#### **GOSSIP OF THE BACKWOODS**

BY ALVIN HORTON.

The practical joker is again up and doing at Paint Gap. No longer concerned about work, he has become soul of the flock at the cross-roads store. Since the breezes have carried his jollity into all corners, those of his neighbors who have not lost all their "meetin' house" solemnity are afraid—those who not long ago defled a good deal of supernatural power and were a power themselves against most of the day's evils!

Really, there is considerable to justisoul of the flock at the cross-roads store. Since the breezes have car-ried his joility into all corners, those of his neighbors who have not lost all their "inectin' house" solemnity are afraid—those who not long ago defied a good deal of supernatural power and were a power themselves against most of the day's evils! Really there is considerable to justi-

Really, there is considerable to justi-fy fear even on their part. This monstrosity is bound to strike, and no-body knows when or where. The other day a peaceable fellow came into the store. After he had made his purchases, the newcomer was startled in the knowledge that a message awaited him at the one house mile away which contained a 'phone, and that doubtless it concerned his father-in-law who lived twenty miles down the river and was dangerously The fellow went off in a gal-Presently he came back in a Disputing with the mistress, he had come out second best; for in the scrap that followed dogs and brooms had proved faster than his heels.

ortly afterward I was in the littie place of business when a man, evidently perturbed, came in and evidently perturbed, came in and made known his wants. After these had been supplied, an earnest occupant sudenly remembered that a man away up the crek wanted to see this newcomer on the most urgent Sald newcomer departed. Five hours later he returned on a foaming horse. Although his friend up the creek had gone ten miles beond to complete a bargain, still he ad to be overtaken. The joker thought it wise to hide among the multitudinous boxes until the air such fore that he fell back to be a should have lost some of its Pluton-ian aspects, but the prevaricator's abwas insufficient to check the tirade, because the horse was about to

tor is sent for to attend the imaginary cases; purchasers carry home sand for sugar and stones for eggs, while now and then someone is summoned | away in contact with that insurmount by his enemies presumably to hear prayers for forgiveness, but actually his leg. to catch a drubbing for his impu-dence. Old men and boys, grandmothers and girls have caught this hood and to humiliate those who have humiliated others-this insane desire which everybody knows will not end

There is one fellow, however, who has had quite enough of the insane work which his neighbors call fun: for he has been foolish enough work himself into the plans of one gray in the service. One night the former ndividual—he was a youth named Will—passed the home of the other who was a Confederate voteran and who at that late hour even was regaling a family or two with accounts of his trials in Tennessee. seemed that he had borne off honors if I' uz you. from every battle-field in that re-gion. At Chickamauga he had been compelled to shoot from the folds of an excessively crooked dog-wood which constituted all the shelter he was able to find. The embodiment of mischief without listened at the win-Just as the veteran had entered well into a rehearsal of the thrilling moment when his mouth had got so dry that his breath set. The youngster was possessed of fire to his catridges, and looking nondescript desire to become a philaround, he saw a man with a crick osopher, and to declare that the de-

his attitude in the great battle and peeping into the darkness of the room,

His answer was the hen thrown into his face with the force of a twelve-pounder. The veteran—faint-ed! When revived, he swore with an unmistakable realization of the sanctity of his eath:
"Young feller, hanged if I don't get
even with you if I have to do it on
my death-bed! Hanged if I don't;

Well, he kept his word. After several years had gone by there was a fire in the mountains, and one midnight the youth—now happy with a wife and a cross-eyed babysaw that the flames threatened total destruction of the veteran's combustible property miles away toward a "will you be so kind as to hand that axe? I'm trapped, as you that axe? I'm trapped, as you see, less—for Billy Willy, and looking around presumably for his "Aristotle's Organon Confuted."

the return trip amid a darkness so "Yes, indeed, Billy Willy, but you "Ah, Anny Fanny," he said with After a noble fight, they started on the return trip amid a darkness so dense that one could not see ten feet away. Suddenly a growl in the vicinity of Will's feet revived fearful vicinity of Will's fear thoughts of the mad dogs which were then terrorizing the community. He leaped toward escape. A huge log, however, met him in the forehead with

ward a prisoner chained in a lonely "Begone," he yelled, as he kicked viciously but without success.

hydrophobia—and

Again he leaped, but again the log bumped his head. Horrors! He was penned with a mad canine! Like a sand maniac he fought and leaped just hard enough to wear his reason slowly able log. Presently the dog selzed his leg. The prisoner sprang upward with such momentum that the barrier knocked away his remaining strength, and he sank an easy victim to the savage animal that longed just for one bite of human flesh. Then it was that the woods resounded with 'O Lord."

