N INCORRIGIBLE BOY

IERE was a shrewd Yankee boy born up in Vermont about 50 years and despite the fact that he was ered into this busy world without proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, ve satisfied myself that his natal was a lucky one. Nurses in that tical section of the world are not n to mummery or prophecy, and no attempted to forecast the horoe of the sturdy little youngster. He ed and squalled with astounding and displayed wonderful deteration to have things his own way, his father had the same disposiand all disposed of the infant proties by saying that he got them the old man direct. The boy had sles, mumps, wind colic, scarlet and all the other allments with ch our early existence is penalized, they never impaired his constituor his will.

school, where he was enrolled as Blaigh, the youngster was looked as a little too "stirring" to pleas teacher and the directors. Indeed, boy seemed dangerously near being prigible. He insisted on spelling netically. He contended that there no "doggone sense" in going ough l-a-u-g-h when l-a-f would anthe same purpose, and as long as honored the little white school-se with his presence he persisted in ting U-rip spell Europe. He chafed er restraint, had a restless desire to into a city, and vowed with all the idence of a youth of 14 that would never stay up there among mountains, where it took two hills aise a bean and where a kernel of could never sprout and grow up ss you rolled a stone aside to give re at chance. Ross and his father so much alike that any comproarrangement was out of the quesand the old gentleman, rememberhis own early inclination to go his way, fell in with the trend of the 's aspirations, and wrote to the unfor whom Ross had been named, who had become a wealthy man to do.' ffairs, requesting that he find the an opening.

ncle was not infatuated with hava male member of his tribe to look agent.' r, for all the men of the line withion. But blood is a good deal ker than water among men of that to vault the gate. position, and the boy was notified work of a country tailor, who beed in doing all his cutting on hight lines and in leaving plenty of m for a growing boy to fill out. oss looked very much out of place

his uncle's resplendant parlor, and w it before he had seen his hat and ternut overcost carried back to the rack after he had tossed them "the darndest puffed up cheer I see." His rough hands were a n's size, and his feet seemed to have ried on a highly successful rivalry the matter of development. He did know exactly what to do with se unruly members and could not compare them with the white ds and neatly-dressed feet of his le, who came as soon as the arrival been duly announced.

0, Lord!" exclaimed the family's successful member inwardly, but greeting was accompanied by a le that the boy liked, and he showed best features as he smiled back.

He's got our grit," was the next ntal comment of his uncle, for Ross wered all questions intelligently, if elegantly, and never gave an outclassed. He subdued his hands by ting them into his capacious pockand tucked his feet under the ir as if to keep them out of sight. dinner he met the rest of the relaship, a stylish aunt, three pretty sins who were old enough to study de to realize that some of his polish knocked off every time Yankees ewdness came back at him. Ross allowed about two inches of steel he every mouthful of mashed popers, held his fork as though he was my to stab some one, poured his ten of a saucer and blowed it rather than ing chances of coalding his internal mony, took a long pull at the finger of is and amounced that beef eteck med just as tunnal in New York in the source of the sources wounds it was the aunt who instant allowed that beef eteck med just as tunnal in New York in the street wounds it had ever received.

This time it was the aunt who instanted though they were, should that he hed never before abown to ber in its entirety. He want-

gained ground with the old gentleman and the younger cousins, but the aunt ground in spirit, and she who ranked as Miss Blaigh in the household did her best to ignore the boy.

"Why, you're a man," said the aunt, as they were discussing dessert.

"Not if yet," replied Ross. "I reckon I'm a leetle big fur my age, but I guess I'll fill out all right. The folks at home tell me I'm the livin' image of uncle as he was at my age, and he's 'bout as han'some now as you see 'em." This han'some now as you see 'em." This was rather a bitter sweet dose for the lady and gave all the rest an excuse for the laugh which they had been loyally trying to suppress.

That night the uncle and aunt had

in executive session at which it was finally agreed that Ross had too much raw material to break into city ways all at once, and the next morning he received a direct proposition from the uncle. "I am largely interested in the express company," he said. "They need a boy to help the agent at a little town up the road. You will practically be an office boy there as I will want you to be for me in time. I know that you have the right kind of stuff in you and I'll keep the way open so long as you show a disposition to make the most of your opportunities and ad-

This was not precisely what Ross had counted on, but he simply declared himself ready for anything that would give him an honest start, and accepted the job. Inside of a month the directors had the boy under discussion at one of their meetings. "All he needs is taming," laughed the president of the company, who had himself made his own way in the world. "You should have seen that special agent when he came in and reported his experience. He had a puff ball under one eye and walked with a very perceptible limp. He was in a towering rage and insisted that young Plaigh be dismissed by telegraph. I let him tell his own story and then convinced him that the express company had no right to lose a boy of that stamp. He would in time be fit for any place we had to offer."

