A Benevolent Old Man.

Just as evening was closing in, a curly-headed little boy was standing on tiptoe on the doorstep of a house, trying to ring the bell. Just then a benevolent old man passed along. He paused, and with a kindly smile patted the boy on the head.

'My son, that door-bell is a little beyond your reach, isn't it?'

'Yeth thir.'

'Ah,' continued the old gentleman, musingly, 'it is a fit symbol of the striving of youth after the unattainable. How often in this world the things we desire is beyond our grasp! And when after continued effort we have secured the object of our ambition, how often we find that it is not worth what it cost! My little man, I am taller than you. Shall I ring the bell for you?'

'If you want to,' replied the boy, looking at him out of the corners of his roguish eyes.

With another fatherly smile, the old gentleman gave the bell-handle a vigorous pull. What was his amazement to see the boy jump from the steps and slide around the corner with the words:

'You'd better hurry now, or they will be after you!'

The boy had escarcaly disappeared when an upper window opened and the contents of a bowl of water descended on the old man with the words:

'Take that for your impudence!'

There is one man who thinks he will not help any more little boys pull their neighbors' door-bells—at least until after he has asked a few questions.

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A Novel Brakeman.

A series of interruptions occurred on a Western train. When leaving Syracuse a car laden with horses en route from the West to Saratoga was connected with the train. The train had scarcely got under way when the bell cord was jerked and the engineer warned to stop. The brakes were shut down and inquiry made along the train as to what was the matter. The trainmen all denied pulling the cord, and after an examination as to the case, without result the train got under way. Scarcely five hundred yards had been gone over, however, before the bell-cord was again pulled and the train brought to a stop. Another inquiry and examination along the train failed to reveal the cause, and another start was made, when, for a third time, the mysterious signal was sounded. This time another thorough investigation was made, which was equally fruitless. Once more the train again started up, and again the warning signal was sent to the engine. This time, when a stop was made, it was determined to ascertain whether any other than human agency was responsible for the signal, and the train was carefully gone over. When the car containing the horses was reached a jerking of the bell-rope was noticeable, and upon further examination it was found that one of the animals in the car, finding that the bell-rope was within reach, had amused himself by seizing it with his teeth and jerking it to and fro.

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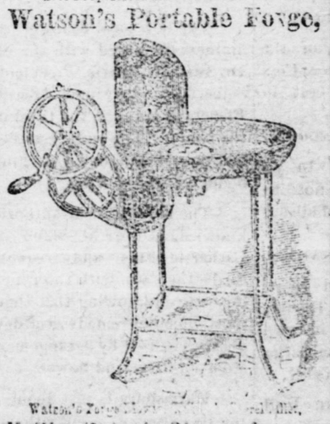

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