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WHITTAKER'S PLACE

"Mr. Moderator," he shouted, "I want
to make a motion. We've all heard the
big talk that's been made. All right,
then! I move you, sir, that Captain
Cyrus Whittaker be appointed a com-
mittee of one to go to Washin'ton. If
he wants to, or anywhere else, and see
that we get the appropriation. And if
we don't get it the blame's his! There,
now!"

There was a roar of laughter. This
was exactly the sort of "tit for tat"
humor that appeals to a Yankee
crowd. The motion was seconded half
a dozen times. Moderator Knowles
grinned and shook his head.

"A joke's a joke," he said, "and we
all like a good one. However, this
meetin' is supposed to be for business,
not fun, so!"

"Question! Question! It's been sec-
onded! We've got to vote on it!"
shouted a chorus.

"Don't you think—seems to me that
ain't in order," began the moderator,
but Captain Cy rose to his feet. The
grim smile had returned to his face,
and he looked at the joyous assem-
blage with almost his old expression
of appreciative alertness.

"Never mind the vote," he said. "I
realize that Brother Leonard has rather
got one on me, so to speak. All
right; I won't dodge. I'll be a commit-
tee of one on the harbor grab, and if
nothin' comes of it I'll take my share
of kicks. Gentlemen, I appreciate your
trustfulness in my ability."

This brief speech was a huge suc-
cess. If for a moment the pendulum of
public favor had swung toward Simp-
son, this trumping of the latter's lead-
ing card pushed it back again. The
moderator had some difficulty in re-
storing order to the hilarious meeting.

Then Mr. Myrick was accorded the
privilege of the floor, in spite of Tad's
protests, and proceeded to nominate
Cyrus Whittaker for the school com-
mittee.

Josiah Dimick seconded the cap-
tain's nomination. Then Mr. Simpson
stepped to the front and, after a wist-
ful glance at the door, began to speak.

"Feller citizens," he said, "it is my
privilege to put in nomination for
school committee a man whose name
stands for all that's good and clean
and progressive in this township. But
before I do it I'm goin' to ask you to
let me say a word or two concernin'
somethin' that bears right on this mat-
ter and which, I believe, every one
of you ought to know. It's somethin'
that most of you don't know, and it'll
be a surprise, a big surprise."

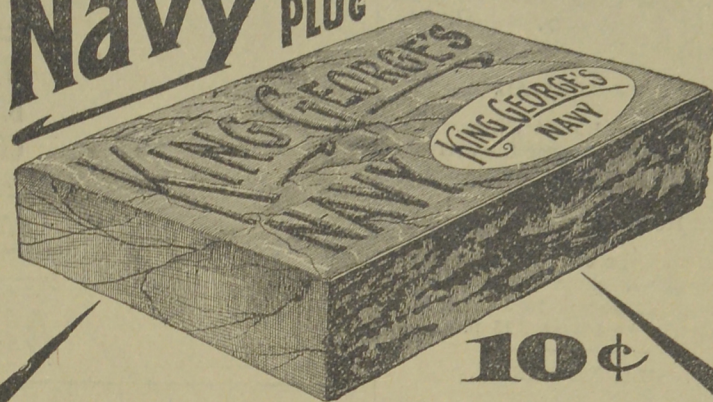
(To be Continued)



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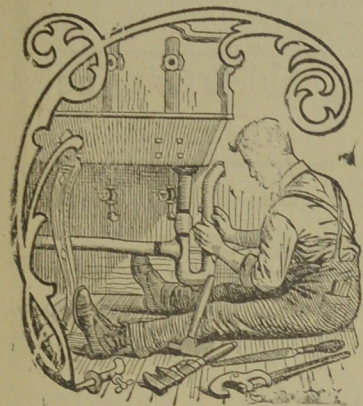


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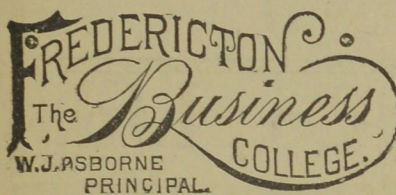
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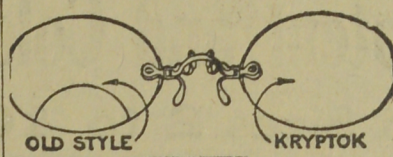
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to him unbidden and of the place
she won in his heart; read of the
pretty schoolteacher, the sancti-
monious congressman, the grown-
up boys Asaph Tidditt and Bai-
ley Bangs; read of Keturah and
Cap'n Josiah Dimick and Lem
Myrick and all the other quaint
folk of Bayport and you will
find entertainment a-plenty.
There was only one Charles
Dickens, but in character de-
lineation Joseph C. Lincoln has
a touch worthy of the master.

