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When a master is sad, if there is any sympathy or love in a family, every one is more or less depressed. So it was that cold March evening with the Latimers, as they sat round the fire after dinner discussing not "catsup and logwood," but some humble mulled elder wine, were silent and sad. George held Dora's hand, and Willy nestled on the footstool. Suddenly the door opened, and Susan came in. "If you please, sir, there is a large hamper come from the station; six and twopence to pay."

"How jolly!" said George, leaping up and clapping his hands.

Mr. Latimer, as he counted out the money, looked as if he thought paying six-and-twopence was by no means jolly.

"What can it be?" said Mrs. Latimer.

The hamper came in. It was tied round with red tape, and sealed with black. On the card was written: "In re GODFREY DODSON, deceased. With Messrs. Fox and Shekell's compliments."

The Latimers had long ceased to entertain any hope of a legacy, but hope now again rose in their eyes.

"Hurrah! here's my knife, papa," cried George.

"It's china," said Dora.

"Give me some of it," cried Tot, whose head had not yet grown above the level of the table, and therefore could see nothing of the interior of the mysterious hamper.

Mr. Latimer cut the red tape. The hamper was full of hay, and on the hay was a sealed letter in Uncle Godfrey's handwriting. Mr. Latimer tore it open. The contents ran thus:

"DEAR LATIMER: I found out the tricks and humbug of the Fitzsimmonses. My visit taught me to respect and love you and Jane. I have been a fool to live as I have done, but it is too late to alter now. The keepsake is rather curious in its mechanism. Think of old cross Uncle Godfrey sometimes. Farewell.  
(Signed) GODFREY DODSON."

In a moment, Mr. Latimer's hand plunged into the hay, and drew out not a casket nor a box of gold, but Uncle Godfrey's wooden leg.

For a moment, Mr. Latimer remained as if turned to stone, and grasping the wooden leg in his hand. Then the color mounting to his face, he cried sternly: George, run and ask cook for the bill-hook from the wood-house."

George ran. Mrs. Latimer seized her husband's arm. "Don't, Fred., don't; it is cruel. But what could we expect?"

"Selfish, heartless, old miser!" cried her husband, stamping his foot. "What right had he to come and mock and tempt us, and insult us with this vile thing? Was he not hard and frozen, and useless enough in his lifetime, but must he rise from his very grave to strike a pang into our hearts, at such a moment, too, of pain and anxiety?"

George ran in at this moment with a heavy, sharp bill-hook.

"Thus," said Latimer, with a cleaving blow, "do I doom his cruel present to its only real use—to feed the fire and perish as the memory of all useless, selfish men will perish."

As he said this, Latimer lopped off the peg-end of the leg, and thrust it into the fire, where it instantly broke into a rejoicing blaze. At the second blow the bill-hook stuck deep in the wood, and refused to go further. Taken out and re-struck, there was a metallic sound, as if it had reached some iron screw. On looking, it was evident that a small flat box had somehow or other been slid into the center of the block. The astonishment and excitement grew tremendous.

George ran for the meat saw, and two skilful cross-cuts disclosed a small flat tin box soldered down. What could it be? Mr. Latimer got a sardine knife, and ripping it open, discovered that it was full of paper. A further search disclosed five thousand pounds in closely-wedged bank notes. One thousand pounds worth were labeled, "Jane," another thousand, "Frederick," a third thousand, "Willy," a fourth, "Dora," a fifth thousand, "Tot." On many of them, there were crumpled blisters, as if a tear or two had fallen on the paper.

How can I describe the joy and gratitude of the good people; how Mr. Latimer kissed Mrs. Latimer, then all the children; and how the children danced for joy and blessed dear Uncle Godfrey.

V. AN IMPORTANT AFTER-THOUGHT.

Two days after this, a tall, neatly dressed skeleton of a man presented himself at the office of Messrs Fox and Shekell. He was shown into Mr. Fox's private room.

"Mr. Fox," said he, "I am File, of the firm of File and Rasper, Clements Inn, Latterly, we did the greater part of the late Mr. Dodson's business, as I daresay you know. I have here a will of the deceased three years later than the one in your possession. It was properly signed and attested in the presence of myself and partner. It is dated, you see, the February of last year. The deceased died in October."

In this will, so tardy in turning up, the deceased had left all his money to the Latimers; and all his china, etchings, &c., to the Fitzsimmonses—subject, however, to a payment of ten years' arrears of rent for the chambers in the Adelphi, and several large donations to orphan asylums. The residue—£ 14, 8s 4d.—was only paid to indignant Mr. Fitzsimmons, who heaped his feeble spite upon the memory of the late Godfrey Dodson, Esq.

