THE DEACON'S DINNER.

The good housewives of the neighborhood often said that Mrs. Smart ought to be the happiest woman in the world. 'Such a nice house that she lives in !' said Miss Bryce, who, poor soul, taught the district school and 'boarc'ed around,'

like the scape goat in the Scripture wilderness. 'Such a pious man as the dear deacon is "added Mrs. Hopkins, whose better half had once been a sea captain, and who was still apt to be profane by fits and starts, when the cattle got into the clover field, and the midnight weasel marauded on his hencoops and turkey-

proosts. 'With a store carpet on the best room floor!' put in Mrs. Jones, and the weekly newspaper, and white sugar in her tea every day of her life, and a horse and a waggon to take her to meetin'

Sundays!' Such was the opinion of society as represented in Glen Hollow. Perhaps Mrs. DeaconSmart was a happy woman. But we are told on the very best

authority, that,-The heart knoweth its own bitter-

Mrs. Smart was washing up her best china, one morning, preparatory to giv ing a grand tea-party, and her cousin, Ella Dale, was helping her, when the deacon put his shining bald head in at the door.

My dear, he said, here's a paper of pins for you.

Mrs. Smart nearly dropped a gill edged saucer in her consternation. More pins! said she. Yes, my dear, said the deacon, unc-

tuously. Pins are always useful. Oh, yes, pins ! said Mrs. Smart, giving her glass towel a toss as she wiped the last globule of moisture from a goblet. But not rows of rusty wire! I do

say for it, Ebenezer --I'm going to Glen Depot, amy dear, the deacon somewhat hurriedly inter rupted, at this juncture; and perhaps I shan't be home till one o'clock.

He withdrew, and Mrs. Smart turned to Ella Dale with a half laugh. There, my dear, said she, throwing

down the faded green roll of pin-paper on the dresser, there, you behold the secret of my domestic unhappiness-the skeleton in my closet! Ella opened her round hazel eyes

very wide. I can't think what you mean, Juliana,

she said. You unhappy ? and the dear f of dessert. deacon such a truly good man? That's the trouble, said Mrs. Smart, he is too good.

But I don't hardly see how that can be possible, protested Ella, more perplexed than ever.

And it's all at my expense, said Mrs. Smart, dolefully. Do you see the paper of pins?

Why, of course I see it, said Ella. Well, Mr. Smart has bought that paper of pins of a peddlar at the door, said Mrs. Smart. Peddlers always come here. This house is a Mecca to the race of peddlars. They know that Mr. Smart always buys of them-he's too good hearted to say no; or, rather-let us speak the truth, and shame him who shall nameless between us-he is really too indolent to resist their importunities

Ella burst out laughing. But what an insignificant little trial!

she said. Oh, yes, I dare say! said Mrs. Smart. The sting of a hornet isn't so very terrible in itself, but when a whole swarm is let loose upon you, what then? A whole swarm ? repeated innocent

My dear, said Mrs. Smart' lowering her voice to a confidential whisper, up stairs in my bed-room closet, I have eighteen papers of just such cheap pins -utterly useless for anything but to bend themselves up double when you try to put them through a single thickness of calico, and to deprive you of your temper just when you need it most; six cards of porcelain buttons, an article which I never use; nine packages machine oil, five papers of rusty needles; a dozen pairs of shoe strings, and eight rolls of tape, which is an sult to one's common sense! If I could reconcile it to my conscience, I'd fling the whole collection into the fire; but I was brought up to economize. What pins. do you think, Ella, would it be a sin to annihilate all these pitfalls to my equanimity?

It's rather a hard problem, said Ella, soberly.