"Just what did occur?" asked the uncle, who could not help showing that ne was a little proud over the affair.

"The home agent was called away for an hour on important business. He told your nephew not to admit anyone inside the railing under any circumstances. You know how it is with a special agent. He drops in at any time without warning, just like a bank examiner. He is getting so he can grin a little now when he tells what happened.

"'Open that gate, boy,' were his first

"'No admittance,' answered the boy, as he pushed the snap down on the spring lock.

"'Here, you impudent young rascal, unlock that gate and do it quick, or you'll lose your job.'

"'O, I reckon not. Boy's don't lose their jobs fur doin' what they's ordered

"'See here, you impudent little fool, I'm here to audit those books and I have no time to lose. I'm the special "'And I'm here to see that no one

his knowledge had an assertive in- teches them books; and you kin quit endence that declined to yield to losing time by gettin' away from here.' "'T'll show you,' as he made a spring

"But as he was in the midst of the eport at the first of the next month flying leap the boy caught him with a duty. At the appointed time Ross swing on the eye, used his head as a on hand, and the bucolic trade- batering ram and our special landed k was spattered all over him. He in a heap outside of the breastworks, tall, raw-boned, angular, freekled, as it were. Now he was mad enough such of his garments as had not to tear the depot down, but as he started n made by his thrifty mother were to repeat the assault he faced a revolver that the boy had grabbed from the agent's drawer. 'The little cuss would have shot, sure,' the special fumed in telling it to me. 'I could see it in his eyes, and he had the impudence to tell me that if I didn't stop swearing he'd put me out of the depot.'

"I don't believe in punishing the boy for obeying orders," continued the president, "even if he does make a mistake on the safe side."

"Chip off the old block," said the uncle, as he rubbed his hands and set up a chuckle that broke out at intervals through the rest of the meeting.

It was only a little later that Ross was brought to the attention of the directory again. Once more he had been in temporary charge during the absence of the agent, and an Italian scissors grinder who had his machine shipped from the city attempted to carry it off without paying charges. He was a savage specimen of his class, but the Green Mountain boy had all the courage of his ancestors and tackled the fellow. The engagement closed with the Italian on top of the machine, bleeding like a stuck beef from a scalp wound inflicted by a stray coup-ling pin in the hands of the agent's office boy. There was a satisfactory settlement before the man went mutter-

ing away with his machine. By this time the boy was much talked about and the idea of giving him a more opposite sex, no matter what the responsible position was being agitated men placed at their disposal, and when the uncle concluded that he wantndsome young man, handsomely ed Ross with him in some capacity. In a brief talk Ross was informed that he had the proper stuff in him and that sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying, but was soon had the proper stun in min and a sinly right of guying. soulless corporation. He was taken un-der the uncle's wing and made office boy in the bank of which the uncle was

were talking about the investment of millions they had enough to do without being bothered by every fellow that thought he wanted to see the president. The son had rushed in and said he wanted to talk with his father a minute Ross explained matters to him and po-litely asked him not to make such a tarnal racket. The son of a wealthy father promptly served notice that no clodhopper could tell him how to behave, and it was at this juncture that he was landed in the hall so hard that his bones cracked and his hair stood on end. The father was glad of it. His son was getting too swift and he would either check his pace or he would be sent to fill the place that Ross had left vacant on the farm. The mother resorted to her smelling bottle and fell back on a woman's argument of tears. In those days it was much more com-

mon than now to have a watchman sleep in the bank, and after the chilly reception accorded him the evening of the day that he had trounced his cousin Ross applied for the position of guard as well as office boy. He had a neat little room, there was a good light by which to pursue the studies to which he had turned his attention in earnest, he would not be interrupted and he had a more manly feeling when he knew that the safety of the bank might depend on his watchfulness. On examining the armory provided for defensive purposes, Ross found that it consisted of two old horse pistols with rusty metal and worm-eaten wood. If they could be induced to go off at all, the life of the man who discharged them would be in the gravest danger.

To a brave and ambitious Yankee boy, such an outfit was something to be scorned, and he respectfully presented the situation to his uncle. If there was no use in baving a watchman, it was wasteful to hire one. If he was needed he should at least be provided with arms that would not be a constant menace to his own life. The uncle recognized this Vermont logic and laughingly provided as fine a pair of revolvers as was to be had in the market. With a boy's delight Ross took them apart, oiled them just as though they needed it, polished up the silver trimmings that were already as bright as they could be made, and incidentally discovered a chance for an occasional improvement that was afterward suggested to the manufacturers and well

Inside of 60 days this same country boy, who was fast learning the accepted forms of the world to which he had been introduced, had another of those adventures, which sometimes boost an aspiring person along the road to success. It seemed to him that he had just dropped asleep when he was awak-ened by such a racket as tends to demoralize the steadlest nerves. In the brief transition state he had dreamed of an earthquake, explosion and volcanic eruption, at each of which he occupied a front seat and painfully realized a hair-raising sense of personal danger. Then he caught the smell of burnt powder, saw a dim light through the glass partition that separated his room from the main portion of the bank, and realized that there was something very serious requiring his attention.