VI. SIMILE.

"My dear Jane," said the Rev. Mr. Latimer the other night, laying down a book on *Claret Country* that he had been reading, for he has given up catsup and logwood now, and is curious in his wines—"I have found out an excellent simile for Uncle Godfrey. When a vineyard proprietor wants to get specially good Olos Vougeot he places the wine out night after night in the frost. This, by degrees crystalizes all the watery part of the wine in the outer crust, which is daily removed and thrown away. The real soul and essence of the wine, however, remains in the center, in an unfrozen kernel, which is highly valued. In Uncle Godfrey's heart, my love, there was hoarded up, in the same manner, the purer essence, far, far from the outer crust of ice."

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Direct from our own Manufactories in the East. We call especial attention to our  
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PERSONS traveling to and from the southern part of the Territory, or to Southern California, will find good entertainment on reasonable terms, at the Nephi House, Salt Creek.

Meals at all hours. Good stabling, and a good supply of Hay and Grain always on hand.  
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22-2\*

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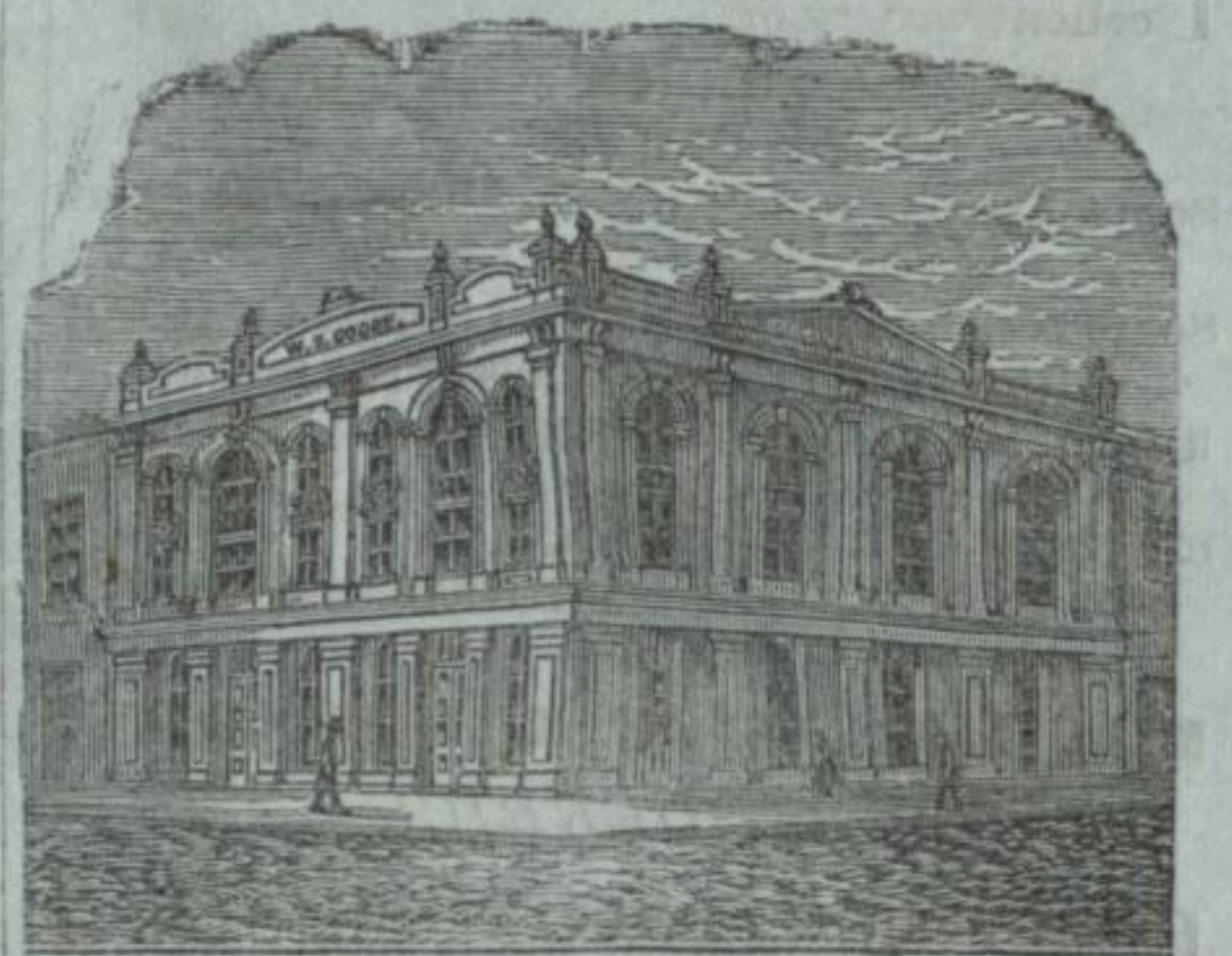
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