

OUR COUNTRY.

which increased as I considered the character of the Cases. They were thrifless, half out lawed wretches, such as haunt many country towns in Connecticut—rascals "shoddy boys" living by hunting, fishing, and miscellaneous jobs by hand and foot.

THE STRAY HOUSE.

When you see any house going along here? It was shot at by me through the window by some one whom I could not identify. I had enough reason to see that my boat was a boat driven upon the wet turf and the speaker, the headmost of the boat crew, man turning upon his seat and repeating his odd question: "A house is not a preambular thing in the world, the inquiry was both natural and to the point."

"And at mother's window!" added John, in a troubled voice. The darkness, or some other impediment, must have delayed them more than it had ourselves, or they would have departed before that. What the party did was, however, we never knew; it was the second time that the boat which had begun with our second stoppage at Knifed Bridge, and it was some time before we could see it again.

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"Heaven and earth!" groaned Elphinstone; "the house could never shoot the bridge with the water up to its level." I was looking straight ahead, with straining eyes, before I could answer, a black mass seemed to spring up within the abyss of the darkness before us. It was the bridge!

"Here, John," said John, grimly, but like a true Connecticut farmer, without an oath. "The boat is here, and you are here." "Em, are you hurt?" "No, John; but make haste and help mother."

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