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THE HOUSEHOLD DELIGHT ! lieved-with satisfaction, that his pre-THE WEED' FAMILY FAVORITE.



OVER SHOOTING THE MARK, I do, Joe. Don't be afraid ; faint heart,

BY F. D.

A GREAT many years since, when bright-eyed and fair-haired lasses

were not so plenty in New England as

they are now, there dwelt in the town of

some five-and-twenty miles from the

"market-town," a peculiarly comely and

graceful maiden, who had a peculiarly

Minnie, was Danforth's only child; and

The old man was a sturdy farmer, and

report said truly she would be his sole

was estimated to be worth full ten thou-

sand dollars, at that period-a very hand-

The sparkling eyes and winning man-

ners of Minnie Danforth had stirred up

the finer feelings of the whole male por-

tion of the village, and her suitors were

numerous; but her father was particular,

and none succeeded in making headway

In the meantime Minnie had a true and

loval lover in secret, who no one would

have supposed for a moment that such a fel-

low would dare to look upon beauty and

comparative refinement. His name was Walker, or, as he was generally called.

"Joe."-Joe Walker; and he was simply

a farmer employed by old Danforth, who had entrusted Joe to his place for two or

But a very excellent farmer, and a right

young, too,-only twenty-three-and he

actually fell in love with this beautiful,

the occurrence was Minnie returned his

love earnestly, truly, and frankly; and promised to wed him at the favorable

Things went on merrily for a time, but

old Danforth discovered certain glances

and attentions between them which exci-

ted his envy and suspicions. Very soon afterwards Joe learned the old man's mind

indirectly in regard to his future disposal

of Minnie's hand, and he quickly saw his

case was a hopeless one, unless he resort-

ed to stratagem; and so he set his wits at

By agreement, an apparently settled

coldness and distance was observed by the

lovers toward each other for five or six

months, and the father saw-as he be-

vious suspicions and fears had been all

Then by agreement also between them,

Joe absented himself from the house at

evening; and, night after night for full

three months longer did Joe disappear as

soon as his work was finished to return

only at late bed time. This was unusual,

and old Danforth determined to know the

Joe frankly confessed that he was

in love with a man's daughter, who re-

sided less than three miles distant, but

after a faithful attachment between them

for several months, the old man had ut-

terly refused to entertain his appliciation

This was capital. Just what old Dan-

ugly and cross-grained father.

some fortune to have.

with her or him.

three years.

moment.

once to work.

premature.

cause of it.

gatee.

GREAT many years since, when

-, a pretty village, distant, theu,

you know, never won fair women. OB " The old man will be astounded." A Slight Mistake.

"Never mind, go on. We'll turn the laugh on him. I'll take care of you and your wife, at any rate."

"Then I'll do it," said Joe. "You shall," said Danforth, they parted, in the best of spirits. And

An hour after dark on the following evening. Joe made his appearance decked in a nice new black suit, and really looking very comely. The old man bustled out to the barn with him, helped to harness "Young Morgan" to the phaeton, and leading the spunky animal himself into the road, away went happy Joe Walker in search of his bride.

A few rods distant from the house he found her according to arrangement. and repairing to the next village, the parson very quickly made them one in the holy bands of wedlock.

Joe took his bride and soon dashed back to the town of P-----, and halted at old Danforth's house, who was already looking for him, and who received him with open arms. "It is done!" cried the old man. "Yes, yes," answered Joe.

" Bring her in! Bring her in !" continued the old fellow, in high glee. " Never mind compliments. No matter about the dark entry. Here, here, Joe, to the right is the best parlor. We'll have a fine time, now, sure." And the anxious farmer rushed away for lights, returning almost immediately.

"Here's the certificate, sir," said Joe, " Yes, yes!"

"And this is my wife," he added, as he popped up his beautiful bride-the close py or near to, for now I can belief good manager was this plain, unassuming, but good-looking Joe Walker. He was bewitching and lovely Minnie Danforth. "What !" roared the old file, "what did you say, Joe ! you villain ! you scamp ! pleasant, joyous Minnie Danforth, the only daughter. But the strangest part of you audacious cheat you ! you-you-" It is the truth, sir, we are lawfully married."

