

THE DEAR OLD HOME.

When I long for faded memories, Like angel troops they come, If I fold my arms to ponder On the old, old home.

The heart has many passages Through which the feelings roam, But its middle aisle is sacred To the old, old home.

Where infancy was sheltered Like rosebuds from the blast; Where childhood's brief elysium In Joyousness was passed;

To that sweet spot forever; To that hallowed dome, Life's pilgrim bends his vision, 'Tis the old, old home.

A father sat how proudly, By the old hearthstone's rays, And told his children stories Of his early manhood days;

And one soft eye was beaming, From child to child 'twould roam; Thus a mother counts her treasures In the old, old home.

The birthday gifts and festivals, The blindest vesper hymn— Some dear one who was swelling it Is with the seraphim.

The fond goodnights at bed-time, How quiet sleep would come, And fold us all together, In the old, old home.

MOSQUITOES.

Jimson, the champion fish-try teller of the North Side; Pinney, the champion snake-story teller of the South Side, and a few others of lesser note, were assembled one evening last week, when the spirit moved Jimson to speak.

"I have heard a good deal about New Jersey mosquitoes," he said musingly, "but I never took much stock in the stories until this summer."

"What changed your opinion?" inquired a quiet little fellow in the back of the crowd.

"Well, I was down in the southern part of New Jersey visiting an old farmer. One night we heard a terrible howling, and the old man took his gun and we sallied out to the cow-pasture; but we were too late."

"Too late!" remarked one of the crowd inquiringly.

"Yes, too late. One of those blasted mosquitoes had stuck his beak clean through a cow and pinned her to a tree. I was awfully sorry. One of the most valuable cows, you know."

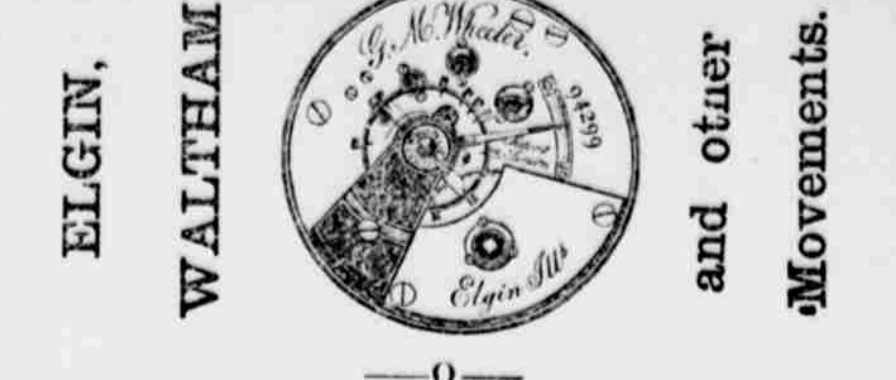
There was a moment's silence, during which the crowd looked at Jimson in admiration. Then the quiet little fellow remarked:

"Of course it killed the tree too?" "Oh, yes; split it right in two."

"I thought likely." Then there was another pause, and Pinney asked:

"Did you ever see Barber & Jones' boiler factory in the northern part of the State?"

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