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A HOIDEN'S VICTORY

[Original.]

In the far west is the little town of Nazareth. The inhabitants are one people. There is one church and one standard of morality. There is, or rather there was, one black sheep, Nellie Doane. Nellie lost her mother when she was ten and her father when she was fourteen. Fortunately for her, her parents were well to do people, and as Nellie was their only child she was provided for. After her father's death she lived with her aunt, a superannuated person, who permitted her to do very much as she pleased. What she pleased was to climb trees, ride a horse bareback and in other ways make a tomboy of herself. When she was eighteen, she was regarded such a blight upon the immaculate town of Nazareth that the deacons in the church directed her aunt to send her away to boarding school. This would have been a permanent relief to Nazareth had the girl stayed at boarding school forever, but unfortunately she returned at twenty, a very beautiful girl, still further removed by education and a mingling with the world from the cast iron morals of the Nazarenes. Before her departure she had acted naturally and unconsciously. After her return she seemed determined to shock the town with malice aforethought.

A meeting of deacons was held and one of their number appointed to confer with the sinner, secure if possible a pledge from her to behave better in future and bring it back to a meeting of the body to be held the next evening. Deacon Brown, a venerable brother, was asked to bear the message, but was obliged to be absent from town. Deacon Perry, the next oldest, was invited, but also declined. Next came Deacon Bradford, thirty-four years old. He was appointed and accepted.

That evening Deacon Bradford called upon Nellie and was shown into the little parlor, where she was sitting in the corner of a sofa, dressed very becomingly, the light arranged to cast a pink glow upon her cheeks, which by no means diminished her attractiveness. Deacon Bradford drew himself together as if for a contest with the archfiend himself.

"I come," said the deacon, "at the request of the deacons of the church to say to you that our community has been greatly shocked since your return to us with certain un-Christian acts on your part which have a tendency to drag down the standard of our morals."

"Be seated, deacon."

Now, the little witch had got wind of this mission and in order to be the better prepared to fight with her own weapons had removed every chair from the room. The deacon was either obliged to sit on the sofa or not at all. After some hesitation he sat down beside her.

"Now, deacon," continued Nellie, "tell me some of the wicked things I have been doing."

"First, on Sunday last, during the sermon on 'Eternal Damnation,' you were continually looking at a friend across the aisle with an expression of disapprobation."

"At the reading of the gospel, mention being made of Samson and Delilah, you irreverently moved your thumb and forefinger to imitate the use of a pair of scissors."

"That was in anticipation of Delilah's cutting off Samson's hair."

"Then on Saturday evening last, after choir meeting, you invited the choir to come to your house to spend the rest of the evening in the unholy occupation of dancing."

"Yes, and most of them came."

"I am required by the deacons to ask you to promise to avoid these sins in future and cease attempting to undermine the morals of our young people."

By this time a very pretty face was near his own, two snapping black eyes were looking into his, and a pair of rosy lips flanked by a dimple on each side were smiling at him.

"Well," said Nellie, "there is just one more way that I want to shock the deacons and that through one of their number."

"How is that?"

"I want to marry one of them."

"Which one?" asked Bradford, astonished.

"Deacon Brown. He's a widower, and I'm dying to be a mother to his children."

"Deacon Brown! He's three times your age!"

"That doesn't matter. I think if I could marry him the other deacons would be horrified, and I'm determined to be his wife."

"Why not select a younger deacon?" said Bradford, halting.

"They wouldn't any of them have me," replied the girl, casting down her eyes.

"Don't say that. Rather than see you married to an old man I would"—

"Oh, Deacon Bradford, how kind you are! But think how you would jeopardize your soul!"

Nellie's taper waist was too tempting to be longer resisted. The deacon's arm stole around it, and her head rested on his shoulder.

* * * * * * *

"Well, Brother Bradford," asked Deacon Jones at the meeting in the evening, "what kind of promise did you succeed in drawing from our erring sister?"

"She has promised to be my wife," replied the deacon sheepishly.

There was so much bitterness in Nazareth at the holden carrying off the prize bachelor of the town, for Bradford was considered a great catch, that the young couple removed to a neighboring city, where they lived in peace and very happily. Nellie cured her husband of cant, and the sturdy deacon sobered his wife.

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A HINT TO A BOASTER

[Original.]

Dick Spier was one of those men who could jump higher, run faster, dive deeper and come out drier than any other man in the wide world. At any rate, stories were never swapped between him and his friends but Dick's experiences overtopped those of any other one of the party. At a gathering one evening he told how he had during the previous summer taken more weakfish on the New Jersey coast than any man of his party and during the autumn following had killed more deer in the Adirondacks than any of his fellow companions.

