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NUMBER 18

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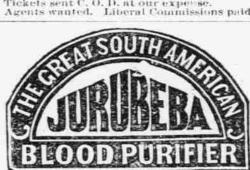
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# The Parlor Companion.

### CURIOUS MEDLEY.

By the lake where drooped the willow, Row! vassals, row! I want to be an angel, And jump Jim Crow.

An old crow sat on a hickory limb-None knew him but to praise; Let me kiss him for his mother. For he smells of Schweitzer kase.

The minstrel to the war has gone, With his banjo on his knee; He woke to hear the sentries shrick, There's light in the window for thee!

A frog he would a wooing go, His hair was curied to kill; He used to wear an old grey coat, And the sword of Bunker Hill.

Oft in the stilly night, Make way for liberty, he cried; I won't go home till morning, With Peggy by my side. I am dying, Egypt, dying, Susannah, don't you cry; Know how sublime a thing it is To brush away the blue-tailed fly,

#### JIM BLEERLY'S GUNPOWDER PLOT

Old Rumsoner was the presiding judge of the Toddiesoke circuit, and the meanest old reprobate that ever to bed sober; got up every morning ain't goin'. wrong end foremost, and generally began the day by some outrageous act which made him on the whole rather was perfectly mulish.

bad "run of luck," and too much bad

than commonly on his temper. having been for the last forty-eight | tech her off, so help me! hours, "hung" on a question of title to dozen on the other.

persist in miscalling it.

one of Old Rum's juries was generally | the same direction. considered about equivalent to going sufficient number.

"James Bleerly," I called out, deprecating wink, which I refused to a stick.

"Take a seat on the jury!" I vociferated, with official emphasis.

"Jedge," said Jim, stepping forward, and blandly addressing the court, "I'd | ment for Pop, hev ye?" be happy to oblege ye, but the fact is

it's onpossible."

"Ye see," explained Jim, "it's Pop's washday-her name's Polly, but I call | the old gal up." her Pop-and she's sent me to town arter some bluin', and onless I'm back in time-well, ve know, Jedge, how it

his acquaintance with the proverb of suffered her to pass. the "gray mare" was something more

more such impertinence, I'll-I'll-" "All right," said Jim submissively,

starting toward the jury-box. "Look'e here, Sheriff," he whispered in passing; "jest let me go and look arter my critter, and I'll be back by still no response.

the time you've nabbed t'other 'leven."

nicht verstechen English. inquired the judge, looking up from wide awake and duly sober. his newspaper.

"Y'yes, your Honor," I answered unhesitatingly; "only Mr. Bleerly has stepped out to see to his horse."

"Who gave him permission!" I had to acknowledge that I did. "And who gave you permission to

give him permission?" To this rather complex question I thought it best to make no answer.

ed the judge. The bailiff sent to do so returned goods, and me along with them.

with the report that he had seen Jim Bleerly leaving town at full gallop, Rum, as I entered the court-house and in passing the courthouse he gave | alone. a sort of military salute; but, instead of touching his cap, he had applied was no use. The conclusion of my man. his thumb to the tip of his nose.

taken away his breath.

speak, his voice quivering with pas- lightning, and he rolled over dead.

mean thing. So, leaving a deputy in my place, I took the writ as soon as the clerk had signed it, and set out to Coming again on thy wandering wing, On reaching Jim's shanty-it hardly rose to the dignity of a cabin-I

detailed my assistants to act as pickets, and marched boldly up and knocked at the door.

."Come in!" growled a gruff voice. As I entered Jim glared at me fiercely. He was a strapping six-foot. Hollow-cheek'd Sorrow and Sadness and er, all brawn and bone, and ready any time to fight for the love of it. If he hadn't come to town for "bluein'," as he pretended to Old Rum, he had, at any rate, managed to get gloriously "blue," and when in that state lie was Genial laughter and frelicksome mirth entirely reckless.

"Jim, old fellow," I said, in a conciliatory tone, "I've govan attachment for you, and want you to go with me."

