

SYNOPSIS.

Solomen Pratt began comical narm of story, introducing well-to-do
han Scudder of his town, and Edward
Brunt and Martin Hartley, two rich
Yorkers seeking rest. Van Brunt, it
learned, was the successful suitor
the hand of Miss Agnes Page, who
Hartley up. Adventure at Fourth
uly celebration at Eastwich. Hartley
dued a boy, known as "Reddy," from
ar a horse's feet and the urchin
red to be one of Miss Page's charges,
m she had taken to the country for
who we had inside the house. What om she had taken to the country for outing. Van Brunt rented an island Scudder and called it Ozone island. charge of a company of New York or children Miss Talford and Miss Page ted Ozone island. Eureka Sparrow, a antry girl, was engaged as a cook and in Brunt and Hartley paid a visit to reather, who for years had been claims consumption as an excuse for not riking. Upon another island visit by see Page. Eureka diagnosed Hartley's as one of love for Agnes. Hartley vented a plan to make Washington arrow work. In putting the plan into ect Hartley incurs wrath of Miss Page, whom the "sick man" sent. Agnes en appealed to Van Brunt. Sparrow escape the treatment proclaimed himfuell and went to work. Storm-bound Ozone island, Van Brunt and Hartley ed of the "Natural Life." Hartley sufted a broken arm while hunting a physical storm of the storm while hunting a physical storm of the storm while hunting a physical storm. la broken arm while hunting a phyn for "Reddy," supposed to be sufferfrom appendicitis. "Reddy's" allmenproves to be an overdose of green

CHAPTER XVIII .- Continued. wa'n't much good, but Dr. Jordan was a whole team and the dog under the wagon. He sent me for the conductor and between us we got Hartley a rock. They was-" nto the baggage car and away from he crowd of passengers.

Then we rigged up a kind of bed for on a pile of trunks and the doctor went to work.

He got Martin's coat off and his shirt-sleeve up and had a good look at the arm. Hartley opened his eyes while the examination was going on. Broken, doctor, isn't it?" he asks

Yes," says Jordan. "Only a simple cture of the forearm, though. We'll get off at the next station and find a comfortable place for you.'

But he wouldn't hear of it. Not much he wouldn't. He was going to see that that doctor went straight to Eastwich. Said he'd had too much trouble getting him on that train to let off it now, even if 'twas his neck stead of his arm that was cracked. There was considerable pow-wow, but finally Jordan give in.

"All right," he says. "Needs must if the old gentleman drives. The arm is in better shape than you deserve, sidering how you've treated it. I'll make a temporary bandage, put you off at your home station, and come back and set the bone as soon as I can Hand me that box the boy. there, conductor, please."

With a slat off a box in the baggage and pieces of Hartley's shirt, he spliced that arm as pretty as a picture. Then he rigged up a sling made of a couple of handkerchiefs, and there was the patient in pretty fair shape. considering.

When we got to Wellmouth the conductor-a mighty decent feller, he was held up the train while I made arrangements with the driver of the ld Home house depot wagon to take Martin to the hotel. I was for going with him, but he put his foot down on that plan in a hurry.

"No, sir!" says he. "I want you to e that the goods are delivered. You get Jordan to the school on time and find out if there's anything else you can do to help over there. Then you can come back if you want to; but don't you show your head around me till the contract is carried out. If you do-well, my right arm's in pretty good condition vet." In spite of the pain I knew he was

in he managed to pump up a grin. I grinned back, but there was a big lump just astern of my swallowing The train got to Eastwich on time

and Lord James was waiting with the team at the depot. We drove to the Fresh Air farm like we was going to a fire. Miss Talford was at the door. "Here's the doctor," I says. "How's the boy?"

"The pain is a little easier now, we think," says she. "Come right upstairs, Dr. Jordan. It was so good of you to come. Agnes hasn't slept since he was taken ill."

ford girl up to the bedroom. A mighty I had for supper, and I told you." pretty room 'twas, too; all flowered paper, and colored pictures and sunshine. But I didn't notice these things | Well, they never operated for them much.

