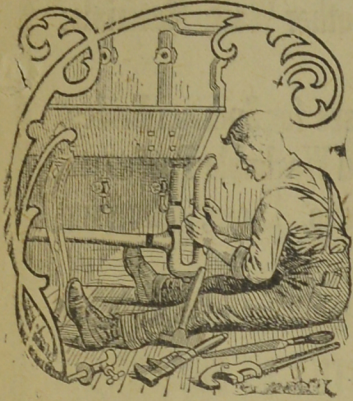


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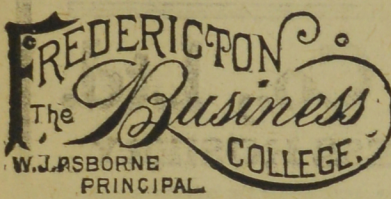
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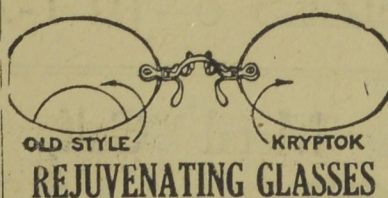
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his boyhood friends; read of the
quaint little waif who came
to him unbidden and of the place
she won in his heart; read of the
pretty schoolteacher, the sancti-
monious congressman, the grown-
up boys Asaph Tidditt and Bai-
ley Bangs; read of Keturah 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.

"Well, forty years, more or less, add-
ed to what you started with, is apt to
make a fellow some older."
"Mr. Atkins," the town clerk said,
"there's been considerable talk in town
about who's to be teacher downstairs
this coming year. We've sort of chewed
it over among us, but naturally we
wanted your opinion. What do you
think? I'm kind of leanin' toward the
Dawes woman herself."

The congressman cleared his throat.
"Far be it from me," he said, "to
speak except as a mere member of
our little community, an ordinary
member, but as such a member, with
the welfare of my birthplace very
near and dear to me, I confess that I
am inclined to favor a modern teacher,
one educated and trained in the insti-
tution provided for the purpose by our
great commonwealth. The Dawes—er
—person is undoubtedly worthy and
capable in her way, but—well—er—we
know that Wellmouth is not Bayport."
"That's so," Asaph said—"that's so,
ain't it, Cy? I hadn't thought of that."
"What's so?" asked the captain.
"Why—why, that Wellmouth ain't
Bayport."
"No doubt of it. They're twenty
miles apart."
"Yes. Well, I'm glad to hear you put



"Ain't you?"
It so conclusive, Mr. Atkins. I can
see now that Phoebe wouldn't do.
Hum! Yes."

Mr. Atkins buttoned the frock coat
and turned to go.

"Good day, gentlemen," he said.
"Cyrrus, permit me once more to wel-
come you heartily to our village. We
—my daughter and myself—will prob-
ably remain at home until the fall. I
trust you will be a frequent caller.
Run in on us at any time. Pray do
not stand upon ceremony."

"No," said Captain Cy shortly, "I
won't."

"That's right; that's right. Good
morning."

He walked briskly down the hill.
The trio gazed after him.

"Well," sighed Mr. Tidditt, "that's
settled. And it's a comfort to know
'tis settled. Still, I did kind of want
Phoebe Dawes, but of course Heman
knows best."

"Course he knows best!" snapped
Bailey. "Ain't he the biggest gun in
this county pretty nigh? I'd like to
know who is if he ain't. The commit-
tee 'll call the normal school girl now,
and a good thing too."

Captain Cy was still gazing at the
dignified form of the "biggest gun in
the county."

"Let's see," he asked. "Who's on the
school committee? Eben Salters, of
course, and—"

"Yes. Eben's chairman, and he'll
vote for Phoebe anyhow. He's that
pigheaded that nobody, not even a
United States representative, could
change him. But Darius Ellis 'll be
for Heman's way, and so'll Lemuel

WHITTAKER'S PLACE

"Lemuel Myrick! Lem Myrick, the
painter?"

"Sartin! There ain't but one Myrick
in town."

"Hum!" murmured the captain and
was silent for some minutes.

The school committee met on the
following Wednesday evening. On
Thursday morning a startling rumor
spread through all Bayport. Phoebe
Dawes had been called by a vote of
two to one to teach the downstairs
school. Asaph, aghast, rushed out of
Simmons' store and up to the hill to
the Cy Whittaker place. He found
Captain Cy in the front yard. Mr.
Myrick, school committeeman and
house painter, was with him.

"Hello, Ase!" hailed the captain.
"What's the matter? Hasn't the tide
come in this mornin'?"

Asaph, somewhat embarrassed by
the presence of Mr. Myrick, hesitated
over his news. Lemuel came to his
rescue.

"Ase has just heard that we called
Phoebe," he said. "What of it? I
voted for her, and I ain't ashamed of
it."

"But—but—Mr. Atkins, he—"

"Well, Heman ain't on the commit-
tee, is he? I vote the way I think
right, and no one in this town can
change me. Anyway," he added, "I'm
goin' to resign next spring. Yes,
Cap'n Whittaker, I think three coats
of white 'll do on the sides here."

"Lem's goin' to do my paintin' jobs,"
explained Captain Cy. "His price was
a little higher than some of the other
fellows, but I like his work."

Mr. Tidditt pondered deeply until
dinner time; then he cornered the cap-
tain behind the Bangs barn and spoke
with conviction.

"Whit," he said, "you're the one re-
sponsible for the committee's hirin'
Phoebe Dawes. You offered Lem the
paintin' job if he'd vote for her. What
did you do it for? You don't know
her, do you?"

"Never set eyes on her in my life."
"Then—then—you heard Heman say
he wanted the other one. What made
you do it?"

Captain Cy grinned

(To be Continued)

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me from sleeping at nights. I tried many
kinds of pills and medicines, but it seem-
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despair of ever being well and strong
again, when a kind neighbor advised
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did, and am thankful for the relief I
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them to any sufferer."

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