"Well, I ain't got none for you," he disgraced the bench. He rarely went growled, surlily; "and what's more, I

I explained that resistance would be useless; that I had a strong force outof oppression. He was the terror of side; and that I should be constrained the bar-all but Shad Sharkle, with to take him, dead or alive. But all to whom it was his normal condition to no purpose. Jim, obstinate enough be several "chips" behind at "poker," at all times, in his present condition

Seeing persuasion was vain, I sig-One morning "Old Rum" opened | naled my assistants. At the sight of court in worse humor than usual. A | them Jim seized a brand from the fire.

"Ye see that kag, Mr. Lumpkin," whisky over night, had told more he said, his eyes bloodshot and his voice husky; "well, it's full o' gun-The first thing in order was to im- powder-and by the long-toed Harry, panel a jury of bystanders—the regu- ef one o' them onderstrappers comes lar jury, befogged by one of Old Rum's across my thrashold, or ef you stay a Praise and extol thee in epic sublime. incomprehensible charges, being, and minnit longer'n you kin git away, I'll

Jim, I knew, was a famous hunter, a yearling calf, sworn to positively by and used to buy his amunition by the Radiant, sunny-eyed, beautiful Spring! six witnesses on one side and half a quantity. A keg of powder was nothing unusual for him to have on hand. "Call a jury, and be quick about it. And then Polly began to ery and take Mr. Bumpkin," growled the judge. 1 on in a way that went to prove the held the office of sheriff, and my right | thing was no joke. Besides, Jim was name is Lumpkin, but Old Rum would just fool enough to do as he threatened. My two assistants took to their it had occurred but yesterday. The words were the signal for a heels like white-heads, and, it must be

to jail. But the judge ordered the held a council of war. We concluded schoolmate of mine. doors to be closed in time to bag a to invest the place, and hold it in siege for the present.

At the end of an hour, Jim appeared Jim shook his head, and tipped me a at the door, waving a white rag tied to "Is that a sign of surrender?" I

shouted, from a safe distance. "No," halloed Jim, "it's a flag of truce ;" adding, "Ye han't got no tach-

I answered promptly that I hadn't. "Well, I want to pass her out," said "What do you mean?" roared his Jim. "She's getting stericky in here; and case the wust comes to the wust I shouldn't want to be obleeged to blow

I thought the proposition was reasonable, and said so.

In ten minutes the door opened and Fierce as Old Rum was in public, it | bonnet, and kept her handkerchief to | purse, and it had required the exercise | "I'll make it a hundred and fifty !" dogs have flourished in the village where was currently reportes that he was her eyes. Her form seemed bowed by of the utmost economy to keep myself exclaimed the architect, "and may God live, each individual being characterized tame enough at home-in fact, that grief. We respected her sorrow and free from debt; nay, I had been protect you! If I had the skill neces- by some prominent excellence. One, a

than theoretical. At all events, Jim's to grow fidgety. It was already three appeal to the court's experience had o'clock. Court adjourned at four; ures. Thinking of this, I laid the coin eye." quite the opposite of a soothing effect. and unless I produced Jim before that down with a sigh, and turned away to "Take your seat on the jury !" thun- hour, Old Rum's word was out to attend to my duties. dered Old Rum; "and if I hear any make "an example of me." At last I concluded to seek a parley.

to speak to you." No answer.

I drew nearer and shouted louder:

An idea struck me. Jim had pro-T'other 'leven were speedily secured; bably fallen asleep after the spree. If for Old Rum would listen to no excuse | so, I might steal a march on him.--not even that of Hans Pretzelpresser, | Stealthily advancing I raised the latch, who solemnly protested that he could and gently pushed open the door. Instead of Jim, drunk and asleep, the and brow as I spoke. "Is the jury full, Mr. Bumpkin?" object that confronted me was Pop,

"Where's Jim?" I exclaimed. "Gone this two hours," replied Pop, punching the fire.

up the sparks so close to the keg!"

got nothin' in it but beans." As the enormity of the sell flashed upon me, I beat, if anything, a more "Call the juror at the door!" bellow- hasty retreat than I did when Jim ness "so be it. Since you have so poor threatened to blow up his household an opinion of me, after years of faith- as I felt myself slipping backward, I

"Where's the prisoner!" roared Old | myself."

statement was lost in shouts of laugh-Old Rum turned green and purple. ter. Old Rum's eyes rolled wildly. It was some moments before he could | His face went through the whole gacommand utterance. Rage had fairly mut of colors. What he would have cide. done Heaven only knows, or ever can "Make out an attachment for con- know. An apoplexy, which the old tempt against the fugitive!" he di- whisky-biber had been honestly earn- nocence, I took fresh courage, and set

At his funeral, few sighs were heard.

