

warm weather. 'F I remember right, I'd got 'bout 's fur south 's Alabamma, 'nd was a settin' by the kitchen stove ter git real good 'nd warm. 'Twas awful hot thet day, 'nd after a spell I got up ter take off my coat. Arter another spell I thought I'd take off my collar 'nd necktie—the' bein' no ladies present—but the consarned things stuck 'nd I commenced ayankin', 'nd ahaulin' on the pesky things, 'nd thrashin' raound like all persessed, when I knocked a kittle uv hot, bilin' water onter me.

"With thet I made a jump, 'nd thet jump woke me up, 'nd I warn't daown in Alabamma, not by a darn sight, but daown in Maine with the bed-clothes all aburnin' up araound me. Naow I warn't ready ter begin the 'everlastin' burnin' ' at jest thet minit, 'nd I lit aout uv thet bed pretty lively ye'd believe.

"Waal, we got the fire aout arter a time, but bein' somewhat excited 'nd het up over it, jest dressed me, 'nd set daown clost by the kitchen stove 'nd waited fer the fust train back ter Bostin', 'nd ye'd better believe I aint goin' ter no such cold place agin."

"Burn ye much?" queried a sympathetic listener.

"Naw," drawled Mr. Green, "'nd thet's the funniest part uv th' hull thing. Fire up above me, 'nd below me, 'nd all around me, 'nd never teched me."

"Sort uv a mirac'lous escape, *warn't* it, Mr. Green?" queried the same man.

"Waal, I d' know 's I'd say *that*," was the reply, and from the light in Mr. Green's eye we knew that his victim had "bit." "I d' know 's I'd say that, egzactly. Ye see," said he adopting a confidential tone and leaning toward his questioner, "Ye see I sort ov figgered it aout that it must 'a ben because I was tew Green tew burn."

And the sympathetic listener sneaked quietly out amid the "Haw Haw's" of the rest of the company, while Abner settled back again to his cud-chewing without so much as a shadow of a smile.