as I

know'd in a instant, tho' grown stout. I see the tears in his eyes as he said, "Mother, I never thought to see you here." I says, "Thank God as I've lived to see you again, my boy." He says, "Come along," he says, and he leads me away, and I couldn't 'elp a few tears at meetin' that dear boy agin.



No. 2.

Her Impressions of New York.

DON'T think as ever I were more thankful in my life than when I found myself safe and sound in a comfortable room in a decent house; but I says to JOE, "My dear boy, wherever is your wife and children?" "Oh," he says, "Mother, many miles away from this."

I must say as I felt 'urt at it's not bein' JOE'S own 'ome, though not a comfortable place, and a old black woman a-cookin', as give us some tea; but law bless you, the rum things as they 'ad along with tea, for there was oysters and fried taters, and love-apples, and cowcubbers, and all manner, let alone lamb chops and beef-steaks as was cut wery odd. I 'adn't no much appetite, and the place seemed to turn me round and I was werry nigh upset the first thing when I got into the room, for he says, "Set down 'ere, mother," and I set down, and if the chair didn't give way back'ards with me, as proved to be it's nater thro' bein' a rockin' chair. I give sich a scream, for my 'eels flew up, and even JOE couldn't help laughin'. It was many days afore I could get used to their ways and wittles. They eats a lot of what they calls corn, as ain't a bit like any corn as ever I see, tho' I did used once to keep fowls, and rabbits too, as used to feed on it. I don't 'old with their tea, and as to the cold water they're a-drinkin' constant, if I was to give in to it I should soon be brought to a watery grave.

But no wonder they drinks, for of all the 'eat as

ever I did feel; it beat ovens 'oller; and as to the gnats they're as ferocious as tigers, a-dewourin' you, as is the reason they calls 'em muskeeters, no doubt, as was always desperate characters, we all know, as they tries to ketch with nets over the bed; as is downright foolishness, for I'm sure there was lots on 'em inside the net as were round my bed, and not one on 'em was ketched, and you never see sich a figger as I went down to breakfast, reg'lar bunged-up, and that irritatin' as made me scratch myself raw. The old nigger woman she told me as there was papers for smokin' 'em out of the beds, so I says to 'er, "I knows what will settle 'em, the same as I've 'eard say in England, as is a little gunpowder," as she said she could get me easy, and so she did, as I made up into a little lump with water and kep' it agin night. I did not feel up to much goin' about, so I went to bed early, and there was them muskeeters a-flyin' about, and a lot inside the net as was 'angin' over the bed. So I gets into bed, with my little bit of gunpowder in a saucer. I'd got a lucifer, as I struck a light with it and put it agin the powder, as were damped; but law bless you, I never did; it flared up like mad, knocked me back'ards in the bed, and set that there net in a blaze. I hollered fire, and rolled out of bed, a-draggin' that net along with me, and if BROWN and JOE 'adn't come up I must 'ave been brought to a fiery grave, as the sayin' is. What with the shock as it give me, and the 'eat as upset me, I was werry bad for three days, and little thought as ever I should 'ave come to be nursed by a blackamoor, as was that kind through givin' me a turn atween the lights, and standin' by my bedside and me a-wakin' up sudden after dosin' off through a bad night, and the sun a-settin' that sudden, no doubt through so much water bein' about, as put 'im out easy.

I don't think as ever I was so jolted up and down

as I were in one of them 'buses as runs up Broadway with no conductor behind for to let you in. As I 'ailed one myself a-oldin' my umbreller, but it's all werry fine for to stop 'em, but 'owever to get in I did not see, for the steps is that 'igh that I couldn't 'ardly reach 'em, and that narrer as there were not no 'old for the foot; and just as I got in at the door if the feller didn't drive on, and I must 'ave pitched back'ard out if I 'adn't pitched for'ard and come with my 'ead full butt agin the end of the 'bus as would 'ave stunned me if I'd come with my full force, as I were prewented doin', thro' the door a-shettin' with my foot in it as 'eld me back and broke the shock, but pretty nigh broke my ankle too.

The way them 'buses dawdles up that street is enough to drive you mad; not as they can get along any faster, for of all the crowdin' and pushin' as ever you see, all a-runnin' one agin another and nobody couldn't never cross but for the police, as is that per-lite a-'andin' you over, with their straw 'ats and nice white gloves.

Of all the ways for to pay your fare in them 'buses it's the most sing'ler, for you 'as to put the money thro' a little 'ole in the top of the 'bus, a-ringing of a bell, as I'm sure they wouldn't never find answer in London, where I've seed parties myself try and cheat the conductor afore 'is werry face, and what they'd do with 'is back turned, goodness knows. There was a party in that 'bus werry civil, as offered for to 'and up my money, but I says, "You must excuse me, but bein' a stranger, I must keep my weather heye up," as made 'im look rather foolish.

We was a-bumpin' along enough for to loosen every tooth in your 'ead, and a werry nice young gal got in as were that pretty, as certingly most of the 'Merrykens is, I will say, and there was a old feller in the 'bus as I didn't fancy, thro' a-seein' as he'd been

and 'ad 'is 'air dyed a deep black, as looks werry ghastly. I see 'im a-heyin' that young gal the same as he'd been a-lookin' at me afore she got in, as kep' 'im at 'is distance with one of my looks. Well, he was a-settin' oppersite to that young gal and me, and I see as she were uneasy, and 'im a-fidgettin' about 'is feet, and presently he put 'is foot with all 'is force on my tenderest corn, as is a thing I can't abear touched, so I up with my umbreller and I give him a hot one across 'is shins. He says, "What do you mean by that?" "Why," I says, "jest what I've done, and I'll do it agin, you ole waggerbone, as 'ave been annoyin' this young gal with your feet as I've been a-watchin' you!" He said as he 'adn't, but the young gal said as he 'ad, so I says, "If you dares to molest either 'er or me I'll call that perliceman as I sees about." Bless you, he was out of the 'bus in a crack, as give me a turn, for they are sich people for to get in and out while the 'bus is movin'; and the young gal told me as there was a good many waga-bones as was up to them games in 'buses, so I says, "Let me ketch 'em at it with me, and see if I don't settle 'em pretty quick." As led to a werry unpleasant mistake two days arter; bein' in a 'bus and a old feller oppersite a-movin' his feet about, and me a-thinkin' he was annoyin' the young gal as sat next 'im, I give him a wiolent prog on the toe with my umbreller, as proved to be 'is gouty foot, and the young woman 'is own daughter, and a nice row I got into!

JOE he'd a lot of business as would keep 'im for a week or more, so he says to me, "You'd better go and see some of the sights in New York." I says, "Law, JOE, I don't want to see no sights, as I'm sure them shops up Broadway is sight enough for any one," and would be a lovely street only it don't seem to 'ave no shady side like Cheapside; but a

bridge across, as is downright necessary, for it's that dangerous."

So JOE he says to me, "Mother, don't you bother with nobody." BROWN he says, "I should like to see your mother not poke 'er nose into other people's business."

I says, "MR. BROWN, I knows my way about, and as to pokin' my nose, never you mind so long as it ain't yourn." "Well," he says, "if you gets into a mess JOE must 'elp you out."

I says, "JOE is one as'll succour 'is father and mother, as is 'is duty;" but little did I think of the trouble as I were a-goin' to get into, and all for a trifle, for whatever is six cents, as they calls 'em, and ain't more than a penny as I 'ad to pay for a ride in one of them street cars as runs all over the place like a railway without no engine? I got into one for to go and see a aunt of JOE's wife, as were that friendly as she asked me to spend the day with 'er, and me a-startin' early.

That there nigger woman put me on the car, as wouldn't 'ardly stop for me to get in. I set down, tho' there wasn't 'ardly a seat thro' a lot gettin' in jest arter me, as collared the seats pretty quick. I know'd it was their ways to pay the conductor as walks up and down collectin' the money. I 'ad my money ready in my 'and, as were ten cents. Well, a man come along and stood in front of me as I took for the conductor. So I give 'm a dollar—leastways, a bit of s'iled paper as acts for one, thro' their 'avin' used all their gold and silver in the war, a-makin' bullets on it, I suppose, as I considers shameful waste myself, the same as a party I've 'eard tell about as made sandwiches of bank notes, as did ought to have been whipped, a 'ussy. Well, this man he didn't say nothink, but takes the money, walks out of the other end, as their cars is open both ends, as makes 'em

werry drafty, and must be awful in cold weather. I set there a-waitin' for my change, when up comes another chap, and asks werry rough for my money. I 'ad changed my seat once or twice in that car; thro' the draft, one time, and another time 'cos a party were a-spectoratin' that free as I didn't care about it. So I says to the feller, "I paid you—leastways, I give a dollar, and wants my change." "Oh," he says, "I reckon you think as I'm a young 'oss." I says, "You'd better reckon what change you've got to give me out of a dollar, and give it me pretty quick." He says, "I never see your dollar." "Well," I says, "I give it to the other." "What other?" says he. "Why," I says, "the other as come and stood afore me." He says, "He ain't got nothink to do with it; besides," he says, "where's he got to?" I says, "'Ow should I know, for you're all like a lot of wild beastes, a-'oppin' up and down off the thing afore it stops." He says, "You pay your fare or come out of the car." I says, "I won't." "You must," says he, "for here we stops and turns back." I says, "You're a gang of thieves." "Come out," says he, and pulls at me. I 'ollered "'Elp!" and up came a perliceman, as says, "Pay your fare." I says, "I've paid, and will 'ave my change." Says the conductor, "She's a reg'lar beat; she got on the car and has been a-dodgin' me all about."

Well, there was a crowd, and they come all around, so I thought as I'd give 'em the slip on the quiet, and was a-walkin' off, when that conductor fellow says, "Pay me, or you goes straight off to the station-'ouse," as give me a frightful turn, a-knowin' as I might be there for life, and nobody to get me out. So I was a-goin' to pay over agin, when who should I see but my JOE. I 'ollers "JOE!" as loud as I could scream, and over he comes, and glad I was, as he walked me off, tho' I was aggrawated with 'im for

not a-stoppin' to tell them as I were respectable, for their remarks was werry free about me, partik'lar the boys, as seem to me to 'ave as much cheek as if they was bred and born English, as we all knows is dreadful bad-mannered when not kep' in their proper place, as young people did ought to be.



No. 3.

About New York and Brooklyn.

I'M sure it's a mercy as I'm alive to tell the tale, for what with one thing and what with another, one would think as the 'Merrykins was bent on my distraction, for of all the people to worret and fidget as ever I see, the 'Merrykins beats 'em, as jest suits BROWN, but I can't abear bein' 'urried and drove to death, and as to Brooklyn, where we went to stop along with JOE's wife's aunt on the mother's side, why it's a lovely place no doubt, with trees a-growin' all about the streets quite nat'ral, but I can't say much for the pavement, as is that uneven as it throws you down at every turn, as the sayin' is; but 'owever they come to build it on the other side of the water, with no bridge for to carry you safe over, with what they calls a steam ferry as were werry nigh my death, and all thro' MRS. SKIDMORE and 'er daughter, as were JOE's wife's aunt's name, a-goin' over with me to New York.

Well, we took it werry gently to the top of the 'ill as the ferry is at the bottom on, and jest as we got to the ferry as the ground slopes werry much down to, MRS. SKIDMORE says, "'Urry up, for we're jest in time," and off she sets with JULIA a-draggin' me on. We gets thro' the gate, and on I were a-rushin' when the man says to me, "'Old on!" as in course I thought he meant me to keep on, and so I did, and

if that ferry-boat didn't glide away jest as I put my foot on it, and into the water I goes with a flop as you might 'ave 'eard for miles round. As for me, I was a-gugglin' and a-strugglin' a-kickin' about, and don't remember nothink but a thump on the 'ead, and then bein' dragged up wiolent with a 'ook in my back-gether. I was ever so long afore I was myself, and there I was with everythink on me drenched thro' and thro', with my umbreller gone, and my redicule floated right out to sea.

MRS. SKIDMORE she did put me out, for if she didn't say as she 'ollered to me to wait for the next boat, while I can take my 'Davy, as the sayin' is, as JULIA pulled me slap into the water thro' a-jumpin' on board the boat, as I were not up to the ways on.

They squeezed away at me for to dry me, but, bless you, I was in sich a pickle as I says, "I must go back!" but, bless you, there warn't ne'er a cab to be 'ad for love nor money. I says to MRS SKIDMORE, "Walk I can't, and as to goin' in them cars, as don't take you near the door, I won't." "Well," says she, "then we must get a carriage," and so she did arter a time, and 'ome I went in it; and if the feller didn't take and charge me pretty nigh ten shillin's.

I don't think as ever I know'd what rheumatics were afore that time, as kep' me in bed over a week, and JOE obligated to go 'ome without me, thro' his wife bein' took ill sudden, as is a sure sign as troubles never comes single, as the sayin' is.

I never can forget, tho' I 'opes as a Christian I forgives, the way as MRS. SKIDMORE went on with BROWN, a-sayin' as it were my own fault as I fell in the water, whereas it were 'er doin', as is a reg'lar push and drive woman as 'ave worreted three 'usbands into the grave, and is a mask of skin and bone 'erself. So I says to BROWN, "I'd rather stop in this bed for ever than go out with that old weasel agin," and so

I would; but law, it's foolishness to say as you w'en't do nothink, for as sure as you says so, you're obligated to break your word—leastways that's 'ow it always is with me; and so it proved about MRS. SKIDMORE, for I was jest a-gettin' over the cold as the water 'ad give me thro' never bein' used to it, as in course don't come nat'ral to human bein's, but all werry well for fish, as is a cold-blooded lot. I was a-gettin' on werry nicely, when MRS. SKIDMORE says to me, "It would do you a world of good to get out a bit." I says, "No doubt, but I ain't a-goin' to cross that there steam ferry no more." She says, "No, we'll go out to Coney Island, as is a lovely spot." So I says, "'Owever will you get there, if it's a hiland, and not cross the water?" "Oh," says she, "the cars takes you." "Well," I says, "I've only got one thing to say, as them cars must stop for me or I don't go;" for, bless you, them 'Merrykins will jump on and off while the train's in motion, and leave a widder and orphins afore the day is out and think nothink of it, tho' went out in full 'ealth to business in the mornin', as 'appened two streets off where we were a-shoppin', and her youngest only five days old, as didn't seem to mind nothink so long as he were buried decent, and the 'ouse like a fair all the time, as would 'ave drove me mad, tho' in course a true friend in affliction is what every one is glad to see; so, as I was a-sayin', either stop the car, or on it I don't put my foot.

So she promised me faithful as she'd stop the car, and off we sets, and gets to the corner where we was to meet that car as come along werry gradual and stops for us; leastways for MRS. SKIDMORE, as 'opped up like a bird for lightness, and I was a-follerin' 'er and 'ad got my foot on the step, when on goes the thing a-draggin' me with one foot on the ground and the other on the step. Parties as was standin' on the

step, as is their ways, 'auled and pulled at me for to get me up; but law bless you, all as I did was to pull a old feller, in a straw 'at, right off in the road, and there we was a-layin' and another car a-comin' in the oppersite direction as would 'ave been over our bodies but for a coloured party as they calls them niggers as pulled me up by main force, and nearly dislocated me from 'ead to foot, let alone bein' mauled about by 'is dirty 'ands as soiled me dreadfully, and if MRS. SKIDMORE 'adn't gone on ever so far afore she missed me out of the car through a-meetin' a friend in it, she said, as she got a-talkin' with. I don't think as ever I felt more shook and bruised than I were when that nigger set me down on somethin' as proved to be white wash. As for the old man as I'd pulled off the car, he was uncommon short, a-sayin' as he should miss a appointment all through me. MRS. SKIDMORE, she come back for me and wanted to 'urry me on, but I says, "It's all worry well for you, mum, as I've 'eard say come from a Buffalo, to go on like that, but don't suit me as am only flesh and blood." She says, "What do you mean by callin' me a Buffalo?" I says, "You told me yourself as you was one." She says, "I come from the place called Buffalo." I says, "Well, if you will call places such ridiculous names you must take the consequence."

Tho' when I come to think on it, p'raps Buffalo aint a word to call a lady, as is wild characters, an' I remembers 'earin' niggers sing about 'em in London a-comin' out by night for to dance by the light of the moon, as is not goin's on as I should 'old with myself.

I should not 'ave minded arf so much the way as I were flustered, with my things tore off my back with that car, but I was dreadful 'urt with MRS. SKIDMORE, as I 'eard a-talking to the lady as lives with 'er about me, and said as I were a reg'lar old cuss to go out

with, as 'adn't no proper use in my legs, and if that other party—for I'd scorn even to call her a fieldmale—didn't say as I looked like a reg'lar old buccaneer (I thought I should 'ave dropped, and says to BROWN, when he come in, as I'd rather go to the work'ouse than live in sich a place with sich awful langwidge used about me), as BROWN only made it worse by a-tellin' me as she meant as I were one as liked a drop, thro' my face bein' that red as is all owin' to the sea-water, as reg'lar pickled me thro' not a-wearin' a wail a-board ship, like a many as I see.

So, arter that, there were a coolness 'twixt me and MRS. SKIDMORE, and made me take to my bedroom, and would 'ave stopped there only but for a MRS. CHAUNCEY, as come to live in the 'ouse, a light-'arted party, as were uncommon good company. So I went out a good bit with 'er, and that's 'ow it were as I see a good deal about 'Merryker, not as ever I shall take to their ways, for my green barege is downright sp'ilt with their baccy juice, as they might as well keep to theirselves, as I said to a party as set next to me in the car, and kep' a-spittin'; so I says to 'im, "That's great waste." He says, "How?" as is "What did you say?" in 'Merrykin. So I says, "If you're so fond of that baccy, why spit it out?" He says, "Why you're enough to make anyone laff 'isself sick." "No," I says, "it's the baccy as is doin' that," and jest as I were a-talkin' a feller as were the wuss for drink begun a-disputin' with the conductor about 'is fare, as he said as he'd paid, which I know'd to be a falsity, for I'd been a-watchin' 'im ever since he got in, through 'is a-settin' oppersite, and a-keepin' a-droppin' off, being 'eavy in 'is eyes through drink.

So when he said as he'd paid, I says, "No, my good man, you 'ave not, though, no doubt, you cannot recollect through your state." He says sich low words as I would not repeat, was it ever so, and

the conductor ketched 'old on 'im to turn 'im out, and if the feller didn't ketch 'old of my arm. So I 'ollers, "Let go." A sanctified-lookin' feller as 'ad jest got in, says, "Go with 'im, it's your duty." I says, "You must be as drunk as he is." He give me a look, and says, "Is he not thine 'usband?" I says, "Go on, you idjot."

By that time they'd got the drunken feller out of the car, and pitched 'im into the road, and on goes the car, and me a-settin' a-lookin' sawage at that party as 'ad took the feller for my 'usband, when I 'eard a crash of glass a-breakin', and got a blow on the 'ead and a lump of mud in my face, and if it wasn't that drunken wretch as 'ad took up a lot of stones and dirt, and throwed it at the car and broke two or three winders, and give the serious man a crack on the nose as made it bleed. So I says to im, "Use your 'ankerchief for goodness sake, and don't be a beast." He said as he 'adn't got one, and if I 'adn't to lend 'im mine in self-defence, or I should 'ave 'ad my clothes all ruined with 'is gory ways, as wanted to give me back my 'ankerchief then and there. I says, "It ain't no great value, so keep it." I gets out of the car, and if he didn't foller. He says, "Where dost thou abide?" I says, "No, thank you; I don't want no 'quaintances made promiscuous, and you're welcome to it." He says, "Thou are a friend in tribulation," and if he didn't keep on a-follerin' me, till at last I stops and says, "Be so good as to take your way, for my 'usband don't 'old with no followers, so I wish you good day." He says, "I hope I may see thee next Sabbath." I says, "P'raps you may and p'raps you mayn't," and turns off, but I felt as that party were a-follerin' me, and I kep' a-dodgin' about for to get rid on 'im till at last I were that tired that I were forced to go 'ome, and as I got up the steps I caught sight of that chap a-peepin' round the

corner, as made me feel all-overish like, for I can't abear bein' watched, and when I did get in they was a-waitin' supper, and MRS. SKIDMORE begun a-sayin' as I'd been out a skylarkin', as is ways I don't 'old with.



No. 4.

About New York.

I NEVER did meet with sich insults in all my life as jest through a-goin' to a shop to ask a civil question, as you might as well give a civil answer to, as don't cost nothink, and so I told them fellers as was a-settin' there a-grinnin' like a couple o' bamboos a-suckin' of tooth-picks, as is a dirty 'abit and can't be no nourishment in. For I was a-walkin' along Broadway, as it 'ad nearly cost me my life for to cross, what with the pavement and what with the 'busses and carts, and jest as I was a-goin' along I see in a shop winder a roll of Coburg cloth, a deep claret colour, the same as I 'ad the winter afore last, as I bought near the Elephant and Castle, as were a rich colour, and looked werry 'an'some made up, and that 'ard to match through me 'avin' took the remnant, as were jest over five yards, through bein' double width, and didn't leave not 'ardly a bit over, though I must say as I always suspects MRS. POLLIN of 'avin' cabbaged, as the sayin' is, as it's nat'ral as she should, through bein' a tailor's daughter and brought up to the business, and can work a button-'ole better than any woman as ever I see, though no reason for to respect 'is memory, for when in liquor would use the sleeve-board pretty free over their bare backs, and was pretty nigh the death of 'is own mother through a-throwin' of the red-'ot goose across the room, as he meant for to 'aim at 'is

wife, and missed 'er by a inch, a-ketchin' of the old lady atween the blade-bones, as must 'ave been instant death if it 'ad but been a foot 'igher up. Well, as I were a-sayin', I was always anxious for to match that Coburg, through 'avin' sp'ilt the back breath with something sticky as I set on the day as I got 'ere a-waitin' for my things at the docks, as is always full of some filth or other, and in my opinion was treacle, as stuck to me like pitch, and nothink would not get it out, as set turpentine at defiance, and benzine weren't no more than water. Well, as I was a-sayin', goin' up Broadway what should I see but a bit of that werry same coloured Coburg as I was a-thinkin' I might go 'arf the world over and not match; so I goes into the shop, and there was them two as was what I calls whipper-snapper chaps, and the moment I gets inside the door one of them 'ollers out, "We don't want any!" I didn't take no notice, but only pints with my umbreller to that bit of stuff in the winder, and says, "I'll take a yard and a quarter, not as I wants more than three-quarters, through 'arf a breadth bein' all that is sp'ilt."