#### BEAUTIFUL SPRING.

Beautiful Spring!

Beautifu! Spring! Sunshine and beauty and pleasure to bring Gladly we welcome thee, beautiful Spring Robed with a mantle of gorgeous array, Girded with tendrils of amarauths gay, Gemm'd with bright flowerets of every hue, Fresco'd with sunbeams and spangled with

Gloom

Vanish away to their wintry tomb; Grief bows her fennel-crowned head to the Time, like a phantom, glides swiftly away.

Herald thy coming again upon earth, Welcome thee back to thy throne in our bowers.

Queen of the empire of beauty and flowers. Everything beautiful, noble, or grand, Wakes into life at the wave of thy wand; Earth dons her mantle of radiant sheen. Azure and purple, and scarlet and green.

Hedgerows and forests burst out into bloom; Flowers load the air with delicious perfume, Winds hail thy coming with boisterous Clouds in their gladness gush out into tears.

Birds sing thy praise with a sonorous voice,

Trees clap their broad waving hands and re-Lambkins and fledglings the chorus prolong, Streamlets gush out into rapturous song. Mortals, enamor'd, bow down at thy shrine, Painters portray thee a goddess divine, Poets, the landmarks of every clime,

Everything beautiful, noble or bright, Hails thy approach with a shout of delight Welcomes thee back with a jubilant ring, GEORGE HEATH.

# THE ROTTEN CROSS.

I was a carpenter, the foreman of a and I tell you candidly they are not pressed his hand. general stampede. To be caught on confessed, I made a rapid advance in large establishment, and as such post to be depended on; they must be weak | "I will undo the wrong I have done, sessed the entire confidence of my em- and rotten, for they have been there All the world shall know I accused you to At a safe distance we rallied and ployer, who, by the way, had been a for years."

purchased. "Here," said he, placing in my hand | wood heavy gold piece, "is one which is that. I could easily double my money and thenin selling; and so you see, Harvey, it is really a good investment,"

"No doubt it is," said I, "though it seems a large sum to have lie idle." I breathed an involuntary sigh as I

me just then. one of my children, and the death of dollars for awhile, until my sick wife from Cazenovia, in that State, says: Fo 'Pop" came out. She wore a scoop another, made serious inroads on my recovers her strength." was all I possessed of wordly treas- But come, and keep a steady hand and ket. Nothing could exceed the fidelity

The next morning I was again summoned into the office, but this time I

"Hallo, Jim!" I shouted; "I want met with no friendly greeting as usual. "Harvey," said the employer, abruptly, "that coin we were looking at has disappeared. I have made a thorough search, but it is not to be found. It has been carried away by some one.

You alone saw or knew it, and-" He paused and looked significantly into my face. I finished the sentence for him, the hot blood ayeing cheeks

"You mean, therefore, that I took it

"What else can I think? The coin was here; you alone saw it. I cannot ly and cautiously, trying each one ere found the dog seeking admission. recall having seen it since it was in I trusted my weight upon it. "For goodness sake be careful, ma- your hands. You are in need of mondame," I expostulated, "about stirring ey; you told me that yourself. It was passed, when suddenly the block that "Land sake, man!" cried Pop, "it's because of our old friendship, but I heavens! never, though I should live cry, and after repeating these demension-

is the salary due you.' "Very well," said I with forced calm- | terrible moment. ful service, I shall not stoop to defend did not for one second lose my presence

Then I took the money he had laid upon the desk and went out from his had my senses been so preternaturally cently gave of a book agent whom the I tried to break it gently; but it presence a well nigh broken hearted acute as then, when a horrible death But for the tender love of my wife I

