BY JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS.

From The Century:

ers," said the captain. "I've heard off to war. He was weakly like you preach many a time when I from the time he was a boy, an' was a boy."

Ef I ever saw you the circumstance riz up in my min'." has slipped from me."

captain.

"I useter know Jeremiah Mose- Billy's tone. ley in my vounger days," said Uncle Billy, gazing reflec ively at the sick. He is a sounder man than I piece of pine bark he was whittling. am. He was conscripted in Jasper "Yes, yes! I knowed Brother Mose- and carried to Adairville, and after ley well. He was a God fearin' he got used to the camp he con-

"He was my father," said the captain.

cle Billy, in a tone that seemed to for the world. He knowed that he combine reflection with astonish. was drug off right spang at the ment. "Jerry Moseley's son! I dis-He were'nt much of a preacher on army his own hook, but let him foller glong for to clench the sermon, an' his match couldn't be foun' in them days. Yit, Jerry was a man of peace, an' here's his son a-gwine about with guns an' pistols, an' what not, a-trvin' to give peaceable folks a smell of war."

"On, no!" said Captain Moseley. laughing; "we are just hunting up some old acquaintances. Some old friends of our that we'd like to see."

"Well," said Uncle Billy, sinking his knife deep into the soft pine bark, "it's bad weather for a frolic. an' it ain't much better for a straightout, eve'y-day call. Speshually up here on the hill where the ground is so wet and slipperyfied. It looks like you've come a mighty long ways for to pay a friendly call. An' yit," the old man continued, looking up at the captain with a smile that Faber's Golden Female Fill well became his patriarchal face. "thar ain't a cabin on the hill whar you won't be more than welcome. Yes, sir; wheresomever you find a h'a'thstone, thar yon'll find a place to rest."

. "So I have heard," said the captain. "But maybe you can cut our journey short. We have a message for Israel Spurlock."

Immediately Captain Moseley knew that the placid and kindly face of Uncle Billy Powers had led him into making a mistake. He knewthat he had mentioned Israel Spurlock's name to the wrong man at the wrong time. There was a scarcely perceptable frown on Uncle Billy's face as he raised it from his piece of pine bark, which was in this world, says J. Hoffherr, of Syracuse, N. Y., is Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic because now assuming the shape of a horseman's pistel, and he looked at the captain through half-closed eyelids.

"Come now," he exclaimed, "ain't Israel Spurlock in the war? Didn't a posse ketch 'im down yander at Jasper an' take an' cornscript him into the army? Run it over in your mind now! Ain't Israel Spurlock crippled some r's, an' ain't great benefit to me; it has had the desired effect by stopping the fits. your message for his poor ole mammy?"

"No, no," said the captain, laughing, and trying to hide his inward irritation. ...

"Not so?" exclaimed Uncle Billy.

"Well, sir, you must be shore an' set me right when I go wrong; but I'll tell you right pine blank, I've had Israel Spurlock in my min' off an' on ev'ry since they run him This must be Uncle Billy Pow- down an' kotch him an' drug 'im when I heard you call forth his "That's my name," said Uncle name, I allowd to myself, says I, Billy; "an' in my feeble way I've 'Israel Spurlock is sick, an' they've been a-preachin' the Word as it was come atter his ole mammy to go an' given to me forty year, lackin' one. nuss him.' That's the idee that

A man less shrewd than Captain "My name is Moseley," said the Moseley would have bee deceived by the bland simplicity of Uncle

> "No," said he; "Spurlock is not cluoed that he would come home and tell his folks good-by."

"Now that's jes' like Israel," said Uncle Billy, closing his eyes and "Well, well, well!" exclaimed Un-compressing his lips-"jes like him time he wanted to be gatherin' in his craps an' savin' his ruffage, an' remember the day when Brother one thing an' another beca'se his ole Moselev come into my mind, an' mammy didn't have a soul to help yet, now that I hear his name ban- her but 'im. I reckon he's been died about up here on the hill, it a-housin' his corn an' sich like. The ole 'omen took on might'ly carries me plumb back to ole times. when Israel was snatched into the

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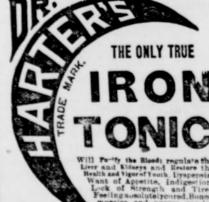
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