So one of the fellers says, "Can't you read?" I says, "In course I can."

"Then," says he, "don't you see as there ain't nothink retail sold 'ere?" "Well," I says, "what of that? I don't want nothink retail, but only what I've asked for, as is enough of that claret-coloured Coburg for a back breath."

"Oh, I see," says one of the fellers, "you wants to retail your gownd." I says, "If you was a gentleman, as you are not, but only a counter-skipper, you would not speak that rude a-illudin' to a lady's dress."

He only bust out a-larfin' and bein' reg'lar tired, I thought as I'd take a seat as was placed there, like music-stools; so I takes 'old on one to draw it

nearer to me, a-goin' to set down at the same time, when if the dratted top didn't come off in my 'and, and down I went with a 'eavy shock, enough to bring the 'ouse down. Well, them fellers bust out larfin' like hidjots, and never offered for to help me up, as were a-settin' on the floor that confused with my fall as I didn't know 'ardly where I was, and 'ad 'urt my elber. So I says, "If you was a couple of men instead of hapes as you are, you'd come and 'elp me up; for the man as wouldn't lift 'is 'and for a field-male in distress we all knows what he is."

I do believe as I should 'ave been settin' there now, only a lady came in with a wail down, as picked me up, and then showed me a letter, as proved as she were the widder of a hoficer as 'ad been slew'd in the war; but bless you, them fellers were that rude to 'er, a-tellin' 'er to clear out, so I walked out of the place with 'er. for I wouldn't 'ave laid out my money with such characters, and says to the lady as they was the fust 'Merrikins as 'ad been rude to me; and if she didn't tell me as they was Hinglish, as made me blush for my country, and would have gone back and give 'em a bit of my mind, only the lady says "Don't." Ah, poor thing! she had know'd sorrers, through 'avin' 'ad 'er 'usban' wounded in battle, as died on a avalanche as was carryin' 'im to the 'ospital, as they did ought to 'ave on the spot in a battle. I'm sure I don't know why ever any one is such a fool as to go for a soldier, as only gets killed for their pains; and I'm sure the way as this poor lady were 'art-broken and that overcome, as I thought she were a-goin' to faint, and 'ad to support 'er, for she didn't seem to 'ave no strength in her. I says, "Do you live far from 'ere?" "Oh," says she, "miles."

I says, "You'd better set down on a door-step." "Oh," she says, "just round the corner I got a friend as keeps there."

I says, "What does he keep?" But she didn't say nothink, but leans on my harm till I thought I must 'ave dropped with 'er, for she kep' on walkin'.

So I says, "Let's go in 'ere;" for I see a place where ladies' lunches was wrote up. She said "No," but walked straight in with me. So the waiter he come and asked what we'd take, for that poor creetur 'ad tottered to a seat and was a-leanin' 'er 'ead down.

So I says to 'er, "You'd better take a somethink;" and she says "Borbony," as the waiter brought, and she took it off and kep' on a-weepin' like.

I asked the waiter for a little drop of brandy for myself, as I 'adn't touched, and if that poor woman in 'er confusion didn't take up the glass and swaller it down. Well, arter that she set quiet like for ever so long, and then she says as she'd like some beer, and arter that she begun for to weep like out loud, till the waiter come up, as were some kind of foreigner, and said as they couldn't allow no such noise there. Law! she turned on 'im and called 'im all the Dutch waggerbones as she could lay 'er tongue to, and used such awful words that I was a-goin' to run out of the place; so the waiter he come and asked for the money for the beer.

I says, "I ain't 'ad the beer; let her pay." He says, "She can't; she's a beggar."

Up she jumps, and ketched 'old of 'is 'air, a-yellin' and screamin' like mad; so they calls in a perliceman, as turned 'er out, and would 'ave interfered with me, only I told 'im as she were unbeknown to me, and as I thought she were in distress; but he only winks and says to me, "Don't you believe all as is told you;" and took and pushed 'er away, as I was glad to get free from.

She'd been and walked me down into a werry low part where there was a great crowd, and seemed like the docks. Well, I was a-starin' about me a-thinkin'

which way I'd go, when a feller just close by me stoops down and picks up a pocket-book, and says to me, "You've dropped this." I says, "Oh, dear, no."

He says, "You must 'ave, for there ain't no one else near as looks like it." I says, "What's in it?"

"Well," he says, "it's money, I guess," and opens it, and there sure enough was lots of them paper dollars. So I says, "My good man, it ain't mine, and if you finds out them as 'ave lost it, you'll be rewarded 'ansome for your 'onesty."

"Ah," he says, "no doubt; but," he says, "I'm off by the steamer, as can't afford to lose my passage, though I should be glad of the reward, for I'm a poor hemigrant as 'ave a wife and large family, and am come over here to earn a livelihood, and 'ave left a mother at 'ome as is a old lady as I should be glad to send 'er a trifle." I says, "That's right to think of your mother; but," I says, "why didn't you bring the old lady?"

"Oh," he says, "'er 'ealth was that bad, and I never would 'ave left her but for distress." "Ah," I says, "it's drove a many to desperation; but," I says, "I can't keep this 'ere pocket book and all the money."

"Oh," he says, "do, and you can advertise it to get the reward." "Well," I says, "but where can I send it to you?"

"Oh" he says, "give me a dollar or two, and I shall be satisfied." "Well," I says, "you can take 'em out of the pocket book, and I'll explain to them as owns it."

He says, "Oh, no, I wouldn't touch a cent of it, as they might say as you'd been a-tamperin' with it, as would p'raps take away my character as am only a stranger myself jest from England." "Law," I says, "that is singular, so am I," and I quite took to that young man. "But," I says, "are you a-goin' away

for good?" "Well," he says, "I may be back in a week or two, and am always to be 'eard on at this 'ouse close by."

I says, "Why not leave the book there?" "Oh," he says, "I shall miss the boat; I can't stop a minnit; but," he says, "you'll make a lot of money, and I shall be satisfied with five dollars."

Well, I thought as any one as owned the pocket book would be glad to pay five dollars, so I takes the money out of my pocket, leastways I took out two or three of them notes, and afore I could count 'em that chap says, "that'll do," and grabs the lot, and was off in a instant, and there I was a-standin' with the pocket book in my 'and. I see a werry respectable lookin' party as were a minister I should say, so I goes up to 'im and says, "Excuse me, Sir, but what would you advise me to do with this 'ere pocket book full of money as a poor man"—I hadn't got no more out when that good for nothink willin says, "'ere perliceman," and pints to me as that perlice collared immediate.

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

Says the perlice, "I knows all about it; I've been watchin' vou and your 'complice, a-fixin' the business."

I says, "I ain't got no complice, as am from Brooklyn." "Jersey, you mean," says the perlice.

I says, "No I am not from Jersey, though a aunt of my dear mother's lived there, and could buy a bottle of brandy for a shillin' and no duty on tea."

"Ah," says the perlice, "a reglar bad lot." He says, "You step with me as the justice will soon settle with you."

I says, "What 'ave the justice got to do with it as only wants to advertise the lot, as no doubt the numbers is stopped?" "Yes," says the perlice. "we've stopped a good many, so come on."

I says, "I don't want to come; you can take the money, and when the rightful owners claims it you can give me my reward, as I've paid the poor man as found it."

Well, I see the perlice look at the minister, as said, "I think she's speakin' the truth." I says, "In course I am, why shouldn't I?"

So the perliceman says, "Now you'd better go 'ome and mind 'ow you talks to any one as you meets in the streets, or you'll get into trouble," and the minister says, "Get 'ome at once, for this is a wicked place."

So I says to the perlice, "I shall take your number, and make it my business for to enquire into what you does with that money;" so off I walks, and if that minister and the perlice didn't keep on the broad grin; but I didn't want none of their impidence, so the perlice put me in a car as was a-goin' my way home.

When I got 'ome I never said a word to nobody till BROWN come in, and then I told 'im what 'ad 'appened, and he only says, "Oh! rubbish, it's some of your cock-and-a-bull stories." I says, "I don't want none of your jeers and sneers, MR. BROWN, as am not a fool for to pay money out of my pocket without a-seein' as I'm likely to get money's worth, for that pocket book was full of notes."

I felt 'urt with BROWN, and didn't say no more and kept dark about it, and only got out of MRS. SKIDMORE where them justices was to be 'eard on, as she told were the city 'all, and then I says to myself, I'll go to-morrer if I'm alive, as I know'd the spot well through bein' a place as is that conspicuous with them cars all about it, and willer trees a-wavin', and all manner, and a crowd on the steps all a-waitin' for that justice as is not always to be got, for I had to wait ever so long afore I could get even to speak to

im, as wouldn't tell my business to no perlice as were a-standin' all about; but I know'd a trick worth two of that as would 'ave give the office pretty quick to that other perlice as would 'ave diwided the swag no doubt, as the sayin' is.

I waited ever so long, and as there wasn't no chance of gettin' 'old of that justice, as I wanted, till I was that tired as I said I'd go 'ome and ask MRS. CHAUNCEY for to come with me, through 'er knowin' of 'er way about as 'ave been a long time among 'em, and never did get into sich a car for crowdin' and obligated for to stand up all the way in the middle of that car, as jolted me frightful and pitched me on to parties' knees as wasn't pleasant in their ways, and my feet a-throbbin' like mad all the way, and only got a seat just as I got near 'ome, and told the man as drove as he did ought to be ashamed of hissself to take more than 'is number, as all he answered were "'Ow?"



No. 5.

The Ways of New York.

I SAYS to MRS. CHAUNCEY as I should feel obliged if she'd go along with me and see one of them justices; as said she would with pleasure, through a-wantin' to go and see MRS. LINKERN'S clothes, as were for sale. I says, "Whoever's she?" "Why," she says, "the widder of our PRESIDENT, as were cruelly murdered of a Good Friday at the theayter." "Oh," I says, "I never knowed as they was open, but," I says, "'owever is it as he didn't take care on 'is widder, the same as PRINCE HALBERT, 'as left 'is'n werry comfortable? but," I says, "poor soul, if she's drove to sell 'er clothes, it must be Queer Street with 'er, as were the case with poor MRS. PAIN, as were left total unprovided, and drove to a arms' 'ouse without even the donkey-cart as poor PAIN did used to go round with vegetables, and a 'onest man, as I will say, for that time as I give 'im a 'arf-crown a-thinkin' as it were a penny between the lights, a-buyin' of some taters for BROWN'S supper, as is partikler partial to 'em baked with a black pudding, as is pretty eatin' in cold weather, when you can trust them as sells 'em. So she says as this poor lady's clothes was for sale in Broadway, and off we went to see 'em, as I nat'rally expected would be 'er crownation robes the same as is shown in London at MADAM TUSSOR'S, as bought 'em 'erself of QUEEN VICTORIA, not as she were drove to it thro' want.

But as to MRS. LINKERN as is 'er name, 'er clothes was all werry well, but nothink much to look at, and I should say as she might 'ave got rid on 'em on the quiet, as won't fetch much except the lace, and no doubt if she's that bad off, the 'Merrykins as is a noble-'arted lot will make it all right for 'er, and so I told the party as were a-showin' 'em, as cut me rather short. So I says to MRS. CHAUNCEY as we'd better go, and so we did, and got downstairs and stood for a moment a-talkin' at the door, when up comes a perliceman and tells us not to stop the doorway. Well, I moves a little further and was a-restin' myself agin a iron rail, up comes the perliceman, and says, "You musn't set 'ere." I says, "I ain't a-settin'," no more I wasn't, but only a-leanin', as proved too much for them railin's, as were only a gate as opened with my weight, and if a man 'adn't been comin' up the steps with a basket of oyster-shells on 'is 'ead, I should 'ave gone down back'ards, as made that perliceman grin, and the coloured party as was a-carryin' them oyster-shells he said as it were lucky as I didn't bust 'im.

MRS. CHAUNCEY she were a-starin' in at a shop-winder a-talkin' to a friend as she'd met with, and she says, "MRS. BROWN, this 'ere is a gentleman as is a lawyer, and 'ave been a judge." "Oh," I says, "indeed! Then," I says, "per'aps he can tell me about that 'ere perliceman as 'ave got that pocket-book." "Yes," she says, "and he'll see you 'ave your rights thro' a-knowin' them perlice and their ways, as is downright tyrants." So she says, a-turnin' to 'er friend, "MR. BOGISSON, this is MRS. BROWN," as I made my obedience to 'im, but was that friendly, as he shook 'ands and said as he'd 'eard a deal about me, and quite looked on me as a old friend.

He certainly did not look much like a lawyer, let alone a judge, thro' bein' that shabby in 'is clothes,

which was reg'lar rags in places, with 'is boots as 'adn't seen blackin' for weeks, I should say, with a shirt as was filthy, and matched 'is face and 'ands, and kep' a-chewin', and smelt fearful of sperrits, and as pale as death. When he'd 'eard my story, as he didn't seem arf to listen to, he says, "Ah, the rascal! This must be looked into, and I'll make 'im pay; but," he says, "it will cost you money." "Oh," I says, "I don't want to go to law, as may cost me thousands, and end in the work'ouse the same as MRS. LAMBERT, as 'er father left thousands to, as never got 'er rights, tho' at law over thirty years, and was sent to jail for the costs."

So he says, "'Old up a minnit; you goes ahead too quick." So I says, "Excuse me, but 'ow much will it cost?" "Why," he says, "ten dollars to-day for me to search the records." "Why," I says, "they surely don't keep the perlice in the records, as will be easy found thro' me 'aving took 'is number." He says, "Let's 'ave it." "Law," I says, "what's to be done?" Says the lawyer, "Never mind; I'll ketch 'im shure. But," he says, "wait a moment; I must just step round 'ere and see a man; I won't be a minnit."

Nor more he wern't, but smelt wuss of liquor than ever. So, when he come back, he says, "'Ave you got the money about you?" I says, "I've got fifteen dollars." He says, "That'll do for to-day. Now," he says, "you meet me to-morrer, at twelve to the minnit, at the City 'All, as is a large buildin' with a flight of steps up to, as is white marble, leastways would be but for tobaccer juice, as stains everythink." So I says, "I'll be there to the minnit." He says, "Bring ten dollars, in case I should want to pay the fees, as is 'eavy in sich cases."

Well, he walks 'isself off all of a 'urry, without sayin' "Good mornin'" or anythink. So I says to

MRS. CHAUNCEY as he were werry short. "Oh," she says, "bless you, the judges is a-waitin' for 'im, as can't get on without 'im." "Ah," I says, "I suppose he's got to go 'ome and dress." She says, "Bless you, no; that's 'is way, as 'ave got oshuns of splendid clothes at 'ome, and won't never put 'em on, tho' 'is wife, as is my own sister, goes down on 'er knees to 'im." I says, "Indeed!" and was glad to 'ear as he were 'er sister's 'usband, for I didn't 'arf fancy 'im, but didn't say nothink, but 'ome I goes.

The next day I was off in good time, but what with them cars a-gettin' stuck with a cart across the tramway, thro' a 'orse a-jibin', as they calls it, and then me not a-rushin' on board the ferry-boat for to risk my life, I was left behind, and so never got to that City 'All till five minutes past twelve, and there wasn't a westment of that lawyer wisible. I was vexed, for I didn't know where to find him, and MRS. CHAUNCEY, she were not able to come with me, so I had my trouble for my pains, as the sayin' is, and 'ad to go 'ome, and in the hevenin' MRS. CHAUNCEY come in to my room, and said as 'er brother-in-law had waited 'ours for me and wasted 'is time, tho' he'd paid the fees out of 'is own pocket, and wanted me to go the next day and take five-and-twenty dollars, and indemnify that perliceman as he got 'is eye on. I wouldn't be too late the next day, but got there a 'our too soon, as were the same place to meet at. I waited over a 'our, when up come that MR. BOGISSON, and says, "'Ave you got the money, as there ain't a minit to lose? The Judge is a-waitin' for it." So I give 'im the five-and-twenty dollars, leastways thirty, thro' only 'avin' three ten-dollar bills. Off he went like a shot round the corner

MRS. CHAUNCEY, as 'ad come along with me, she says, "'Ow that one 'ead 'olds it all I can't make out, for he's got everythink on 'is shoulders, as might be

PRESIDENT, but it ain't worth 'is while." I says, "Not worth 'is while? What do you mean?" "Why," she says, "it's mean pay as the PRESIDENT gets, as is nearly all spent in drinks, thro' 'avin' such lots of parties as he's obligated for to stand treat to." I says, "No doubt, for I've 'eard say as the LORD MAYOR 'isself spends a fortin' in dinners thro' a lot of parties as reg'lar eats 'im up." I says, "I suppose he'll be back in a minit or two?" "Well," she says, "per'aps, but he is that busy as he don't sometimes take 'is clothes off for weeks. I says, "So I should think."

So we walks up and down for a bit, and then MRS. CHAUNCEY says, "Dear me, there's one o'clock, as promised I'd be with my mother by 'arf-past twelve." I says, "Is it far off?" She says, "Over in Jersey." "Nonsense," I says, "why, that's further than England," but she only meant jest over the water as they calls Jersey, as makes it werry confusin' to any one as isn't up to their ways.

So off she went, and I waited another 'arf-hour, and then 'ome I went with rather a misgivin' as all were not right. MRS. CHAUNCEY she never come 'ome all night, nor yet the next day, as 'ad said she might be kep' with 'er mother, as she told me were sick. When I told BROWN, as 'ad been away for near a week, he only said as I'd been done again, and went off to sleep. So I thought as I would not be made a fool on, and the next day I goes up to that 'all where I was told the Judges was. I asks a party as were a-standin' at the door of one of them rooms which were the Judge, as p'inted to a party as were a-talkin'. I says, "Go along with your rubbish, as if I didn't know a Judge when I sees 'im, as any one can tell in a minnit, for his wig and gownd." "Oh," says the man, "we ain't none of that trash 'ere." I says, "What are you a-callin' trash? as is what I

should call one Judge as I've seen with hardly a shoe to 'is foot."

So I walks into the room and began a-askin' for the Judge. A perliceman as was there told me to be quiet. I says, "Don't you interfere with me, as don't want you, as knows you well." So he says, "Clear out, and don't bother." I says, "I will see the Judge." Just as I were a-talkin' a werry nice gentleman as come up said, "What's the trouble?" So I says, "Sir, I wants to see a Judge as'll see me righted." "Well," says he, "I'm a Judge." I says, "Oh, indeed!" for I was took aback, for, tho' quite the gentleman, he wasn't no more like a Judge, with a short jacket on and a moustache, than me. But he spoke werry kind, and said as I'd been treated shameful, and if I could ketch that lawyer feller as weren't no lawyer at all. I says, "Escuse me, my lord, but he must be a lawyer, thro' bein' MRS. CHAUNCEY'S brother-in-law." "Well," he said, "he's a rascal, and if you bring 'im in my way I'll punish 'im."

Well, jest as I were a-goin' to speak, I says, "There he is," a-meanin' that perliceman as I'd give the pocket book to, as just come up, I says, "That's the man, my lord." "Oh," says the Judge, "that can't be, he's a officer." "Yes," I says, "and 'ave got the pocket-book." Well, the Judge calls 'im, and up he comes, and reg'lar brazened it out as the pocket book were full of false money; and as the Judge sided with 'im, I could say no more, so out I goes, a-wowin' wengeance agin that lawyer.

That werry night MRS. CHAUNCEY she come 'ome, and told me as that BOGISSON 'ad been and deserted 'er sister, and left 'em without a crust, and I thought as she'd 'ave broke 'er 'art a-cryin', a-sayin' as 'er poor sister were that bad with a infant only three days old, and not 'ardly a rag to cover 'er, as she says,

"I'm come to fetch some of my own things for 'er, and must go back at once, for 'er life's in danger; and," she says, "I shan't get my money till Tuesday, and 'ave give my last dollar to my poor dear mother, as I don't expect to see the mornin'." Well, I lent her ten dollars, and my warm shawl for 'er poor sister, as I felt for, thro' that feller 'avin' stripped of everythink, as 'ad been playin' a game, and reg' ar stuffin' up poor MRS. CHAUNCEY with them lies about 'is bein' PRESIDENT, as said as she'd 'ave trusted 'er life with that man; "but," she says, "what I cares for is the way as he's been and robbed you; but," she says, "you shall be paid, for there's my sister's property as will be sold and fetch ten thousand dollars the week after next." I says, "'Ow came he to leave 'er that?" "Oh," she says, "he ain't no power over all 'er property, tho' he's got a good deal—a scoundrel!—as I'll search the world thro' but I'll find 'im, if he's above ground."