> ied my sorrows in the grave of a sui- length my fearful course was arrested, lisher. He found his way into the parlor Supported by that love, however, the sudden reaction, a great shout came and the consciousness of my own in- up from the people below.

turn which way I might, I ever found have run. Don't try again! Come

#### brokers, until, at length, even this poor, reach across to the next row of blocks, for resource failed us, and my children did not care to trust myself again on the

cried in vain for food. life or death of all I loved on earth de- by small to allow me to swing across. As

for work. All in vain! refusal after refusal met my entreaties for employment. Passing along the street I came to a church | tonished me. surmounted by a high steeple, and Iwas attracted by a group of men at its

Impelled by some strange impulse: I approached and mingled with them.

A workman was standing near by looking up at the great steeple which towered aloft some 250 feet above them, while a gentleman, evidently an archi- ground alive, my dearones would have an tect, was addressing him in earnest ple means to supply their wants until the language, and, at the same time, point- wife could obtain employment. ing toward the golden cross at the summit of the spire.

"I tell you," he exclaimed, as I drew | spire window, amidst the cheers of those a near, "it must and can be done. The sembled in the street. cross must be taken down, or the first heavy gale will send it down into the roll of bank notes in my hand. street, and lives will be lost. Coward! is this the way you back out of said. "It does me good to see a man en a job, after engaging to do it?"

up there. Do it yourself, if you want | fore you made the ascent, now it is green it done.' "I would if I were able," said the

be. My honor is pledged to have it done at any price—and I can find a braver man than you to do it." The carpenter walked away with a dogged, slouching step, and the gen-

tleman was about to move away also, awaiting me-my late employer. when I stepped forward. "What is it you want done, sir?" I asked. "I am a carpenter; perhaps I

He turned eagerly toward me. It has been many a long day since Take down that cross and I will pay the secret drawer in my desk. Can you hen, yet I remember it all, just as tho' you a hundred dollars. You will have forgive me, my dear old friend?" to ascend those ornamental blocks. My heart was too full to speak; I silented

I looked up at the spire; it was through my actions, too. You must be no One day he called me into his office square at the base, and tapered to a partner, Harvey. If you refuse I shall feel to look at some rare coins he had just sharp point, while along each angle that you have not forgiven me." were nailed small gilded blocks of

"It's a dangerous place to work," I worth more than all the rest put to- said, "and there will be even more peril gether. It is a great enriosity. I paid | in descending than in ascending. Sup-£200 for it, and considered it cheap at pose I succeed in moving the stone.

that. Give me your address." "Here it is," I said, "and as you memory from my heart, nor restore ma laid the coin down on the desk, for value your soul keep your word with withered locks to their own raven har-£200 would have seemed a fortune to me. My wife and children are starying, or I would not attempt this work.

obliged to withdraw from the bank the | sary to ascend that steeple I would | noble fellow, was often employed to corry Hour after hour went by. I began small sum, which, besides my salary, ask no man to risk his life there - packages, and was sometimes sent to man

> fore a narrow window. This was the fast, and the dog was sent for a supply.point from which I must start on the He was detained at the market for a tors. perilous feat which I had undertaken. ple in the street below-mere specks seated beside the basket in which the mean the window, and, grasping one of the tained by him throughout the night.

ornamental blocks, swung myself out upon the spire. but the remembrance of my starving as almost to produce convulsions. A phyfamily came to my aid, and with a si- sleian, an absolute stranger, was summor lent prayer for protection and success. I placed my hand on the next block

above my head and clambered up.

Two-thirds of the space had been a great temptation, and I forgive you supported me moved—gave way. Oh, ing to lick it, uttering all the while a in a cannot retain you in my employ. Here | to see a hundred years, shall I cease to shudder at the recollection of that

Yet, even in the midst of my agony,

It seemed to me that never before seemed inevitable. Down, down I slipped, grasping at

"Come down, come down!" called of the week that I can afford to meet a rected the clerk, as soon as he could ing for twenty years, struck him like resolutely to work to find an employer. the architect from the window; "half snob occasionally," and walked out. Next But powerful is a breath of slander; the sum shall be yours, for the risk you day be called at the bank again, and wished

and then, while my head recled with

which had proved so treacherous. This Yet I did not sit down in idle des- was compelled to do, however, and the pair; I could not afford to do so; the space between the angles became sufficer tpended on my exertion—and so turn- complishing my purpose, at length, I see ing away from them with a heavy heart, up more rapidly, carefully testing care I once more set out on the weary search | block as I proceeded.