And with all this, said Mrs. Smart, waxing vehement as she went on, Ebenezer is unwilling to give me money to buy decent darning needles and respectable tape. He wonders why I can't make my dresses last a little longer and thinks I am extravagant in littlewanting a new feather for my old velvet bonnet. He says that I use too many raisins and spices, and asks me why I can't raise poultry and have eggs to exchange for groceries at the village store. And yet-oh, the inconsistency of men-he expects me to give a bowl of coffee and a sandwich, to say Lothing of wedges of apple pie, and three-cornered bits of cake to every able-bodied tramp and stout peddler woman who happens to come along.

it in the housekeeping money? asked

opened the drawer of the kitchen-table. This is where I keep the housekeeping money-which he gives me every week -and he came here twice this morning -once to get a quarter for a lame beggar and again to get ten pennies for that same outrageous paper of pins ! And she cast a paleful glance at the

article, which still lay on the dresser. This is piracy, said Ella, judicially. It's highway robbery ! declared Mrs. Smart. And there comes the butcher's cart, and I haven't money enough left from my week's allowance to buy a single steak, and here it is only Wed-

nesday. Can't you buy on credit? Never! said Mrs. Smart, with spirit.

Its a thing I never have done, and I never will do!

Ella's hazel eyes sparkled, as she shook her head velvemently at the butcher, who was just checking his old hirty days from date true state horses at the ooor.

Nothing, to-day, she said. Mrs. Smart dashed away a tear. Give me some of that shelled corn, Ella, she said. I suppose I can catch a chicken for dinner. Do nothing of the sort, my dear, said

But what are we to do? Why, have a picked up dinner, answered Ella. 'You just leave me to manage it for you. But I'm afraid the deacon won't like

it, said Mrs. Smart. Well, and if he doesn't ? You don't like the peddler business, do you?" quickly retorted Ella.

At one o'clock the table was all spread, with three huge central platters carefully shielded with the covers which were ordinarily brought out only on state occasions, and Mrs. Smart and Ella were peeping out of the window and wondering what kept the deacon so

There he comes now! said Mrs Smart. Good gracious me! And there is Willis Mildmay coming home with him! We never counted on his bringing company to dinner, Ella!

What signifies company? asked Ella stoutly maintaining her composure, although her pretty face had turned pink all over, Willis Mildmay won't care when he comprehends it all. Willis is a sensible man.

Come in, Mr. Smart-come in, Mr. Mildmay, said Mrs. Smart. You're half an hour late, Ebenezer. Ella and I TIN. could not imagine what had become of

I hope I'm not intruding,' said Mr. Mildinay, looking at Ella as if one Granite Ware, Japaned Stampglance of her rosy face was all the dinner he wanted.

'Oh not in the least! replied Mrs. Smart. Pray sit down. We have but a plain dinner to-day, but it is all that my housekeeping allowance would ad-

Smart—ne apologies. Hunger is the which draw out for cleaning purposes. best sauce, as we well know.

Thereupon, they all seated themselves at the table, and the deacor whisked off the big platter covers with a countenance of expectation-

Hullo ! said the deacon.

There upon the centre platter lay the eighteen green papers of pins. At the right and left, on smaller platters, were arranged the cards of porcelain buttons and the rolls of tape and the shoestrings, while the bottles of machine oil and packages of stove-blacking were arranged like a child's block-house on a side table, beneath a white napkin, by way

Ella burst out laughing. Mrs. Smart joined in. Willis Mildmay, spurred on by the infectious sound, laughed too, although he had not the least idea what he was laughing at. The deacon stared as if he had suddenly become all eyes. Juliana, he said, what is the mean-

ing of all this? dler's cheap wares, and that Ella and de to. I determined to serve them up to you for dinner; and what you don't eat we Chatham, N. B. & 1602 Notre are going to burn, and henceforward whatever is bought has got to be of good quality, or I won't have it in the house! And if you give me money for housekeeping it isn't fair for you to spend it in buying articles which no

Certainly it isn't! said Ella, coming WM. WYSE.

valiantly to the rescue. The deacon's under jaw dropped; he had half a mind to be angry, but he thought better of it, and broke into a

chuckle. Mr. Midmay, he said, turning to the young man, be warned in time! You see what tricks women folks will always be up to.

But Mr. Mildmay, who had some how or other got hold of Ella's hand under the folds of the table-cloth, did not seem to heed these words of wisdom as deeply as he should have done under the circumstances.

Ladies, he said, there's a bushel of oysters out in the wagon, that I was taking home. If you will build up a good fire we'll have a good roast, and I'll be of stove blacking, thirteen bottles of head cook. I suppose you've got plenty good bread and butter?