I don't think as eyer I see any one more wexed than that poor woman, as took on so about me bein' robbed by that feller, and MRS. SKIDMORE quite short with 'er, a-sayin' as she wanted 'er board money as she promised 'er next week, and said as 'er boxes 'ad things in 'em tenfold the value of 'er board, as were only two weeks behind, as I could speak to, for F'd see silk dresses myself in that box as was worth pounds, besides a gold chain and ornyments as MRS. CHAUNCEY said she didn't wear 'cos they looked like givin' 'erself airs as didn't become no widder. Well, she went off with them things under my shawl, as she wore thro' not a-wantin' MRS. SKIDMORE to pry into 'er business, as is werry disagreeable, we all knows; and as to MRS. SKIDMORE, she were as sulky as a bear for days arter, as MRS. CHAUNCEY didn't come back, and I began to feel a little bit fidgety, but no doubt it's right.

It was a werry wet mornin', as is a thing as you on't often see 'ere, and MRS. SKIDMORE in a nice temper, a-sayin' as she'd break open that MRS. CHAUNCEY'S boxes, as she were sure were a "beat," as she called 'er, when in when in who should come but MRS. CHAUNCEY, as was all smiles. She didn't 'ardly notice MRS. SKIDMORE, but asked me to come to 'er room, "For," she says, "I've got good news for you." I says, "'Ave you caught that waggerbone?" "No," she says; "but," she says, "'LIZA'S property is waled over twelve thousand dollars, as she'll get next Monday sure, and only wants a few dollars to carry 'er on."

I says, "'Ow is she doin'?" "Oh," she says, "All right; but," she says, "I don't want to borrow no money of you, but if you'd let me 'ave twenty dollars on my gold chain, as is worth one 'undred, thro' bein' pure gold from Californy, where it grows nat'ral, and to be 'ad for the pickin' up." "Law," I says, "why ever, then, don't parties go there and fetch it away?" She says, "Bless you, they do, and that's 'ow my dear 'usband lost his life, thro' it bein' too much for 'im." "Ah," I says, "I've 'eard say as it is the 'eaviest thing out, tho' a sack of flour 'as been know'd to flatten a man like a pancake, as 'is foot slipped in a carryin' on 'is back, and 'ave seen it myself in the Bank of Hingland in a little barrel as nobody couldn't lift."

"Well," she says, "you ask anyone about Californy gold, and I'll look in again to-morrer mornin' the fust thing, as I am a-goin' to sleep 'ere."

Well, she went out werry soon, and as I did not want to say nothin' to MRS. SKIDMORE, I asked that nigger woman about Californy, as told me it were a place as she 'ad 'eard a deal about, and know'd one coloured lady as 'ad went out there, and come back with gold rings on every finger up to her second

j'int. While we was talkin', back come MRS. CHAUNCEY and said as she should be that obliged if I'd let 'er 'ave the money on the chain, as 'er dear mother was at the last grasp. So I did not like to be 'ard-'earted, but give 'er the money and took the chain, "But," she says, "don't let anyone see it, for," she says, "I should not like that spiteful cat, Mrs. SKIDMORE, to know as I'd borrered the money, as you shall 'ave back next Tuesday as ever is." Well, she give me the chain, and I let 'er 'ave the money. "But," I says, "this chain is werry light gold." "Ah," she says, "but it's that pure as they can't afford to put too much into it."

Well, she took the money, and was off all of a bustle. It was the next day but one arter that, as I was a-goin' down Bowery way, thro' 'avin' 'eard as there was cheap things to be 'ad down that way, and as I was a-turnin' a corner who should I see but that there BOGISSON? He didn't see me, for I drawed back in a door-way for to let 'im go on fust, but I follered 'im pretty quick, and was pretty nigh out of breath with walkin' so fast, when I see the feller dive down into a cellar where they sold liquor. "Ah! ah!" I says, "I've caught you now in a trap, my lord." So I goes to the top of the steps as led down to that cellar, as were a reg'lar wine vaults—and there's a many on 'em about. Well, I peeps down, and there I see the waggerbone a-drinkin' and talkin' to the man at the bar. So down I goes, and walks up to 'im, and ketched 'old of 'is arm. If you'd seen 'im stare, and 'eard 'im swear, thro' me a-makin' 'is drink as he were takin' go the wrong way, you would 'ave blessed yourself, as the sayin' is.

I says, "You wile character," I says, "not only to rob me, but your own wife, and leave 'er destitute with a infant unborn. You did ought to be ashamed of yourself." He says, "Why, you must be tight,

mother." I says, "I've got you tight, and mean to 'old you till I get a perliceman."

Well, the man at the bar stared, and before I could think 'ardly twice that feller shook me off that wiolent as sent me a staggerin' agin a lot of fellers as was settin' drinkin', and if they didn't all set on me, and bonnet me, and ketch 'old on me, and afore I know'd where I was I was up them steps and in the streets.

Well, I see a perliceman, and up to 'im I rushes, and tells 'im 'ow I'd been served down in that cellar, for my bonnet was smashed and my gownd tore, and if he didn't turn on me like a fiery dragon, and say, "What the doose were you a doin' down there?" I thought as I should 'ave dropped, and just then up the steps of that cellar come the man as I'd see behind the bar, and says, "Ler 'er go; I don't want to punish 'er this time, but if ever she comes agin I'll 'ave 'er locked up." I was in a rage, and I says, "'Ow dare you, as calls yourself a respectable man, treat a lady so?" He says, "Oh, there's lots of ladies like you as we 'as to get rid on;" and the perlice says, "You may go this time; but don't you never try it on agin like that, or you won't get off quite so easy, I tell you."

I could have bust out a-cryin', I was that vexed; and I says to the perliceman, "I do believe as you're in with the thieves, or you wouldn't side agin me as were a-tryin' to collar as big a waggerbone"—— He says, "Now, I don't want none of your sass; but, as you seems a old flat-lad, I won't be 'ard on you; but don't you go down into no more cellars, or you'll get it pretty rough."

I made the best of my way 'ome, and when I told MRS. SKIDMORE 'ow it were as I come to be sich a figger, she says, "It's a wonder as they didn't kill you; but," she says, "who is the man as you wanted

to ketch?" So I told 'er all the story, and she says to me, "Why I guess you've been reg'larly fooled, and that cussed woman—that MRS. CHAUNCEY—is at the bottom of it, as I've been and broke open 'er box, as there ain't nothink in but shavings and some lumps of stone, for to make it feel 'eavy; but," she says, "what made you say as 'er box was full of property?" I says, "'Cos I see it with my own eyes." "Well," she says, "she's carried everythink off." "No," I says, "she 'ave not, for I've got 'er gold chain, as is worth a deal more than I lent 'er." "Where is it?" says MRS. SKIDMORE. So I says, "I'm a-goin up-stairs to set myself to rights, and I'll fetch it down to you." She says, "Get it at once."

Well, I thought as she were werry greedy and graspin'-like, so I stopped to wash my 'ands and face, and then down I come, and I says, "'Ere it is." She says, "As I thought! reg'lar bogus." "Ah," I says, "she said it were from some place like that as I don't remember the name on." She bust out a-larfin', and says, "Why, I means it's no more gold than you are." I says, "You don't mean it! But why call it 'bogus'?" "Why," she says, "sham is bogus, as it ain't worth a cent."

I thought as I should 'ave dropped, and just as we was talkin', in come BROWN, as begun a-laughin' like mad, and calls me a old unlicensed pawnbroker, and all manner like that; but I felt so wexed, I says, "I'll never do a good-natered thing agin!" and I felt quite ill through wexation.

That afternoon JOE came back, and when I got him to myself I asked 'im all about the pocket-book, as he said were a old trick, and that the perlice were right in sayin' as the notes was all false.

I says, "JOE, then I tell you what it is; them false ones looked for all the world like real ones. Not as anyone is to blame, for I'm sure a bad florin as I

took I wouldn't believe were bad till your father took and melted it on the fire-shovel; but," I says, "'owever could that MRS. SKIDMORE take sich a party as MRS. CHAUNCEY?" "Why," says Joe, "she seems to 'ave took others in besides MRS. SKIDMORE." "Well," I says, "JOE, she cert'inly 'ad a way with 'er as would take in a conjuror. But," I says, "my dear boy, when are we a-goin' to our own 'ome?" "Why," he says, "my 'ome will be 'ere, for I've got to stop in New York, and am come on, and my wife will foller in a few days."

I was glad to 'ear that, and told him how much money I'd been robbed on, as were werry prowokin', thro' it bein' all my own as I'd saved up and brought with me, and got JOE to sell for me, and cert'inly I did get a deal of them dollars for my bank notes, as is bank notes all the world over, and the 'Merrykins is glad for to get 'old on 'em no doubt, as I should be myself.

JOE says to me as he 'adn't got much to do for a day or two, and would take and show me about tbe place, as is werry wonderful, to be sure. I see a picter on the wall of a wild man of the woods a-carryin' off a dark fieldmale, as is a sight as I told JOE I would not see was it ever so. He says, "There ain't much chance of your seein' it," and on we walks, and was a-lookin' at a lot of places, and see the sojers, as looks some like French and others like Germans as I've seen over there, but JOE said as they was Dutch, and I'm sure the things as I did see quite confused my 'ead, partik'ler /bein' took for to see the wild goriller, as 'ad wrote up agin his cage as he were a violent disposition, but law, poor thing, he was a-settin' in some straw as mild as milk, and I don't believe as he could snap any one's 'ead off with a twist of 'is tail, as they says he will when loose. So I says, "JOE, I've 'eard a deal about that goriller, as

your father did use to read about, but never knowed he was from 'Merryker.' JOE says, "No, he's a African." "Well," I says, "I don't 'old with them Africans, for I'm sure a glass or two of their wine pretty nigh killed me. Then," I says, "I wants to see that 'ere crocodile as there was a picter on outside the place as was stretched all across the street, and showed that crocodile a-carryin' off a black nigger in 'is mouth as a dog would a bone;" for that picter was 'angin' out from the top winders of the 'ouses. But law, bless you, when I see the crocodile he wasn't longer than my arm, and kep' in a drop of dirty water as they say is 'is nat'ral elephant, along with some other poor live things, as I pitied, partik'ler a young woman as 'ad overgrewed 'erself, tho' no more a giant than me, and a fat baby, as a little soap-and-water wouldn't 'ave 'urt; they was all a-goin' to act a play together.

I says, "I should like for to see that, as I well remember seein' a elephant perform on the stage just for all the world like a Christian." So JOE says, "It ain't the animals as is goin' to act, but 'uman bein's." So I says as I didn't care about it, for I see by a picter of it as it were all about murders, as is things I don't 'old with. So we went to see the wax-work, as is wonderful, though I can't say but what them 'Merrykin' generals looked werry much knocked about; and as to QUEEN WICTORIA, she is dreadful changed since I saw 'er alive a-openin' Parlyment; but then, sorrers will wear anyone out. But why ever that HEMPRESS of the French should be that shabby I can't think, as in course is nat'ral in them 'Merrykin' generals, as fightin' will spile any one's clothes, as I says to JOE, as he often come home with 'is clothes all tore and dirty, through fightin' with other boys. They said as there were thousands of curiosities in that museum, so I says, "Well, it ain't much like a

museum." But there was crowds there, and one party was a-sayin' as he was not at all amused. I says, "Excuse me, but you don't ccome to a museum for to be amused, but for to 'ave your mind improved." Well, if the feller didn't bust out a-larfin' in my face, and said, "Guess you're a reg'lar old green'orn," as was like 'is manners. So I says, "JOE, I'm that tired as I'd rather go 'ome," and so we did, and I don't think as ever I were more tired in my born days ; and when I told BROWN as I'd see a live goriller, he only says "Walker," as I considers a rude remark, so didn't tell 'im no more about it.



No. 6.

A Pleasant Evening.



DON'T think as ever I 'ad a wuss cold in my life than I took the week afore last, thro' the weather a-changin' that sudden as is summer one minnit and depth of winter the next, as not even a knitted spencer wouldn't keep out, with my warm shawl over it, as I'd bought a new one thro' that waggerbone of a MRS. CHAUNCEY 'avin' levanted with the one as I'd brought along with me; but I must say as the 'Merrykin one were a good quality, tho' a horful price.

Well, as I were a-sayin', my cold was that bad that I couldn't draw my breath 'ardly, and every bone in my body achin', as is all brought on thro' them 'Merrykin 'ouses bein' that 'eated, as stoves in every room will do, but bad for the 'ealth I should say.

I says to MRS. SKIDMORE as I'd take a-somethin' 'ot afore goin' to bed, as she said she'd make me, as should be a glass of 'ot punch, with plenty of lemon for to relieve the chest.

She was just a-brewin' on it when a ring come at the door, and afore you could say JACK ROBINSON the room were full of people. Up I jumps, a-thinkin' as it were the mob bust in, the same as appeared three or four year ago, as MRS. SKIDMORE were always a-tellin' me about, when they 'ung them innercent negroes like lambs to the lamp-post, and was shot down by 'undreds themselves, and serve 'em right, too, the waggerbones.

I was a-goin' to 'oller "Murder! 'elp!" when I see MR. and MRS. ROGERS, as is friends of MRS. SKIDMORE'S, a-laughin' like mad, with a lot more—some on 'em as I know'd by sight.

I says, "Whatever is the meanin' on it?" "Oh," they says, "it's a surprise!" I says, "So I should say;" but MRS. SKIDMORE, she says to me, "It's a way as they've got of comin' to spend the evenin'." "What," I says, "unawares? and me in my night-cap, with a pocket-'ankerchief round my 'ead and no 'air on!" So they says, "Oh, we takes you as you are." I says, "Let me go up stairs, then." They all 'ollers "No! no!" and if there wasn't some fourteen on 'em as 'ad made up a party to take MRS. SKIDMORE by surprise.

Well, she certingly bore it werry well; but, bless you, it wouldn't 'ave been no use if she 'adn't, for they'd come to stay, and stay they did, and we couldn't say nothink, 'cos they smelt the punch, and wouldn't believe about me bein' unwell, as they said looked the picter of 'ealth, as 'ad my face a-glowin' thro' 'eat.

Certingly them 'Merrykins is a light-'arted lot, for they'd brought lots of wittles with 'em, and drink too, with a fiddle and a banjo, and certingly pleasant company they was, for they got a-singin' and a-tellin' tales, and all werry lively, when all of a sudden in comes old SKIDMORE, as were that gone in drink as he 'adn't no senses left in 'is 'ead. MRS. SKIDMORE tried for to get 'im up to bed, but, law bless you, he defied 'er, a-sayin' as they'd got the day, as 'ad been 'lectin' a sherriff. But tho' in liquor, he were not so far gone as not to be quarrelsome, and if he didn't begin bein' that abusive to old ROGERS and 'is son-in-law in the name of MASON, as he called a set of 'publicans, a-sayin' as he were a jemmy-crat, as is oppersite sides; and of all the rows as ever you 'eard

it was the biggest, for in my opinion old ROGERS was a little bit on when he come in, and 'ad been a-suckin' away at MRS. SKIDMORE'S punch; and as for one or two more, they was that tipsy as walk straight they couldn't, and 'ad been a-imitatin' niggers a-dancin', as was 'ighly divertin', escept when they fetched me one or two clippers over the shins with their thick shoes;—one on 'em brought 'is 'eels slap on my tenderest corn. But, law bless you, when politics begun all fun was over, for they 'ollered and yelled like mad, and if old SKIDMORE didn't get to the winder and open it, and begin a-cheerin' a lot of rougs as was a-walkin' by in procession, as was the Finnyans by torchlight. Well, that upset MRS. MURPHY, as is all for the POPE, and if she didn't ketch 'old of SKIDMORE by the 'air, and try and force 'im away from the winder, as called for 'elp, and if them blackguards didn't take and pelt us with all manner, and would 'ave broke the 'ouse open but for the perlice as interfered.

We got the winders shet, but not afore they was smashed, and MRS. SKIDMORE, she got 'im down on the floor, as she 'ad to get on 'im to keep 'im quiet, but he was that strong as over he throwed 'er with a crash, and made a rush at me a-sayin' as I'd 'it 'im.

I were in course obligated for to take my own part, so I ketches 'old on 'im for to force 'im on to a chair, as I thought I'd done, and was a a-'oldin' 'im down, a-roarin' like ten thousand bulls. I couldn't see where I'd set 'im, thro' some on 'em 'avin' turned the gas out, till I smelt burnin', and 'ollers for a light as made 'em light the gas agin; and if I 'adn't been and forced old SKIDMORE on to the stove as stands out in the room red 'ot. He certingly were frightful scorched, but nothink wuss, as turned out well in the end, and made 'im that quiet as 'is wife led 'im up to bed like a lamb to the slaughter-'ouse, as the sayin' is.

I was werry glad as that surprise cleared out, as they calls it, and we was left alone; but MRS. SKIDMORE, she took on a-bustin' out weepin' a-sayin' as I'd been the death of SKIDMORE, as was all rubbish and only the punch as she'd made werry free with, tho' not a-pretendin' to, as is a water drinker. But whether it were the surprise I can't say, but my cold was quite gone in the mornin'; but old SKIDMORE was dreadful bad—not so much the burn, as bein' that bruised thro' them others a-pitchin' into 'im frightful over them politics, as is nasty things, and brings up bad blood; for there was blood shed at the corner of our street, where the 'lections was, and one party blowed the other's 'ead off, as is their ways when aggrawated at anythink.

As to them surprises, they are not things as would suit anyone in England as might be 'avin' the sweeps or the carpets took up, let alone a addition to the family, as wouldn't suit with a large party a-bustin' in on you unawares; but I must say I did enjoy myself, and as nice a cold chicken with a cold tongue as were delicious, and would 'ave been a treat all but for old SKIDMORE, as is a downright nuisance, what with 'is dratted politics and constant drink, as will bring any man to ruin, tho' there ain't no work'us in 'Merriker, yet will come 'ome to 'em in time; and as to old SKIDMORE, he walks lame, as is not owin' to the stove, but rheumatics, as he's eat up with.



No. 7.

Thanksgiving Day.

I WENT to spend Thanksgivin'-day along with JOE'S aunt, MRS. BAYCROFT—leastways his wife's aunt by the father's side, as must 'ave been born a Creole, I should say, if wool for 'air and a flat nose is signs, tho' the temper she showed on me just a-illudin' to sich a thing over tea one night, when she was a-eatin' of cake and treacle, and said as she were that partial to it, and could eat a lot of cakes with it for breakfast. So I says, quite inner-cent-like, "In course it's natural as you should be, thro' a-comin' from the same place, as I've always 'eard as it were made by the negroes in their own country as is the West Ingies, as my own godfather did used for to sail to and bring 'ome poll-parrots and preserved ginger by the dozen."

She up and says, "Do you mean to say as you takes me for a darkey?" "Well," I says, "darkey you certainly are." If she didn't take and shy a glass of water all over me as she were a-washin' her treacle down with, and would 'ave sent the tumbler too, only 'er arm were 'eld by some one as told 'er I didn't mean anythink; so we made it up, not as she's a woman as ever I should be partial to, but yet peace is peace all the world over, and when she asked me for to come Thanksgivin'-day, I says, "With pleasure; but," I says, "what are you a-thanksgivin' for?" "Why," she says, "everythink." I says, "And werry proper too, for I'm sure as every one 'as reason to be

thankful as they ain't mashed like pertaters every hinstant, for there ain't no safety nowheres, and as to the footpaths with carts a-backin' agin you, and coal-'oles left open, to say nothink of tumblin' over ash barrels as they leaves instead of dust 'oles all along the pathway, and rollin' of bales of goods down on you, and drivin' like mad round the corners, and boys a-playin' at cats up in your face, and takin' aim at you with pea-shooters and cleanin' of double-barrel pistols as can fire six times out of the top winder, and shot the young woman thro' the shoulder as were mendin' 'er stockin's quite 'armless, at the other side of the way. Why, it's a wonder as every one ain't dead cospes all over the place. I'm sure I'm thankful for one; I shant never feel safe myself till back agin on my native 'arth, as a fireside is a thing as they don't 'ave 'ere."

Well, as I were a-sayin,' I went over early for to see MRS. BAYCROFT, for she says as she should want 'elp; not as I could be any, for I never see a woman truss a turkey like 'er; and when I see 'er throw the 'ead to the cat, I says as giblets were pretty eatin', and if she didn't say as she didn't want no old-fashioned rubbish, as were all English prejudice. So I shet up, and wouldn't utter another syllabub thro' feelin' 'urt, as I'm sure cranberry sauce can't eat well with, tho' its nat'ral food.

So, as I wasn't no use, I says, "I'll put on my bonnet, and go and see what is a-goin' on at the end of the street," where they was 'ollerin' like mad.

So out I goes, and see a lot of parties on 'orseback, dressed up ridic'lous, as they calls Fantastikles, as goes out a shootin', a-callin' theirselves targets, as seems to me 'ighly dangerous for to let theirselves be fired at, and 'ad a cart full of dead pigs as a young man told me they was a-goin' to fire at. As I calls shameful waste to go and blow 'olesome pork into

hatoms, and so I told 'im, as said they was prizes, jest the same as lovely things in silver, as were to be give to them as was fired at the longest, as is a thing I wouldn't stand myself for all the pigs as ever was stuck.

It was a chilly day, so I didn't stop long, and goes back as dinner were early. I must say as I never eat a nicer turkey, nor yet a pumpkin pie, as weren't no more a pumpkin than my 'ead, but delicious custard.

I must say as them 'Merrykins eats a deal too fast for me; and 'ow they do it I can't think, as I'm sure there wasn't one at table as 'ad more than a tooth and 'arf in their 'eads. Arter dinner were over, they all wanted to go out somewheres to see them shooters, as don't care for to set quiet: so, as I were agreeable—tho' I'd 'ave give the world to stop at 'ome—off we sets for to get a car, as was all that crowded as they was a-'angin' on back and front like swarms of bees. 'Ow I 'eld on I can't think, with the car a-jumpin' up and down thro' bein' overloaded, as I felt like myself, as can't a-bear a-jumpin' up with my dinner in my throat, as the sayin' is.

