

**THOUGHT IT WAS TAR:**

**But It "Was Only Where the Geese Had Been."**

A good story is told of a prominent detective, who lives not a thousand miles from the city, which has not appeared in print.

After the proprietor of "The Stanley Grange" had compromised with his creditors he found that he had sufficient funds left to run the business, and put an additional story on and otherwise ornament and embellish the exterior of his establishment. So carpenters and painters were hired and the new "Grange" (which by the way is a very fine building) was decked "as a bride adorned for her husband." Some evil-disposed parties, who had no doubt been cheated or tricked by the proprietor in some of the many ways in which he is such an adept, resolved on revenge, and when the midnight shades enveloped the beautiful Nashwaak valley stealthily approached with buckets of tar and proceeded to give it a coating free of charge. When they were through with it it looked as if it had been lifted bodily and dipped in a bath of tar, or been put in mourning for the dead accounts of the Montreal and Toronto firms. The first thing Andy did on viewing the defacement of the building was to arrange to have it cleaned, and then to send for the above mentioned detective and try and run to earth the offending parties. A telephone call brought the detective, who came in all the glory of brass buttons and that beaming smile of confidence, which speaks as plainly as words: "I'm a sleuth-hound; show me the criminal that I can't hunt down and bring to justice within 24 hours and I will eat my shirt."

As the vandals came in the night the detective thought that the night would be the best time to look for them, so he laid low until the moon arising over the Cross Creek hills warned him that now was the time to strike. So setting out in the direction of Irishtown he snuffed the trail like any other puppy and bent his head toward the ground, following with the keen scent of a hound. Suddenly he clapped his hands in an ecstasy of exultation: "A clue! a clue! tar! tar! I've got them now." He followed along for two or three miles, the trail getting thicker and thicker when he bent down and smelt of it. "That don't smell like tar," he soliloquized, and putting his finger to it and raising it to his lips, "and I'm d-d if it tastes like tar." He had simply been following the trail of the neighbors' geese which are quite abundant in that vicinity and leave a well-defined trail. His feelings may be better imagined than described when he reached home next morning and reported the case to the P. M. The offenders were never brought to justice.

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