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Our workmanship is always satisfactory Our prices are always right. We have plates for the newest styles Bicycle Suits, and are bound to please the Call in and inspect our stock.

Cooper & Akins,

Poetry. A MIDDLIN' MAN. It sooms t' mo, jost lots o' us Was born t' spend our days Assort o' middlin' folks what gots Not much o' blame 'r praise. Whom I wus jest a little chap What couldn't talk at all, It 'poars like I wus back'ard-like 'Bout learning' how t' crawl: But then I've heard my mother say-'N' father he'd agree-'Atlots o' other little chaps Wuz back'arder than me. 'N' when I triod t' larn t' walk. Though no great knack I showed, The neighbors say I wa'n't no worse An half the ones they knowed ; . 'N' I, whon't come t' sayin' things, Was sort o'middlin' quick .-Best piles o' chaps, but other piles. Jest beat me clean 'n' slick. 'N' then at fast I went t' school, 'N' larned ti read 'n' spell ;

Bout half the class done better'a me : Bout half done not so well. I recollect 'at one whole term My class jost numbered three : One al'a's got lots better grades ; The other, worse'n me. 'Twas jest the same bout bein' good .-'The toacher'd brag on some, 'N' some ho'd lick 'ntil they wisht They didn't half t' come. He didn't lick me very much; He praised me less, perhaps; Gues I wa'n't 'mong the orneryest N'r 'mong the nicest chaps. 'N', since I've be'n a growed up man, Though I haint out no swell, I guess 'at I hov al'a's done I aint a man what's very poor, N'r one what's got much wesith; I'm moder't' happy, moder't' good, 'N' blossed 'ith moder't' health.

-WILL W. JOHNSTON Select Family Reading.

'N' ofton, when I stop 'n' think '

I jost conclude 'at I wuz made

For't seems t' mo, jest lots o' us

As sort o' middlin' folks what gots

Omeo' those middlin' men :

Wusborn t'spend our days

Not much o' blame 'r praise.

O' what my life has been.

The Stirring of Harmon. BY MAY D. HATCH.

" 'Dese bones shall rise argin!

Dese bones shall rice argin! You know I know Dese bones shall-Why honey, yose not gwine to skule dat rig for sho? herself over her work in the back porch

The singer, who had been crooning to and turned her head at an approaching step, dropped her hands limply, while a look of amazement bordering on horror stole over her placid black features. "Certainly I am, Peggy. Why not? cannot ride comfortably in anything else."

Peggy shook her head gloomily. "I dunno, Miss Jessio," she said, dunno nufin of de styles Norf, but I'd feel mighty bad if Colonel Preston's Mis' Imogen or Mis' Payson-Smith meets yo' on de road lookin' like dat." "Noneense, Peggy! I am perfectly will

ing to meet the whole country at once and it is not a question of style but a ques ion of comfort; you must remember that.' She spoke indifferently, but she was concolous of a slight inward whiver at the thought of the general disapproval her innovation of riding to the school-house on a bioyole might be met with, in view of the fact that it had begun at her very door. She was a trim, sweet-looking girl, with pretty brown eyes, a fresh color and soft, brown hair of a suppymes that was reflected in her eyes, and she wore a modest dark-blue frock that fitted her slight figure

well, reaching just to her shoe-tope, tan leggings and shoes that would not show the dust of the road, and a blue sailor hat to shield her face from the warm August She wheeled the new hioyole, the first,

which works at an angle of 90 degrees, and | the only one in Harmon, out into the yard, is specially constructed for interior photos, and mounting it easily, she was off like a bird down the country road, with the sun light catching the shining wheel, and Peggy watching her anxiously and muttering renewed hopes that she would not meet above all, the colonel's family. Jessie Tathill was a Northern girl. wh for the year past had been employed by a

dozen of the old families of Harmon, Virginia, to conduct a small school for their children. Before the war Harmon ha been a gay spot, noted for its beautiful places and hospitality, but since then seemed to have fallen saleep, awaiting some royal touch to awaken it again Jessie was distantly connected with the Payson-Smiths, one of these old families, and so with that recommendation and letters from several distinguished Northern ers, vouching for her capability as teacher, she had secured the position which the dozen families had found some diffioulty in agreeing upon filling, and she had soon won the confidence and love of the children and the gratitude of their parents for her gentle influence upon them and for their progress. Her mornings were devoted to the younger sobolars and the afternoons to totoring a class of half a dozen boys preparing for college. She had been home north for July and had just returned. How she had enjoyed that month of freedom among her old friends in the dear little home she had grown up in on the Hudson, which if it was small, had such a big view of river and misty hills, and which she was so loath to leave but that she would not stay and be a burden where there was not always enough, and the position South was a very good one.