When we got to the place where they was a-goin' to shoot, I says to MRS. BAYCROFT as I 'oped they wouldn't go a-firin' at ramrods, as the sayin' is, as is dreadful dangerous, and knowed a wolunteer myself as were pinn'd to the earth on 'Ampstead 'Eath, as were a mercy were only thro' 'is clothes, jest a-grazin' the flesh.

There wasn't no danger, for when we got there the shootin' were over, but not the fightin', as were only jest a-beginnin'; and of all the fights as ever I did see it beat 'em, for 'eads was cracked as free as hair, and I'm sure the crack as I got on my bonnet, as tore the front clean off, was quite enough for me.

I 'ollers, "'Elp! murder!" and a whole lot of

fellers come round me a-sayin', "Who's a-murderin' you?"

I says, "You'll be in a instant," and I 'ollers "Perlice!" as come up at that werry moment. I rushes at 'em for to save me, and if them wagger-bones didn't ketch 'old on me, and what with them and what with the perlice a-pullin', I thought as I must 'ave been torn to hatomies. 'Ow I got away I can't think, but I did, and took to my 'eels pretty quick, for there was a reg'lar row, every one a-pitchin' into every one else, and it 'ad got dark that sudden as I didn't see my way clear, and some'ow got turned the wrong way, and when I'd walked ever so far, I asked a boy, as told me wrong, and if I wasn't close agin the water's hedge, and might 'ave walked into the sea but for a man as told me the way to the cars as they calls 'em, as it's a mercy I'd got a dollar 'id away, or I never should 'ave got 'ome; and the jeers in that car through parties a-winkin' and sayin' as I'd been a-keepin' my Thanksgivin', as I 'ad with a wengeance, for I never was so frightened in my life, as did ought to make me thankful as I'm alive; and as to MRS. BAYCROFT, she don't ketch me a-thanks-givin' along with her, as is a downright mockery, with nothink to be thankful for, tho' certingly a lovely turkey, tho' not a fine bird to look at, as yaller as a guinea, and 'is legs all stretched out as they can't truss 'em a bit, tho' that proud as they won't be taught nothink, so let 'em 'ave their way is what I says, and spile their wittles arter their own way.



Mrs. Brown in Canada.

I WAS a little put out when JOE come and told me, arter all my waitin' for 'er, as 'is wife could not come on to 'Merryker for the present, and said as he must go back to 'er. So I says, "My dear boy, I'll go too;" but he says, "Mother, I must start to-day, as you cannot be ready by, I am sure."

I says, "That I cannot," for I'd sent things to the wash that werry mornin'; so I says, "I'll foller yer in a day or two, only leave me your address, as I've 'eard say Canady is a large place, and I might miss my way." "Oh," he says, "the train will take you direct to Montreal, as you'd better go by night, and sleep in the cars."

I says, "JOE, the idea of you, as 'ave always been a good son to me, a-wishin' of me to sleep in a car, when there's beds in plenty." "Oh," he says, "there's capital beds in the train, as you'll find werry comfortable."

He was all of a flurry, I could see, a-worritin' about his wife, so I says, "Never mind me, I'll find my way somehow or other," as were venturesome in me, partick'ler as BROWN were away, but I was that bent on goin' to that poor gal, so the werry next night I was ready for to go by train in the evenin' about six o'clock.

Of all the places to get about in it's that 'Merryker,

as there ain't a cab to be 'ad, but only them cars, and the time it took me for to get over from Brooklyn to that railway, a-waitin' for them cars, with a carpet-bag and a bundle, let alone my bonnet-box, and arter all got there too late, tho' p'raps as well, as I should 'ave 'ad to wait 'ours on the road in the dead of the night. As it was, I 'ad to wait four 'ours at the station, and didn't start till jest eleven o'clock, as a dark negro party was werry kind, and got me a sleepin' car as they calls 'em, as is a bed-place like aboard a ship, with shelves one atop of another.

I don't think as ever I 'ad sich a night in my life, for the train jolted that fearful as keep in the bed I could not, and kep' a-clutchin' all night a-expectin' to be shot out every hinstant, and never closed my eyes, and was that aggrawated, for if that nigger didn't come to me and say as I were a-keepin' all the car awake with my snores, as was from the party opper-site, as I see a-goin' to bed with a short neck, arter a 'ot supper as she told me she'd 'ad, a-undressin', as talked that loud as was told to keep quiet by them as wanted to go to sleep.

I was jest a-droppin' off myself when they told me as we was jest on Troy. "Well," I says, "what of that?" "Why," they says, "you must change cars;" and so I 'ad to, a-scramblin' like mad, and never a porter to carry nothin' for you, and obligated to cross the line, and no protection. If there is a thing as I 'ate it's 'Merrykin railways, as is jest like the parliamentary train, only better seats, and a stove that 'ot as it stifles you. I was cramped up frightful, and glad to get where we was to dine, and felt perished, and glad to get a bit of 'ot dinner, but felt as I required a little somethink, so asks the young woman as waited for a little 'ot, but she says, "It ain't allowed." "What!" I says; "a public-'ouse and not allowed to sell no wines nor liquors? I never did!"

She says, "It ain't allowed not in all this State." "Then," I says, "it's a shameful State, and one as I 'opes never more to be found in!" They give me a cup of tea as wasn't fit for pigs, and back I goes to the train in a nice temper, and never got nothink till ten o'clock at night, as were at Montreal as they calls it, as is French for frost and snow, I should say, for never did I see sich cold in my born days. I'd put on nearly everythink as I'd got for to keep myself warm, but the wind blowed thro' and thro' me. So I looks out for JOE as was to meet me, and couldn't see him nowheres, and I do think as I must 'ave died but for a werry kind party as were that warm-'arted, and 'ad come in the train with me, as offered for to take me 'ome with 'er, as I were that glad on, thro' feelin' downright desolate, and could 'ave cried, but law bless you, when we got to that lady's 'ouse, as took boarders, and I were able to get my 'and in my pocket for to get out JOE'S address, why if I wasn't not more than 'arf-way there, as lived out at Ottawee, as is another day's journey. I thought I should 'ave died, but that good lady made me werry comfortable for the night, a-tellin' me that there was a train at nine in the mornin', as would get me to JOE by tea-time.

I've 'eard tell of cold, and knowed it myself, that time as the Thames was froze over, as burnt down the Royal Exchange, but never see nothink like Canady, as is froze over altogether, with double winders to the rooms, and stoves as is enough to bile you, as pretty nigh stifled me, but would 'ave froze to death without it, and shouldn't 'ave 'ad the 'art to go on no further but that I was all of a fidget about JOE'S wife, so I gets to bed in good time for to be ready for a start in the mornin'.

I've 'eard tell of frost and snow, but never did see nothink like the next mornin'. when it was snowin'

with a high wind as was blindin' to the eyes, and froze the ears clean off a party as drove a sledge along without a-coverin' them up, as is like Roosher, where I've 'eard say your nose will be that 'ard froze as you never knows nothink about it till you goes to blow it, and then 'ave it come off in your 'ankercher, as must be a nice shock, let alone the disfigurement.

"But," I says, "go on I must," and should 'ave done so, only but for JOE a-turnin' up as 'ad been a-waitin', for me at the train, and 'ad sent me a letter as never come to 'and, for of all the postes as ever I did know not to get your letters by, it's the 'Merrykin.

JOE he wouldn't let me start that day thro' it being ever so far below Nero, as might strike to my constitution, and be my death, so I says, "I'll wait till to-morrer, and then go on, blow or snow."

It's werry sing'ler to see them parties goin' about in things with no wheels, as they calls slayin', and killin' work, too, I should say, both for man and 'orses, and 'owever them ladies can go a-slayin' and stand the cold is astonishin', but law bless you, they goes a-skatin' about like ducks in a pond, as looks bold, and wouldn't suit me, for I got one fall as brought me down with a flop, and might 'ave been settin' there now if it 'adn't been as parties come along to shovel up the snow, and put me on my legs and managed to get back to the 'ouse, tho' obligated to go up the front steps on all fours, as 'ad only stepped out for to buy a extra pair of snow boots, as is a great comfort to the feet, with the soles roughed like a 'orse's in a 'ard frost, as it's as much as any one can do to keep their legs, and so I found out afore I were done, as is a wild country, and only fit for wild Injuns, as in course don't feel cold thro' never bein' used to no clothes, so in course don't feel the difference, but struck like a chill to me thro' thick flannels, let alone fleecy 'oshery as I'd got on.

We're all born, but we're none on us buried, as the sayin' is, but I'm sure why ever I wasn't buried in that there Canady snow, as was over your 'ead afore you know'd where you was, and the idea of takin' me out in one of them slays as they calls 'em, as I was obligated to go the werry evenin' as we got to Ottawa, as out of the way is the meanin' of it, I should say, as is more like the end of the world, with nothink but snow for miles as far as the eye can reach, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure I was that cramped when we got out of the train, as 'ad that benumbed me, what with bein' wrapped up that warm, as they 'ad to 'uddle me into that there slay with wild beasts' skins a-coverin' you over, as is a barbarous action for to strip 'em of their natural coverin's when a blanket would be a blessin' to the poor as must feel it dreadful, and soup kitchens did ought to be open all over the place, as nothink but warm clothes and good wittles could keep the cold out.

Well, JOE he put me on that slay and wanted for to strap that skin over me, as were that tight as I couldn't draw my breath, so I says, "Undo it, that's a dear boy," so he did, and off we went with a jerk as pretty nigh broke my back.

I think as the 'oss were that chilly as he were glad to be off, and off he went. I says to the driver, "You'll 'ave me over," and 'adn't got the words out when up a bank we goes, and out I were shot like a load of stones, and rolled over and over into a deep ditch. Move I couldn't thro' bein' reg'lar tied up, arms and legs. I 'eard parties a-'ollerin', and was afeard to 'oller a-thinkin' as they might be them wild Injuns, as is all over the place, for I see it wrote up as we come along the rail, "Look out for the Injun!" so I kep' a lyin' there a-thinkin' as they'd come nat'ral with a lantern to look arter me,

for tho' JOE 'ad started me off, he was to foller immediate.

Well, I were a-layin' in that ditch all of a tremble, when I hears a somethin' a-snuffin', and give myself up for lost, a-thinkin' as it were wolves as I'd been 'earin' about, as 'ad eat up two little children in the newspapers, as is ferocious beasts, we all knows, thro' Little Red Ridin' 'Ood, as must 'ave been a werry simple little gal for to take a wolf for her grandma, as I'm sure no wolf never could look like, not with a dozen nightcaps on. So what with the Injuns and what with the wolves, I was pretty nigh dead with fear, till somehow or other I managed for to struggle on to my knees, and there I see a wild beast right afore me, and not even my umbreller for a protection. Well, that animal made at me, like. I give a scream, and up come a man as were English, and if he 'adn't werry nigh mistook me for a bear, as might 'ave proved my death, and the animal as I'd took for a wolf wasn't nothink but a pig, so when I told that party 'ow I come to be there he 'ollered like mad and down came that chap as were a-drivin' the sledge, as said he'd been a-lookin' everywhere for me, so they got me on to that there sledge thing agin, and I says, "Do drive gentle, that's a good soul," and so he did, as made me feel werry chilly by the time as we got to JOE'S as were 'ome afore me, and couldn't make out where I'd got to.

The moment as I see 'is wife I says to myself as I didn't like the looks on 'er, as looks like the driven snow, and three dear little children with the baby only three days old.

I werry soon felt myself at home, but law bless you, there ain't no comfort in them 'ouses, as is like 'ot 'ouses with double winders, as made me feel stiffly like, but I soon got used to it, as you may do anythink, and glad to get to bed arter a cup of tea.

I do believe as I were born to be worreted, for I 'adn't been two days with JOE when he come in and says, "I've got a letter from father, as can't come on 'ere, thro' not a-feelin' well."

I says, "JOE, tell me the truth. Your father 's ill!" He says, "Nothin' serious." I says, "What does he say?"

Well, JOE didn't seem to read that letter free like, so I says, "I'll go back." He says, "Not while this weather lasts." I says, "Weather or no, I goes."

JOE's wife is a nice young 'ooman, and she said as I were right. So I wos off agin by rail that werry night.

Of all the journeys as ever I 'ad, it beat 'em, for we was obligated to wait at a place five hours for a train, and not a bed to be 'ad, but only the waitin'-room, as you can't get a good night's rest in, with nothink but your carpet-bag for a piller, and them trains that is dreadful tiring, and quite knocks you up, as is the most jogly about, as ever I were in, as a gentleman told me might be off the track every instant.

I never did feel more dreadful tired a travellin' all that next day, and only stoppin' twenty minnits for dinner, as were reg'lar keg-meg, and it's a mercy I'd got a pocket flask with me as JOE give me the last thing, or I should never 'ave lived thro' it. So as night come on I thought as I'd get into one of them sleepin' cars and get a nap, and so I did, tho' dreadful shook. I'd jest got off sound when I was woke up by the conductor, as says, "You must get out."

"What for?" says I. He says, "There's been a accident," I says, "No one killed, I 'opes?" He says, "Only sixty on 'em, but that can't be 'elped; but," he says, "the bridge is broke down, and you must walk across."

"What!" I says; "cross a broken bridge?" He says, "No, only jest down one bank and up another,

and," he says, "look sharp, or the train as is waitin' for us will be off."

Up I jumps, and it was as much as I could do for to 'uddle myself together, and 'ad to carry all my things, and when we got to the bank of that river, I never did, for what with the snow, and its bein' that steep, there wasn't no gettin' down it, and I don't believe as ever I should, only through my foot a-slippin', and down I set and slid all the way down, and was ketched by a man with a lantern at the bottom, as 'elped me over the stream, as were froze, and I 'ad for to scramble up the other bank, and lost one of my overshoes and broke in my bonnet-box, and glad I was for to find myself in the train agin, as 'ad a good fire in the stove, though never a sleepin' car. And on we kep' a-joggin', slower and slower, so I says to a party, "If they keeps on a dawdlin' like this, we shan't never get to New York." He says, "We shall be there, I guess, by Sunday."

"What!" I says; "and this only Wednesday?" "Why," he says, "the snow has filled up the line, and we can't get on much further."

I says, "You don't say so!" He says, "I do; and all I 'opes is as we may be able to get to a station, and not be kep' 'ere for days as'll be starvation."

I says, "Why, it's as bad as a unin'abited island." "Well," he says, "last winter there were a train with sixty passengers as were snowed up in a 'oller, and if one on 'em 'adn't been a carcass butcher, as were travellin' with 'is Christmas beef, they must all 'ave been starved to death."

"Well," I says, "I don't believe as anyone 'ere can be a travellin' butcher's shop, and whatever will become on us," for I was all on a fidget about BROWN; and the train kep' a-goin' slower and slower, till it wasn't hardly a walk, and then come to a dead

stop, and there we was, stuck in a snowdrift, with only a bit of a farm'ouse, a mile and a 'arf to walk to it, where we could stop, and lucky to get it, for I'm sure if we'd 'ad to stop in that car, with all the wood burnt up and night comin' on, it must 'ave been our deaths.



No. 9.

On the Rail.



WELL, there we was stuck as fast in that snow like a skewer in a marrer bone, as the sayin' is. So they comes and tells us as there wasn't no 'opes of gettin' no further that night, and we could be took in at that farm-'ouse, as there was a cart for to take the ladies with the wheels both off; 'owever they 'oisted me into it I can't think, as were as 'elpless as a infant thro' a netted petticoat as fitted me that tight as go up-stairs I couldn't, with my limbs reg'lar benumbed, as were dragged into the 'ouse like a sack of sawdust. as no doubt was well meant by that young man, as was that kind-'arted thro' bein' Irish, but set me down that near the stove as might 'ave roasted me alive, only I felt myself a-scorchin' as would 'ave been all in flames if a musling gownd.

I managed for to get up to my room and get out of that there petticoat, and by the time as I'd pulled myself together a little bit supper was ready, as were a odd mixture with pork and beans baked in a oven, as was that rich, and pork chop as they eats with treacle and fried taters, with nothink to drink but tea and water, and for that matter the tea ain't nothink more than water bewitched and tea begrudged, as the sayin' is, and don't suit me. Nor more don't their mutton chops, as is stringy rubbish, and not a knife

as'll cut anythink 'arder than butter, with meat that tough as sets the 'uman tooth at defiance.

But it don't do for to be too partik'ler, so I made the best on it, and was glad to get up to bed; but, law! there wasn't no gettin' to sleep, for two or three parties as were along with me in the room kep' on a-jabberin', till at last I says, "For mussy sake, let's sleep while we can."

They says, "Whatever's the use; we shall be woke up, as there's no tellin' when they may get the train thro' the snow, as may melt any moment."

I says, "It certainly may, as I've knowed it myself in a sudden thaw, all gone in a single night, and the water pipes a-bustin' all over the place, but," I says, "not with a frost like this," as the winders was icebergs, as they calls 'em.

So they said as they should keep awake to watch; but, law! was soon a-snorin' like 'ogs.

Well, some 'ow that tea and cold water 'ad made me feel all shivery like, so I thought as I'd take the least drop out of my flask-bottle as I 'adn't hardly touched, and held very near a pint, and if I 'adn't been and left it in my redicule down in the room where we'd 'ad supper. I remembered as I'd 'ung it over the back of my chair, and knowed where to lay my 'and on it. So I slips on my shoes, and puts my shawl over my shoulders, as 'and't took my things off, and down I goes, with a lamp as they'd left us, and didn't 'ardly give no light thro' bein' nothink but glycerin', or some rubbish, as the least puff would blow out in a instant.

So down I goes on tiptoes, not a-wishin' to disturb nobody, and jest as I gets down into the passage I gives a sneeze as blowed out the lamp, and there I was a-fumblin' about for the 'andle of the door, as at last I got 'old on, and opens it a-thinkin' as then I could find my redicule by the fire-light; but, law!

them stoves is that shet up as they don't give no light, and I hadn't 'ardly got into the room when my foot ketched, and I pitched for'ard, and come squash on somethink as proved to be a 'uman body. I give'd a wiolent struggle for to get on my feet agin, when a party seizes me by the throat and yells out "'Elp!" "Murder!" "Thieves!" Law! there was sich a uproar, and in comes a man with a light, and if I hadn't been and come into the wrong room, where they'd made up beds on the floor for a lot of men.

Well, I was that bewildered as I didn't 'ardly know what I was about.

"Come up," says a man, a-pullin' of me wiolent, "you're a-settin' on my father's face." And so I was, and it's a mussy as I didn't smother the old man, for tho' no great weight, a mere trifle over the mouth an' nose will suffocate any one.

The row as that father and son kicked up as was 'Ebrew Jews of the Dutch persuasion as travelled in the jewellery line!

The young 'un kep' a-'owlin' with a lump over 'is eye the size of a pigeon's egg, and kep' a-sayin' as it was me as 'ad done it.

I says, "It's false, as could not 'ave 'it you that blow and not feel it myself;" but when I begun to think it may 'ave been the lamp as flewed out of my 'and, and he certainly was all over that there glycerin'.

So when I come to explain as I only wanted my redicule, they began for to make fun of me, and one on 'em says, "Don't mind the redicule at this time of night."

I says, "It's not the redicule as I minds, but what's in it; and 'ave it I must."

So they shows me the room where we 'ad supper, and there, sure enough, was the redicule a-hangin' jest where I'd left it.

So up-stairs I goes, and told them ladies what 'ad

'appened. As I were a-goin' to take a little something I nat'rally offers 'em a drop, not a-wishin' to seem 'oggish in my drinks.

They one and all says, "Oh dear no! we never touches no alkyol."

I says, "Oh, indeed!" not a-knowin' exactly what they meant by a callin' on it them foreign names, as is only their hairs I should say.

I didn't say nothink, but took a little drop, and then I lays down for a bit of a nap.

I 'adn't not been asleep not any time when I 'eard a groan werry loud as woke me up. I says, "What's amiss?"

The party in the next bed to me says, "O! the agony."

I says, "Where?"

"Oh!" she says, "it's what I'm dreadful subjec' to, as bends me double."

"Oh!" I says, "the spavins, as I 'ad a haunt as were a martyr to, and nothink wouldn't straighten but 'ot ginger tea, and bags of red-'ot salt." "Oh!" she says again, "I'm sure I'm a-dyin'."

I says, "I 'ope not; but," I says, "I don't know what to give you, as a drop of brandy is the most nat'ralest thing, you won't 'ear the name on."

"Oh!" she says, "as medicine it makes all the difference."

"Well, then," I says, "take a drop," and 'ands 'er the bottle to 'old while I got up to get a light and the tumbler, but when I'd struck a light she was a-takin' a pull out of the bottle and a-groanin', and then took such another swig at it that I says, "Excuse me, but if you ain't used to it you'd better take a little and often." Well, she didn't offer not to give up the bottle so I takes it out of 'er 'and, and she gives a terrible groan a-puttin' 'er 'and on 'er chest, so I pours a good drop out in the tumbler, and if she

didn't take and whip it out of my 'and and tops it off 'afore you could say Jack Robi'son.

Well, just then, the lady in the other bed she wakes up, and says, "Oh, what a awful smell of alkyole; enough for to poison any one in their sleep."

I says, "Mum, it ain't no poisonin' alkyol, but the best French brandy, as is a fine thing for any one as is took sudden as this good lady were." If that good for nothink creatur' didn't declare as she 'adn't 'ad a drop.

I says, "Whatever are you a-sayin', as is enough for to bring a judgment on you?"