> Yes, and nice hot coffee, said Mrs, Smart. Make haste, Ella, and start the fire to a blaze, and we will stimulate it a little with machine oil and

> The deacon sat by and made no demur. He only laughed in a sheepish, silent sort of way.

And they dined of hot roast oysters, bread and butter and coffee. Toward the close of the repast a stout, itinerant vender, with basket on his arm. tapped on the door.

I hope I see your honor well?said he. with a regular professional whine. Will'ee buy something to-day? Pins, needles, shoe-laces, hairpins, or

But Deacon Smart shut the door in the midst of his oily oration. No! he said.

And that monosyllable sealed Mrs. Smart's triumph for good and all.

tramp and stout peddler woman who happens to come along.

Doesn't he make any allowances for Doesn't he make any allowances for Doesn't he make any allowances for Stinson & Co. Portland, Maine.

Not he! Just look here! Mrs Smart WM: WYSE, Auctioneer --AND--

Commission Merchant, COLBEN BALL CORER,

the commodious warerooms recently of CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED

Quick returns made. Real Estate and Furniture sales promptly attended to. WM. WYSE.

Notice. Assessors

The Assessors of Rates for the Parish of Chatham having received warrants for the Assessment on the said Parish of the following amounts, viz On the Parish for County Contingencies, \$2,223 69 Alms House, " Police District for Police, " Firewards,

ereby request all persons liable to be rated in said Parish to bring in to the Assessors within The Assessors also give notice that their valuation list when completed will be posted at the Post Office, Chatham. JOHN ELLIS, THOS CRIMMEN

hatham, March 3r , 1886.

WM. KERR. E. A. STRANG, - Chatham

COLE, Merchant

--AND--Gentlemen's Outfitter,

PALMER BLOCK, · MAIN ST. MONCTON, N Our representative will make his regular trip North during March with a full line of samples— Spring and Summer Suitings, etc.—Wait for him.

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THE SUBSCRIBER begs to tender his thanks to the public of Miramichi who have so lib erally patronised his business at his late stand nd to inform them that he has removed to his ew premises on Water Street, next door to the store of J. B. Snowball, Esq., where he will be glad to welcome all old customers and to make the acquaintance of new ones. He has on hand a most complete new stock of

All Kinds of Cloths. from which selections may be made for Suits or single Garments nspection of which is respectfully invite 1.

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SHEET-IRON GAS-FITTING.

TINWARE always on hand, which I will sell low for cash.

PLOUGHS. Also, a nice assortment of Parlor and Cooking Stoves

No apologies, my dear, said Deacon | fitted with PATENT OVENS the inner shells of Shop in rear of Custom House.

A. C. M'LEAN. Card of Thanks.

The subscribers beg to tender their sincere thanks to their many friends and customers in this and the Northern Counties for the very liberal manner in which they have patronized us for the past sixteen years, and to inform them that they have purchased an old established Tobacconist business in Montreal, which will be conduc ed by Isaac Harris who will always be pleased to meet our friends from New Brunswick visiting Montreal. The business here will still be carried on by

Aaron Harris. We are now in a better position than ever to fill all orders in our line at rock bottom prices. All It means, Ebenezer, that you have orders sent to either of our spent my housekeeping money for ped- branches will be promptly attend-

I. HARRIS & SON. Dame St. Montreal.

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To be sold at Public Auction on Friday the 26th inst, at 12 o'clock noon, in front of the Post Office Chatham, the lot of land with Dwelling thereon situate on the west side of Queen Street wned by Mr. Wm. Burbridge. Terms at sale JAS. NICOL,

A large I2 year old mare, very suitable for thrashing mill, will be sold cheap Aprly at

STATION FARM. A week made at home by the industry out. Best business now before the public. Capital not needed. We will

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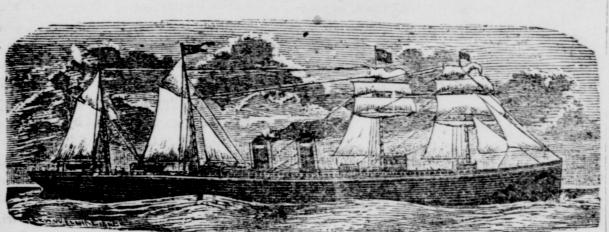
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