

The district school in the village of Hollyhove was taught by Miss Eva Stanley, who "boarded around" among the scholars, and was considered the paragon of teachers.

The last week previous to the holiday vacation she had been boarding with a Mrs. Carpenter, who was making gigantic preparations for guests she expected from New York.

"You never met my brothers, Eva," said she. "There's Sam, and George, and Johnny, the youngest, and such times as they have when they get out here and rusticate, as they call it! But, dear me, I don't get much rest or peace, for they are like a lot of boys out of school."

"The last time they visited me together, John and Sam actually cut a pane of glass from the window, and pinned George from my best room with snow!"

"You see, there is always a regular strife for that particular room, for the bed is a spring, and they say they don't sleep on any other in the city. But they don't get it this time, that's certain, for I intend to give you that room; and so end the controversy."

"I had just as soon occupy some other room, Mr. Carpenter, and do not wish to accommodate your brothers."

"No you shall not," said George, emphatically exclaiming her hostess, "and what is the use of your going home vacation week? You can stay here just as well as not, and do your sewing on my machine."

The subject was dropped, and the entire household retired early, for on the morning the brothers, young, ardent, and full of life, were to be seen. But with out sending any word of their intention, they had concluded to take the train which would land them in Hollyhove about bedtime. George and John did so, and when seated in the cars began to speculate upon the absence of Sam.

"No reason in the world why he should not have been here," said George. "I can't make it out, unless he has taken the five o'clock train by mistake."

"Not a bit of it," laughed John, who fancied he understood the entire programme. "It is most likely he took that train on purpose to get into Hannah's parlor bedroom, and make us take up with some ticks and feathers."

"I didn't think of that, but I reckon you are right. We must contrive to get him out somehow."

The brothers put their heads together and laughed merrily over some scheme for outwitting Sam, and accordingly, when the train reached Hollyhove, about eleven o'clock, they approached the house of their sister in a very stealthy manner.

Climbing the fence in the rear, they softly opened the window and obtained access to the parlor, where they demolished a whole mince pie and a quantity of doughnuts. Then, with appetites appeased, they removed their boots and prepared to invade the "best room," stole along the hall, which was dimly lighted by the moon, ascended the stairs, and reached the door. The faint rays of the moon disclosed a chair piled up with clothing, and they could distinctly trace the outlines of a form beneath the bedclothes. A few whispered words were exchanged, and then, lightly as if shod with down, they drew near, and "All ready!" whispered George.

Quick as thought they seized upon the form of the sleeper, bedclothes and all, bore it swiftly down the stairs and out into the snow, and were about to deposit it into a large drift, when a shrill scream broke the stillness of the night, and oh, horror! it was that of a woman! And in their consternation they dropped their burden plump into the middle of the drift.

"Good heavens!" exclaimed George, "it isn't Sam, but some woman, as I am a sinner and she has fainted. Run and call Hannah."

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"George! John! for goodness' sake who does this mean, and who have you there?" asked Mrs. Carpenter in a breath.

"Blessed if I know," began George, "thought it was Sam, so we concluded to give him a house in the snow for getting into the bed and trying to catch us. Quick! I believe she has fainted."

"Just like you," scolded Hannah, as she assisted in depositing Eva once more in the bed which she had been so unceremoniously taken; "beginning your tricks upon each other before you are fairly into the house. Clear out, now!"

"Low before she had finished her tirade, her brothers had betaken themselves down stairs, where they went into hysterics over the joke.

"A pretty kettle of fish!" said George, rolling over on the floor, and letting off a peal after peal of laughter.

"I should think it was," replied John, holding his sides. "Oh, my! But what is to be done about it, and who do you suppose she is, George?"

VOLUME 3.

MISCELLANY.

A Glimpse of Gen. Washington.

One other scene may properly be added to this brief record of the struggles and triumphs of old New York. There came a sunny day in April, 1789, when George Washington, President-elect of the United States by the unanimous voice of the people, stood on a balcony in front of the Senate Chamber in the old Federal Hall on Wall street, to take the oath of office. An immense multitude filled the streets, and the windows and roofs of the adjoining houses. Clad in a suit of dark brown cloth of American manufacture, with hair powder, and with white silk stockings, silver buckles and steel-tipped dress sword, the hero who had led the colonies to their independence came modestly forward to take the burdens that peace had brought. Profound silence fell upon the multitude as Washington responded solemnly to the reading of the oath of office, "I swear—so help me God!"

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Another time the little lady took some ants from a large hill, and shut them up in a bottle with some very ill-smelling stuff called asafetida. The next day she returned, bringing the bottle with the prisoners. Of course the poor things smelled very strongly of the asafetida, and their nearest relations could hardly be blamed for refusing to know them. So I felt quite frightened for their sakes, and I went to see if they returned them to their home. But no, though they were at first threatened by their fellows, they were soon recognized and allowed to pass. "Blood" was stronger than asafetida. "Jack-in-the-Pulpit," St. Nicholas for February.

How to Make Mischievous. Keep your eye on your neighbors. Take care of them. Do not let them stir without watching. They may do something with some very ill-smelling stuff called asafetida. The next day she returned, bringing the bottle with the prisoners. Of course the poor things smelled very strongly of the asafetida, and their nearest relations could hardly be blamed for refusing to know them.

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Oh, the golden mountain of Wealth! Oh, the glorious mountain of Fame! Purple as an emperor's robe! What say those who stand upon them? Only this: "They were not to climb."

And that most beautiful and roselike mountain which two second hand in hand, after wedding ring and Ah! what there is rest and peace and joy in the heart; but hearts are true; but it is not what it seems to be and girl who yearns for it as they stand together in the sweet valley of their first love.

We never reach our beautiful mountains. We never may. Yet they make the valley beautiful—and we would be worse than we are if we did not see them as we do, unhappy, if they did not arise in all their splendor about these stony, common paths of ours, to tell us what might be, if not what is.

As Much Alike as Ants in a Hill. I don't know what the lady was talking about. I merely heard the above remark as she was passing through my door. I heard her say, "I don't know, why, there is as much difference between ants as between people! I'll tell you how I know it: The little school-ma'am has a turn for experiments, and has been her make one or two on this very point. One day she picked up several ants from one ant hill and carried them to another ant hill, where there appeared to be thousands of inhabitants all looking just like the new-comers. But it seems the ants could see the difference, for the unfortunate strangers were recognized as intruders, and were instantly set upon and killed."

Another time the little lady took some ants from a large hill, and shut them up in a bottle with some very ill-smelling stuff called asafetida. The next day she returned, bringing the bottle with the prisoners. Of course the poor things smelled very strongly of the asafetida, and their nearest relations could hardly be blamed for refusing to know them.</