She says, "You only give me water, and 'ave drunk the brandy yourself." A-speakin' that thick with a glazy eye, as showed as she were in liquor, as well as she might be, for she'd been and pretty nigh emptied that flask-bottle, for I'm sure it wasn't more than a tablespoonful as were left, as I poured into the tumbler and drunk off, and blowed out the light for to get a little sleep; but that woman's snores was that loud as sleep I couldn't, and when a-droppin' off were roused up by a knockin' at the door to say as it were daylight, and we should be goin' on in 'art a'-our, which, tho' glad to 'ear, I didn't much relish at turnin' out, tho' just daylight at past seven o'clock, and that awful cold as clothes didn't seem no use to you. The work we 'ad to wake that party as 'ad made free with my brandy, as said, "Oh! my 'ead," and 'er wile temper a-sayin' as 'er 'ead were ready to split, and no wonder, when you think of the brandy as she'd been and took, as is a fine medicine, but did not ought to be tampered with wholesale, neat like that; and 'er to dare to say that it was the smell of what I was takin' 'ad give it 'er.

When we come to start, certainly, they did not charge us much considerin', but that 'Ebrew Jew

there wasn't no satisfyin', tho' I'm sure he did not ought to 'ave begrudged payin' for I never see a party eat a 'artier supper than 'im, off that pork and treacle, as them Merrykens calls molasses, but is pork, for all that, as is a singler lot and don't know the English for a good many things, and that obstinate as won't be told when you tries to set 'em right, as is always the way with them as knows no better.

When we got in the train the cold of them carriages, as is that large to 'old fifty passengers was awful, and them stoves not lighted, as is obligated for to be, tho' 'ighly dangerous, and was the death of them poor creeturs as rolled over the bank all in flames, but the 'Merrykins is a light-'arted lot and didn't seem to think no more on it than nothink.

I'm sure the way as we went on a-bumpin' and a-lumpin' was enough to knock the breath out of your body, and that party as 'ad took the brandy so free, she couldn't set up for 'er 'ead bein' that bad, as 'ad a carpet bag along with 'er as she clung to werry tight. Well, what with the cold, and not gettin' nothink proper for to eat nor to drink all day, I was that dreadful knocked up as I could not 'ardly set up myself, and 'ad to change them cars, as they calls 'em, constant, as ain't no more cars than I am, with the step up to them that 'igh as get up I could not, but for three gentlemen as werry nigh pulled me in 'arf a-draggin' at me.

Well, that party as 'ad took my brandy as I wouldn't notice no more, when a-findin' 'er out in such a awful falsehood, she was a-bein' pulled up arter me, for the rail-road don't stop at no platform like a Christian country, and if they didn't take and let 'er carpet-bag drop, as were bein' 'anded to 'er; she come and sat down near me, and I see a reg'lar pool a runnin' from that carpet-bag with a tremenjous smell of sperrits, but didn't take no notice, when all on a sudden she

gives a start and says, "Oh, my bottle;" and if she 'adn't 'ad a bottle of whiskey all the while of 'er own in that bag as 'ad got broke with the fall, not as I blamed 'er for gettin' a drop of brandy out of me, for of all the beastly stuff as ever I did taste it's that whiskey, as Burbun is the 'Merrykin for, and no wonder, as burns their insides out and turns 'em as yaller as a guinea in no time.

I didn't say a word nor take no notice for I was more dead than alive, and as night were a-comin' on agin I asks if I could 'ave one of them sleepin' cars, as they said I could arter supper, and a nice supper it were as we got about seven, a bit of steak as 'ard as a 'alter as the sayin' is, and a few 'taters and tea as cat-lap is the name for it, with cake and treacle, and bread and cheese as they eats with happle-pie and not a drop of nothink to comfort anyone.

So I gets into the sleepin' car too tired for to ask no questions, and was that glad to lay down as I paid the young man two dollars for, and asked no questions and we was soon a-jogglin' on wiolent when a man with a lamp come along and says, "Your ticket."

So I give it 'im, and he says, "you're in the wrong train and must pay over agin."

I says, "Ow is that?"

"Why," he says "this is a goin' to Boston."

Well I says then I'll go to Boston, and pays the money and drops off in an instant, for dogs ain't nothink to the tired as I were, and slep' thro' all that racket till next mornin' as found me in Boston, as they calls it, though a place as is in England, for BROWN 'ave been there as is werry ridiculous in the Merrykins a-namin' all the places the same, as must cause confusion to the postman, as can't know where to deliver the letters. Jest the same as MRS. SMITH as went and christened all 'er eight the same names

as their aunts and uncles, and says, "Oh they're family names as all the cousins is called the same" so when a letter come a sayin' as PETER SMITH were dead in London, none on 'em knowed which he were.

I don't know where I should 'ave got to at Boston but for a old gentleman in the train as spoke to me werry friendly, and stopped the feller from cheatin' me out of some Canady money, as is worth a deal more than 'Merrykin, and if that old gentleman didn't take me to a werry nice, quiet 'ouse, where a lady took me in for to oblige 'im, and it's lucky as I got there, for the snow fell more deeper than ever, and it's a mercy as I wasn't at that farm-'ouse, as we should 'ave all been starved at.

It's werry sing'lar 'ow them 'Merrykins live, and don't seem to care to 'have a 'ome of their own, but likes them boardin'-'ouses, as comes a deal cheaper than 'ousekeepin', and certingly that lady in the name of DALY did 'er duty by them, as kep' a good table, and no nonsense about 'er, but give me a drop of brandy in my tea, as brought the life back into me.

I was dreadful put out for to think as I was ever so far off BROWN, and 'im p'raps a-dyin' ; but the trains wasn't runnin', and so in course I could not be, and for two days I were kep' in Boston, as MRS. DALY told me was jest like England, when you could see it, as in course you could not with the snow five feet deep, and everyone a-goin' about in them slays.

So there I 'ad to stop and couldn't see nothink, as I should like to 'ave seen the battle of Bunkum-'ill, as was fought close by, as MRS. DALY'S grandfather 'ad been left for dead with a bagginet right thro' 'im as she 'ad a-'angin' over 'is picter, as 'ad lost a eye thro' a red-'ot poker as a mischeevous boy 'ad poked right thro' it, and never the same man again, tho' spared over eighty, and well remembered GENERAL WASHINGTON, as were called the father of 'is country,

and married a widder lady with two children, as there were a picter on a-'angin' in the room as I slep' in, as he had give 'er grandfather 'isself, and should 'ave been worried to death about BROWN, only a young gentleman as were a-belongin' to the Telegraph boarded with MRS. DALY, as put me up to the Telegraph, and got an answer back within the 'our a-sayin' as he were all right, as I says must be foolishness, for he was that bad as nearly frightened me to death three days ago; but in course the Telegraph didn't know nothink about that, and glad I was to 'ear as the line were clear for the train next mornin', and off I was at 'arf-past eight, as is a werry nice train, but a long journey, as only stopped once for a snack, and got to New York by five o'clock, with the snow up to your middle, and took me werry near as long for to get 'ome to Brooklyn, as is at MRS. SKIDMORE'S as it 'ad to come all the journey, and if there wasn't BROWN a-settin' a-smokin' 'is pipe as cool as a cucumber, as the sayin' is.

"Well," I says, "this is pretty goin's on a-bringin' me from the world's end, as meant to stop for the christenin' to soothe your dyin' moments, and then to find you a-smokin' as if nothink 'ad 'appened." "Well," he says, "no more nothink ain't 'appened."

I says, "Didn't you write JOE word as you was werry bad, and gettin' worse." "No," he says, "never. All I wrote was 'don't let your mother 'urry 'ome for its gettin' bad and will soon be worse.'"

"Well, then," I says, "you didn't write nothink of the sort for I've got your letter in my pocket, least-ways, in my bag, and I'll show it you by-and-by." And so I did when I was more myself, and if he 'adn't been and left out "don't" with a blot over "its" as both JOE and me read for "I am." I never see BROWN more took aback or put out and tho' he didn't say much, I see as he were pleased to see me

a-comin' thro' fire and water like to nuss 'im, as I'm thankful as he didn't stand in no need on; but I do think as sich another journey would be the hend of me, and tho' BROWN says as he's a-makin' money 'ere, I must say as it ain't a place as I takes to at all; where you may go about and find yourself cut off from a drop of drink, jest thro' a-goin' a few miles, as is 'ighly dangerous for them as is subjec' to sudden cramps as might cut you off in a instant, and is no better than murder to deny anyone a drop of brandy, as 'ave saved many a life, tho' no doubt there is parties as 'ave drunk theirselves into the grave, but that ain't no reason why others should be denied in moderation what is needful for the 'ealth, as I'm sure MRS. WEBSTER, as were JANE CAULDWELL, wouldn't be alive and the mother of seven now if I 'adn't dropped brandy down 'er throat with a quill, and 'er jaw set and her eyes fixed in typhus fever when only seventeen, and 'er own mother a-sayin' to me, "Don't torment her, but let 'er die in peace," as my words was, "While there's life there's 'ope," as proved true, for she was asked in Church that werry time two years, and a good match too when you comes to consider as the tripe-and-trotter is a ready money business, partik'ler with 'ot sheeps' 'eads throwed in of a Saturday night as isn't things I ever took to, though I knowed a family as were of the Scotch persuasion as did used to make broth with 'em, and burn the wool off as made it taste for all the world like tops of pens as our JOE did used to burn in the candle, and call it roast beef, as I pretty soon put a stop to, thro' not a-bearin' the smell.

So I was a-sayin' a-not-allowin' a drop of brandy to be sold will bring on murder some day, as is sure to be found out, though p'raps too late, as were the case with that willin as murdered the MARS'ES, and never brought home to 'im till he'd been and 'ung

'isself in prison, as showed 'is guilt, as must be a awful thing to 'ave on your mind, and so I told MRS. SKIDMORE'S own brother, as is one of them teetotallers, as I told him "If you likes water, stick to it," as I'm sure if he'd drunk less on it, and used a little more to 'is face and 'ands, wouldn't 'ave done 'im no 'arm, as pretty nigh drove me mad with 'is rubbish, a-goin' on a-sayin' as all drinks was the works of the devil, as we did ought to set our faces agin.

"Well," I says, "that's what I do, I sets my face agin it or I couldn't drink it," and if he didn't say as I were a reprobate, and leave the 'ouse in a 'uff. But it come 'ome to 'im, for he was found a-settin' on a door-step quite insensible, as the policeman said smelt dreadful of liquor, as declared he 'adn't touched a drop of nothink, so they thought he was p'isoned and was a-goin' to use the stomich-pump as soon brought him to his senses, and allowed as he 'ad took jest a drop by order of the doctor, but never come near me no more, as is what I calls a 'umbug which is a character as I looks down on, tho' not one for to be 'ard on anyone as is overtook in a fault, as is werry often owin' to the state of the stomich, for I'm sure I've knowed myself when the least thing in the world would upset me, as am not one to give in to drink, but can take my share, as much as is good for me, and no one didn't ought to take more, tho' in course we are all flesh and blood, and is liable to faults, and didn't ought to be 'ard one on another, for them as 'olds their 'eads the 'ighest is sure to get the 'ardest knocks. But glad I was to be back agin with BROWN, as its lonesome work a-goin' about alone, partickler for anyone as is a fieldmale and middle-aged.

Christmas and New Year.

IT'S all werry fine to talk about a Merry Christmas, but law bless you the 'Merrykins don't seem for to understand it, except the Irish as 'ave been bred and born to it, for I'm sure MRS. SKIDMORE 'adn't no more idea of a plum puddin' than a child unborn, as the sayin' is, as I told 'er if not stirred proper would be raw as beef in the middle as said it were only my English prejudice, so in course I let 'er 'ave 'er way as proved a lump of dough in the middle of that puddin' accordin' to my words, and then to turn on me and say it was only English trash, and fit for 'ogs as put my temper up, and I says "not bein' a 'og cannot say, but I'm sure 'ogs would turn up their noses at some of your 'Mer-rykin dishes as is filth," and for to see old MEAD as boards along with MRS. SKIDMORE eat 'is breakfast it's enough to turn your stomach as will eat tripe by the plateful with fried 'taters and buttered toast and fried pork and beefsteak and top up with platefuls upon platefuls of fried cakes as he eats a-swimmin' in treacle as they laps up like gravy with their knives, and 'is lazy beast of a wife as is as fat as butter a-layin' in bed an' eatin' twice as much as 'er 'usband with everything a-swimmin' in grease as must be bad for any one as is bilious.

Certingly a fine bit of roastin' beef, tho' not cut

proper, they give us on Christmas Day, and the mince meat werry good, but nothin' but cold water goes agin' me for drink, and them 'Merrykins a-jumpin' up with the dinner in their throats, and not a-settin' round the fire comfortable for a bit of chat, as is a restless lot, and well they mayn't drink nothin' with their meals, for they goes a-drinkin' without end at them bars, and will come home that gone in liquor by six in the evenin', as set up in their chairs they cannot, and bed is the best place for 'em, tho' not sich a wretch as that MR. MILES as has the opposite room to us, and comes 'ome a-reelin' the old year out and the new year in, as the sayin' is and turned 'is poor wife out of 'er bed on to the landin' with the door locked a-shiverin' to death and 'im a-swearin' as he'd 'ave 'er life, thro' delirious trimmings, tho' not a bad 'usband when sober, but whatever is diamond ear-rings when in your grave, as she will be; and then to be a-receivin', as they calls it, New Year's Day, as is downright rubbish all dressed out like ball-rooms, a-swimmin' in 'ot whiskey punch, with a low dress and short sleeves, with the butcher and the milkman a-comin' in quite on the same footin', and a-turnin' the place into a public 'ouse with their beastly muddy boots all over the carpets, as I says to MRS. SKIDMORE, as were that grand, with a wreath of roses round 'er 'ead, by nine in the mornin', as 'ad 'urried thro' breakfast, and 'ad a table set out in the back parlour, with cold 'am and pies and a turkey and chickens and cakes of all sort, with jellies and sweets, and lots of wine and whiskey with lemons for punch, and almonds and raisins. I never see sich a spread in my life, except MISS WITTLES' wedding, and MRS. SKIDMORE she says to me over right, "You'll be dressed to-morrer in good time, MRS. BROWN, for to 'elp me receive?"

"Well," I says, "that depends on what you're

a-goin' to receive, as I hopes may be what you're truly thankful for."

"Oh," she says, "all my gentlemen friends will come and see me, and SKIDMORE he'll go round for to pay calls."

So I says, "Oh, indeed."

She says, "Won't your good gentleman go round along with SKIDMORE?" as I said I would mention to BROWN as reg'lar snapped my nose off in a instant, a-asking me if I took 'im for a darned fool, as is 'Merrykin for bad langwidge, as he've picked up werry quick.

So I says to 'im, "MR. BROWN," I says, "if all as you've learnt from being with foreigners is their low-lived ways, I don't want to talk to you," and did not say another syllabus to 'im on the subjec'.

Of all the days as ever come from the 'evins it were that New Year's Day, as was a mask of slush over your ankles, and rain and sleet a-drivin' in your face.

BROWN he went off quite 'uffy for to see a friend, he said, as were busy over some steam-engine. So after breakfast was over I took and dressed myself elegant as is a blue barege, with a 'andsome lace collar, and my cap trimmed with scarlet, as looks warm for the time of year. But law bless you, I was knocked silly when I see MRS. SKIDMORE'S two cousins as 'ad come to 'elp 'er with her company as was dressed to death, as the sayin' is, with hamber silks and bugles round the bottom, and long trains, and one on 'em in sky-blue, with a squint, and 'er arm in a sling thro' pitchin' down the sloop, as is what they calls the steps, and well she might, with everthing froze as slippy as glass, and no keepin' your feet, and not the presence of mind for to throw down no ashes.

Well, they was all that dressed, as I didn't feel

nowheres, and there was MRS. FLINTHORN, as is of the Dutch persuasion, as boards along with MRS. SKIDMORE, too, along with 'er 'usband, as in my opinion is a 'Ebrer Jew, and 'is third wife, as I've 'eard a many things about, as the last didn't come by 'er end thro' fair play, and married this one within three months, as is only nineteen, and no doubt glad too for to make a match, as got 'er livin' a-gummin' up pocket-books, and gives herself them airs, with a long curl down 'er back, and a pink dress gored to the figger with wandykes all round the bottom, and a bad foot with fancy boots, a light blue, as don't go well with a bunyan.

Whatever that old beast of a fellow FLINTHORN meant by a-stoppin' at 'ome all day, as wasn't 'is place, but kep' a-eatin' and swillin' away all the time, and not the money to pay 'is board, as 'ave lost three sitivations thro' bein' turned out for fingerin' the till, as I'm sure 'ad thoughts of robbin' me, as found 'im myself in my room as he said he'd mistook the door, and always shall believe as he'd some 'and in my new silk umbreller as were took out of the stand in the passage.

Well, we was all ready before ten, and I must say everythink looked that elegant as we might all 'ave been goin' to be married.

I can't say as I thought much of the parties as come to call as I says to MRS. SKIDMORE, "If I was you I'd 'ave something laid down over the carpets as them beastly dirty shoes will ruin."

I spoke to 'er on the quiet, while a party as had come in were a-swillin' away with that 'ere FLINTHORN in the back room, as took and turned on me a-sayin' in 'is broken gibberish, as I weren't no lady insultin' 'Merryin citizens.

So I says, "You little dirty Dutch 'umbug, you shet up your talk."

Well he was a little bit on and was a-bein' that insultin' when MRS. SKIDMORE she says, "Now if you can't keep your head shet, MR. FLINTHORN, you'd jest better clear out as ain't wanted at 'ome."

Up comes MRS. FLINTHORN a-sayin' if he went she'd go too.

"Well," says MRS. SKIDMORE, "if you was both to go, I shouldn't miss much, but p'raps you'll settle for your last week's board afore you goes."

That little Dutch feller he capered about the room for rage, and jest then in come MRS. SKIDMORE'S two brothers, as is in the public line, but calls themselves a liquor store, and I should say 'ad 'ad their whack, as the saying is. They asks what were the matter. I didn't say nothink, but MRS. SKIDMORE, she said as she didn't want no Dutchmen a-stoppin' at 'ome New Year's Day; and if them two brothers of 'ern didn't take and turn 'im out then and there.

He screamed and clawed like a cat, but they 'ad 'im out, but he went and sneaked in agin at the basement door, but never showed 'is face no more, but went to his bedroom along with his wife, and jest in time, for I'm sure he was werry far gone in liquor, and she'd took too much.

We had a snack of dinner like off that there table, and the people as come in was dewouring locusts for appetites as reg'lar stuffed up everythink, and kep' a-drinkin' till two of them Jimmy Johns of whiskey, as they calls 'em, was emptied in no time.

I don't think as ever I was more tired of wishin' 'Appy New Years, with takin' a drop of somethink, and my 'ead was getting quite confused, when in come a party in the name of MACARTHY, as begun a-talkin' politics, as is a thing as I can't abear, partickler in them as 'ave been takin' a drop.

Well, if he didn't set down oppersite me and keep on a-larfin', and said I was a reg'lar old Britisher. I

says, "In course I am, as is my nature too." He says, "Ain't you glad to be out of that busted up, rotten old place?" I says, "What are you illudin' to?" a-thinking, naturally, as he were a-speakin' of my 'ome, as though not a new 'ouse, ain't by no means rotten. "Why," he says, "that 'ere old England!"

"Oh!" I says, "I'm a-goin' back as it's quite good enough for me." "Well," he says, "I should say it were, as looks like a prejudiced old blather-'ead."

"Now," I says, "you've been a-drinkin' so I don't take no notice of your words, but you're gross insultin,'" and I was a-goin' out of the room, but he jumps up and says, "Don't go," and ketched 'old on me.

"Now," I says, "paws off, and let me go out of the room." "No," he says, "stop and take a friendly glass."

I says, "I don't want no more, and I'm sure you don't." If the fellow, as 'ad got a glass in 'is 'and, didn't try for to force it to my lips. I give 'im a wiolet shove, and away he went slap on to the table where the wittles was, and knocked it over with a crash as were that tremendous as it brought the neighbours in a-thinkin' as the 'ouse 'ad fell. I was that dreadful terrified as I took to my 'eels, a-meanin' to go upstairs, but in my confusion opened the back door as goes into the garden with a high flight of steps as I slipped down like lightning. I screamed murder and they all come a-rushin' out and come down the whole lot on 'em, and it's a mercy as I were not smashed flat, as no doubt I should 'ave been but for the snow as were that deep as made a soft bed for me but werry nigh give me my death, thro' bein' that penetratin' as obligated to go to bed I were, but heard say as people kep' a-comin' to call till near two

in the mornin', and I'm sure it's lucky as new year only comes once a year or ruin must be the consequences, for them 'Merrykins would eat one another up. Thank goodness, JOE and 'is family is a-comin' at last, or else I do believe as I must go 'ome if I 'ad to walk there.



No. 11.

The Boys.

TALK of devils in garnet, as the sayin' is, it's only another word for boys, as is a nuisance all over the world as is their natures to, but 'Merrykin boys is enough for to make you wish as they'd never come into the world.

I'm sure the life as the boys 'as led me since I've been 'ere nobody wouldn't credit but them as see it, for as to tellin' about 'em it ain't no use, for even BROWN, he only laughs at me, a-sayin' as boys will be boys. I says, "Let 'em be with all my 'eart," and a nice trouble, too, even in infancy as will seldom cut their eye-teeth without convulsions, and 'ave knowed 'em myself at death's door in being weaned, as shows temper from the cradle, for I've seen my JOE would pull a cup of tea scaldin' 'ot all over you in a instant the day as he were short-coated, and only six months, and there was poor MRS. 'ARPER as took a pride in 'er fust, and would make 'im wear caps with a noble cockade, as he'd tear to ribbins in no time, and dribble himself through and through with a silver coral as 'is god-pa give 'im, and got a topper with it over 'is bald 'ead thro' not a-knowin' 'ow to 'old a child, and lost 'is temper and throwed 'im on to the sofy that wiolet as might 'ave broke 'is neck, and no loss neither, for he turned out a bad lot, and run off to Australier, and is livin', I'm told, in style, as 'll be sure to come 'ome to 'im in the long run, no doubt.