" You advised me to do this ; you assisted me; you planned the whole affair; you lent me your horse; you thought me worthy last evening-worthy of any man's child; you encouraged it; you promised to stand by me; you offered me the cot-tage at the foot of the lane; you---''

"I didn't ! I deny it ! you can't prove You're a-a-

"Calmly, now, sir," continued Joe. And the entreaties of the happy couple were at once united to quell the old man's ire, and to persuade him to acknowledge the union.

The father releated at last. It was a job of his own manufacture, and he saw how useless it would be, finally, to attempt to destroy it.

He gave in reluctantly, and the fair Minnie Danforth was overjoyed to be duly acknowledged as Mrs. Joe Walker .---The marriage proved a joyful one, and the original assertion of old Danforth proved truthful in every respect. The cunning lover was a good son-in-law and a faithful husband, and lived many years to enjoy the happiness which followed his runaway match, while the old man never cared to hear much about the details of the clopement, for he saw how completely he had overshot the mark.

A Novel Marriage Complication.

SOME recent developments of matri-monial infelicities are now occupying considerable attention in the usually quiet village of Hastings-upon-Hudson. It appears that some time during the year 1867, a Mrs. Easterbrook, a respectable other their mutual affinity. They loved widow, earning a comfertable maintenance by keeping a store, attracted the notice last whispers of the way things were of Mr. Win. Henry Wright, a well-to-do going on began to reach the aged matron's farmer living in the neighborhood, a widdower with a large family of children, who finally proposed marriage to Mrs. jealousy. She employed spies and de-Easterbrook. She however, declined asauming the responsible charge of such a large family unless Mr. Wright would not only make her Mrs. Wright, but also right in a pecuniary point of view by settling upon her a certain amount of property before the hymencal knot was tied. To meet her views on that point, he gave her his note for \$5,000, payable six months after date. A short time after marriage Mrs. Wright found their domestic relations unsatisfactory, and concluded to return to her parental roof, and about the same time discovered that the note given her by her husband was missing, and suspected that her husband had managed to get possession of it. At the expiration of six months Mrs. Wright sued her husband for the amount of the note given, and although her husband denied in the most positive manuer, that he had ever given his wife any such acknowledgement of indebtedness or obligaation, the latter produced witnesses who had seen the note, knew it to be the handwriting of Mr. Wright, one of whom affixed the revenue stamp to the doeument at the time, and a verdict was rendered in favor of the wife, who had just ascertained that her busbaud had obtained a divorce from her by means of alleged fraudulent affidavits. Mrs. Wright has employed counsel to have the proceedings of this divorce case thoroughly ventilated and this decree of divorce set

A Puzzled Dutchman.

ONE who does not believe in immer-sion for baptism, was holding a protracted meeting, and one night preached on the subject of baptism. In the course of his remarks he said : "Some believe it necessary to go down into the water, and come out of it, to be baptized. But this is claimed to be a fallacy, for the preposition · into' of the Scriptures should be rendered differently, for it does not tain, and the Savior was taken into a high mountain, etc. Now we do not suppose that either went into a mountain, out mate it. So with going down into the water; it means simply going down ling or pouring.

He earried this idea out fully, and in due season and style closed his discourse, when an invitation was given for any so disposed to arise and express his thoughts. Quite a number of the brethren arose and said that they were glad that they had been present on this occasion, that they were pleased with the sound sermon they had just heard, and felt their souls greatly blessed. Finally a corpulent gentleman of Teutonic extraction, a stranger to all arose and broke the silence, that was almost painful, as follows :

" Mister Breacher : I ish so glad I vash here to-night, for I had explained to my mint some dings dat I never could pelief pefore. Oh ! I am so glad dat into' does not mean into at all, but shust many dings vot I cannot pelief pefore .---Ve reat, Mister Breacher, dat Taniel was into de ten of lions and came out alife ! Now I never could pelief dat, for de wilt peasts would shust eat him right off; now it ish very clear to my mint. He vas shust close py or near to, and did not get into de den at all. Oh, I ish so glad vas here to night !

"Again we reat dat to Hebrew children vash cast into de firish furnaceand dat air alwish looked like a peeg story, too, for they were shust cast near py or close to the firish furnace. Oh, 1 ish so glad I vash here to night !

