

A Column of Tales.

Can't do Without the Papers. A SOLILOQUY BY "JOHNIE THE PEOPLE."

What do without a paper? No, I've tried it to my sorrow; So, to subscribe to one I'll go.

Why, there's my neighbor, Toby Stout, He always hears the news, And having news to talk about, He never gets the blues.

While others fight to know, His mind is light as vapor; The cause is plain to half an eye, He always takes the paper!

While neighbor Stout hears all the news, And knows each current price, And always reads the P's and Q's, By taking good advice, I cannot tell the price of grain, Or poultry, coffee, tea, &c.

Though, I have studies which require Much time and mental labor, Yet I can spare a little time, As well as Stout, my neighbor; Though time be precious, I can use A longer midnight lamp, And thus find time to "read the news" - Therefore I'll take the paper!

Simon Nixon, or as he was better known, "Si Nix," was a capital specimen of the old school Pedagogue. With the frame of a Colossus, nature evidently intended him for some mechanical employment, and with similar views his father designed that he should succeed him in the honorable trade that had made him and his ancestors, for several generations, so justly celebrated.

Si was in early life educated into full communion with the cunning workers in the art and mysteries of the tan yard, where he labored with great credit till he attained the age of twenty-one, when it was all at once discovered that his constitution was quite delicate for such laborious employment. If the honest vernacular of his dexterity had been spoken, the word lazy would have expressed all the complaints under which he suffered! His mother agreed with him that lighter work was necessary, and school keeping appeared to come nearest to his standard of what was wanted, and so it moreover required no capital to start with, it was determined he should become a teacher.

Thus determined, he was not long looking for an opportunity. The town of Lindsay desired a master for the winter term, and he made application. The school committee, consisting of the minister, the lawyer and the doctor, was convened, and the examination of the would-be-master commenced. He didn't desire to be asked upon anything in particular, he said, for he calculated he could give them satisfaction upon every subject. "Then," said the lawyer, "you will be kind enough to tell us about Napoleon-Napoleon Bonaparte." "Ah," said Si in reply, "you've got me there, square, for I never heard of him-want me to guess, didn't live in this state, did he?—some of an outlandish name-reckon he couldn't be much—calculate he was small account, any way." Finding it was a dead end to the Frenchman, he was asked what he knew about Gen. Jackson. "There you've got me again, square," was the reply. "Why, consarn it, I never heard there was any such General, and I'm some military myself, I go to all the musters, and I've seen Gen. Snow, and Gen. Brown, and Gen. Smith—they are all the Generals that ever come round our way, and I rather guess there ain't any such fellow as you speak on. Guess you're trying to make me out worse than I be." Desiring the committee that they would now "try him on something that would be useful like to the children," the examination in history here rested, as the lawyers would say, and an attack was made on punctuation. A comma was shown him and he was asked its use. "Barnation," said Si, "you're after me now; why, I ain't no use at all—such a little fellow aint any account no nobody—we don't use 'em up our way—don't stan for nothing—it's all foolish having so many of these little things to teach—they aint no use any how; but I am nat'l' born smart, and I can lara 'em, and teach 'em too, if you say so."

A semi-colon was shown next, and then Si began to think it a gone case with him. "Hannation, square, you've got me again," he gasped out, "you'll begin to think I don't know nothing—but if I don't know some things, I'm a willing erifer if I can lara. Just try me on things that are nat'l' and useful, and then you'll find me up and dread."

"Then you'll tell us what that is," said the squire as he pointed to a period. "Si's eyes glistened, for a millenium was opening to him. "By Jehoshaphat," said he, "I thought you'd come to something at last, so that I could satisfy you that I aint quite a fool; but I tell you I'm there now, if you did say I didn't know nothing. Why, I know that just as easy—I know it the mint I put my eyes on it, for we have lots of 'em up our way, and every body knows what they are."

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