As I was a-sayin', of all the limbs of Sattin its 'Merrykin boys as 'll haim at you with a loaded pistol and then turn round aud say as it were only the bow on the crown of my bonnet as they wanted to see if they could cut off sharp over the pailin's and me a-standin' on the steps a-waitin' for MRS. SKIDMORE, and made sure as I was dead, with the bullet stuck fast in the back-door, as I'd shet behind me through only a-puttin my nose out for to see if it was that cold as might require another shawl at night a-comin' 'ome.

It give me that dreadful shock as go out I could not, and when MRS. SKIDMORE went round 'erself to complain to their mother as is a Quaker she called me a old flat to wear sich a thing on my 'ead, as is a lovely bonnet, and did used to be all the rage when I fust married, as I've 'ad it turned and altered thro' 'aving been one as bent down in front like what Queen Caroline wore the day as she went down to be crowned at Westminster with the church door shet in 'er face, as she took it so to 'eart, and nevr 'eld up 'er 'ead again, tho' they do say a-takin' of laud'num on the top of magnesia were 'er 'ead, and 'er name struck out of the prayer-book as was werry wrong, for if a bad woman she wanted their prayers all the more, not as the 'Merrykins knowed anythink about 'er no more than if she 'adn't never lived, and in course thro' not 'avin' no Kings and Queens is that ignorant, but I'm sure any one as is King over them did ought to 'ave a loaded cannon constant ready every instant, for if he didn't blow them to atomies they would 'im pretty quick, as was obligated to be shot down by 'undreds, as MRS. SKIDMORE'S OWN aunt see 'em herself last July four years from 'er bedroom winder, as wanted to burn all the little black babies as is orphins in their beds.

But as I were a-sayin' the boys is that awful in their behaviours as it ain't no wonder they grows up what

they are, as goes to Sunday Schools werry reg'lar but never learns their duties, but only a-larkin' about, and the gals dressed up like as if they was a-goin' to dance on the tight-rope.

Since the frost have set in I think as it 'ave froze up all them boys' manners, as goes on like downright lunatics, a-slidin' all over the pavement, and wuss than that 'ave got little sledges as they drives all along without never a-carin' a bit where they're a-goin' to, or who's in front on 'em, as 'appened to me the day afore yesterday, when freezin' was a fool to what the cold was, and me got to go across the ferry to New York, as is full of ice, the boats a-bumping and a-crunchin' thro' it that wiolent as you can't 'ardly keep your legs.

Well, the ferry as I had to cross for to get over to New York is down a steep hill, as were that froze as you might slip from the top to the bottom and never feel your feet.

I ain't one as is much give to sliding, for when a gal I shall never forget the crack as I come on the back of my 'ead a-slidin' along the gutter in front of our 'ouse, as wasn't nothink to the banging as my dear mother give me with the hearth-broom for playin' in the streets, as were a thing she never allowed, and quite right too, for I'm sure them 'Merrykin boys and gals is downright ruined by that werry thing.

Well, I was a-goin' down that 'ill to the ferry, a-takin' on it werry gently, and 'ard work for to keep my feet, tho' I had on a pair of overshoes, as was part injy rubber and part felt, with the bottoms roughed the same as 'orses, and a-usin' my umbreller for a walking-stick, as the brass ferrol on stuck in the snow and held me up.

When I was at the top of that 'ill I see a lot of boys with their sledges a-waitin' about, I didn't take much notice on 'em for them sledges is foolish bits

of things, tho' dangerous, for them boys will lay down 'em, and then slip along 'ead fust.

I 'adn't got werry far down that 'ill, as were down-right glass for to walk on, when I 'eard a shoutin' behind me, I didn't dare to turn round for fear of slippin' but 'urried on, when there come such a shoutin' as made me turn round a little, and if I didn't see dozens of them boys a-layin' on their stomicks on them sledges a comin' slap at me full pelt.

I tried for to get out of the way, but law bless you the middle of the road was the only spot as I could keep my footin' on, so I tried for to run a little bit but 'adn't no time for to do nothink, for all them boys and their sledges was up with me in no time and seemed all to come behind me at once.

I was a-goin' to turn round and face 'em, but was swep' clean off my legs, and fell back'ards among all them boys, and away we all slid together ever so far and then upset.

Parties give a rush at me and dragged me up and sets me on my legs, and one says, "You're a nice old blather 'ead to go and set on boys like that as might have smashed 'em, with your weight."

I says, "Where's my umbreller?"

They says, "You've been and dropped it."

I says, "It was knocked out of my 'and by them boys and I'll 'ave it;" but law bless you there ain't no law nor order to be 'ad, for when I told the perlice, as come up, he only says, "You must go about with your eye-teeth skinned here or you'll lose your 'ead."

I was that shook with the fall, as if it 'ad been a Christshun country I'd 'ave gone 'ome in a cab, but there ain't sich a thing to be 'ad, and when I come to look for it if my redicule wasn't gone, so I couldn't get across the ferry thro' not 'avin' the money, as

'adn't no more about me, except what I carries about, sewed up where is best knowed to myself.

I'm sure the work as I 'ad to get back 'ome, as only was managed by 'oldin' on to the railin's nearly all the way, for, bless you, the 'Merrykins won't sweep away their snow from before their doors, as freezes over and over agin, and all I wishes is as them as don't sweep it up was the ones to fall, as never 'appens to them as it would serve right, but only to innocent parties as is took unawares.

But what aggrawated me with them boys was when I was a-walkin' up that 'ill, if they didn't take and foller me, a-'ootin' at me, and usin' such 'orrid low-lived expressions about me, and 'ad to crawl 'ome werry much shook, as was at fust afeared as my back was broke, the same as 'appened to poor MR. WALSH, as lived in Pitfield-street, 'Oxton, as did used once to keep a coal and 'tater shed in 'Oxton Old Town, and went to see 'is married daughter Boxin'-day, and stepped on a slide and fell that wiolent agin a man as 'ad a basket of crockery on 'is 'ead as sent 'im a-flyin' into a baker's winder, as were plate glass, as 'ad made a fortune with "down again to even money," as I never could make out 'o sevenpence can be called even money, and 'ad to pay for the crckery, as wasn't no great walue tho' a heavy load on the 'ead, and sp'ilt 'is pleasurin' with a lump on 'is back-bone spine as big as your fist, and never the man to walk as he did before, and never sit up straight thro' want of strength; but MRS. SKIDMORE, she put me on a plaister as seemed to draw out the pain, tho' bruised frightful, as was no doubt thro' me a-comin' in that wiolent collusion with them boys agin' the kerb-stone, as ketched me that sharp agin my 'ip, tho' I didn't feel it at fust as you often don't when that benumbed tho' a frightful bruise, but was more of a eyesore than any real 'arm done, but all I've got to say is that

'Merrykin boys is that awdacious as will set their fathers at defiance open, and pay no more attention to a mother than if the wind was to blow, as is what I can't stand ; but law, JOE's wife, she seems to like to see her eldest that cheeky, as she bust out a-larfin' at him when he says, " Ain't grandmother a big lump of a Britisher," as I didn't consider manners, but never said a word a-knowin' as she wouldn't like it, tho' I should 'ave corrected one of 'Liza's boys, but then it makes all the difference bein' my own daughter, as in course never can be a son's wife, but fully expects as that boy will turn out a limb, like the rest, some day when least expected.



No. 12.

On Domestic Life.



I MUST say as the 'Merrykins is werry nice people, but certingly they do 'ave a many singlier ways with them, and of all things as I don't hold with it's the way as they've got of livin' in boardin' 'ouses and never 'avin' a 'ome of their own, as I'm sure there's MISSIS DELANY as is own niece to MRS. SKIDMORE, and married to a young man as is only in the furniture line, but law as many hairs as though she were born a countess, and dressed out with a pale sea-green dress, and black welwet cape trimmed with bugles, and a bonnet the size of the palm of your 'and, and a train a-draggin' behind 'er a-pickin' up every bit of dirt, and a-goin' out to pay wisits, and a-leavin' two poor little children as the eldest wasn't eighteen months 'ardly, to a bit of a gal as were as wild as a pony, with no more 'ead than a pin.

Well, she come in all hairs a-sayin' as she'd 'ad enough of 'ouse-keepin', and would like for to come and board with MRS. SKIDMORE, as is a bad plan thro' bein' related. I says to myself as it would never end well, no more it never did, and I'm sure that 'ouse is quite full enough a'ready, and glad I was as I were a-goin' to leave it, thro' JOE 'avin' got werry nice rooms, tho' 'is wife is a rank sloven, and four children with no more management than a pin's 'ead. Not as ever I interfered, for she was a real kind

daughter to me, but wouldn't 'ave lived with 'er permanent, was it ever so.

Well, as I were a-sayin' that MRS. DELANY wasn't never 'appy out of the streets, but got on werry well with ræe, not as I could a-bear to see the way as them children was neglected, and livin' within three doors of JOE. As to poor DELANY he 'adn't much of a time of it as 'ad to get 'is breakfast and be at business afore eight, and never 'ome ag'in till jest on nine, as is long 'ours, and never a comfortable meal.

JOE's wife she that's delicate as can't bear up ag'in nothink and ain't long for this world, not but what I hopes she is, for as to me a-stoppin' 'ere to bring up them four I wouldn't do it, for I'm sure I never could stand bein' sauced by young people as parents is here, and'll set a-grinnin' the same as Mrs. BLAKE, as I considers no better than a fool to let that boy as is only just turned fourteen order 'er about and call 'er them names if the tea wasn't ready as never can be honourin' your father and your mother as I told 'im, but she only says, "Keep your head shut old blather-'ead" as made my blood bile ag'in.

Well, MRS. DELANY she come in and said as she was a-goin' to the Fire Plug Ball as they calls it and says, "Oh, MRS. BROWN do come."

I says, "Law bless you, my dancin' days 'ave been over this many a long year."

"Oh," she says; "I've promised DELANY as won't dance, I'm only a-goin' to look on as 'ave got two seats in a box."

I says, "I ain't a-goin' to set on a box all night for to see no balls."

"Oh," she says, "the ball is a-goin' to be at the theater, and the boxes is to be full of parties a-lookin' on." She says, "Oh, do come."

I didn't like to be ill-natured, but I would not go till I see them two poor children in bed, so I went in

for to fetch 'er, and a bitter cold night it was, and took the key of the door, tho' JOE said he'd be sure to be up as we wasn't to be later than twelve.

Well, what with one thing and another it was nearly nine afore we started, and got on to a car as took us down to the ferry as we crossed on a steamboat, and then got a 'bus as were to take us close by, and a nice long ride it were. And when we got to the theater as the ball were at MRS. DELANY took off her cloak and 'ood, as she wore.

I never did, why she wasn't common decent, and 'er face all over powder as she'd brought with a puff in 'er pocket.

I didn't say nothink, but follows 'er, as led the way to the box, and when we got there we was seated werry comfortable, for there wasn't 'ardly nobody there, and all down below a wooden floor for dancin' on, and all the place lighted up, as made me look downright dowdy, thro' 'avin' nothin' on but my brown satinette as was a green, and 'ave dyed like new, and my cap as was only trimmed with a bit of white ribbon, and a little yaller shawl over my shoulders, and white thread gloves.

Well, we set ever so long, and parties kep' a-comin' in, and at last they all began a-walkin' about downstairs as was dressed 'andsome, though, I should say, 'eavy for dancin'.

The music soon begun for to play, and they all set to a dancin' like anything, and some did their steps elegant, but some was werry rough and 'oppin' about like parched peas on a shovel, as the sayin' is.

At last MRS. DELANY says, "Oh, how I should like a dance."

I says, "I dare say"—and didn't say no more. Well, I see she was a-noddin' and a-grinnin' a good deal, and at last a young feller comes up to where we was as she said was 'er own cousin, in the name of SAM.

Presently he says, "Oh, KATE, we must have one dance."

She says, "You won't tell, will you, MRS. BROWN?"

I says, "It ain't no business of mine," but had my thoughts about 'er promisin' 'er 'usband not to dance.

Well, off she goes, and I soon see 'er a dancin' about like mad, and seemed for to quite forget all about me, and arter settin' a long while, I began for to get fidgety, as I knowed it must be gettin' late.

I beckoned to 'er once or twice as didn't pay no attention, so at last I goes down and makes my way among them dancers, and nicely pushed about I were, to say nothin' of the abuse.

Well, when I gets down among them dancers I couldn't see nothin' on 'er, and wandered all over the place a-lookin' for 'er, at last I see "Supper room" wrote up.

So down I goes, and there I found my lady a-drinkin' champagne, and a-goin' on a-gigglin' and larfin' like mad.

"Oh!" she says, "SAM went to look for you to bring you down to supper."

I says, "I don't want no supper, but wants to get 'ome."

She says, "I must have one dance after supper."

I says, "You may dance till daylight, but 'ome I go."

"Oh!" she says, "you mustn't leave me."

I says, "I will so." I says, "Give me the ticket to get my things."

She bust out a larfin', and says, "I've got you."

I says, "I'll 'ave my things," and begun to be downright angry.

So she says, "I promise you it shall be only one dance, so do go back to the box."

I says, "No! I'll stop here just for one dance,"

and so I did, tho' it were dreadful draughty in that passage enough for to turn a mill.

That dance were a precious long one, and I was a-losing my patience when up comes my lady, all in a 'eat, and says, "We must 'urry 'ome." So we gets our cloaks and bonnets and off we went.

I didn't much fancy the way as that cousin of MRS. DELANY'S were a-goin' on, and so I told 'er pretty plain as made 'er cross.

We got out of the theayter and was just a-turnin' a corner when someone give a rush at us pushed me violent agin' the railin's, and knocked that 'ere COUSIN SAM as 'ad 'old of MRS. DELANY'S arm, slap into the road.

She give a violent scream as a man ketched 'old on 'er as were 'er 'usband.

The feller as she called 'er COUSIN SAM he got up and run off like a lamplighter, as the sayin 'is, and if that DELANY didn't turn on me and call me all the awful names as he could lay 'is tongue to.

So I says, "You're a nice low set and I don't want to be seen with you," and off I walks.

I walked on and on a-'opin' to get a car or a 'bus or something and at last was pretty nigh droppin' till I asks a perliceman as said there wasn't no cars no more that night and I'd to walk, leastways crawl every step of the way down to the ferry, and there 'ad to wait 'arf-a-'our till the boat was off and thought as we never should get across the river for the ice.

When we got to the other side the place was all blocked up with it, and I 'ad for to be dragged over a place as were 'ighly dangerous and jest on three o'clock in the mornin' and no car a going to start for a 'our, so couldn't stop a-dawdlin' about there in the cold, and on I walked, a-takin' it gently thro' it bein' all up 'ill, and never got to JOE'S place till jest on four o'clock, and pretty nigh dead with cold.

It's well as they'd kept the stove alight, or I should 'ave died, and if JOE's wife didn't get out of her bed to see after me, as worreted me more than anythink else.

I never 'eard no more of the DELANYS for over a fortnight, when she'd run away from 'im and left them two innercent babes to perish like, as is the act of a she-devil, as 'angin' is too good for 'er in my opinion.

When BROWN come'd back from where's he'd been to, I says to 'im, "It won't never do for us to live on with JOE, as gives 'is wife too much trouble, so we'll go back to MRS. SKIDMORE ; as is far from comfortable, but will do as well as anywhere else, for as to comfortable, it ain't a word as is to be found among them."

All I've got to say is, if that's one of 'their grand balls, it's as tag-rag and bob-tail a set-out as ever I see, and must end bad when a young woman with **only** a shopman for a 'usband, as he ain't no better, goes about with a long train, and diamonds in 'er ears, as can't be got 'onestly and don't become 'er station in life, as is what they don't seem for to understand, as is the cause of all the trouble and must end bad, I should say, some day.



No. 13.

St. Patrick's Day.



WASN'T over partik'ler pleased about goin' out St. Patrick's day, and should not 'ave went out at all only for MRS. SHANDY, as come a-pressin' me for to go, and said as it would be a noble sight for to see millions of the sons of Herring turn out.

Well, my 'art misgive me like, for I well remembers what a Hirish weddin' brought about once only two streets off where we was a-livin', when you'd 'ave thought as all Bedlam 'ad been and got married, and carried to the 'ospital in shetters by the 'undred afore the night was out, and the perlice no more use than the babe unborn, and obligated for to fetch the priest 'isself out of 'is bed, as pretty soon settled their 'ash, and took and throwed the stone bottle of whiskey out of the winder, as was no doubt 'is duty, but as luck would 'ave it, it fell slap on to two perlicemen as were a-keepin' guard at the door, and might 'ave ended fatal but for their 'eads bein' that thick covered with them HALBERT'S 'ats, as was named arter ROBERT PEEL, Bobbies, as come in, I well remembers, nearly thirty years ago, when the old watchmen were put down, as were a useless lot, a-sleepin' in their boxes and a-callin' the 'ours, as made it more cheerful if you was a-layin' awake, tho' not much use in case of murder, as is knowed to 'ave 'appened on

their beats and nobody a bit the wiser, tho' parties 'ollered "watch" like mad in their dyin' struggles, as my aunt 'ad one of them rattles, a-'angin' at 'er bed-'ead over by Battersea-rise, as was 'eard distinct at Chelsea 'Ospital thro' 'er a-springin' it one moonlight night out of winder when she see two waggybones a-cuttin' the lead off the top of the parish church, as weren't more than a stone's throw from 'er 'ouse, and was obligated to abscond without their plunder, and never got no thanks for 'er pains, but called old Rattler ever arter, as it's my opinion the perlice was in with the thieves.

I'm sure if St. Patrick 'ad 'ad the day made a-purpose for 'im he couldn't 'ave 'ad a finer, with a blazin' sun as were a reg'lar scorcher, I can tell you, and me afraid to leave off my winter clothes, for it changes 'ere from 'ot to cold in a minnit or two, and you're all shivers afore you know where you are thro' a-turnin' a corner sudden or even the shady side of the way.

I was ready to drop with 'eat afore I got to Broadway where the persession was a-comin' by, and as to the mud up to your ankles and them over shoes werry 'ot and confinin' to the feet.

I must say as they looked werry grand them Irish as were on 'orseback in cock 'ats and feathers with green and gold things round their shoulders, only the music a-playin' made them 'orses werry fidgety, and I could see as many of them parties 'ad to 'old pretty tight for to keep on.

Well, on they kep' a-marchin', all in the mud, a-carryin' lovely picters and playin' the music constant. Jest as I got up to the place where I'd agreed to meet MRS. SHANDY there was a deal of scrougin', and as much as I could do to get through the crowd to where I see 'er a-standin' along with MRS. MAGUIRE and MRS. O'CONNOR, as is 'er two cousin, and when I

gets up to 'em if they didn't begin to say as they wouldn't be seen with me.

I says, "Why not?"

Says MRS. MAGUIRE, "Sure, it'll be trouble to you afore you gets through."

I says, "What do you mean?"

She says, "That dirty old rag of a thing you've got on your back!"

I says, "Its real Chaney crape."

"Yes," she says; but what made you wear it?"

"Because," I says, "I ain't got nothink else as I can walk under with winter under-clothin'."

So she says, "It'll bother you yet."

I says, "Why?"

She says, "Why, it's a bright orange."

I says, "What if it is? It's the only colour as it would take when I had it dyed last."

She says, "You ain't got a bit of green about you."

I says, "Oh, dear, no; there's nothink green about me, I 'ope."

She says, "Then don't you come with us."

I says, "I'm sure I don't want your company, as can get on werry well alone," so off I walks.

Well, the crow'd come a-drivin' along, and there come one of them wild Hirish washin' women, a-tearin' and a-screamin', "Oh, the darlin's, sure, ain't they picters!" And a-shovin' everyone out of the way as she might get in front to see a parcel of boys as was all dressed up in fancy caps and shirts, as was a-walkin' in the persession.

So I says, "Look where you're a-goin' to."

She says, "So I am a-lookin', and means to get in front," and begun a-drivin' away with 'er elbows, as I'm sure was the wuss for liquor, though it was the total abstinence boys as she wanted to see.

Well, there was parties there as didn't see givin'

'er up their places, so they pushed 'er back, and so she was kep' close agin' where I was a-standin', through the crowd bein' that thick. There was a werry nice lady as stood next me, she says, a-lookin' at them boys, "It's to be 'oped as they'll grow up teatotallers."

I says, "Poor children, it's nonsense a-makin' them take pledges, as don't know their own minds, and ain't likely for to drink now, unless it's given 'em by their drunken waggerbones of parents."

Says that wild fieldmale, "Who are ye a-callin' waggerbones? ye old dirty lump of a Protestant, wid your orange colours for to insult us wid."

I says, "I were not addressin' myself to you, mum; and as to my shawl, it's my business, and none of yours."

She says, "I'll 'ave it off the back of you pretty quick," and if she didn't give a grab at my shawl, and afore you could say Jack Robinson it was down in the mud. I tried for to pick it up, but some cowardly willin' give me a bonneter. I turns round for to purtect myself, and 'olds up my umbreller, and if they didn't ketch it out of my 'and and pitch into me with it as I was a-stoopin' down agin to get my shawl.

I 'ollers "Perlice," and if a man didn't stand up for me, and say as I shouldn't be insulted, as he'd stand by me, as was on the right side; and he catches my shawl out of my 'and and waves it about. Oh, the row as was made; I was drove wiolent agin that wild woman as was a-standin' agin a door-post, and 'eard 'er give a loud grunt, and then she yelled as I'd been and smashed in the bones of 'er.

