

and all the other necessary places for work that in this country is done for the farmer at the nearest town. There, in Norway, the peasant must depend upon himself for repairs and to a great extent, for manufacture.

Another interesting feature of this Norwegian rural life is the mountain pastures or dairies, whither the peasants go, often by crowds, to eke out the scanty pasturage of the valleys. In vivid language the author describes these pleasant, rolling upland meadows, and one can almost seem to see the laughing, blooming maidens and the stout-limbed youths who gather there to make the time for work a holiday. The fisheries, also, come in for notice in this paper, and with intelligent directness and a charming brevity the writer describes the habits of the fisher and the fished, and discusses the economical value of this industry and the phase of life to which it gives support. A particularly pleasant portion of the article is that in which he describes the forests and the timber felling. The reader cannot help laughing at the life-like description of the heavy sledges loaded with logs, forcing the horses to slide on their haunches down the steep, slippery hills.

No one can realize the charm of Bjornson's style (no doubt much impaired by the imperfect medium of translation) who has not read some of his writings. Those who have read the first paper on Norway will look eagerly for the continuation of the series.

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As long as the people shall remember the "Hoosier Schoolmaster," so long will Edward Eggleston enjoy a high degree of popularity. But he has surpassed himself in "The Graysons," the publication of which in the *Century* has recently been completed. The last work of Eggleston lacks some of the novelty of the "Hoosier Schoolmaster," but it is much more finished. The art in writing consists in concealing the traces of all art, and this is what Eggleston has done in "The Graysons."

The story is a tale of Illinois country life, in the years when Abraham Lincoln was a young man. The story has to do principally with Tom Grayson, his sister Barbara, Hiram Mason, Bob McCord, George Lockwood, Dave Sovine, and "Abe" Lincoln. Hiram Mason was a young man teaching school in order to get money enough to pay his way through college; he was also a young man very much in love with algebra and with Barbara. Tom Grayson, on the other hand, was a wild, reckless fellow, of good talents but with no desire to use them. He was forever getting into scrapes, and as constantly being helped out by his mother and "Barb", who thought him the greatest of geniuses, and were wont to excuse his looseness with the reflection that boys are destined to be boys. Dave Sovine was like Tom except that he had not Tom's good qualities. He was a gambler and a dishonest one. George Lockwood, an acquaintance of Tom's, tried to make love to Tom's sweetheart, much to Tom's dislike. Tom swore vengeance. Not long after this, George, in order to lower Tom in the lady's estimation, enticed him into a game of cards with Dave Sovine, in which Tom was beaten, losing all his money and even the coat he wore. This only increased Tom's dislike for Lockwood, and he was heard to say that it would be better for Lockwood to keep out of his way. A few days after this Lockwood was found dead. Tom was the guilty man, of course, and was promptly imprisoned, and brought before a coroner's jury, where Lovine's testimony proved beyond a doubt that Tom had killed Lockwood in a quarrel. Tom was taken to jail to await trial; Abraham Lincoln was retained as his counsel. And so the summer began. Now,

near the village of Moscow, where the jail was situated, was a community of shiftless, restless men, who would have been called squatters in Kansas. These men took it into their heads that Tom would never be convicted and punished by law, and they determined to take the place of the law, for of course there was no doubt of Tom's guilt, or rather, no imagining that Tom was innocent. So a mob was organized to lynch him. Then, big Bob McCord, a hunter of gigantic stature and enormous muscles, appeared on the scene as Tom's friend and helper. He discovered the attempt that was to be made on Tom's life and managed to divert it by telling the lynchers that the sheriff thought he had found a man who might have committed the murder. A second attempt was made to lynch him; this time he was moved to a place of safety by the sheriff. And thus the time went on until the court convened to try Tom. Tom's trial began; Lincoln sat in his chair and never said a word; a jury was procured and things were in readiness to proceed with the trial when the day was done. This was the last night of suspense for Tom. Tomorrow night he will be a condemned murderer or a free man. Of course if he is a free man justice will have been defeated, so the lynchers made up their minds to make one more effort to kill Tom. This time there were strong hopes of success, for the sheriff had intimated that he would not risk his life fighting for Tom. But Bob McCord was still alive: he found out the whole scheme, and together with Hiram Mason went to save Tom again. They arrived at the jail only a very few moments before the lynching party was expected. He and Hiram armed themselves with deadly wagon spokes, and then, thanks to Bob's great strength, obtained entrance to the jail. They sought the sheriff's room where he was peacefully sleeping. The cold muzzle of a wagon spoke was placed at his head and he was ordered to give up the keys. He, in great fear and with many protestations of his willingness to die in defence of Tom, complied, and in ten minutes more Tom was out of the jail and hidden safely in the court house. The real lynchers soon appeared at the jail, where they were met by the sheriff demanding the reason of a second visit. Explanations follow and the lynchers learned that a party of forty men had taken Tom out and hung him. Next morning Tom is found quietly sitting in the court room, and the trial proceeded. The prosecution multiplied phrases to prove the guilt of the prisoner, and seemingly did so satisfactorily, for Lincoln did not say a word. At last Dave Sovine swore that he saw Tom kill Lockwood with a pistol. He recognized the pistol and said he saw the deed by the light of the moon. At last Lincoln was aroused, and rising in all the majesty of his great height, he looked at Sovine as if to read his very soul. Then cautiously, subtly, he proceeded to entrap the unhappy witness, lashing him with his questions, twisting his answers, making him contradict himself time and again. Then, producing an almanac, the lawyer showed that there was no moon on the night of the murder, and quietly moved Sovine's arrest and Tom's release. The climax is reached, and the story is at an end. Tom went home a man. All his folly he left in the jail at Moscow. Hiram and Barbara, Bob McCord and Lincoln all go on their respective ways, and the story of "The Graysons" is finished.

Tom, and next to him Barbara, is the main character, but in the climax, we lose sight of him in the other characters brought in to make the climax. Lincoln, as shown by Eggleston here, has no prophetic knowledge of his future greatness; there is nothing of the leader of the nation showing in him. He is simply the shrewd, keen lawyer, and the