"What can we do to stop this boasting?" said Stephen Burd to Phil Wentworth, a Cornell man who was fitting himself to be a mechanical and electrical engineer.

"I think I have a plan," replied Wentworth. "Leave him to me.

"Dick," he said, "did you ever fish for pickerel in Amber lake?"

"Did I? Last summer I landed fifty pounds in an hour and forty-three minutes."

"They're gamy. You can't land all you take."

"I can land five out of every six I get on my hook."

"That's a big average. I think I can do pretty well at landing pickerel, but I don't know that I could average up to that."

Wentworth winked at Burd, who plainly understood that he was to trap Spier into a contest.

"Dick," said Burd, "I'll bet you a cent that Phil Wentworth can land more pickerel on Amber lake in a given space of time than you can."

"Why not make it a champagne supper?" said Spier.

"I'm opposed to betting for stakes of value."

The next Saturday afternoon the party were in a fishing boat on Amber lake. They began at 2 o'clock, and the match was to last till 4. The man who lost the most fish off his line was to be the loser. Spier caught three fish and landed them all. Then he hooked a pickerel and lost it. Wentworth hooked one and landed it. About this time the pickerel came in such quantities that either of the contestants had but to throw in his line to hook a fish. Spier lost one out of every three, while Wentworth landed every fish he hooked. The fish fought nobly for their lives, but just as those on Wentworth's hook seemed about to get away they would suddenly turn over and cease to struggle.

"What's the matter with you, Dick?" cried Burd. "Seems to me you're not handling them with your usual skill. You're not going to land fifty pounds in an hour and forty-three minutes this time."

"I'm landing one in six now, and any expert fisherman will tell you that's a first rate average."

"But Phil is landing every one he hooks. How do you do it, Phil?"

"Science," replied Wentworth.

"Science!" exclaimed his disgruntled opponent. "I believe you have some way of bewitching the fish."

"What kind of a reel is that you're using, Wentworth?" asked one of the party.

"One of my own invention."

As he spoke a pickerel took his hook and ran away with it, bending the pole to a letter U.

"That's a strong line of yours," said Spier, disappointed that it did not break.

The fish struggled fiercely and at last broke the pole, the only weak part of the tackle. All expected to see him get away, when suddenly, like his brothers, he was landed.

"Give it up, Dick," said Burd. "You've lost five fish, and Wentworth hasn't lost one."

"I've landed the average, and Wentworth has worked a miracle. However, I'm beaten, and I insist on paying for the supper."

"You haven't lost a supper," put in Wentworth.

"All I want to know," said Spier, "is whether you landed those pickerel scientifically or whether there was some trick about it."

"I give you my word it was by pure science."

The party retired to the Rod and Gun club, where a supper was ordered, it being agreed that which of the contestants should pay for it was to be decided by vote of the party. When the festivities were at their height, Burd rapped for silence and asked Wentworth how he managed to land so many pickerel.

"If Spier will consent to play fish," replied Wentworth, "I'll give him a practical demonstration."

"All right," said Spier. "Go ahead."

Calling for his rod and line, Wentworth filed the point of the hook blunt and tossed the hook across the table to Spier.

"Put it in your mouth," he said.

Spier did as he was bid. Wentworth pressed his thumb on a certain spot of the pole just below the reel, whereupon Spier gave a yell, seized the hook and took it out of his mouth in a hurry.

"What does it all mean?" cried several at once.

"It means this," said Wentworth. "This reel contains a galvanic battery. My line is a fine steel wire, very flexible and strong enough to bear a twenty pound jerk. When I get my fish hooked, all I have to do is to press a concealed button, here, to make the circuit and paralyze the fish."

There was an explosion of laughter at Spier's expense, but by prearrangement the party voted that the conspirators should pay for the supper.

Spier took the hint, and from that time forth was more modest in his statements.

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Ar	San Francisco	7:45 p m	8:15 a m
Ar	Ogden	5:45 a m	11:45 a m
Ar	Denver	9:00 a m	9:00 p m
Ar	Kansas City	7:25 a m	7:25 a m
Ar	Chicago	7:45 a m	9:30 a m
Ar	Los Angeles	1:20 p m	7:00 a m
Ar	El Paso	6:00 p m	9:00 p m
Ar	Fort Worth	6:30 a m	6:30 a m
Ar	City of Mexico	9:55 a m	9:55 a m
Ar	Houston	4:00 a m	4:00 a m
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