While she had been gone she had tried one day to ride a girl consin's bloycle, and learned so quickly and enjoyed it so thoroughly that her uncle, who would have done more for her if the girl's independence would have let him, presented her with one for her own use as a parting gift; and now this morning she was riding it for the first time to the little school-house, three miles away from where she lived finding it a great relief from hurrying along on foot as she had been obliged to do all the year before, and yet, with all the exhilartion of the exercise in the fresh morning air, still dreading a little the oriticism this innovation might meet with. For as Harmon was less wealthy than in the old time is was proportionately more formal, and woe betide the individual, and especially an ontsider, who dared to do anything for

which he or she could find no former shiping example. The country road was hard and smooth, Tallors to be quite happy, when she heard the deak.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1898.

colonel's wife, both of whose daughters, known as "the Preston twins," attended the school. Jessie slowed up to let the carriage pass; she could easily have outetripped the lumbering farm horses drawing it, but she considered the moment was not favoroble for the display of her racing powers, and she smiled a cheery goodmorning, trying to appear as anconcerned as possible, though her wheel was wobbling horribly from her nervousness, and it | youe life, and if I fail to keep my promise detracted from her-sense of diguity. . In the brief moment of passing, Mrs. Preston regarded her with astonishment and favored her with a bow that was blood ourdling in its frigidity. The whirling dust from the borses' feet choked her for

feeling the soft air grateful to her burning A number of the children were gathered about the door of the school-house, waiting for her as usual, and they greeted her rapturously. It comforted her a little, noticeable among the children. Still that was to be expected; a twenty-two pound safety was an unbeard of event in Harmon.

an instant, and then the carriage turned

into another road, and she was alone once

more in the sweet Virginia wooded country,

At recess they all delightedly examined it. The boys, in the afternoon, were Harmon that had not heard of the cohoolteacher's wheel.

was sitting out on the veranda of the little | they came over to try it again, and the next house where she made her home, talking and then every night, taking turns at the with Mrs. Hadyn, with whom she lived, when a carriage drove into the yard. "It's Mrs. Preston," said Mrs. Hadyn, hastily rising. "I'll just slip in and see if

Peggy has that cake done; I will be back in a moment." So Jessie was left alone to social laws. She assisted the lady earefully from her

"Is it not a lovely day?" she said. "Mrs. Hadyn will be here in a moment. Will you come indoors or do you prefer the yeranda? The air is so lovely."

"Thank you," said the lady. "I will not go in. I just stopped by for a moment." They seated themselves in the rockers on the porch, and in the silence that followed Jessie longed for Mrs. Hadyn's

most of the county called her, though she had been married for thirty years. "Yes, indeed," murmured Jessie. "Can I do anything for you? I should so like

"No, but I have been talking with several of our friends about your riding that-

"My bicycle," supplied Miss Jessie, as Mrs. Preston did not seem able to bring herself even to pronounce the objectionable "Yes," Mrs. Preston answered, in a

relieved voice, "and we think it is hardly afraid." ladylike, so to speak, my dear Miss Jessle, for you to use it going to your school duties, or anywhere else, in fact, holding the -postion that you do." "I would not do it for the world if I thought it undignified. Mrs. Preston.

Jossie answered, straightening her little figure and ceasing to rock. "Now if it were a horse," said the lady, 'it would be different. The women of the Prestons, the Phillips and the Payson-Smiths have always ridden, but not one of them has ever been seen on a-a blovole." "But, you see, I cannot afford a horse or to keep one if I had it, and my uncle gave me this wheel particularly to use in going

to school, for the walk is very long for me twice a day." "Of course, of course, but one must on it sharply outlined against the glow of think of appearances. A woman must | the setting sun. always consider them, and we decided that someone had better speak to you and advise you to give it up, if you wish to hold your present position in our school."