"And now Mr. Breacher, if you vill shust exblain two more passages of Scriptures, I shall pe oh ! so happy dat I vash here to night ! One of dem ish vhere it saith de vicked shall be cast into a lake dat burns mit fire and primstone alretty. Oh, Mister Breacher, shall I pe cast into dat lake if I am vickid? or shust close py or near to, shust near enough to pe omfortable? Oh ! I hopes you dell me I shall pe cast only shust py a goot way off, unt I vill pe so glad I vash here tonight! De other bassage ish dat vich saish, blessed are dey who de dese commandments, dat dey may have right to de tree of life and enter in into de gate of de city, and not shust close py or near to, shust near enough to see vot I have lost, unt I shall pe so glat I vash here to-night !"

BO" A Mr. Ferris married in early manhood a slim old lady twice his age. As years went by, his ancient charmer wooing. At last he met a pretty, jolly visited San Francisco in the hope of oblittle widow down town. Both found in the taining employment better adapted to his fondly, extravagantly, incessantly. At ears. Although too old to love, her heart burned fiercely with the pangs of tectives, and watched herself. Finally she burst in on them, and a free fight ensued. An arrest was then the consequence. Arraigned before the magistrate, the aged wife attempted to explain the difficulty. "But," said the recorder. "you intruded on them" "Yes," interposed Mr. Ferris, " burst with loud screams and Indian-like yells into our presence. " She's crazy." " What" screamed the vigaro, "do you call me, your wife crazy?" " There, now." claimed Mr. Ferris, with an air of triumph. I told you she was crazy. She thinks I am her husband." Mrs. Ferris was too confounded to speak "She's your mother, aint she?" "Certainly," "Certainly, replied the hard hearted Ferris ; and before anything further could be said the court dismissed the case.

AN OBSTINATE COUPLE. Truth Stranger than Fiction.

ONE of the pioneers in the California emigration, who went across the plains in 1849 tells the story, that began on the journey and has recently ended in San Francisco :

With the train on which the narrator, now in Nevada, was a member, was en-camped at a point on the Humboldt where the Lessen trails intersects the Carson mean 'into' at all times. " Moses." said track of travel, he visited the tent of a he, " we are told, went up into the moun- family consisting of an elderly couple and one child, a daughter of fourteen or fifteen. The old lady was sitting on a pile of blankets under the canvass, encouraging a most determined attack of the 'sulks,' while the masculine head of afclose by or near the water, and being fairs had planted himself on the wooden baptized in the ordinary way by sprink- tongue, and was sucking his pipe as if he expected to stay there forever.

A single glance developed the difficulty of that little train of one wagon and three persons, and that it had attained a point of quiet desperation beyond the reach of peaceful adjustment. Three days before they had pitched their tents at the forks of the road, and as they could not agree upon the route by which to enter California there they remained. The husband had expressed a preference for the Carson road, and the wife the Lessen, and neither would yield. The wife declared she would remain all winter; the husband said he would be pleased to prolong the journey through the summer following.

On the morning of the fourth day the wife broke a sullen silence of thirty-six hours by proposing a division of the property which consisted of two yoke of oxen, one wagon, camp furuiture, a small quantity of provisions, and \$12 in silver. The proposal was accepted, and forthwith the 'plunder' was divided, leaving the wagon to the old man and the daughter to the mother. The latter exchanged with a neighboring train the cattle belonging to her for a pony and packsaddle, and piling her daughter and portion of the divided spoils upon the animal she resolutely started across the desert by the Lessen trail while the old man silently yoked his cattle and took the other route.

Of course both parties reached Cali-fornia in safety. We say 'of course,' for it is scarcely possible that any obstacle death included could have interfered with stubbornness so sublime. Arriving in Sacramento with her daughter, the old lady found employment-for women were less plentiful than now-and subsequent-ly opened a boarding house, and in a few years amassed a handsome fortune. Two years ago she went to San Francisco. and the daughter, whose education had not been neglected was married to one of the most substantial citizens.

