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IT OPENED THE HEARTS AND PURSE OF THE JERICHOIANS.

the Contribution For the Needy Widow Was Started and How It Was Abruptly Closed by a Report From Lish Billings.

[Copyright, 1900, by C. B. Lewis.] The Widder Jackson, relict of Tom Jackson, had been one of us in Jericho for 15 years. She managed somehow to take care of herself until a long, lingerin sickness came, and even then she suffered for care rather than let anybody know of her situation. It leaked out, however, and Jabez Thomas was one of the first to hear of it. He dropped into the postoffice one evenin and told about it and then said to the crowd:

"Feller Citizens-If Jericho has a pertickler strong p'int, it is charity. No man, woman or child ever yit called upon her in vain. It has bin our pride and our boast that we was a community with a heart to feel for the sorrers of others. Up there on the hill, as I



"GENTLEMEN," SAID THE DEACON

hev bin told within the last two hours, lies a poor old sufferin woman, the widder of Tom Jackson. She needs food, fuel and medicine and has needed 'em for days, but now that we hev come to know it the heart of Jericho will give a mighty responsive throb and hasten to relieve her case."

There was a good deal of surprise over the statement, and everybody had said how sorry he was when Deacon Spooner rapped for order and said: "Jericholans, when Jabez Thomas

talks about the charity of this community be makes a strong p'int-a mighty strong p'int. We all knew Tom Jackson for an honest, hardworkin man, and his widder shall not appeal to us in vain. I for one shall esteem it a privilege to contribute to her benefit. Let us hear from Enos Williams."

Enos rose up and said that he used to go fishin with Tom Jackson and that had he known of his widder bein hard up he would hev divided his last turnip with her. She was a good woman and a woman respected by all, and too much could not be done for her As soon as reachin home he would send his wife over to see what could be done, and of course his wallet was wide open for contributions. Hezekiah Davison wanted to say a few words also. He begun to talk about the discovery of America and the pilgrim fathers, but Deacon Spooner choked him off and got him down to the outbreak of the civil war. He'd hev hung on there if he hadn't bin jogged ag'in, and it was a quarter of an hour before he got around to say that he was awful sorry for the Widder Jackson and wanted to be one of the first to prove his big heartedness. Four or five others had their say, and then Henry Schem-

erhorn held up a paper and said: "As I take it, we are all of us ready and willin to make up a little purse for the sufferin widder?"

"We are!" called everybody at once. "Then there's nuthin to prevent. Bein as Jebez Thomas was first to make known the case, he should hev the honor of bein the first to put his name

Jabez hung back. He said he was only a humble citizen and didn't want to put himself forward over others. While his heart throbbed and bled and bobbed around, he'd give way to Dea-

con Spooner and come in second. "Gentlemen," said the deacon as he looked around in a lonesome way. "I hev bin a resident of Jericho less than the privilege of an old pioneer. It's an honor to head that paper, but I dasn't claim it when so many better and old-Until 8 a. m. 2 to 5 p. m | er citizens are before me. I don't want to hurt nobody's feelin's by boostin one me, under all the circumstances, that Squar Joslyn is the man to write his name first of anybody in Jericho."

The squar was red in the face as he rose up, and he didn't look a bit pleased as he said:

"While I may be the oldest resident of Jericho, nobody has ever heard me brag of it or thrust myself forward on sixth or seventh, and it shall be so in al."-Chicago Times-Herald. this case. My heart is open, and my wallet is open, but I'd suggest that Moses Perkins head the list. I understand that he and the lamented Thomas Jackson used to ship butter and eggs on shares, and it seems appropriate that he should hev this great hon-

Moses got up and began to talk of he tried to say somethin about the of a high order. glorious Fourth; but, bein choked off er and that his sympathetic heart could | bed at &

A SPASM OF CHARITY be depended upon to do as much as any other heart in Jericho. The paper went round, and men put down their names from 15 to 50 cents. Each one had an explanation to make. He was only throwin out a feeler, but could be Pap Perkins, Postmaster, Tells How depended upon for \$100 if there was need of it. The sum of \$1.80 had bin raised and there was a general feelin all through the crowd that Jericho was doin herself proud when Lish Billings came saunterin in. Deacon Spooner at once explained the case to him and added:

"Lish, you are known to be a big hearted man, and we all know you will be glad to contribute to sich a worthy cause. Give us your name."