It was a supreme test for an untried boy whose imagination is so liable to make a coward of him. But he came of fighting stock with lots of common sense, and was game for anything encountered in the line of duty. He realized that the bank was being burglarized and had no other thought than that of defending the property left in his care. "They have no idea that I am here," was his first thought in connection with the impending campaign, and then he began to organize for a surprise upon the enemy. His cherished weapons were concealed under the bed, and in a trice he had one of them in either hand. He did not wait to make a toilet, but slipped noiselessly to the best vantage point. The outer doors of the vault had been blown from their fastenings. Two men were working vigorously on the inner doors, while a third stood by with a lantern, apparently directing operations.

"Come on, boys," shouted Ross, as he knocked out a panel of glass with a startling racket and began pumpfing lead from both revolvers. It was as effective as a regimental charge. The burglars thought of nothing less than a police raid and turned tail. One went down with a bullet through his shoulder. Another found it impossible to run with a thigh bone crippled, and the third landed in the waiting arms of a policeman who was attracted to the spot by the fusilinde. The whole outfit was bagged.

Ross was the hero of the hour, and his uncle was so proud that he gave up the next day to the reception of interviewers who went away with the de-tailed history of the office boy and all his next of kin. It is easily understood how such a boy would advance. Promotion came as rapidly as he was fitted for it by business training. Confidence in his integrity and courage was un-bounded. He did a great work in the matter of self-education, "filled out" to the proportions of a handsome man, as it was predicted he would, became a social favorite of that rare type that cannot be spoiled, now has one of the most delightful families in all Greater New York, and is at the head of a big financial concern in which the cousin that was bounced by the office boy is a partner.—Book-Keeper.

The Wrong Guess She—Is my hat on straight?
He—Perfectly.
"Oh, the horrid thing. Excuse me will ou just a moment and I'll get it tilted over that right car if I have to use a spike incombin

STICK TO THE PIC.

cialize farm operations may be carried too far. It is generally understood and acknowledged that the pig is an im-portant part of the stock of a dairy farm, and can be kept on what would otherwise go largely to waste, that ome small farmers who are not in the dairy business begin to feel that they have no place among pork raisers. This is not a wise conclusion. When a man simply puts the value of the food of the pig against the value of the pork produced, he shows that he has either forgotten something or neglected some important opportunities. There are many things about any

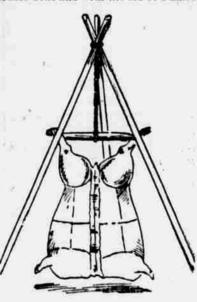
farm and garden that a pig will make better use of than anything else. We know that hens will eat most of the kitchen waste, and the weeds can be turned into fertilizer in a compost heap, but the pig will dispose of the weeds much better and quicker and get enough out of them to pay for his trouble. Then there is always a lot of fine rubbish about the premises not edible and which would go off in smoke if burned, that is needed in the pig pen for an absorbent, and will there be made into a rich fertilizer. There is no other animal on the farm that is so much neglected as the pig and none that will pay better for good care and enough of it. Good care does not consist wholly

of warm pensand sufficient food, though these are too often lacking; it also includes a change of food, sunshine, water to drink and something besides muddy filth to root in. While the most serious problem before our farmers is supplyng and sustaining fertility, and while they know that what they get from the pig pen is among the most valuable that they handle, they seem to think it in the duty of the pig or the pen, or both. to supply this material, and when the supply is small, cast no reflections on themselves. A man who cannot bring his mind and his habits down to the care of details enough to put his chipdirt, weeds, leaves and a supply of muck or sods into the pig pen regularly and often will not succeed with poultry. If he will do this he can make the pig pay so that the pork will be clear gain. -Rural World.

CUTTING UP A HOG.

The Picture Shows Just How the Work Should Be Done.

After the hog has been killed and cleaned, cut down on each side of the backbone with a sharp hatchet, then with a few cuts with the knife at the lower part loosen the leaf lard, pull it upward and take it out. Begin at the breast bone and with the aid of a knife



HOW TO CUT UP A HOG.

take out the ribs. Run a knife down between the lean and fat meat of the backbone. By the aid of splints spread the hog to its full width and allow it to hang until it has thoroughly cooled. The accompanying diagram will show just how the carcass is cut. If the animal is a very heavy one, cut the sides apart, then take off the shoulder, then the side meat and finally the ham. By taking it down in pieces in this man-

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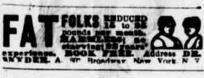
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