"I don't think I shall give it up," said

the girl slowly, "until I can see the harm cakes; but for once the colonel's lady did | Preston had also dismounted, and, very not wait to partake, though she thanked Mrs. Hadyn efforively, and she left, not her. altogether satisfied with the impression she had made. The little school-teacher was not lovely? Oh, I am so glad you are so gentle that sitting on her did not seem to affect ber at all; she was as placid and sweet afterward as before. But it did twing, affect her, sithough she rode to school again the next day, and when the lessons were all over, and she had dismissed the class she was tutoring, she laid her sunny brown head on the deak before her and oried softly. She was afraid she would have to give it up, after all. She could not afford to throw away the position she held, and she did not see any chance of convincing the social leader of Harmon that riding a bioyole was entirely compatible with her school duties and the dignity of her position. It was one of the greatest pleasures, and it seemed hard that from simple prejudice she would be depriv-

ed of it. Of course, it was foolish to cry, but she was very tired. As she sat there alone some one came into the room, and seeing the little teacher's distress, went softly up to her It was Cary Phillips, one of the boys getting ready for college, a tall, sturdy fellow of seventeen, sfraid of nothing always in some scrape, but with a big generous heart, and unable to see anyone in trouble without offering his help and

"Come, Miss Jessie," he said, standing s bit awkwardly beside her, "won't you tell a fellow what is the matter?"

She looked up emiling, ashamed of he "I have got to give it up, I guess," she

"What do you mean-your bloycle?" She nodded, her lipe quivering a little She was scarcely more than a child herself "What for !" he asked. "I thought they had been badgering you about it. It is shame." Then she told him of the call see had

received, and that is was particularly question of losing her po ition if she per sisted in riding. He stood angrily beside her, kulting his and in spite of her fears, she was beginning brows and dramming impatiently on the try it.

sound of a carriage coming behind her. "Everybody is riding North, men She glanced hurriedly back. Feggy's women and little children, and if some one worst fears were realized. It was the else would only do it here they would not

The big fellow stood lost in thought seeming not to have heard her words, but in reality they had given him an idea. Suddenly he burst out laughing. "Miss Jessie, if you will give me that wheel for a month, in exchange for my horse Butterfly, and his keep, I will promise

you can keep Butterfly." "Oh, Cary, bow good of you! But what are you going to do ?" she said. "Never mind; is it a bargain?" he put out his hand and they shook hands on it. and Cary carried the wheel off, promising to send Butterfly around that night and

time, to ride undisturbed for the rest of

him for her. Cary was riding the bloycle well by the next day, and the report had gotten about, without any one seeming to have started it, that he had taken it from Miss Jessie in exchange for his horse, Butterfly, which most people thought very foolish, though and the morning passed by pleasantly, high society in Harmon slept once more in though there was a suppressed excitement | conscious satisfaction that the dignity of its educational institution had been

It was early one evening, a day or two after Cary had had the wheel, that he suggested to his sister and several girl equally enthusiastic, and before nightfall | cousins, who were taking tea there, that there was not a man, woman or child in | they should try it, as no one would see them at that hour. Of course, they were ready to do so, and they had so much Late the next afternoon, when she had amusement out of it, and the girls were so returned quite tired from her work, she enthusiastic about it, that the next night condemned wheel and constantly growing

more charmed with it." Cary had sent to New York for a man's bicycle, and as one by one the girls became expert riders, the fever grew, even the Preston twins catching it; and Mrs. Presmeet the formidable censor of Harmon's | ton, having been persuaded one evening to go over and see them ride, anxiously watched, not to see if they should appear with unruffled diguity, but that they were as clever about it as the others. Bo clever were they, in fact, that before the evening was over she had promised that they should each have one of their own if Cary would

attend to the getting of them. In this manner did Cary's plan prosper and he would report progress to Miss Jessie

every afternoon "I shall never be satisfied till I have th colonel's lady berself on a wheel," he said roaring with laughter, for the lady was

"I suppose I may as well tell you what stopped about," said Miss Imogen, as very portly. Three weeks had passed, when one aftergoon the twins' bicycles appeared. A once they sent over for Cary to come and inspect them, and when he arrived he found the family all out in front of the house trying them and discussing their

> The twins raced around the circle of hard road that surrounded the lawn, and then insisted upon Cary trying the wheels and racing with them.

