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## The Manchester Journal.

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Feb. 1, 1872. 381 1/2

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## THAT HORRID MR. BARNES.

Mr. Barnes, a widower of forty, made

up his mind to marry again. I do not

mention this as being a very surprising

fact; for who that has once known the

love of woman has not felt as if the sun,

moon and stars were made for his particu-

lar benefit; and who that has once lived

in heaven would not return thither! But

Mr. Barnes was neither young, good looking,

or rich; in fact, not to mince matters

he was old, ugly and poor, and instead of

falling in love with a plain kind of girl,

who might take compassion on him, he

fixed his eyes on one of the richest, gayest

and prettiest girls in our village, Fannie,

the youngest daughter of Squire McAllister.

She was about eighteen, just out of

school, and wild as a young colt. Imagine

her astonishment when she found that

Mr. Barnes was making love to her. That

horrid Mr. Barnes has been here three

times this week! she said to her sister, and

he dared to squeeze my hand to-night!

What an old fool, old enough to be my

grandfather!

He is only forty. I should not be sur-

prised if you married him, after all, Fan;

so don't be angry with him for pressing

your hand. The next time he comes he

will kiss you, said her sister provokingly.

Fannie walked out of the room in

speechless indignation. There was no

doubt that Mr. Barnes was in love. He

came often and staid long. It seemed her

father to meet him whenever she left the

house. He sent her presents which she

returned, books which she never read,

and invitations which she never accepted;

in short, as Fan said, he made her life a

burden to her.

I can't stand this any longer, said Fan

one day. I'll play such a trick on him

that he'll never come to the house again!

So she poured some molasses in his hat,

as it stood on the hall table, one evening;

then she called him back when he had

opened the front door to go home, and

had the satisfaction of seeing the molasses

running down his shoulders, and over his

best black coat. Her merry peal of laugh-

ter was all that was needed to complete

his discomfort, and he rushed from the

house casting upon her a look of reproach.

Fan thought she had got rid of him now

and she received her father's rebuke with

a good deal of composure; but the next

week brought that horrid Mr. Barnes

back again. What was she to do? She

did everything she could. She made car-

icatures of him, and circulated them

among her friends; she treated them to

doughnuts filled with cotton; made fun

of him in every way that the brain of a

frivolous school girl could devise; and

still