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town was white and green

out no one thought of meddling wit

Cuneral the mourners came and went as was proper, by that solemn portal.

eyhole of the side door and essa

Cheerful's a Tomb. Ain't It?" Was

and the dim gray light made the room

more lonesome and forsaken in appearance than a deeper gloom could pos-sibly have done. The black walnut, extension table in the center, closed to

its smallest dimensions because Parson Langley had eaten alone for so

many years; the black walnut chairs

set back against the wall at regular intervals; the rug carpet and braided

imstone any, does it?" she asked

fragrant with camphor was dimly vis-

soon. Here's the front hall and there's

the front stairs. The parlor's off to the left. We won't bother with that yet a while. This little place in here

s what Mr. Langley used to call his

study.' Halloa! how this door sticks!

The door did stick, and no amount

of tugging could get it open, though

Grace added her efforts to those of Ke

it. I guess it's just swelled and stuck from the damp. Though it's odd, I don't remember— Oh, well! never

mind. Let's sweeten up this settin room a little. Open a window or two

want to do anything before it gets dark. I'm goin' into the kitchen to get

She hurried out, returning in a mo-

'How's a body goin 'to sweep with

ment or two with a broom and a most disgusted expression.

a broom.'

"Tain't locked," commented Mrs

"cause there ain't any lock or

"Cheerful's a tomb, ain't it?" was Mrs. Coffin's comment. "Well, we'll get some light and air in here pretty

to those who remember Cape architec Grace, who was struggling with a reture at this period; practically every building from Sandwich to Provincefractory window, paused for breath. "I'm sure I don't know," she re-

plied. "I've never seen him."
"Nor I either. Sol was so bad the They entered the yard, through the gap in the white fence, and went Sunday he preached that I couldn't go to meetin'. They say his sermon was fine; all about those who go down to around the house, past the dripping evergreens and the bare, wet Blac bushes, to the side door, the lock of the sea in ships. That's what got the which Keziah's key fitted. There was parish committee, I guess; they're all old salts. I wonder if he's as fine-look-in' as they say?" a lock on the front door, of course that. That door had been opened but once during the late pastor's thirty year tenantry. On the occasion of his

Miss Van Horne tossed her head. She was resting, prior to making another assault on the window.
"I don't care. I know he'll be a con-

ceited little snippet and I shall hate the sight of him. There! there! Auntie, you musn't mind me. I told you I was a sellsh pig. But don't you ask me to like this precious ministe of yours, because I shan't do it. H me from the best friend I've got tell him so if he was here—

Both women looked at each other with startled faces. They listened in

Why, wa'n't that funny!" whispered Keziah. I thought I heard—" "You did hear. So did I. What do you suppose—"
"S-s-s-h-h! It sounded from the

front room somewhere. And yet there can't be anybody in there, because—My soul! there 'tis again. I'm goin' to find out.' She grasped the stubby broom by

the handle and moved determinedly to-ward the front hall. Grace seized her by the arm.

"Don't you do it, auntie!" she whis-pered frantically. "Don't you do it! It may be a tramp."

"I don't care. Whoever or what-ever it is, it has no business in this house, and I'll make that plain in a hurry. Just like as not it's a cat got in when Elkanah was here this forenoon. Don't be scared, Grace. Come right along.'

The girl came along, but not with enthusiasm. They tiptoed through the dark, narrow hall and peered into the Mrs. Coffin's Comment.

parlor. This apartment was dim and still and gloomy, as all proper parlors should be, but there was no sign of

ve ain't had any tramps around here life. Mrs. Coffin was glancing back down the hall with a strange expression on her face. Her grip upon the broom

She led the way into the dining room of the parsonage. Two of the blinds shading the windows of that apartment had been opened when she and Captain Daniels made their visit, handle tightened.

"What is it?" pleaded the girl in an agonized whisper.

"Grace," was the low reply, "I've just remembered somethin. That study door isn't stuck from the damp, because—well, because I remember now that it was open this mornin'." Before her companion could fully grasp the import of this paralyzing

fact, Keziah strode down the hall and seized the knob of the study door.
"Whoever you are in there," she

intervals; the rug carpet and braided mats—homemade donations from the ladies of the parish—on the green painted floor; the dolorous pictures on the walls: "Death of Washington" "There was an instant of silence; then a voice from within made answer, a man's voice, and its tone indicated greater to the property of the

painter. The blinds and a window being opened, more light entered the room. Grace glanced about it curijust be patient—"

"Madam," it said, "I—I am—I will be out in another minute. If you will just be patient—"

"Come out then!" snapped Keziah.
"Come out! Patience! Of all the cheek! Why don't you come out

"So this is going to be your new home now, Aunt Keziah," she ob-served "How queer that seems." "Um—h'm Does seem queer, don't "Well, to be frank, since you insist," snapped the voice, "I'm not fully .? Must seem queer to you to be so ear the headquarters of everything our uncle thinks is wicked. Smell of

This was a staggerer. For once Keziah did not have a reply ready. She looked at Grace and the latter at her.

She threw open another door. A Then, without wo com gloomy with black walnut and the sitting room. Then, without words, they retreated to "I hope you won't be alarmed," con-tinued the voice, broken by panting

pauses, as if the speaker was strug-

gling into a garment. "I know this must seem strange. You see, I came on the coach as far as Bayport and then we lost a wheel in a rut. was a-oh, dear! where is that—this is supremely idiotic!—I was saying there happened to be a man comin this way with a buggy and he offered to help me along. He was on his way to Wellmouth. So I left my trunk to come later and took my valise. Trained on the way and I was we through. I stopped at Captain Daniel' house and the girl said he had gon with his daughter to the next town but that they were to stop here at th parsonage on their way. So-there that's right, at last!-so I came, hop ing to find them. The door was open and I came in. The captain and his daughter were not here, but, as I was pretty wet, I thoughht I would seize that?" she demanded, exhibiting the frayed utensil, the business end of which was worn to a stub. "More like a shovel, enough sight. Well, there's the most embarrassing—I'm coming the opportunity to change my clothes see, and—I assure you I—well, it was the most embarrassing—I'm coming

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