"I see," said Lish as he took the paper, "that you hev raised \$1.80 for a sick and distressed widder who has lived among us for 15 years."

"We hev." "And it's all goin to be hers?" "Every cent of it."

"And you want me to make it up to \$2 and do old Jericho proud?"

"That's it, Lish." "Waal, you'll hey to excuse me. The widder don't happen to need the contributions of our throbbin and sympathetic hearts. She died about an hour ago, and her sister is comin down from Albany to bury her!" M. QUAD.

## PAID FOR THE PICTURES.

Where the Money Came From That Settled the Bill.

"For diplomatic kindness I will never forget one man," remarked a well known sportsman of Pittsburg. "He certainly knew how to do the right thing, and although it didn't cost him anything it helped a crowd of us out of an embarrassing predicament for the time. A party of young fellows, myself in the number, were camping years ago on the Beaver river, not far from Rock point. None of us had much money after getting our outfit and the farmers got about all that was left in exchange for milk and butter. One day three of us decided to go up to the pienic grounds, and, just as luck would have it, we met a crowd of girls from our own town. It was a happy meeting all around until some fool girl suggested that we all get our pictures taken. To save our lives, the three of us boys couldn't have raised a total of 16 cents, but like true soldiers of fortune we decided to go ahead and trust to luck to meet the obligation.

"The artist eyed us rather queerly and our hearts began to fall. After a whispered consultation I was delegated to take him aside and negotiate with him. I was authorized to stake everything we had, even down to our good names. I stated the case briefly but eloquently, and I must have made a good impression, for, when I had finished, he said it would be all right. The strangest part of it all to me was when he handed me a dollar bill.

"I know how it is myself,' he said. You want to put up a bluff before these girls. Just hand me the dollar for the pictures when I'm through."

"That was what pleased me, and I flashed that bill before the girls with the air of a magnate. It was just a month later that I learned from a brother of one of the girls that they had noticed our worried looks and had forestalled us by paying the photographer the dollar I flourished so proudly."-Pittsburg News.

Too Hurried.

A "tenderfoot" who was trying his luck on a western ranch was at first horrified by the table etiquette which prevailed among his associates.

One day his feelings evidently came so near the surface that a cowboy whose performances with a table knife of unusual size had aroused the tenderfoot's amazement, paused with another knifeful of food half way to his

"What's the matter?" inquired the cowboy with disconcerting promptness, in the tone of one who means to be answered.

"Ah-er-nothing," hastily responded the tenderfoot.

"Look here," cried the cowboy, with an accompanying thump of his unoccupied hand on the table, "I want you to understand that I've got manners, but I haven't time to use 'emthat's all!"-Youth's Companion.

Something For Nothing. Some time ago there appeared in sev eral Paris papers an advertisement of an obscure fruit dealer, in which he of fered to give a prize of 5 francs for the largest apple sent to him. Then fish 20 years, and I don't want to assume | caught at the bait with marvelous rapidity, and in less than a fortnight the advertiser had received enough fruit to stock his store for the season. Naturally he was glad to pay 5 francs for the largest of the lot, and just as natuman over another, but it do seem to raily he kept all the unsuccessful specimens for sale from his shop. Besides, the advertising resulted in a large increase in his business.

A Harsh Fate.

"Yis, poor chap," said Michael, "he had a hard tolme av it. He ought to be glad he's dead. He niver had none av the blessings av the rich. The only that account. In signin papers of this | toime he iver rode in a carriage in his sort I hev allus bin satisfied to come in loffe was phwin he wint to his funer-

> Lucky Bingles. "Bingles is a lucky man. His time goes right on whether he is waking or sleeping, sick or well."

"What is Bingles' business?" "Watchmaker."-Ohio State Journal.

English women are not supposed to George Washington and Bunker Hill, read the daily newspapers. They take but Descon Spooner rapped him down to the weeklies, and that is why Lonand held him to the case in hand. Then don has a great number of that class

ag'in, he took the paper and put his . In the sixteenth century it was cus-name down for 15 cents. He explain towary in Germany to get up at 5

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