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"Well, parson," Moniegan began at last, "that's what you mean in the front of the stove clean to the minute you come back here. I'd think you'd heard more names."

"Of course we couldn't put it quite so eloquent as you did, but we had just everyone of us 'lowed that sense the day May Meredith popped out of the chimney like the sky ain't never shone the same."

"But for a story? Well, I don't see that their's much story to it, and to them that didn't know her I reckon it's a common enough story."

"But ez to the old nigger, Proph', hein't mixed up in it? I can't eggrally say that's so, though I don't never think about the old nigger without seemin' to see little May Day's long yaller curls, an' if I think about her, I seem to see the old man, somehow."

"Don't they come to you all that-a-way?"

"He paused, took a few puffs from his pipe and looked from one to another for confirmation of his story."

"Yes," said the doctor, "just exactly that-a-way, Dan'l. Go on, 'n' man. You're a-tellin' it straight."

"Well, that's what I mean to do. He laid his pipe down on the stove's fender as he resumed his recital."

"Old Proph'—which his name wasn't Proph', of co'se, which ain't to say a name now, but his name was Jerry, an' he used to go by name of Jerry; then somebody called him 'Jerome, the prophet'; then he got down to 'Proph' and then 'Proph'—and so it stayed."

"Well, as I started to say, Proph' he was just one of Meredith's of 'slave niggers—a sort of queer, half loney, no-count, darky—never done nothin' sensible, never done nothin' right along, to jest live on Meredith's right along."

"He wasn't to say crazy but—well, he'd stand and talk to anything, a dog, a cat, a tree, a toad—frog—anything. Heap of times I've seen him limp in up the road an' he'd turn round sudden an' seem'd to be talkin' to somethin' that was follerin' him, an' when he'd git tired he'd start on an' maybe every minute look back over his shoulder and laugh. They was only one thing Proph was to say, good for. Proph was a capital A hunter—shores't shot in the state, in my opinion, and when he'd take a notion he could go out where nobody wouldn't sight a bird or a squirrel all day long, an' he'd fill his game bag."

"Well, sir, the children round town, they was all afraid of 'im, and the niggers—'thain't a nigger in the county they don't believe in this day that Proph would cunjer 'em of he'd git mad."

manly shelf, seemed like he never would open his mouth to begin.

"An' when at last he started to talk, said 'o' runnin' on an' laughin' an' pleasin' everybody like he always done. He lifted up his face an' raised up his hands, same ez you'd do, ef you was startin' to read in public prayer. An' then he commenced:

"See he—an' when he started, he spoke so low down in his throat you couldn't scarcely hear him—sez he: 'Every year, my friends, I stand befo' you an' look throo de open gate into the new year. An', sez he, 'seem like I see a long procession of people pass befo' me—some two by two, some by one, some horseback, some mul-

riedly inclined, ef ever a well-dressed city person behaved that way. 'Well, sir, from that day on, he froze tober and, strange to say, every mother of a marriageable daughter in town was jealous exceptin' one, an' that one was May's own mother. An' she not only was jealous—which she couldn't be, 'a'be'n, of co'se—but she wasn't pleased."

"She seemed to feel a dread of him from the start, and she treated him mighty shabby, but of co'se the little girl, she made it up to him in politeness, good as she could, an' he didn't take no notice of it. 'Keep on showin' the old lady every 'tention, an' when he'd be in town, most any evenin' you'd go past the Meredith gate you could see his horse tied there—everything open and above-board, so it seemed."

"Well, sir, he happened to be here the time of the old year party, three year ago. You've seen here a year and over, ain't you, parson?"

"Yes, I was station'd here at fall conference a year ago this November, you recollect."

"Yes, so you was. Well, all this is about two year befo' you come. 'Well, sir, when it was known that May Day's city bear was goin' to be here for the party, everybody looked to see some fun, 'cause they know'd how free of Proph' made with names, an' they wonder'd ef he'd have call enough to call out May Day's name without nothin' else. Well, ez the kids would tell it, the party was at my house that year, an' I tell you, sir, folks they hadn't set up to see the old year out for ten years, come that night jest for fear they'd miss somethin'. But of co'se we saw throo it. We know'd what fetched 'em."

"I ever see in my life. Our Simpkinsville pattern for young girls is a tolerable neat one, ef I do say it, ez shoudn't be kin to forty-seven of 'em. We ain't got no, to say, ugly girls in town—never had many, though some has played down, consider'd when they got settled in years, but the girls there that night was ez perfect a bunch of girls ez you ever see—jest ez purty a show of beauty ez any rose arbor could turn out on a spring day."

"Have you ever went to gether roses, parson, each one seem'd to be the purtiest you'd get? Well, an' you'd be startin' to come away, when away up on top of the vine you'd see one that was enough plinker an' sweeter'n the rest to make you climb for it, an' when you'd git it, you'd stick it in the top of yore bouquet a little higher'n the others."

