THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, - - - March 25, 1872.

THE WOES OF A WOOER.

[CONTINUED.]

Milly rushed to the assistance of her father, and while pretending to help him up, managed to impede his efforts considerably, and as Uncle Nathan was gouty and by no means fleet of foot, I got a good start before they were fairly in pursuit. But another and greater source of trouble was in store for me. As I was rushing down the walk towards the gate, "Bose," the old family watch-dog, who had been aroused by the unusual commotion in-doors, and was on the alert, espied my fleeing form and rushed savagely after me, with savage growls and gleaming teeth. By the most herculean efforts, I succeeded in reaching the gate, and slamming it to, shut him in and myself out, leaving a portion of my coat-tail in his rapacious jaws, as a memento. It was a close shave, and—I judge from feeling alone, not by sight—he must have left the impress of his teeth upon my person. I was well aware, however, that I had only temporarily evaded pursuit, and so struck out down the road at my "best licks," fully impressed with the importance of widening my distance from the house as rapidly as possible.

I was surprised at my powers of locomotion at that time, and I certainly developed considerable speed. I had everything at stake, and—yes, I acknowledge it—fear lent wings to my heels, and I fairly flew over the ground at a rate, I am firmly persuaded, to distance John Gilpin or Tam O'Shanter and all the pursuing witches.

Millburn soon recovered himself, and he and the avenging canine were speedily upon my track in full pursuit. At the rate I was going I knew I could easily distance the man, but with the dog the case was different. He was rapidly coming up to me, and I knew that in a few moments, despite my best efforts, he would be upon me.

Happily, in this emergency, I bethought me of a brilliant expedient. In my pocket I had a bottle of Cayenne pepper, among other things, which I had that evening bought at the store for use at home. Therein lay my salvation! Hastily breaking off the neck of the bottle, and emptying a part of its contents into my hand, I breathlessly awaited the approach of my canine pursuer. In a moment he came up, his jaws distended, and his eyes flashing in a manner that boded me ill. As he bounded at me, by a dexterous movement I cast the fiery powder squarely into his mouth and eyes. The next moment he was howling and rolling in agony on the snow, and I, taking advantage of the diversion in my favor, started off again at the top of my speed. All Millburn's efforts to persuade "Bose" into a renewal of the pursuit were unavailing, and I proceeded to the village without further molestation.

Now, common prudence should have taught me better; but I was excited, (as who would not have been under such circumstances?) and I sped on into the village without in the slightest abating my speed. I had lost my hat in my flight, and as I rushed along uncovered, my hair streaming in the wind, and the remnant of my coat-tail flapping in the rear, it is no wonder that I was mistaken for a madman broken loose. My appearance was quite out of the usual run of things, and I soon succeeded in attracting the attention of a group of young scapegraces, who were, at that late hour, playing "hide and seek" at one of the street corners, and the whole motley crew set off at my heels, with yells and exclamations of juvenile delight. As I sped along, others hearing the noise and noting my strange appearance, took up the chase, and the whole town was soon in a hub-bub over the pursuit of the supposed madman. By dint of muscle, and much dodging and strategy, I finally succeeded in eluding pursuit, and was walking quietly along, flattering myself that I saw my way out of the scrape, when suddenly a rude hand seized me with a firm grip by the shoulder, and a determined, authoritative voice sounded in my ear: "Hold! I arrest you."

Oh! relentless fate! It was our worthy Sheriff, who had been aroused by the commotion, and thinking me either crazy or criminal, had concluded to take me into custody. It was all in vain that I protested my innocence of anything criminal; in vain I urged that I was not demented. With a wise shake of the head and a knowing smile, he remarked. "Can't fool me; that's what they all say," and with that the relentless "minion of the law" proceeded to inform me that I might go along peaceably if I chose, or he would iron me if I resisted.

I decided to go without the irons, mentally resolving to make use of my free limbs before we reached our destination. Clearly, I was in a dilemma. If I did not escape, I should be recognized on the morrow, my connection with the inglorious affair at Millburn's would be traced out, and I should be placed in an embarrassing light before the neighbors, to say the least. These thoughts passed rapidly through my mind as I walked along, and I resolved to embrace the first opportunity to escape.

We had not as yet been noticed, and affecting a fear of violence from the people, if seen, I piteously begged him to take me through an unfrequented way instead of along the open street. The worthy official wanted the whole credit of the arrest for himself, and doubtless, thinking what a brilliant exploit it would be for him, and how it would enchance his chances for reelection if he could only get me safely into jail, alone and unaided, readily acceded to the request. This was an important point gained. Recollecting my successful use of the pepper on old Bose, I resolved to try it on old Official. I felt in my pocket, and too my great joy found that I had still a good handfull left. My captor, seeing that I offered no resistance, and thinking, doubtless, that I was awed into submission by the majesty of the law represented in his person, had somewhat relaxed his vigilance; and so, watching a favorable opportunity, I suddenly dashed the remainder of the fiery powder into his eyes, and before he recovered sufficiently to cry out, I dealt him a blow that felled him to the earth like a log. Fortunately, no one had witnessed my movements, and my worthy captor was so completely stunned that pursuit was out of the question, and he retired that night shorn of his laurels and the glory which was just within his grasp. After considerable skilful dodging to elude all possible pursuit, I struck off for home, and five minutes thereafter was well on my way to "my father's house," a weary and disgusted prodigal.

To be continued.

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Howe	75,156	Ætna	5,806
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