

such as would come fresh and shining through the hottest August day. The fellows thought he looked swell, all except his tie. They expected him to choose something pretty for this occasion, but instead he wore a plain black.

Spick and span as he was he came out and helped Henry Null unhitch his horses. While he was thus engaged Mrs. Douglass came out and asked him if he had seen anything of the children.

"No, I aint seen 'em."

"Well, I wish they'd come and put on their white waists and Sunday breeches."

She walked out towards the pond and halloooed for them. But to her repeated "Johnies" there was no answering "What." "Maybe the poor little fellers are stayin' away jest a purpose to keep from seein' Will married," she mused. And as she turned towards the house she felt very tender towards her little barbarians.

When the boys awoke their farms were all in ruins. George sat up and rubbed his eyes with three or four cows sticking to his legs. "Good lands!" he said, "this is Will's weddin' day and we've forgot all about it. We'd better strike out for home."

"It is, sure 'nough," said John, "but there aint no use o' goin' home now. It's over with by this time. We might as well go in swimmin'."

Following John's suggestion they started across the pasture towards the pond. By this time it was one or two o'clock in the afternoon and scorching hot. They could see the heat glimmer in the air and now and then they felt a breeze blow warm against their faces. The ground was blistering even to their calloused feet; the water, too, was feverish in the shallow places but under the surface in the deeper parts it was fresh and cool.

They had not been in long before the dog bayed some distance off. George and John came out, but Jim kept paddling about in the water. "Aint you goin' with us, Jim?"

"No," Jim answered, "I'm learnin' to swim a little bit and I've got to keep on."