> "Now, Mrs. Preston," said Cary, as he dismounted, "you must try one. Don't be "No one has over dared to say that Preston was afraid of anything," she

answered proudly ; "but I am too stont."

"It would make you thin, if you would stick to it," he answered. "Do you really think so?" said the lady Bloyoling was developing a new interest fo "I have not any doubt of it at all. Just

try it once around the circle. Come, now

I promise you on my honor not to let you And with the twins urging, too, th colonel's lady finally violded. There was the clatter of a horse's hoofe up the rold, and between the two long rows of trees that led to the house came a chestnut horse, with the little trim figure scated

The colonel's lady, intent upon keeping her balance, though Cary's strong arm was about her, heard nothing of it until the rider drew up in front of the door and sat immovable in amazement as the lady came puffing around the other side of the circle Cary cast one triumphant look at the rider The lady rose, and just then Mrs. Hadyn and Jessie, who had come to call, slipped appeared, with Peggy hovering in the lightly from the saddle. While she was back-ground, bearing a tray of tes and | herself tying the horse under a tree, Mrs.

much flushed, came forward to welcome "Don't you like it?" said Jessie. "Is i riding; now no one will care if I do. And

aren't they beauties!" she finished to the Mrs. Presion regarded her sharply, but there was only frank pleasure in the girl's face, and she made up her mind to gracefully accept the situation, and just then

the colonel himself came out. "Look out, girle," he said; "if you mother takes to riding, I reckon you will have trouble to keep up with ber." They wanted Jessie to try the new, wheels, but she said she could not in her long habit, so she admired the twins while they showed her how expert they were

already, thanks to Cary, and she, too, had

a chance to give him one grateful look When she was ready to go, Cary helped her mount, and whispered he thought he could safely return her wheel in a day or two: and then, with a happy heart, she rode away toward the red evening sky. There are many bloycles to-day in Har mon, although the colonel's lady has not ridden since that first time; perhaps it is because Cary has ceased to urge her to ride "I really never believed she would try " he said to Jessie the day he took her

bicycle home to her, "but I meant to domy best to make her, and when you came clattering into the yard that day and saw her on it, I could have thrown my hat in

fallen off." A SPLINTERED FACE.

"Why, Clara," said the mother of s bright little miss, aged three years, "aren't you going to kiss papa goodby? He will be gone a week." "I don't wike to tiss him," was the roply

toz him's dot spwinters in him's face."

You will not know how much good

Financial Loss. For a time it was the disposition of the conqueror to repay bimself by anything that he could lay his hands upon. In 1796 the Pope was compelled to give up a hundred of his most precious plotures us the price of an armistice. Venice that same year surrendered her bronze horse in repayment for the blessings of peace. It was only to let you have it back at the end of that when Napoleon carried his levies to the extent of filling the Louvre with the masterpieces of Italian art that the world called a halt on this kind of indemnity. Now compensation is called for in money or in the pession of desirable territory. England affords the most illustrious

example of what can be made by war. She wrested Canada from the French and British Guiana from Holland. Gibraltar, that one of his men should take care of the key to the Mediterranean, she took from Spain. British dominion throughout India is the result; of conquest. British foothold in South Africa was secured by forcing a surrender of Cape Town after had been settled by the Dutch. Egypt was inyaded by war, and it was the bombardment of Alexandria that enabled England to work down the Nile toward the heart of Africa. The British West Indies were acquired by war, and in all her vast possessions Australia is the only one of my consequence that was scoured by

> After her brief and ouc-sided war with demanded that the Lisgo-Tung peniusula, in about two feet of him. a part of Manchuria, and the island of Formosa be coded to her. As a result of man.

negotiations there was a compromise which gave Japan \$240,000,000 and Formosa. As she had expended but little over \$100,000,000, it is apparent from this monstary point of view, that she made a spiendid investment in whipping China. Half of the enormous indemnity has been paid | don't you come on?" and the remainder is being settled in semiannual instalments. Japan has paid her war debt, has a foll treasury and cannot and in the markets of the world the ships and other modern sources of national strength that she is willing to buy at spot