But that one bite was not taken; the veteran only laughed at his success in acting the dog.
"Blame you," cried the other, now thoroughly revived by the discovery, "you blankety blanked farm will burn good and done afore I fight you agin, you blankety blanked id-

"Well, Willie," responded the vic-tor, "hanged of I don't b'lleve you have fergot the ole hen. I'd hush.

The practical joker is a good means was so eccentric as to be laughing-stock for the entire neighborhood. being alone abould be reversed; for does not love beget concern which will finally overwhelm with new and unhappy ties? Naturally the maiden thought he needed a correction. Hu-miliation, such as a net of circum-stances planned by a professional jok-er, would be the very thing. Going to her grandmother, who of course knew all things, the maiden said:

"O, granny, I love Billy Willy, an' behole he goes fossulizin when he ort to court me. Help me, granny, fer I want to teach him that it is not good fer man to be alone."
"Go and set the bear trap in his path," instructed the wise woman. The maiden obeyed, although a thought of the probable consequences of Bill Willy's being captured in the huge trap, almost broke her heart. Then she returned to the house and saw him pass, with a studious look and a prodigious volume strangely in-compatible with the humor of that sunny morning. Presently her tears were dried, and she became intensely expectant. The woods rewarded her attitude soon with a yell which apprised the demure listager that her plan so far had succeeded—a yell which augured that Billy Willy would

not totally disregard her right then "Anny Fanny," called grandma, "yer mid-Milly Willy welcomed her appearance with

a giorious familiarity.
"Miss Anny Fanny," he began with a gallantry that seemed miraculous, she saw that this precautionary ster "will you be so kind as to hand me was absolutely and unfortunately use

least it is not good for a man to be rarily," he replied with evident

"O you crue!, crue! man! here I'm breathless with running to a cabin may be?" your help, and you don't 'preclate

"No. I'm sure I don't appreciate your standing there while my ankle's busting. Hand me that axe, will you. Like a and prove that a woman can be of ed just some infinitesimal help when she's

compelled to?" After a hasty compliance, the girl retreated swiftly to her home and ing:
with pathetic words endeavored to "I've caught 'im at last, at last--! convince grandma that life indeed is a

"Tut, tut, chile," remonstrated the wise old lady, "spring a pole fer 'im an' knock a little of the big head off

As a sapling was sprung forthwith, Billy Willy's heels flew into the air cer takes his rest in activity that on his return from a trip into the amuses, the corner is never dull, woods that very day. There was little Those who lolter thereabout cannot consolation, however, to the hidden lass, for she heard only this very unsatisfactory ejaculation and comment: "Durn-nashun! Why's a pole so

Again like a sneak-thief, Anny Fan- to the few who pray for quietude;

well.
"Well, chile," grandmother began, sufficiently to insure profit to the proyou'd better give up this fossulizer, prietor and fun to the loafers. er he's not worth the trouble it'll plumb outen 'im."

into the interminable woods. Thus standard, I should thenceforth be religious to his superior officer, nor is he bound for the had narrowly but repeatedly garded as immune—so far as the overstepped the innocent nooses in clique was concerned. Discerning a harm. In a word, natives generally his way as that the mail of the standard of

while new and then—in the maiden's opinion—ideas struggled for utterance in behalf of the well-known decree upon which he had sought to throw

"At last," she sighed, "I've caught him. May he have a good dose. Still the merciless Anny Fanny stayexcept for a slight swaying caused by the wind, and the beholder noticed that his mouth hung open, his arms dangled limply and his eyes bulged horribly enough to comdemn her as a murderess unfit to live. Hastily she took down the still form and drag-ged it to a comfortable place, where yet it was still—so still that her heart thundered like a cataract at the inevitable thoughts of his death.

Thinking of water, Anny Fanny went for his hat-full, but returning she saw that this precautionary step -for Billy Willy was sitting erect

much emotion, "You've proved to be my guardian angel. I have narrow-"Of course man needs help tempo- at the hands of scoundrelly jokers, comfiture, "but that doesn't mean that vation. After all, perhaps, it's best he shall be handleapped for life, does that a man should have a companion. Will you be mine forever, my little

"You mustn't talk that way, Billy Willy. Besides it's so sudden, you know 'Woe is me, if you can't be induced

to change your mind. What can

while under her breath she kept sing-

Certainly, the little store is a wonderfully good news centre; for if a

big event happens elsewhere—as it does very seldom—the best accounts of it may be had only in front of the muddy counter. Since the mountainhonorably censure the jokers' organization or take offense whenever they have been played upon an enterpris-ing member. Nor do the civil folk damned much like a woman? Be-stay away long. 'Tis a fact about to cause it is never to be depended be universally accepted that a turbuny approached the venerable lady who and so long as there is a drop of was counsellor and only friend as curious blood about Paint Gap, will