CHAPTER XII

"THIS is goin' to be a memoria-
ble town meetin'!" declared
Sylvanus Cahoon with unction,
rising from a settee to
gaze about him over the heads of the
voters in the town hall. "I bet you
every abledodid man in Bayport 'll
be here this afternoon. Yes, sir, that's
what I call it, a me-mo-ri-able meetin'!"

Mr. Tidditt was conducted to the
platform. After thumping the desk
with his fist he announced that the
gathering would "come to order right
off, as there is considerable business
to be done and it ought to be goin'
ahead." He then proceeded to read
the call for the meeting. This cere-
mony was no sooner over than Abed-
nego Small, "Uncle Bedny," was on
his feet loudly demanding to be in-
formed why the town "hasn't done
nothin'" toward fixing up the Bas-
sett's Hollow road. Uncle Bedny's
speech had proceeded no further than
"fellow citizens, in the name of an
outrageous—I should say outraged—
portion of our community I"—when
he was choked off by a self appointed
committee who knew Mr. Small of
old and had seated themselves near
him to be ready for just such emer-
gencies. The next step, judged by
meetings of other years, should have
been to unanimously elect Eben Sal-
ters moderator, but as Captain Eben
refused to serve owing to his interest
in the Whittaker campaign Alvin
Knowles was, by a small majority,
chosen for that office. Mr. Knowles
was a devout admirer of the great At-
kins, and his election would have been
considered a preliminary victory for
the opposition had it not been that
many of Captain Cy's adherents voted
for Alvin from a love of mischief,
knowing from experience his ignorance
of parliamentary law and his easy go-
ing rule. "Now there'll be fun!" de-
clared one delighted individual. "Any-
thing's in order when Alvin's chair-
man."

"No sign of Cy or Heman yet," ob-
served Mr. Cahoon, craning his neck in
the direction of the door. "It's the
queerest thing ever I see."

"Queer enough about Cy, that's a
fact," concurred Captain Dimick. "I
ain't so surprised about Heman's not
comin'. Looks as if Whit was right—
he always said Atkins dodged a row
where folks could watch it. Does most
of his fightin' from round the corner.
Hello, there's Tad! Now you'll see
the crown of glory set on Lonzo
Snow's head. Hope the crown's pad-
ded nice and soft. Anything with
sharp edges would sink in."

But Captain Cy soon had entered the
hall. He was standing in the aisle,
and with him was Bailey Bangs. The
captain looked very tired, almost worn
out, but he nodded coolly to Mr. Simp-
son.

"Here I am, Tad," continued the
captain. "Say your piece."

But Tad, it appeared, was not anx-
ious to "say his piece." He was whis-
pering earnestly with a group of his
followers. Finally, however, he took
the platform and made sneering re-
marks that plainly referred to the cap-
tain. Captain Cy held up his hand.

"Mr. Moderator," he asked, "can I
have the floor a minute? All I want
to say is that I callate I'm the teller
the last speaker had reference to. I
have said that I didn't see why that
appropriation was so hard to get. I
say it again. Other appropriations are
got, and why not ours? I did say if I
was a congressman I'd get it. Yes,
and I'll say more," he added, raising
his voice—"I'll say that if I was sent
to Washin'ton by this town, congress-
man or not, I'd move heaven and
earth and all creation from the presi-
dent down till I did get it; that's all.
So would any live man, I should
think."

He sat down. There was some ap-
plause. Before it had subsided Abel
Leonard, one of the quickest witted
of Mr. Simpson's workers, was on his
feet gesticulating for attention.

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