After her victory over France Germany exacted the largest sum ever taken by a his head. victor. In money she demanded a round billion dollars. What is even more surprising is the fact that this enormous sum. has been paid, and without, apparently impairing the prosperity of the French people. In addition, Germany took Alsace and Lorraine, easily worth another billion, to say nothing of the humiliation inflicted by such a loss. France paid for the expansion of the German army and navy brought about the unification of the empire and paid much of the money that is now in the emperor's treasury. Phere could be no more bitter irony of ate ; neither could there be a more 'telling

When Russia settled with Turkey after their last war, the government of the Czar received \$100,000,000 in money and carved the principalities of Boumania, Bulgaria and Servis out of Turkish soil. The money has never been paid, but failure to meet | Post. the obligation has been worth far more to Russia than the value of the debt. Because of the hold thus given her, the Black and Caspian seas are hers for commerce. She has advanced past l'arkey, crossed northern Persia through the vast regions of Central Asia, and is now at the very gates of China,

her territorial acquisition covering an enornous area. And now Turkey, as the result of her war with Greece, is enabled to pay arreariges of interest and a portion of the prinsipal due Russis. In his settlements with Greece the Sultan received millions in money and an extension of Turkey's frone dangerous lesson that one war indem- in a shady nook. nity may be paid by another, and that it i financial prudence to pick out a weak

BATTLE-SHIP'S DESTRUCTIVE true

WEAPONS. A twelve-inch rifle is thirty-oight feet ong, with four feet external diameter at shaking it warmly. the breech, and weighs forth-eight tons. charge of brown prismatio powder leaves | my joy lasted for a moment only. the muzzle with a velocity exceeding 1,400 | 'Yes,' alle went on fervently. I never miles per hour and would reach a target | knew before what was the matter with my at its effective range of five and one-half | fuchsias.' '- The Interior. miles in twenty-tour seconds, while it would take the report of its discharge twenty-seven seconds to traverse the same distance. At a range of a mile and one half this shot would perforate nineteen inches of solid steel. The 250-pound projectile of the eight-inch rifle will penetrate a foot of armor at the range of one mile. The six four-inch rapid-fire guns within the superstructure each delivers eight forty-pound projectiles in a minute, while the twenty-six-pounders distributed over the vessel can be relied upon to clear an enemy's decks or to disable torpedo boats by maintaining a terrific hail of explosive shell capable of destroying any unarmored position. The final offensive resources of the citadel are the four torpedo-tubes, each prepared to launch automatic and dirigible destroyers containing one hundred and fifty pounds of

for August. FARMERS CAN MAKE GOOD

by Richard Leo Fearn, in the Chautauquan

ROADS. John Gilmer Speed, writing on "How to Have Good Country Roads," in the August | Without ceremony the old lady entered the Ladies' Home Journal, proposes "that in bouse and found her niece in the kitchen each county there be founded a Road Im- looking very dejected. Aunt Mary soon provement Association, which shall have s one or two days' meeting in the autumn an old cream opera shawl a cardinal red of each year. To the membership and to with some poor cheap dye. The result the meetings all the farmers should be | was certainly enough to test the patience the air, only if I had let go she would have invited, while all those in the county acting and goodness of an angel. A miserable as road overseers, or road supervisors, mixed color, half red and brown was the should be urged especially to attend. At result of her labor. Aunt Mary deeply these meetings special, definite, practical sympathized with her herror-stricken instruction should be given in maintaining | nloce, and advised her in the future to use and repairing dirt roads. Competent men | nothing but the Diamond Dyes, that had to give such instruction can be secured given her such statisfaction and profit for without cost to such societies, for the overtwenty years. The unsightly varicgovernment has a competent Road Com- gated shawl was then washed in several missioner to tell the people just exactly waters in order to get rid of the horrid what they need, and how to do the work as colors and was then put into a bath of it should be done." Mr. Speed also urges | Diamond Dye Fast Cardinal Red for Wool. Hood's Sarssparills will do you until you that school children be interested in the It is now a thing of joy and beauty. work and taught the rudiments of road- Moral: To achieve success in home dycbuilding and road-keeping.