> Ere long I reached the cross, and there I paused to rest, looking down from the divisy height with a coolness that even then us-A few strokes with a light hatchet that

the architect had bung at my back, and piece by piece the rotten cross fell to the My work was done, and as the last frug-

ment disappeared I found a sad pleasure in the thought that, should I never reach the Sad and cautiously I lowered myself from

block to block, and at length reached the Inside the steeple the architect placed .

"You have well earned the money," is so much nerve-but-bless me ! what is the "I didn't know the spire was so high | matter with your hair? It was block be

And so it was. That moment of interagony, while slipping helplessly down ware. architect. "But go, if you will; let it had blanched my hair until it appeared his that of an old man. The work of team

had been done in an instant. Entering the bare, cheerless room, which was now all I called home, I found a visitor

"Harvey," said he, extending his hand "I have done you a great wrong. It comare a terrible pang to believe your gold, but the circumstances were so strong again a you that I was forced to believe it. I may "I will make it worth your while found the coin, Haivey; it slipped and

justly, not through my works only, but

I did not refuse. Instead, I thankfull accepted the offer which my friend so go erously made, knowing that no surer meth od could have been devised to silence for ever the tongue of slunder, and thee my

ame from the unmerited reproach which had of late rested upon it. "If any accident happens to you, Unmerited prosperity has attended my my brave fellow, the money shall be paid to your family. I promise you steps ever since that eventful day, but neither prosperity or wealth can efface its

The severe illness of my wife, and It I die they can live on the hundred of the New York Evening Post, writing with which he performed the business en-I followed him into the church, then trusted to him. Late one evening it was up into the spire, until we paused be- discovered there was no beefsteak for by sahowever, and being forgotten at home, the doors were looked and the family retired Casting a single glance at the peo- to bed. In the morning the deg was found in the distance-I reached out from lay untouched under the guardship ma.

> Another dog worthy of honorable mention once went with a mother and her child to the village. Soon after their ar-For an instant my courage faltered, rival the little girl was burned so severely ed, under whose scothing remedies the girl was quieted and fell asleep, when the doctor took his leave. An hour or two after returning to his office he heard an From block to block I went steadi- unusual noise at his door, and opening a walked in and seated himself beside that physician and began licking his hand . Then rearing himself on his hind legs by put his mouth to the man's face attemy tions for a time walked out of the file . Doubtless he had pondered up a his your g mistress' sufferings and the physician's eforts to relieve them, and gratitude led bina to express his thanks.

> > SHREWD REVENGE,-The Court Journal prints the following: Apropos of the American story we re-

Omela people tried to kill, but who returned with Cassel's Illustrated Bible, trying to get a subscription from the head of the attacking party, an equally good stodoubt not but that I would have bur- each block as I passed it by, until at is told of the canvasser of a London pubof a branch bank, and saw the manager, who, as soon as he learned his business ordered him out. Very quietly he said. "I meet with so many gentlemen in the course in to the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the departed. The officiating clergylimit to the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the departed are the determined to succeed. I was not less than application for employment uniformly met with a court adjourns I'll make an example of way. New York.

ACTIONS of the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and deposited \$270. The manager could do not fail to have the culprit here before the determined to succeed. I was not less than application for employment uniformly met with a man expressed a faint hope, but he didn't seem very sanguine. All seem.

Time went are the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and deposited \$270. The manager could do not fail to have the culprit here before one to give up after having undertaken day preceding, and ordered a certy of the didn't seem very sanguine. All seem.

Time went are the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the manager and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and the provided fine the provi The Agents 840 per week is Cash access to the clerks, several of whom did the same. Two days atterward every farcolly, but cautiously, I began the clothing found its way to the pawncolling found its way to the pawncollin