And what had become of the old man? The wife had not seen or heard of him since they parted on the Humboldt. They had lived happily together for years, and she sometimes repreached herself for the wilfulness that separated them after so long a pilgrimage together. But he was not dead. We cannot trace his course in California, however. All that we know of him is, that fortune had not smiled upon him, and that for years he had grew wrinkled and savage, and Mr. toiled without hope. Finally, feeling Ferris mourned the hour he first went unable to wield the pick and shovel, he

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forth most desired. This satisfied him that he had made a mistake in regard to his own child; and he would help Joe to get married, and thus stop all further suspicion or trouble

at home; so he said : "Well, Joe, is she a buxom lass?" "Yes, yes," said Joe, "that is other folks say so. I am not much of a judge

myself.

" And you like her ?"

" Yes, sir; yes.

for the young girl's hand.

"Then marry her," said old Danforth. " But I can't-the father objects.

" Pooh !" continued Danforth ; "let him do so ; what need you care ? Run

away with her."

+Elope?"

"Yes! Off with you at once. If the girl will join. all right. Marry her; bring her here; you shall have the little cottage at the loot of the lane. I'll furnish it for you; your wages shall be increased, and the old man may like it or not-as he will."

But-but-

But use no 'buts,' Joe. Do as 1 bid you; go about it at once, and - you will stand by me?' yes, to the last. I know you, Joe, you're a good fellow-a good workman, and will make any body a good son-in-law or husband."

"The old fellow would be so mad. though."

"Who cares, I say? Go on quickly, but quietly."

"To-morrow night, then," said Joe. "Yes," said Danforth.

" I'll hire Colver's horse."

"No you shan't." "Not ?"

"I say no. Take my horse, the best one-Young Morgan ; he'll take you off in fine style in the new phaeton.' "Exactly."

And as soon as you are spliced, come right back here, and a jolly time we'll

have of it at the old house. " Her father will kill me!"

don't know your good qualities as well as result of good sense and good nature.

nside

for Ceremonies are different in every country; but true politeness is everywhere the same. Ceremonies which take up so much of our attention are only artificial helps which ignorance assumes in "He's an old fool wh oever he is; he order to imitate politeness, which is the

100 A dignified drunkard dwells at Bellows Falls, Vt. He is an old Indian, known as "Dr. John," who would be smart, save for his love of liquor. As he was tacking along the sidewalk, he made a mis-step, plunged into an opening, and stuck there, with nothing but his feet visible above the bricks. A person who saw him fall ran to his aid, and pulled him out. As soon as the "doctor" Was on his feet, he braced himself against a hitching-post, and said :

"G'long now. Can't yer mind yer isiness? What have I done that you business? should abuse me this way ?"

The individual explained, by saying that he wished to help the doctor out of trouble. Whereat John replied :

'Spect you think that's mighty big talk ! Next time I stoop down to pick up my hat out o' that hole, want ye just to keep yer hands off, that's all !"

wasted strength.

For three months he remained idle after arriving there, and then, for want of occupation became the humble retailer of peanuts and oranges, with his entire traffic upon his arm. This was six months ago. A few weeks since in passing the open door of a cottage in the southern part of the city, he observed a lady in the hall and stopped to offer his merchandise. As he stepped on the threshold the lady approached, and the old man raised his eyes and dropped his basket; and no wonder, either, for she was his wife, his old woman ? She recognized him, and, throwing up her arm in amazement, exclaimed :

"Great God! John, is that you?" All that is left of me" replied the old nan. With extended arms they apman: proached. Suddenly the old lady's countenance changed, and she stepped back. 'John." said she, with a look which might have been construed into earnestness, "how did you find the Carson road?" "Miserable Sukey, miserable," replied the old man; "full of sand and alkali," Then I was right, John," she continued. inquiringly. "You were, Su-key." "That's enough, John," and the old couple strangely sundered, were reunited.

Artemus Ward on Lending Money.

Artemus Ward once lent money. He thus recounts the transaction :

" A gentlemanly friend of mine came to me one day, with tears in his eyes. I said, 'Why these weeps?" He said he had a mortgage on his property, and wanted to borrow two hundred dollars. I lent him the money and he went away. Some time after he returned with more tears. He said he must leave me forever. I ventured to remind him of the two hundred dollars. He brightened, shook my hand, and said, 'Old friend, I won't allow you to outdo me in liberality. I'll throw off the other hundred." And thus ha discharged the debt.

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