Poor little Redny! There he laid, in the middle of the big bed, his brick soon after that. Eureka was there and the window. top shining against the pillow and she and me had a big talk. Duncan the freckles on his nose like red paint come stomping down a little later and spots on a whitewashed wall. He knew me and the first thing he said

was the name I'd always called him. Agnes Page was there, sitting by try his tricks on that boy. Pesky the bed, holding the little feller's hand. thing! Why don't he run a butcher She looked mighty hollow-eyed and shop? Then he could cut up and saw pale. She shook Dr. Jordan's hand be happy, and nobody'd be killed exand thanked him for coming. She cept them that was dead already." shock mine, too, and I noticed how her hand trembled.

The Duncan doctor was there, ready to begin his carving. Dried-up young me was in the hall together, "how can squirt, with whiskers as scattering as I thank you for what you've done for corn-stalks in the Ozone garden.

"Er-Dr. Jordan," says he, "awfully sorry you've been put to all this I ain't done nothing. It's Mr. Hartley trouble. Entirely without my sanc- thattion, I assure you. A most simple case of appendicitis. I should have op- some. Please tell me the rest. How rived or not."

Jordan went across to the bed. He danger?" looked the boy over, careful as could be, thumping him, and listening, and spread myself, too, now I tell you. I one who has fought four duels there asking questions about where he felt spun the whole yarn, from the time was a certain pallor, a certain nervousthe worst, and all that. After a while the Dora Bassett pulled out of Horse. ness, that rather disappointed us." he looked at Duncan, and says he:

calized as yet." thing. Er-ves."

Jordan nodded Then he asked a few more questions; when the young-

the trees. How do they taste?"

bed spread. "I ain't et only a few of 'em," he

wormy, so-" Miss Agnes broke in here. "He couldn't have eaten those apples, doctor," she says. "I've expressly for of the doctor's bill, won't it?"

bidden the children to touch them." "Yes, of course," says Jordan, "But Goshen! No. Why should it?" I've had the advantage of being a boy eat-well say night before last?"

stood up. "Doctor," he says to Dun- hadn't provided the customer." can, "I wouldn't operate yet awhile. He seems to be much easier now. I think Nate Scudder'll rise up in his think it will be safe to wait."

sense of what Jordan meant seemed to furnishing the center of interest. work down through his skull. He I found Martin planted easy and

business with Washy Sparrow. Mr. and he seemed mighty willing to let Hartley wa'n't no more to be blamed

go of the handles and talk to me.

stomach and lungs these days?"

dying on my feet."

more hones.

foreman about it.

elbows in work.

"Hello, Washy," I says. "How's the

He groaned. "Pratt," says he, "I'm

"Well," I says, looking down at his

cowhides, "you'd ought to have plenty

dying of-dropsy? You're five pounds

He shook his head, "Teil Reky I'm

doing my best to forgive her," he

I told him Eureka 'd be home that

"When you see Miss Page," says he just tell her I want to talk to her,

won't you? Tell her I'm 'most through

with this world and I want to speak to

her about providing for the children.

Just then the foreman yelled to him

to stop gassing and hustle that wheel-

barrow along. He done it, surprising

prompt, too, I thought. I asked the

"Oh!" he says, "Mr. Brown's give

me the receipt for him. Every time

he groans or coughs I set him to lug-

ging stones; the louder the groans

the bigger the rocks. He's getting well

I took Nate's dory and went across

"Sakes alive!" says she, "Who's

been letting this house get this way?

The tea kettle bottom's burnt out and

somebody's been trying to eat the

ax. And the beds are so wet that the

"That's the Natural Life," I told her.

"The Heavenlies lived it for a whole

"I thought they lived it afore I come

here at all," she says. "Things was

bad enough then, but nothing like

then," says I. "This last attack hit

live the Natural Life?" she asks.

I said I didn't.

and it worked tip-top.

lightly of sacred things."

boy! I want to see him."

do. What's the real one?"

up and answered.

piece of string. I-"

self, for some time."

that's who.

asked him.