Up come the perlice, and seizes 'old on me, and drags me back from that wild beast, as were thankful as they took me up, for I'm sure I should 'ave been killed but for them. I was took off to their station-

'ouse, and if the perlice didn't tell the party as were there that I was tryin' to get up a Orange row.

I says, "Me! Never!"

He says, "I see you a-wavin' a orange-coloured flag and a-shoutin', and it's a wonder as you wasn't killed."

Says the party as were a-settin' there, "Its werry disgraceful in you—are you Irish?"

I says, "No, sir, thro' being born in London."

"Ah," he says, "a many Irish is born there."

I says, "No doubt, for they're everywhere, and 'ave always lived peaceable with me."

Then he says, "If I let you go will you promise to go 'ome quietly at once?"

I says, "Yes, and thankful to get there."

So they let me go, as 'ad to walk ever so far with no shawl on, and my umbreller broke to ribbons. I wouldn't 'ave minded anything if that MRS. SHANDY 'adn't stood me out as I did it for the purpose.

I says, "Did what?"

"Why, she says, "put on that shawl, as is reg'lar Orange.

I says, "Whatever difference can that make to anybody?"

"Why," she says, "that's the Protestant colour."

"Well," I says, "I've met with a good many things to make anyone start in 'Merryker, but," I says, "the idea of colours 'avin' religions is downright foolishness, and I suppose next you'll be a-tellin' me as dogs and cats is Christians."

She says, "Never in my born days did I see sich a thick 'ead—why, you can't get anythin' thro' your wool."

I says, "Not bein' a negro-black, I 'ave no wool to get through, and as I don't want no insults, I begs as you'll drop my acquaintance," so we ain't spoke since, as makes it unpleasant a-meetin' reg'lar for meals.

But I'm sure as to that St. Patrick's day it's downright waste of time and money, and didn't ought to be allowed, a-stoppin' up the streets, and costs 'eaps of money, as they'd much better give to the poor, as is starvin' by thousands in this werry place, and nearly all of the Hirish persuasion, as seems to me as bad off 'ere as everywhere else, and all owin' to the drink, as they can't take in moderation, but must make beasts of theirselves, and always ends in a fight, as might be all jolly but for that, and always cheerful, too, not but what they're quite different 'ere to England.

I'm sure MR. SHANDY come 'ome from that dinner that gone in liquor, as frightened MRS. SKIDMORE nearly to death for fear of fire, as is 'er constant terrors, as well it may be, with a wooden 'ouse as is 'ighly dangerous, I should say, and danced a jig for ever so long with a lot of companions on the doorstep, and wouldn't be pacified till 'ticed indoors with the promise of a drink, tho' I should 'ave said 'ad 'ad oshuns already.

MRS. SKIDMORE, she says, as MRS. SHANDY was only a-promisin', and did not mean for 'im to have no more that night; but bless you, he made all the lot as were with 'im come in, and drink they would 'ave, and a-singin' "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning," as is one of their songs, till I was pretty nigh drove mad, and goes to the top of the stairs, and puts my 'ead over the banisters, and says to MRS. SKIDMORE, "Are we a-goin' to get a wink of sleep to-night or not?"

Domestic Matters.



OH, law! there's nothing but trouble here, for I don't think as ever I did see sich a ignorant lot as the 'Merrykins, and that conceited as they won't be taught nothink, and make my blood bile with their waste, as I says to 'em, "wilful waste makes woeful want," as the sayin' is, but only got laughed at by that gal of MRS. SKIDMORE'S, as ain't no more of a servant than a 'andsaw, and as to bein' a gal will never see fifty no more in this world, and is ugly as sin, with a temper like a fieldmale devil; and as to cookin' why it s a downright sin to see wittles messed as theirs is, though not fine meat by any means, and all cut the wrong way, and to see the things as they'll eat together, as is liver and bacon, with pickled cabbage, and fried 'taters and raw cabbage, and little biscuits, and bread and butter, with a lot of cold water and rubbishin' tea to set it all a-floatin'.

Certingly, to see 'em take a lump of butter on the side of the plate, as is swimmin' in 'ot roast beef and gravy, and not eat it after all, and lots of pie, and all bolted down in ten minnits, for afore I can get the salt and pepper and mustard on my plate, as I likes with roast beef and cabbage, the others 'as licked their plates clean, and well they may, a-goin' at it 'ard and fast with knife and fork by turns in their mouths, and it's a mercy they don't slit their mouths across

their cheeks, and then a-lappin' up the gravy with a tea-spoon, as don't look nice to my mind.

As to the children, they'll grab at everythink, and 'owl if it ain't give 'em, and give as much talk if they ain't give way to as though they were the elders, but their parents likes to 'ear 'em what they considers clever, and calls smart, as I calls downright cheek and impidence.

But, as I were a sayin', their ignorance is downright dreadful, for they don't know the names of things, and won't be told nothink, for I wanted a bit of musling for to make up a cap, as I don't mind a sayin' is a night-cap, so I says to MRS. SKIDMORE'S gal as I wished as she would bring me a yard-and-a-'arf of musling. Well, what does she give me when she comes in but a yard and more of long cloth.

I says, "Biddy," as is 'er name, "this ain't musling."

"Oh," she says, "sure that's all the musling as you'll be gettin' 'ere."

I says, "Where did you get it?"

She tells me the shop, as isn't far off, so I didn't say no more to 'er, knowin' as I could never beat nothink into 'er 'ead, as wouldn't understand, not even if she could, and thinks as I should be a-passin' the shop next day, and would call in, and so I did.

I says to the party as kep' the shop, "I begs your pardin' for a-troublin' of you, but I sent a young person, leastways not young but single, last night for a bit of musling, as went and brought me longcloth, as is not a thing as you can make a night-cap on," and nice rubbish it was, though in course I didn't say so to 'im.

Well, he looks at that long cloth, and says, "I guess you won't get better musling nowhere than that."

I says, "This ain't musling at all."

He says, "What are you a-talkin' about?"

I says, "Musling, as this isn't."

He says, "It is."

I says, "Go along with you; why it's long-cloth, and not good enough to make my 'usband's night shirts, as is as coarse as a 'opsack, and enough to scrub you to death."

He says, "I reckon he'd be glad to get a scrub."

I says, "No, he wouldn't, as is clean enough without no scrubbin'."

He says, "Look 'ere, I ain't a-goin' to 'ave my time took up with your talk—jest take your musling and clear out."

I says, "You're a nice party for to keep a shop, as don't know musling from long-cloth, but," I says, "It's my fault for dealin' at sich a ketch-penny rubbish of a shop, as I should never 'ave come into only thro' sendin' a ignorant gal."

He says, "I don't want no more of your talk; clear out," and if he didn't lay 'old of the bit of long-cloth and shy it right out on to the pavement, and says, "If you don't clear out pretty quick, I'll shy you arter it."

He was one of them hugly, squint-eyed parties as I can't a-bear the sight on, and was 'arf afeared as he'd spit 'is beastly baccy juice in my face, so out I goes, and so out I goes and picks up the bit of long-cloth, and 'ome I goes, and if MRS. SKIDMORE and the others didn't say as it were musling all over the world, as I knows better, but then you see 'ow should parties know the difference as ain't been used to nothing decent.

I'm sure their ways is downright shameful, as is all brought on by drink, as is the curse of the country, and not drinkin' jolly, but the men always a-takin' sperrits, and not a place as a woman can enter for a drop of 'onest beer, as is p'r'aps as well, for they're bad enough as they are, and what they would be in liquor goodness knows. Not as they're a bit more

sober than their betters, as were proved by MRS. SWEENEY, as went out to see 'er own mother on old WASHINGTON'S birthday, as they keeps a 'oliday, and bein' obligated for to take the hinfant, and 'er 'usband a-comin' to fetch 'er 'ome thro' the frost and snow as got to their own door pretty nigh perished, and couldn't get in for all their 'ammerin' and ringin' as lives next door to MRS. SKIDMORE.

I put my 'ead out of the winder a-thinkin' as it might be fire, as is bustin' out constantly all over the place thro' over-'eatin' the 'ouses.

Jest as I looked out, MRS. SKIDMORE she'd 'ad MRS. SWEENEY in thro' the baby a-shriekin' with the cold a-strikin' to it; tho', in my opinion, thro' 'er a-eatin' everythink as is improper, as I'm sure, pickles at every meal, and bread and cheese with tea, let alone raw cabbage with stewed oysters, as is a deal too sloppy for me.

Well, she'd come in, and was a-settin' in the basement, as is what they calls the front kitchen, and young MAVOR, as is a plumber by trade, and lives along with MRS. SKIDMORE, he bust open the back door; and there was that gal a-lyin' like dead on the floor, as 'ad broke open what they calls a pantry, as is only a cupboard, and 'ad been and drained what they calls a "Jemmy-John" of that beastly whiskey, as is enough to p'ison Old Scratch; and it's as well as SWEENEY was as fond on it as he were, for if there'd been much on it she'd 'ave been a dead 'ooman.

I don't think as I ever were more mad in my life than I was about my welwet cape as were a beauty, as I'd bought in London last spring jest as the weather set in too 'ot to bear it, and 'avin' 'eard say as 'Merrykee were that cold, as it would be sure to come in, brought it with me a-thinkin' as it would look werry 'andsome.

Some'ow that cape never did fit me comfortable

over the shoulders, and MRS. ARBUTT, as is always a-workin' at MRS. SKIDMORE'S sewin' machine, as makes as much noise as a water-mill, though certingly werry conwenient, as'll make everythink down to button 'oles and all, she says to me, "That cape of yourn would fit fust-rate if you was to 'ave sleeves put in."

"Yes," I says, "but 'owever could I match the welwet, as is real silk?"

"Oh," she says, "I guess as you'll match it easy enough."

I says, "I 'as my doubts," but thought as I'd try; makin' pretty sure as I could carry the colour in my eye, as the sayin' is.

It was only the week arter as MRS. ARBUTT 'ad spoke, as bein' in a shop along with MRS. SKIDMORE, I asks 'er about the welwet.

"Oh," she says, "black welwet is black welwet all over the world."

I says, "Oh dear no, for there's welwetine and cotton welwet."

"Oh," she says, "ask for silk welwet, and that must be right."

I says, "I'll look at it." So the young man he brought down a box.

I says, "I can't see in the dark," and should like it took to the door, but there was a good many in the shop, so I didn't like to ask 'im, as is not at all obligin' in their ways.

MRS. SKIDMORE she says, "That's the shade;" and, she says, "It'll take three-quarters of a yard for each sleeve, as'll be a yard and a 'arf in all," and afore I could say a word 'ardly, if that young man 'adn't cut it off, and as come to jest 'ard on fourteen shillin's in 'onest money, as is four dollars and a-'arf.

I 'ad a misgivin' as it were not right, but when we got 'ome the gas were lighted, and it looked all right, so I give it to MRS. ARBUTT as were there and

just a-goin', but as I wanted the cape partik'ler for the next day, through a-goin' to a funeral, as were MRS. SKIDMORE's father-in-law, a dirty old miser, and a downright 'appy release.

I says to MRS. ARBUTT as it would be a favour if she'd do it at once, and through bein' that good-natured, she took off her bonnet and cloak, and set down to it on the spot, though tired.

She did not make a long job on it, as was all finished by nine o'clock, and looked werry well finished off with a bit of lace, though it didn't quite set to my fancy, and the sleeves was short: but MRS. ARBUTT said as I'd better wear it, and she could alter it any time. So I went to bed quite light-'arted a-thinkin' my cloak as good as new.

We was up afore daylight, as the old man was to be buried early, and I got through with my breakfast by gaslight, ready dressed all but my cape, as I put on at the werry last, and got into the car as was to take me, though it was 'ardly daylight.

I thought it was a-goin' to be a 'eavy day, but we 'adn't got werry far when the sun came up a lovely mornin'. I 'appens to look at my arms, and you might 'ave knocked me down with a feather, as the sayin' is, for if them sleeves wasn't purple, and no more a match than nothink.

I says to MRS. SKIDMORE, "I must go back."

She says, "Oh, don't leave me, as can't go into that house alone, thro' not 'avin' spoke to one of the family for years."

I says, "Look at my sleeves as don't match."

If she didn't burst out a-larfin', but says, "Never mind, nobody won't notice."

Well, we got to the ferry, as were all crowds and confusion and carts a-crossin', and MRS. SKIDMORE she rushes down and gets aboard the boat just as it were off like steam, and leaves me behind.

I spoke to the party as looks arter them boats, and he says, "I reckons you're all right, for there's only part of the funeral gone over, and the rest is a-comin' down the 'ill."

So jest then up comes some carriages awaitin' for the next boat, as they starts every ten minits. So I asks a man as were at the gate, "Is this the funeral as was to be at the ferry at 'arf-past seven as the clock were on the stroke of?"

He says, "Yes."

I says, "I'm a-goin'."

"Well," he says, "hurry up then, for these is the last carriages," so he opens the door of one of them coaches, as there wasn't but three inside on, and in I gets, jest as that carriage was a-goin' into the ferry-boat, and off we was.

Oh, the smell of sperrits in that coach was enough to knock you down; and the parties inside was a-'oldin' their 'andkerchers to their faces, a-pretendin' for to weep, as was all their 'umbug; they didn't say nothink for ever so long; at last one he passes a flask bottle to another, as dranked out of it be'ind the 'andkercher, but never 'adn t the manners for to offer me a drop, though I felt werry faint.

So I didn't say nothink till we'd got a long way, and at last I says, "Are we far off, sir?"

So the party as I spoke to he looks at me and says, "About 'arfway."

I says, "Where to?"

He says, "The symetry."

I says, "I'm a-goin' to the 'ouse."

"Why," he says, "we've left there."

I says, "Never."

He says, "Yes."

"Well then," I says, "I'm in the wrong berryin', as am a-goin' for to foller old MARTINS."

They says, "We're a-berryin' MARTHA BROWN, as

was found froze to death with her 'ead burnt off agin 'er own stove-pipe as 'ad gone out through 'er a-faintin' in the back kitchen."

It give me sich a turn. So I says, "Then I must get out;" and 'ollers to the coachman, as wouldn't stop for ever so long, and then put me down in all the slush and filth, and drove off without ever a-tellin' me even where I was, as was like a 'owlin' wilderness knee-deep in snow, and the wind enough to take your 'ead off, and rain a comin' on with a rapid thaw, and that 'ot the welwet cape as I couldn't 'ardly walk under, and no umbrella, and a-slippin' like mad over that snow as were froze 'ard with water on it.

As luck would 'ave it, I know'd the address where MRS. SKIDMORE'S father-in-law, 'ad lived, and thro' askin' of a perliceman, found as a car would take me close by, so thought as I'd go and find MRS. SKIDMORE, and could go 'ome together.

Well, I gets to the 'ouse, and the door was opened by a party as were unbeknown to me, as says, "Walk in."

So in I goes into the parlour, as were werry full, and I says, "Excuse me, but I've come for MRS. SKIDMORE."

Some one says, "Sit down."

So down I set, and then someone give me a something to drink, as I certingly did want. So arter that I looks round, and says, "Wherever is MRS. SKIDMORE?"

The party as I were a-settin' next says, "Gone to the devil."

I says, "For shame to speak like that at a funeral, as might be mistook for meaning of the departed."

"Oh!" says the lady, as smelt werry strong of whisky, "there ain't no fear of that, for he was a good soul as ever lived."

I says, "Oh, indeed!" a-knowin' as he was very different."

She turns to me, and says, "Whatever are you a-smilin' at?"

"Well, I says, "I 'ave 'eard say as he was a queer one."

She says, "Oh, indeed! 'ave you?" she says, "I ain't 'eard much about 'im."

"Well," I says, "I've been told as he was a downright old waggerbone, as treated 'is wife like a gallows-slave, and 'is children like as if they was born porthers."

"She says, "Werry likely, but," she says, "who told you."

Well, I didn't think much about it; and says, "Oh, I know as it's true, for 'is own daughter-in-law, as is MRS. SKIDMORE, told me as he'd robbed 'er 'usband."

"Then," she says, "she's a good-for-nothin', lyin', double-faced hypercrit', as 'ave been 'ere a-cryin' and a-goin' on, and a-makin' of it up with everyone, and a-keepin' all round a-declarin' as she'd never spoke a word agin' the old man, as she loved like a father."

"Well, I says, "if it's made up that's all right."

"No," she says, "if she told you what you've told me she's a double-faeed creature."

"Oh," I says, "let it drop."

"No," she says, "I won't."

Well, jest that moment in comes MRS. SKIDMORE, and if that woman didn't set on 'er and call 'er all the names, and told 'er as I'd been and told 'er about 'er abusin' the old feller.

MRS. SKIDMORE she turned on me and said as I were a mass of inventions and lies, and 'ad been drinkin', as was wot they'd all been at, and a nice riot they all set up at me, a-callin' me a dirty old swaddler, and all manner, and if they didn't take and shove me slap out at the street door, after a-crushin' in the crown of my bonnet and pushin' and 'ittin' me about

till I was glad for to escape, and get 'ome best way as I could.

My welwet cape was reg'lar ruined, so all as I can do will be to 'ave it dyed, as 'll take a fresh black, though them sleeves was that tight across my chest as nearly stifled me, and must come out, and was put in that badly as they tore out under the arms.

I was a nice figger when I did get 'ome, and it was all werry well for MRS. SKIDMORE for to come in and say as I 'adn't business for to repeat what she said. No more, p'r'aps I 'adn't, and but for that I never would 'ave stopped in 'er 'ouse, and as to that cape if they didn't take and dye it a liver colour, and never looked decent no more as was wexin' to 'ave it sp'ilt like that, as may p'r'aps cut up for a bonnet some day.

MRS. SKIDMORE didn't get no good by 'er artful ways, for the old fellow 'adn't left 'er a penny piece, and none of them as got 'is property would give 'er a farthin', and then she turned round and give 'em a bit of 'er mind as proved as I wasn't tellin' no falsehoods, as is a thing I despises.

I'm sure servants 'as a nice time on it as goes out every Sunday and Thursday all the arternoon, and won't do this, and will do the other, and ain't no more idea of bein' servants, not accordin' to my notions, than I 'ave of walkin' for a wager.

The 'Merrykins don't never go to service themselves, a-considerin' as they'd be a-lettin' of theirselves down by it, and leaves all the work for niggars and Irish, as is 'ard-workin' but ain't got no 'eads to think with.

As to niggers, I must say as they are very perlite and kind in their ways, but some'ow the Irish seems quite changed to what they are at 'ome, for I'm sure that time as I were in Dublin perliteness ain't nothink to what they was to me; but 'ere they answers you

like brutes, and is full of insults, and all because you're English, as if anyone could 'elp what they was bred and born to, not as I'm one not to stand up for my country, and wasn't a-goin' to stand MR. SWEENEY swear at QUEEN VICTORIA, and wish as 'er 'ead was chopped off, as in course were only through 'im bein' far gone in liquor, but sounds werry hawful, and so I said, as made MRS. MALONEY mad with me, and said as she 'ated England and the English.

"Well," I says, "it's lucky as you've got 'Merryker to come to, and I'm sure nobody wants your love, as in general ends in a fight," and that's why I didn't care much about goin' out St. Patrick's Day, but they all said as I did ought to see the processions as would be hawful grand, and so I said as I'd go though in fear and tremblin', for I believe as in general there's riots, as is what the Irish delights in, as don't seem to make no difference, for they're as loving as ever when it's over, only I shouldn't care to come 'ome with my nose or my ear chawed off, not even though it were bit off by a blood relation, as 'appened to old MR. MCLEARY, as 'is two sons jumped on, a-mis-takin' of 'im for their huncle, as was through a few words as they 'ad over their grandmother's funeral, and not one on 'em out of the 'ospital yet except them as was sent to prison.

Not but what some on 'em is as mild as lambs, and that kind as they'd share the last crust with you, and if it wasn't for the drink would be good Christians, as I 'eard one of their own ministers say as give a lecture to 'em.

Not as some on 'em will 'ear reason, but talk downright foolishness the same as MR. FLINIGIN a-wishin' as they'd blowed Hingland into the hair at Clerkenwell.

So I says, "I've 'eard parties say as they wished Hireland was under the water, as I considers a werry

improper wish ; but if Hirish goes on ag'in Hengland like that, why in course they must look out."

But as to politics, I do 'ate the werry name on 'em, and the 'Merrykins is mad about 'em, and is always a-interferin' with what ain't no business of theirn, and there was BROWN a-tryin' for to pacify them, as was a-quarrellin' over their President, as don't seem to be much account, thro' only bein' a ignorant tailor, as is werry much give to liquor, as I've 'eard say, and I'm sure I would not be their queen, not was it ever so, as is a noisy lot, and all jaw and no brains, as the sayin' is, and I wouldn't mind if they'd leave us alone, but is always a-sayin' as things is better in 'Merryker than elsewheres.

I got that mad a-'earin' of them go on a-sayin' as Kings and Queens is rubbish, and so is lords and ladies, so I ups and I says, "They certingly would be if you was to make anyone here a King or Queen, or even a lord, for a many could remember them and their fathers and mothers a-landin' without nothink but rags on their back.

So MRS. SHARDIN she says, a-lookin' at me, "You 'old your head werry 'igh as is full of English hairs."

I says, "No, mum, I am not, as knows my place, and respects my betters." Says she, "I don't consider as I've got no betters."

"Oh," I says, "indeed well, p'raps you're right, for I think you're all pretty well tarred with the same brush, as the sayin' is, and I don't see no difference in you except as some on you 'ave got finer clothes and bigger 'ouses."

She says, "All 'Merrykins is superior, thro' bein' that well edicated, and," she says "it's well known as 'Merrykin ladies is beauties, and dresses better than Paris or London."

I says, "I ain't seen no ladies."

