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How the Cats Came to Strongavine

By M. QUAD

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that he was born a half wit and with a twisted leg besides. His parents died when he was ten years old, and Hez became a sort of child outlaw. He wandered here and there till be finally settled in Strongsville.

Hez found the farming class much more sympathetic than the villagers, but he was imposed on by them to a certain degree. When he had got to be a youth of fourteen or fifteen he could hoe corn or potatoes or chop and split wood as well as almost any man. They would hire him by the week and give him such food and lodgings as they saw fit, and when he was through with his week he was given some old clothes or a few cents in money,

was twenty, and he was more of an outlaw than ever. A man named Brooks went to work in the sawmill at Strongsville. He was an old bachelor, and he rented a small house and lived alone. In passing the boy on the street one day he must have given the victim a to his house again he found Hezekiah seated on his doorstep. He invited him in and gave him a meal and a good bed. From that day the unfortunate

To make clear what followed the had a strong antipathy to cats. It was founded on sanitary principles. There had once been an epidemic of scarlet fever and again an epidemic of measles, and the doctors had agreed that the germs of both were carried from house to house by the feline population. Thus it came about that the cats were exterminated to the last one and the mice had a play day every day in the year. The old bachelor learned this fact as soon as he talked of renting a house in the village. He was told that if he brought a cat along with him she would certainly be poisoned off in

One day after Hezekiah had had a home for six months he went to work for a certain farmer at wages set by Mr. Brooks, who had become a guardian to him. After working for three or four days Hezekiah unearthed a box of gold coin amounting to \$5,000. They were English coins and had been buried in the long ago-so long ago that the box had become mere punk. He carried the money home with him wrapped in his old coat, and it sent forth metallic clinks as it was thrown on the table. He was smiling almost for the

he managed to say : "I dug it out of the ground." "Did you tell the farmer?" asked Mr. Brooks when he had recovered

from his astonishment. "Not a word," was replied.

"Well," continued the old bachelor after the money had been counted, "this find has made you rich, but don't say anything about it to any one. The people of this town have used you shamefully, and I want to see you get even with them. You know what I mean, don't you?"

In reply Hezekiah's face lighted up, and he nodded his head. He had been aware for a long time that no one had played him fair, but he felt his help-

lessness to resent it. In thinking how he might revenge the young man's wrongs the old bach elor brought up the cat question, and he soon had his plans laid. The next tin peddler that came along was stopped and held in private conversation for half an hour, and then he winked and laughed and drove away. He stored his tinware temporarily and loaded up 200 felines in its place.

That wagon re-entered the village at 11 o'clock at night, when every man woman and child was sleeping his first sleep. It paused in front of the town hall, and the door was opened, and the cats came bouncing out.

Two hundred cats might have been exterminated in time, but the tin ped dler returned next evening with 200 more re-enforcements and again the third night. The town had now been turned into a cat town. It had more cats walking the fences or seated around the back doors than any town of four times its size in this state. By night it was a constant serenade that prevented sleep except at brief intervals. There were enough cats to carry the germs of a dozen epidemics. It is a cat town today. Men were hired by the week to shoot or trap them, but kittens were born about as fast as old cats were killed off, and at last the people gave up and settled down to bear the infliction with what pains

After the cat invasion was a month old the bachelor said to the half wit: "Hezekiah, you know what a cat is don't you?"

Hezekiah nodded and grinned. "After paying all expenses of dump ing 600 cats into Strongsville I have \$4,500 of your gold left. I am going to put it in the bank for you and send you to New York city to see if the surgeons can make you over. I hope they will be able to help you. If they can't, you can come back home and live with me the rest of your life. Do you understand what I mean?"

The surgeons helped him some enough so that when he caught sight of twelve or fifteen cats sunning themselves on some householder's veranda be could appreciate the situation and

go home and say to Mr. Brooks: "There were just three barrels of ents on Brown's veranda-just three barrels-and Brown was out there looking at them, and looking very sad." ing.

CONGRATULATE

THE DALLES

The Dalles, Oregon, has startd on an effort that will be watched with consuming interest to get one hundred families of talians to come there and locate on some cheap lands and become truck gardners.

To bring those Italians across from the old country and make a place for them near the Dalles, and set them to producing garden truck, fruits and families supplies is a bold move industrially.

Any effort to keep them nom being robbed on the prices of land is also revolutionary, because it has been the principal business of the booster organiz-The years passed on until Hezekiah ations to advance lands out of

Of course, one hundred poor amilies of working people, who would go to raising radishes, lettuce, greens, carrots, turnips, look of sympathy, for when he got back and berries, that are now shipped up from California, would be all right.

That is the way to make Oregon productive and bring down reader must know that Strongsville the high cost of living and make it possible for vegetables, and fruit cannieries to operate and cultivate our waste lands and make them valuable.

Land that is really made proluctive by intensive labor will become really valuable and make the community rich-but lands with a ficticious value put on by speculation makes the commun-

It will be in order for labor agitators and politicians to howl about bringing in cheap labor, to drag forth their forty laws on minimum wage, contract labor, iteracy test, etc., and block The

Such laws and land legislation is all calculated to keep the state from developing industrially, and anneries and sugar factories will be closed for lack of cheap and abundant labor of productive

Some Stayton People Have Learned That Neglect is Dangerous

The slightest symptom of Kidney rouble is far too serious to be over ooked. It's the small, neglected troubles that so often lead to serious kidney ailments. That pain in the 'small' of your back; that urinary ir-"small" of your back; that urinary ir-regularity; those headaches and dizy spells; that weak, weary, worn-out feeling, may be nature's warning of kidney weakness. Why risk your life by neglecting these symptoms? Reach the cause of the trouble while there yet is time—begin treating your kidneys at once with a tried and proven kidney remedy. No need to experiment-Doan's Kidney Pills have been successfully used in thousands of cases of kidney trouble for over 50 years. Doan's Kidney Pills are used and recommended throughout the civilized world. Con-

vincing testimony follows: Jack Mott, 818 Hayter St., Dallas, Ore., says: "I took Doan's Kidney Pills several years ago, when having backache and kidney disorders, which I considered due to the nature of my work. Constant strain and neglect caused my back to give out. Doan's Kidney Pills soon brought me me around in fine shape. My back soon felt as strong as ever and my kidneys were normal."

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR **SOCIETY MEETS**

Last Friday evening the C. E. society of the Christian Church met at the residence of W. A. Weddle for their regular business meeting and social, there was tian church has inaugurated an about thirty present and a jolly good time was had by all present. Parlor games were indulged in in until a late hour after which refreshments

Lyle Ficklin went to Alabny the losing side will have to en-Saturday returting Sunday even- tertain the winners in some way



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CHAS. GEHLEN

STAYTON

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTEST

The Sunday school of the Chrisattendance contest beginning next Sunday and will run three months. The men and boys are working against the women and girls. This promises to be a very interesting and spirited contest

to be determined later.

A. C. Eaton

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