"'Twas me that was the Natural

"Do you know who I think ought to

"Nobody but natural born idiots,

"I guess that who's been living it,"

Next morning I went over to see

Hartley. He was feeling like a new

man. Dr. Jordan had been there

ahead of me and set the arm. Redny

was pretty nigh well. Jordan had the

right cure for green-apple appendicitis

I drove up to the depot in the Old

Home wagon and met Van Brunt. He

was in fine spirits. The Tea Lead

deal had been closed up-the Street

dividend-and the Heavenly Twins

had made money by the keg. I judged.

"How'd New York look to you?" 1

"Hush!" says he. "Don't speak

When he heard about what had hap

"Skipper," he says, grabbing my

hand, "you're a star of the first magni-

ing features of this Natural experi-

Him and his chum was shut up to-

gether for a good half hour. When

Van come down to the porch he beck-

"Sel," he says, "there's another

question I want to ask you. Of course

I know that Martin liked the boy and

Twas a ticklish place for me. But

I couldn't see but one way clear: that

it, but one way which was best in the

long run for all hands. So I spunked

"Mr. Van Brunt," says I, "I hate to

say it, but of course you know that

your partner and Miss Agnes set con-

siderable store by each other at one

time. And you can't break off feel-

ings like that same as you'd bust a

He nodded. "All right," he says.

'I'm not altogether a blockhead |

That'll do. I've been sure of it, my-

"I understand," I went on, "that the

reason she give him the mitten was on

money. If she'd seen him, like I have,

just throwing it away as if 'twas

He interrupted and looked at me

"How did you know that was the

see. Dear James! Well done, good

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

all that, but that reason won't quite

most surprised man in the county.

pirates having decided not to pass the

feathers are beginning to grow."

to the island. Eureka was up to her

Ask her to come over and see me."

She stopped me. "Please don't." she says. "I know; Dureka told me. And, Mr. Pratt," she adds, and her face lit up like there was a glory inside it; "I'm not going to ask you to beg his pardon for me. But will you tell him of room to do it in. What are you that, as soon as I can leave Dennis, I'm coming to Wellmouth to ask his heavier than when I see you last." pardon myself, and-to thank him? Tell him that please."

Eureka and me drove back to Wellsays. "When I'm gone maybe she'll mouth together. If that old buggy had think how she treated me. Say! how been trimmed up to match the feelings soon's she coming home? Lycurgus of the two inside it 'twould have been | can't cook fit to eat." the gayest turnout that ever come down the pike road. No circus cart night. It seemed to give him a-little would have been in it. But poor Van!

CHAPTER XIX.

Simple Versus Duplex. I left Eureka at Nate Scudder's. She was going to have him take his dory and row her over to the island. She was to see to things there till I you've had inside the house. What come. Dewey was all right and over have you eaten outside? I noticed an his cold, she told me, so she could orchard back of the farm here. There, take up her regular job again. Scudwere some very pretty late apples on der was glad to see us. I don't know but he'd been scared that his whole Redny looked worried, seemed to gang of lodgers had cleared out and me. He fidgeted with the edge of the left him in the lurch. I told him about the doctor chase. His eyes stuck out. "Godfrey scissors!" says he. "It says. "The ones on the ground was must have cost that Hartley man a lot

for that automobile "Cost!" says I. "You bet it did!" "I presume likely that'll come out "No," I says, scornful, "Land of

"Well, if 'twas me I'd take some of once myself. The apples on the ground it out. The doc hadn't no right to be were wormy, you say. How were those over to Brantboro after giving folks on the tree? And how many did you notice through the papers that he was to Wapatemac." He thought a min-"Only six," says Redny, beginning ute more and then he says: "Say, to snuffle. "I knocked 'em down with Sol: don't you cal'late there's a commission coming to us from Ben Baker? "I see," Jordan smiled, quiet, and He'd never let that auto wagon if we

Didn't that beat all? Sometimes I coffin afore they bury him and want Duncan bristles up and waved his a commission from the undertaker. hand, pompous. He was going to He'll never rest easy and see all that speak, I guess, but all at once the cash going to somebody else when he's





"I'm Coming to Ask His Pardon Myself, and-to Thank Him."

looked at me. I was beginning to grin. | pretty comfortable in an upstairs pox flag.

those apples, boy?" he asks, sharp. "You never asked me," snuffles I followed the doctor and the Tal- Redny. "All you asked me was what Then I give him the Page girl's mes-

"Green apples, hey?" says I, more to when I was a boy.'