She says, "That's insults."

I says, "No, it's not," I says, "you're werry good sort of people, a many on you, and all about the same, but," I says, "when you set up for ladies and gentlemen, why it's enough to make the cat laugh." I says, "You dou't know nothink about ladies and gentlemen, and 'owever should you?"

BROWN he come in jest then, and says, "Whatever are you a-talkin' so loud about?"

So MRS. CHANCY and MRS. SHARDIN says in a breath as I were always a-runnin' down 'Merryker."

I says, "I am not; I only says as you're a werry good sort, only you didn't ought to pretend to be ladies and gentlemen."

"Oh," says MRS. SHARDIN, a-sneerin', "I thought you was one of the English haristocracy."

I says, "No, no, mum, I never set up for one. I've lived as servant in good families, and was always well treated by my masters and misseses."

"Oh," says MRS. CLANCY, "'ow degradin', masters and misseses!"

I says, "I don't consider it so, as 'ave been always respectable and," I says, "if some of you'd been servants you'd make better misseses."

BROWN says, "Do 'old your noise, and come up and sew a button on for me," as I did accordin', and when we was alone he says to me, "I wish as you 'ad more brains and less talk. Whatever is the use of talkin' to them as 'ave all been servant gals, and married to men as 'ave all carried the 'od?"

"Well," I says, "then why ever don't they say so, and not set up for swells, as any one can tell they ain't in a instant?"

"Well," he says, "you'll end bad if you goes on at 'em as you do, and I think as we can soon be a-thinkin' of gettin' 'ome."

I says, "BROWN, and thankful I shall be, for now I've seen JOE once more I'm satisfied, for I never

shall like 'is wife, but if he's 'appy with 'er that's all right, as to the children I'm afeared as they'll never come to no good, but I shan't see it and that's a comfort."

So BROWN says, "'Ow long will it take you to get ready?"

I says, "'Arf a day."

"Well, then," he says, "I'm a-goin' about th berths."

I says, "You'll give me a day or two, for I should like to see as much as I can of JOE."

He says, "Oh, we ain't a-goin' under a month."

"Oh," I says, "that's plenty of time, tho' no doubt it will pass like nothink when it's gone."

He says, "That's true; but," he says, "I'm a- espectin' some money, and if it don't come I must go and look arter it."

I says, "If it's money as is your rights, look arter it and don't leave nothink behind."

He says, "I must go away for about a fortnight."

"Then," I says, "I go too, for I will not be left behind no more; for if there is a thing as I 'ates, it's a boardin'-'ouse, and as to stoppin' along with JOE's wife, I'd as soon live in a den of alligators—so when you starts I goes along with you."

He says, "With all my 'eart; only be ready."

I says, "All right, I'm packed in a 'our any time."

On Education of Youth.

I'VE 'eard 'em say as ev'ry one in 'Merryker can write and read and is well edicated when boys and gals as in course they may be, but there's one thing as they never learns 'em and that is manners, for of all the cheek as ever I did see it's them 'Merrykin boys and gals, as'll 'ave the last word with their parents and contradict flat in a way as I would'nt never allow my child as long as I'd got a harm and a broomstick to lift it, as the sayin' is.

But bless you, 'ere young folks is the masters, not in course as I'm speakin' of all, for I 'ave seen 'omes where the sons and daughters was all they should be, but as to them BLAKE'S as lives at the back of MRS. SKIDMORE'S, I never in my life even read in a book of sich goin's on as awdacious ain't the word, for I did used to be a good deal in my bed-room thro' not findin' any other room in the 'ouse comfortable. Well I was a-settin' at my open winder a workin', when I 'eard a noise and looks out and sees some boys a-stealin' MRS. SKIDMORE'S grapes as grows at the end of the gardin.

So I 'ollers to 'em but bless you they only made game of me, so down I goes as there was'nt nobody at 'ome but me, I takes up a broom and jest ketched one young rascal as were a-settin' as bold as brass on the wall a crack of the leg, as made 'im drop over on the other side.

I goes back to my own room and begins to work ag'in, when all of a sudden, I gets a reg'lar stinger on the nose, as made my eyes pour with water.

I looks out to see where the thing could 'ave fell from, when there came a shower of peas as reg'lar pepper'd me, and I 'ad to shet down the winder, tho' I couldn't see where them boys was, thro' their a-firin' at me thro' them wenetian blinds.

I adn't been long at work ag'in, when flash come a somethink in my eyes as blinded me, and there was them young wagabones a-flashin' at me with a lookin' glass so as see I couldn't, and obligated me to move away from the winder altogether.

Well, that werry evenin' when we'd jest done what they calls supper, as isn't nothink but tea with a bit of cold meat or somethink like that, in come MRS. BLAKE, and begun a-talkin' a deal about 'er boy's learnin'.

So I says, "It's a pity as they didn't learn for to keep their 'ands from pickin' and stealin', instead of takin' a neighbour's grapes as don't belong to 'em."

She says' "My boys wouldn't do sich a thing."

I says, "Oh, wouldn't they?" and begun for to tell 'er of their behaviour.

"Oh," she says, "that's nothink."

"Well," I says, "I considers it a good deal, and " I says, "them as encourages them is wuss than the children," and out of the room I walks.

I don't think as I see any more of them boys for days, and thought as what I'd said to their mother 'ad been a check on 'em, but, bless you, my life was soon arter a reg'lar burden to me thro' them boys, as pelted me with putty balls, and spilte my shawl, and on Monday week as I were dressed to go out, I goes to the back door to look at the weather for fear of rain, thro' 'avin' my best bonnet on, as was new trimmed up.

Well, I 'ad not been a-standin' there two minutes

when somethin' 'it my bonnet a violent crack, and knocked it off my 'ead. I 'eard a 'splosion like fire-arms goin' off, and see some smoke a-comin' from over the wall, and if it wasn't them young rascallions as 'ad been and fired at me.

I was all of a tremble thro' the fright, and 'ad to set down for to recover myself, and then round I goes to MRS. BLAKE, as was up to 'er eyes in washin', and only laughed at me, and said, "I'm sure anyone as spiles that bonnet of yourn you did ought to be thankful to."

I was dreadful put out, and spoke to JOE, as said there wasn't nothink to be done.

I says, "Ain't there no magistrate for to punish sich young rascals?"

"No," says he, "if you was to take 'em afore a magistrate he wouldn't punish 'em."

I says, "Why not?"

"Why," he says, "because he'd lose 'is place."

I says, "'Ow?"

"Why," he says, "the Judges is all elected, and the election is jest comin' on, and if he was to punish them boys of BLAKE's their father would take it up, and get all 'is friends to vote against that Judge."

"Well, then," I says, "'owever is anyone to get their rights?"

"Ah," he says, "'ow, indeed?"

I'm sure the way as them boys tormented me constant was dreadful, and one day as I were a-passin' the school where they went, I seen 'em comin' out, as pretended not to see me, but I walks up to the door of that school, and out comes the eldest of them BLAKES, as is only a little chap arter all.

He looked surprised when he see me; so I says, to 'im, "I want you my fine feller," I says, "you

come with me as am goin' to complain to your master."

Well, I see that give 'im a bit of a turn, for I'd 'eard say as they do give it 'em pretty warm sometimes at them schools, and will break a broom-stick over 'em, as is goin' too far.

So the boy looks at me, as is a nice-lookin' child, and I says to 'im, "If I don't complain on you will you promise as you'll leave off a-pesterin' me?"

Well, he seemed to 'esitate, but just then the master came out, and so he promised me, and I didn't say nothink, for in course I didn't want to get the boys into no trouble; but they did ought to be checked.

If the boys is bad I do think the gals is worse, for the way as they'll talk and go on that bold, and there was poor old MR. SILMAN as lived next door but two, he 'ad a nice couple of daughters as would give a party and make 'im come in at the kitchen door and go off to bed, as they was ashamed on 'im, and 'im fool enought to do it, and 'is wife too, as I 'eard 'er say myself, as they wasn't company for them children as was edicated that 'igh.

"Well," I says, "it's come to a pretty pass if they're ashamed on you, and a-goin' out at all times along with young fellers a-cuttin' about to theaytres and all manner and dressed out of a Sunday, you'd think they was a-goin' to a weddin' instead of Chapel and Sunday-school as they spends all day at.

I'm sure the fright as I got the other day thro' poor old DENNY as is a tailor oppersite and not a bad sort of a man tho' give to drink, but a son and daughter as neglects 'im shameful, and thro' BROWN's coat wantin' buttons on as is a job as no woman can do proper, I takes it over to old DENNY as 'ad done some repairs afore tho' not well, for he'd been

and pressed BROWN's trousers and waistcoat with a dirty iron.

Well, I goes over to old DENNY's, and there I finds the shop empty, and 'eard a noise in the back room, and a shoutin' and if there wasn't old DENNY and his son with some idle wagabones a-shoutin' about the elections, as 'ad gone with their friends.

They all came out a-halloomin' and rushes into the street.

So I thinks I may as well take the coat back, when I 'eard a groan and smelt burnin', I goes into the back room, and if I didn't find old DENNY dead drunk a-settin' on the stove, as stood out in the middle of the room red 'ot, and 'im a-groanin, and 'is clothes a-scorchin'.

I took and pulled 'im off that stove, and jest then in came 'is daughter a-flauntin', and a-sayin' as I must 'ave pushed 'er father into the stove, as nobody wouldn't never 'ave set on in their senses.

I says, "he ain't in 'is senses, and it's a mercy as I were 'ere or he'd 'ave set there and cooked like a joint, as would 'ave been 'is end.

She didn't seem 'arf to believe as it wasn't me as 'adn't done it. Them stoves is 'ighly dangerous, for I've know'd the same thing 'appen afore, but wouldn't say nothink.

So 'ome I goes, and 'ave 'eard as that old man ain't been able to set up yet.

Certingly there is good children in 'Merryker, as well as all over the world, but what I do say is that when the 'Merrykins lets their children do as they likes they beats any young people as ever I see; as there ain't no puttin' 'em down, and their parents seems to take a pride in seein' 'em that for'ard, as is makin' a rod for their own back, as the sayin' is.

And there's young DENNIS, as 'is father is a cow-keeper, as'll come and swear like a 'owlin' bull about

the milk bein' complained on, and, bless your 'art, that independent, a-sayin' " You may leave it if you don't like it," and all the same, as I told 'em they'd better leave off keepin' shops if they didn't know 'ow to behave to customers.



No. 16.

Family Matters.

DON'T think as ever I should 'ave knowed as there was differences 'twixt JOE and 'is wife if it 'adn't been for a-goin' to eat oysters at Fulton market, thro' MR. UNDER'ILL a-persuadin' me.

We'd been out for the day, and was a-walkin' down to the ferry on our way 'ome, when we met MR. UNDER'ILL, as is always werry pleasant, and says, "Let's all go and 'ave oysters."

I says, "Not to-day," for I thought as JOE'S wife did ought to be 'ome, for she'd left the infant, a-sayin' as the patent feeder was the only thing as it cared for, and the gal managed it beautiful.

"Ah," I says, "a mother's eye did ought to be constant over a tender babe."

She says, "Rubbish. I'm sure a oyster will do me good."

I didn't make no answer, but walked on.

Says MR. UNDER'ILL, "You'd better stop and enjoy a oyster."

I says, "Not to-night. I'd rather not 'ave any."

He says, "Don't you like oysters?"

I says, in course I'm fond of a oyster in season, as they do say you didn't ought to eat without a R in the month, as is the reason as they comes in season in Orgust, as is in my opinion a deal too warm for 'em,

and only a excuse for them boys and gals to torment you with rememberin' the grotter.

Ah, that's a thing I shan't never forget to my dyin-day, thro' them young SIMMONSES a-buildin' one in their gardin, as come jest at the bottom of ours, with a open ditch as was the common shore, as did used to be all along them fields at Stepney, and poor MRS. NEEDHAM, as is dead and gone, and lived next door to them SIMMONSES, as always was a unruly lot, and a-goin' to keep 'er grandson's birthday, as were five year old, and never a fine child, but 'er a-thinkin' 'im a downright Prince of Wales, and would 'ave tea in the harbour, as is werry pleasant, as you can see the tops of the ships in the river at 'igh water quite plain from.

She asks me to come, and we was a werry pleasant party in that harbour, five in all, includin' old MRS. MASTERS, as is the boys' grandmother the other side, and never no favourite with MRS. NEEDHAM, and I'm sure I wish she'd never 'ave come, for them two grandmothers was a-wranglin' over that boy, and 'is own mother a-settin' there like a dumb syphon, as the sayin' is.

We was jest in the middle of tea when all of a sudden there come a bang, and away come all the SIMMONSES' palin's and the water-butt, as was 'arf full of rain-water, slap into the middle of MRS. NEEDHAM'S harbour, and carried all before it.

I thought as the end of the world were come when I see that water-butt come a-flyin' over on to us all as pr'aps were a providence, for without it we might 'ave all been in flames.

It was ever so long afore I could make out what 'ad 'appened, thro' bein' drove back'ards into MRS. NEEDHAM'S fowl-'ouse as is next to the harbour, and frightened them poor things to death, as was jest a-goin' to roost.

I felt as if it were all over with us, for the whole lot, harbour, fowl-'ouse, tea-things, and all give way, and slipped back'ards into that open ditch, as was not deep, tho' runnin' as black as ink, and smelt werry unpleasant.

We all sunk down werry gentle like, thro' the earth bein' that soft, and not far to fall, but there we was all 'iggledy piggedy, and that little boy a-shriekin' and 'is two grandmas a-pullin' at 'im different ways, a-'ollerin' murder.

MRS. MASTERS she'd jest 'ad time to save 'erself, as I were not much 'urt, thro' the fowl-'ouse 'avin' broke my fall, tho' werry unpleasant, and the fowls a-flappin' with their wings, and a-cacklin' like mad, and it's as well as there wasn't no eggs under me, nor yet young chickens, for to make them 'ens pitch into me the same as that old white cock did as were as fierce as a lion, a-peckin' at my front.

It were as well as MR. MASTERS 'ad jest come in afore, for I don't know what we should 'ave done for MRS. NEEDHAM went off in a fit, and MRS. MASTER'S did nothink but 'owl thro' one of the palin's 'avin' been blowed right into 'er face and knocked out the only tooth as she's got left wisible.

When we come to be took out of that ditch a bit if it wasn't them young SIMMONSES as 'ad been and got pretty nigh 'arf a pound of powder as they'd been and 'id under that waterbutt for fear as their father should find it as they meant for to blow their grotter up with arter dark, as took fire, thro' a bit of paper as MR. MASTERS throwed away arter lightin' 'is pipe with as the wind carried a spark on thro' the palin's and so caused that conflagration as might 'ave laid thousands in hashes.

So I've got cause to remember the grotter, as is a foolish thing and no sense in as I can see.

Well, about them oysters; in course I didn't like

for to set myself up ag'in every one else, and as we'd been out all the arternoon I did feel as I should relish a-somethink and never cares about my tea 'ere as ain't no more flavour than chopped hay.

MR. UNDER'ILL he led the way all up thro' the market as is meat and vegetables, together with a lot of cooked things, such as pies and eggs and coffee, and all manner, for them to eat as comes to market with their vegetables, as is werry plentiful, but I can't say as I likes 'em.

But, bless you, the price of everythink is downright ruin to a workin' man, and of all the dirty 'oles it is that Fulton Market, and all the other places where they sells eatables is werry dirty, but 'Merrykins isn't werry partik'ler, for I ain't seen a decent butcher's shop not since in the country I've been.

Certingly the meat, 'specially the beef in that market, is werry fair, but the mutton is werry poor and scraggy, and not what I calls first-class meat in England, and a deal as they sells looks to me as if they'd killed it to save it from dyin', not as it matters to 'Merrykins as bolts all their wittles and 'ave got it down afore they can know whether it's sweet or not, and as to enjoyin' anythink they never can, for they never stops to taste it.

Well, we got to the place where they sells them oysters, as is some on 'em as long as a full-sized shoe and a nasty dirty shell as they opens by knockin' a lump off the end on.

Well, I tried them oysters raw to begin, and swallowed one as must 'ave been a quarter of a yard long and a nasty, flabby, tasteless thing, no more flavour in it than a white of a egg, not even salt.

So I says, "If this is your fine oysters, give me them coppery ones as is in England."

They says, "'Ave a saddle-rock fry."

"Taste a few blue pints," says MR. UNDER'ILL, as

is Henglish, tho' always a-pretendin' to speak ag'in 'is country.

I says, "I couldn't take 'em in pints no how."

He says, "Try a stew."

So I did, as were a poor thin sloppy mess, as the 'Merrykins sops a lot of little biscuits in, and eats a lot of cold raw cabbage cut up small with 'em, and altogether a reg'lar mess.

Some on 'em eats sugar with them oysters, as is enough to turn your stomich, and others eats 'orse reddish and mustard, and others Tomarter sauce, but they may eat what they likes with 'em, as I believes is to get 'em down, for they're nasty tasteless things as I do believe Henglish pigs would turn up their noses at.

So I told MR. UNDER'ILL, as I will say what I like's to thro' not bein' 'Merrykin, as in course I don't want to 'urt their feelin's as don't know no better, poor things, and must eat their own oysters or go without, and it's quite a providence as they should like 'em and all their other wittles, for if they was werry partik'ler about their eatables they'd starve to death werry soon.

They was all werry much put out with me for not a-likin' their oysters, and JOE'S wife as is always disagreeable to me, she says, "Oh, it's quite enough for anythin' to be 'Merrykin for 'er to ate it."

I says, "You'll escuse me, MRS. JOSEPH BROWN, but," I says, "there's some things 'Merrykin as I likes werry much."

"Law," she says, "let's 'ear what they are."

"Why," I says, "'Merrykin wives as does their duty, and 'Merrykin mothers as looks to their children."

She turns deadly white.

"Oh," she says, "I suppose your son 'ave been

tellin' you what a temper I am—pretty baby, he shall 'ave 'is mammy to tell all 'is troubles to."

I says, "MR. UNDER'ILL, as I come 'ere with you, p'r'aps you'll jest see me aboard the ferry-boat," and up I gets, and says to the rest, "I wishes you all a werry good evenin'," and off I goes.

It wasn't for two days arter that as I 'eard of 'ow that fieldmale went on when she got 'ome, a-callin' JOE everything as she could lay 'er tongue to, not as ever he told me, but MRS. LAWSON, as lives in the 'ouse with them, let me into the secret of 'er goin's on.

When I spoke to JOE, as 'ad kep' 'is sorrers to 'isself, I thought 'is 'art would break, and I'm sure I wouldn't 'ave said a word to make things wuss between them, for it's my opinion as 'usbands and wives 'ad better be left to make up their quarrels.

He always was a kind 'arted boy, and partik'ler fond of 'er, as I can't see nothink in, and as full of hairs thro' a-playin' on the pianer, and a werry pretty singer, but no more idea of managin' nothink than the baby, as makes it bad with four children, not as ever she'll rear that infant, and the eldest gal is in irons, tho' jest on seven.

But as to their mother she don't seem never to feel nothink about them, and said as she'd throwed 'erself away, and might 'ave 'ad a fine 'ouse and diamonds in 'er ears, the same as a friend of 'ern, as 'ad married a man as did used to carry the 'od, but 'ave got on in the world.

JOE's been and picked up a bit of money, but he's bought a ouse, and wants to be comfortable in 'is old age, but that woman she won't never be satisfied, but grumbles about every mortal thing.

I werry soon found out as there wasn't no comfort in a 'Merrykin 'ome, and my poor boy he'd made a

mistake, but, as I says, "JOE, you must make the best on it."

He says, "So I would, only she says as she won't live with me."

"Then," I says, "let 'er go, and you come 'ome along with me, and bring the children."

He says, "Mother, it would break my 'art to lose 'er."

I says, "JOE, you're right, and I'm in the wrong, as didn't ought to 'ave said such a thing, but," I says, "my dear boy, don't you give 'er no cause of complaints, as I'm sure you never won't, and then," I says, "JOE, be master, give 'er a good talkin' to, and stick to what you says, for," I says, "there's many a couple as 'ave 'ad words and differences as 'ave come to be good friends thro' knowin' as they 'adn't no chance of gettin' away from one another."

So JOE he told me as he'd try 'is best to be master, and so he did, for MRS. LAWSON told me as when he come 'ome that werry evenin' he found my lady agoin' out to the skatin' pond by moonlight, leavin' that infant about its teeth.

So JOE he says, "You don't go," and when she said she would, he took the bonnet off 'er 'ead, and burnt it afore 'er face, and took 'er into another room and give 'er sich a-talkin' to as made 'er come out as pale as a sheet in 'er every-day gownd, and took the baby and never laid down all night, and the poor little thing in convulsions, as carried it off by two the next day.

I went to see 'er in course when I 'eard it, and tho' she don't take to me she be'aved better, and said as she blessed JOE for not lettin' 'er go out, for if the child 'ad died with 'er back turned she never would 'ave 'eld up 'er 'ead ag'in.

I've done all I could to pacify her, and said as I was sorry for my 'asty words over them oysters, but she don't take to me, and, as to the baby, I'm sure I

wonder they don't all die with such weather, as brings on croup in a minnit, and can't possibly struggle thro' measles.

I'm not a-goin' to say any more about the children, as must take their chance, tho' I must say as that gal as nussed the child took on quite as much as its mother, and went into fits when it was took to be buried as shows a kind 'art, poor thing, as is Irish all over, but I says, "That's a good gal, don't give into them 'owls as won't do no good and gives every one the 'orrers, but she wouldn't listen to reason till quite wore out, and then fell asleep with 'er apron over 'er 'ead on the kitchen table as seemed to do 'er more good than anythink in this world, and a great consolation in sorrers to a wounded sperrit."



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