"I see you know what I mean. Well, that was the way May Day looked that night. She was that top bud. 'I had three nieces and wife and she had sev'ral cousins, there—all purty enough to draw hummin' birds—but I say 'little May Day'—the truth, they topped 'em all for beauty and sweetness an' modesty that night."

"An' the stranger—well, I dunno jest what to liken him to less'n it is to one of them princes that stalk around the stage an' gives orders when they have play actin' in a show. He was nothin' like that, an' he jest, nor his rig, nor his manners, neither. Talked to the old ladies—recollet my wife she had a finger wropped up, an' he ast her about it and advised her to look after it an' give her a recipe for bone-felon. She thought they were kiddin' him, an' he jest, simply danced the wall flowers dizzy, give the fiddlers money, an'—well, he done everything that a person of the royal family of city gentry might be expected to do. An' every body wonder'd what mo' Mrs. Meredith wanted for her daughter. Tell the truth, some mistrusted, an' 'lowed that she jest took on that way to hide how tickled she was."

"Well, ez I say, the party passed off lovely, an' after awhile it came near 12 o'clock, an' the folks commenced to loo' round for ef proph' come in. An' call out events same as he always done."

"So directly the boys they went out an' fetched him in—drawin' him 'long by the sleeve, an' holdin' back like ez ef he dreeded to come in. 'I tell you, parson, I'll never forget the way that old nigger he jest, longest day I live. Seemed like he couldn't scarcely walk, an' he stumbled, an' when he took his station front of the

Quaker Oats advertisement featuring an illustration of a Quaker man and the text: 'Good teeth, bright eyes and rosy cheeks Quaker makes 'em!'

W. L. Douglas \$3 Shoe advertisement with an illustration of a shoe and text: 'You can save money by purchasing W. L. Douglas shoes'.

E. J. Leonard advertisement for 'Cushman's Menthol Inhaler' with an illustration of the product and text: 'Cushman's Menthol Inhaler'.

Complexion Preserved advertisement for 'Dr. Hebra's Viola Cream' with an illustration of a woman's face and text: 'Complexion Preserved'.

Moosic Powder Co. advertisement for 'Mining and Blasting Powder' with text: 'Moosic Powder Co., Rooms 1 and 2 Commonwealth Bld'g'.

Gilmore's Aromatic Wine advertisement with text: 'Gilmore's Aromatic Wine—A tonic for ladies. If you are suffering from weakness, and feel exhausted and nervous'.

Orange Gun Powder advertisement with text: 'Orange Gun Powder—Electric Batteries, Fuses for exploding mines, Safety Fuse and'.

Atlantic Refining Co. advertisement with text: 'Atlantic Refining Co. Manufacturers and Dealers in'.

Dexter Shoe Co. advertisement with text: 'Dexter Shoe Co., 143 Federal St., Boston, Mass.'.

NERVE SEEDS FOR WEAK MEN advertisement with text: 'NERVE SEEDS FOR WEAK MEN'.

WATERBURY'S advertisement with text: 'WATERBURY'S'.

PIERCE'S CURE advertisement with text: 'PIERCE'S CURE'.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS advertisement listing various professionals like 'Physicians and Surgeons' and 'Lawyers'.

RAILROAD TIME-TABLES advertisement for 'Central Railroad of New Jersey' and 'Lehigh Valley Railroad'.

Lehigh-University advertisement with text: 'Lehigh-University Glee and Banjo Club'.

DAVIS' THEATER advertisement with text: 'Davis' Theater Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31, Jan. 1 and 2'.

PECK'S BAD BOY advertisement with text: 'Peck's Bad Boy Introducing All the Latest Songs, Dances, Medleys, Etc.'.

WHEN THE HAMMER FALLS advertisement with text: 'When the Hammer Falls The goods are yours at your own price, if you happen to be the lucky bidder'.

GOL S. M. MCKEE, AUCTIONEER advertisement with text: 'GOL S. M. MCKEE, AUCTIONEER'.

HOTEL WAVERLY advertisement with text: 'HOTEL WAVERLY European Plan, First-class Bar attached'.

T. J. VICTORY, PROPRIETOR advertisement with text: 'T. J. VICTORY, PROPRIETOR'.

MT. PLEASANT COAL advertisement with text: 'MT. PLEASANT COAL'.

REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY advertisement with text: 'REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY'.

PHILINE BLOOD POISON advertisement with text: 'PHILINE BLOOD POISON'.

AMUSEMENTS advertisement for 'THE FROTHINGHAM' and 'HOSS and HOSS'.

HOSS and HOSS advertisement with text: 'HOSS and HOSS By far the Newest, Greatest and Best'.

THE FROTHINGHAM advertisement with text: 'THE FROTHINGHAM Thursday Evening, Jan. 3'.

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