I went down to the kitchen pretty went out and slammed the door.

"Humph!" snaps Eureka, bobbing was: "Hello, Andrew Jackson." That her head the way she always done; our old friend Washy Sparrow. He "he ain't going to get the chance to was wheeling dirt in a wheelbarrow By and by Agnes came to the door and called to me.

"Mr. Pratt." she says, when her and me and for that poor little child?"

"You can't," I says, short. "Because

"I know. Dr. Jordan has told me erated immediately whether you ard is he? Is his arm badly hurt? Is he suffering? Do you think there's any

Here was my chance. And I just foot Bar cove to when Hartley was

"The pain doesn't seem to be lo- loaded into the Old Home depot wagon. Then he tapped significantly his little "He's a brick, that's what he is.' glass of fine champagne. "No-er-not yet," answers t'other says I, finally. "And he always was But I had none of this," he said. "I doctor, pompous. "But, of course, one. And there's one thing more I'm was taken unprepared. I had not the that's quite usual-often the regular going to tell, now that I've got my time to-what you say-tank up."

account of his being too grasping after Then he looked at Agnes and Marga- front room at the Old Home. His arm ret; they looked queer, and Miss Tal- was hurting him some, of course, but ford's mouth was twitching at the other ways he felt better, having had shavings, I guess likely she-" corners. He turned as red as a small- a nap and something to eat. He wa'n't sick in bed at least; and that's how "I-I-why didn't you tell me about I expected to find him.

ny, and it pleased him 'most to death. sage. He didn't say much, but 'twas plain to see how he felt. I promised myself than anybody else. "Humph! to be back next morning, and then I said good-by. His good-by to me was sort of absent-minded. I left him smoking and looking dreamy out of

I was in a hurry to get to Ozone but I couldn't help stopping where they was digging the cellar for the new part of the hotel, and looking for

I told him the good news from Red-

reason?" he asks. I'd put my foot in it away over the shoe jaces. "Well," I stammered, "you see Ithat is, 'twas told to me-and-course I can't swear--' "Who told it? Oh, never mind.

Stimulants Before the Duel

and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a few things, and general superintendent and adviser of all the rest. Sol, I learned something when I was in New York. Considering all you've done and know, I think you're entitled to know more.

Frenchman Explains the Necessity for The Frenchman was still pale and

tremulous from his encounter with the rough. "Did I not conduct myself well, hein?" he demanded.

"Tanking Up."

"Fairly well. At the same time, for The Frenchman looked mortified.

hand in. Miss Page. That's about that | "But you don't tank up for a duel!"

"Don't we? How little you know! Imagine it-the horror-the gray desolation of the dawn-the surgeon with his cold and glittering instrumentsthe witnesses cruelly searching you for the least sign of fear-and all this without tanking up. Voila, you are

"No, no! Every Frenchman, before a duel, tanks up. A dueling field smells like an American bar. And it is astounding, with the thought of the duel before you, how much it takes to tank you. A pint, a litre sometimes, but steadies the nerve and clears the eye for the dread encounter."

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very fond of oysters, and after eating her lunch of oysters and crackers she thought of her dear mother busy at her sewing machine. She selected a nice large oyster, put it in a plate and carried it to her mother, who, pleased with her little daughter's thoughtfulness, ate the oyster and said:

"It is most as good as my little girlie." "Yes," answered Dora. "I know it is good 'cause I licked it all the way from the kitchen."-The Delineator.

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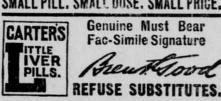
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