THE PROFIT OF WARFARE. Victorious Nations Do Not Suffer

THE BURDEN BEARER. O the suffeging, sorrowful people, O the sinful, suffering people-Hearts that ache, bearts that break, Hearts that sigh, bearts that cry

For rellef. O the loving, gracious Saviour -O the loving, sorrowful favlour-How he taught, how he sought, How he sighed, how he died For the lost.

O the sinful, suffering people, O the loving, gracious Saviour-This their need, this their deed, Him they sought, them he brought To his fold.

the joyous, glorified people, O the grace-redeemed people-No more tears, no more fears, No more cross, no more less,

Roaco at last. -SUE V. BURTON, Kansas City, Mo.

WANTED ALL THE FRILLS. Of course it didn't happen in Chicago. It happened in a town where they have lenders on the fronts of their trolley carsfenders that are designed to pick up the incuations pedestrian, throw him up into the air two or three times and then toss bim over the platform railing. Of course they don't do that, but that is what the agent always insists that they will do, and some of them look as if they might. Anyway the old fellow with the carpetbag evidently thought so. He was standing in the middle of the track when the car came

along, going at a rate of a mile a minute China, Japan demanded a money indemni. or less and clanging its gong at a terrible that was three times what she had rate. But he didn't move. Consequently expended, as shown by the reports of her there was nothing for it but to put on the own officials as well as by her war loans brakes or take chances of having to defend and bond issues. In addition to this she a suit for damages. The carstopped with-

"Get out of the way !" yolled the motor

"Come on, cousirn ye I" roared back the countryman. "Get off the track!" shouted the motor man angrily. "Not much," retorted the countryman,

determinedly. "I'm waiting for ye. Why "Do you want to be killed?" demanded the conductor coming to the front of the ar to see what was the matter.

"No, sirree," returned the countryman

"I want to git aboard yer blamed car." "Well, come on, then," said the conductor, indicating the step at the side of the platform, but the countryman only shook "Ye can't work it that way," he asserted

doggedly. "I'm down here to see the hull

town, an ye bet I want all the frills. Come on and h'ist me now and be quick about it." "H'ist you!" exclaimed the conductor. 'Are you crazy ?" "No, I ain't," was the indignant reply "but I reckon I know my business an' can not be put upon by any dem street car man that lives. I've heerd all about your luxurious way of doin' things in the city, an' while I have money in my pocket I'm goin' to have allthe frills and fixin's there are. Ye jest come ahead with that there scoop and pick me up and put me aboard

illustration of the money to be made by jest the way you do for swell city folks or I'll report ye to the boss, ding me if I In another minute he was lying in the wire netting yelling like a Comanche, while the car continued its journey, still at

the rate of a mile a minute or less. - Chicago

o take my breath away.

A WORD OF COMFORT. A well-known clergyman gives some pertinent instances of the unexpected to be met with in preaching. He save : "At my time of life I ought not to be stunned by anything, but one day after service, a good woman of my flock managed

I was preaching about God's wisdom in caring for us all, and I said that the father knows best which of us grows better in the sunlight and which must have the shade. You know you plant roses in the sun, and helistropes and geraniums too, but if you tier to the southward. He has learned want fuscion to grow you must keep them

I hoped the sermon would be a comforting one, and after it was over a woman came up to me, her face glowing with a

pleasure which was evidently deep and 'Oh, doctor, I am so glad for that ser mon!' said she, clasping my hand and "My heart warmed as I wondered what Its 850-pound shot driven by a 430-pound | tender place I had touched in her soul; but

WISE CHILDREN. First small boy-We got a new baby at our house. Came down from heaven last

Second small boy-We had one, but it

Teacher-Of course you understand the

difference between liking and loving?

First small boy-Bot cher, it's the same Teacher-What do we learn from the story of Samson? Tommy (with unpleasant results still manifest) -That is doesn't pay to have women folks cut a fellow's bair.

Pupil-Yes, marm; I like my father and mother, but I love pie. Aunt Mary's gancotton .- "The Vitals of a Battle-ship," Timely

died and went to heaven.

The other evening Aunt Mary took the electric cars and rode eastward to the house of her niece who a few weeks provionely had just commenced housekeeping. discovered that her nices had thed to dye

ing be sure you use the Diamond Dyes.