

evenin' so fer. What's got inter ye ?"

"Oh, I was jest athinkin'," drawled Mr. Green. "Nawthin' 'n pertickler ye know—don't 'mount ter much, but I'll tell ye what I was athinkin' on, ef you say so."

Now as he always prefaced his remarks by some such modest statement, no one needed to urge him to continue, and he shortly settled his quid of tobacco in a remote corner of his capacious mouth, and, stretching out his long nether limbs toward the glowing stove, began his story.

"Naow ye know," said he, "I allus like ter hev plenty uv good hot fire near by when I'm asetting' still. Dunno Why 'tis—guess my blood ain't s'good's it used ter be, fer I didn't used ter mind the cold much. But I be agettin' old, 'nd need somethin' ter keep my blood amovin'—thet's why I chew terbaccer—it's sort uf comfortin' and exhilaratin' at times.

"Waal, the story I was athinkin' uv was about like this. Ye know I went daown East last winter ter visit my sister who I hedn't seen fer goin' on nigh onter twenty year. Gee ! but thet was the coldest place I ever see ! Twenty degrees below zero warn't nothin' fer them folks.

"I hed a hard row ter hoe. Sal she did everythin' she could ter make me comf'table—red hot stove 'n my room 'nd cumf'tables enough ter fit aout a regiment with winter overcoats, 'nd yet I'd wake up 'n the mornin' ashiverin' so's ter splinter my store teeth. So one night she fetched in a warmin'-pan, 'nd filled it up chock full uv red-hot coals, 'nd gin it ter me, atellin' me :

"'Naow jest before yer jump inter bed, take 'nd chase thet thing around between the sheets, 'nd mebbe it'll kinder give ye a start toward keepin' warm till mornin'.

"Waal, I did's directed, 'nd thinkin' I might's well git the hull 'dvantage from them coals, I left it in there, 'nd got my feet daown 's clost tew it 's I could 'thought gettin' burned, 'nd went right off ter sleep.

"I hed the most all-fired fine dreams I ever hope to hev. Dreamt I was travellin' daown South 'nd jest 'njoyin' the