Sometimes, too, the civil are made

most received to forsake her plans and die a marryr in fast approaching spinsterhood. But she decided to keep vigil pear her traps yet another down. Having unloaded, he started. In an hour he returned with a club in his hand and blood in his eye. But Billy Willy was caught by the largest sapling and suspended, head dewnhest sapling and suspended, head dewnhest sapling and suspended, head dewnhest sapling and suspended which forsteld came just then to divert the rider's came just then to divert the rider's attention to the problem as to how he could explain his long stay.

> with his club pointed in my direc-"Didn't you know these folks v 'scuse, an' don't you ask fer my ule agin."

> "If there's any mistake in the af-fair," said I innocently, "'tis the vilfair," said I innocently, "'tis t got the information that you had left a message for the boy to go

Although peace so far as I was im-

plicated was finally declared, the boy was compelled by the trate master of the mule to carry home the load left at the store on delivery of the imaginary message. Nor was this all. At nine o'clock every Paint Gap citizen -who could hear even tolerably well -was startled by the clamor apparently of a riot in the neighborhood of the minister's home; and all those even who could walk only tolerably well hastened to the front porch to investigate. In the moonlight we saw a young army assailing the doors of the holy resident! There were wo men with bandannas, boys with clubs, and an old man with a bag of feathers and an ancient tar-bucket. purpose of these was manifest when someone said they were relatives of the unfortunate youth of the afterfigure making incredible speed ward the neighboring forest, then, too, all heard yells of the party successful at last in forcing entrance but chagrined to find the hunted gone, save for the cackles of Now guardian angel still, though our home skidooed and according to reports is

UMBRELLA AND SHOES

Their Importance in the Eyes of the Indian Native. Civil and Military Gazette.

India is so vast that different etiquettes prevail in different districts. standard dress. We mostly copy European etiquette while with Eu-ropeans. Even a Bangali shakes hands with a Bengali, speaks English for a few minutes, and then breaks forth into the vernacular! We shake hands with a European touch the hand to the brow in a salaam; so we both shake hands, salaam and do the like; and no sober minded European ever cared for the

The umbrella is the emblem of roxalty, the sign of a Rajah. So natives generally fold their umbrellas before a Rajah, and not before anybody else, however great. It is not a part of dress, but a projection from the rain or the sun, a necessary appendage, just like the watch and chain. You might as well ask a attended European to take of his water-the pro- proof coat. A coolie is not bound to fold his umbrella when a brigaby which to gain something long coveted, is the conviction of a certain lady whose ambition for years was to be loved by a youth avowedly sapling that'll knock the breath of the proceedings and the place may be considered that the place may be considered by the co dier general rides past plumb outen 'im."

Months went on with the youth still in a path of philosophy which led me, and that, if I fived up to the master of the humble passerby nor in his neck and a Springfield in po- cree of the Almighty against man's his way, so that the maiden had al- youth astride an unusually deliberate fold the unbreila before a master or

no insult. his palace the native visitor or offi-cial takes iff his shoes if the recep-tion room has a farash and the Rajah he sitting on his mound. But if he is received in the drawing room, furnished after the European style the shoes are allowed. In some "He teld me what uz not so, that's States no natives can go to a Rajah what he did." complained the lad, without a pugree, In others the pugree is taken off feet of the Rajah. off and tossed at the

It is ridiculous in a European (from little gumphead? No, you jist waunt the Hindu point of view) to order a a 'scuse, an' don't you ask fer my native to take off his shoes. This is what we ask our priest to do, so that we may touch the dust of his feet. Munshi when mildly rebuked by his Sahib took off his shoes, but re counted the whole scene to his better half, saying: "Sala hamara gor ka gurda lenay magina!" (The brother-in-law wants the dust of my feet)

YARN MILL MERGER PLANNED?

Rumor in New York That Expert Ac-Plans for This Purpose.

New York Journal of Commerce, 7th There was a rumor in circulation in hurt him nor the negro. South Carothe financial district yesterday to the lina was the chief sufferer. effect that another attempt is being made on the part of promoters to merge a number of cotton yarn mills into a new corporation with a large capitalization. Neither denial nor confirmation of the rumor was ob-Report also had it that the firm of Barrow, Wade, Guthrie & Co., of 25 Broad street, expert accountants, were at work making an examination to, merge and that the financial end of the deal would be looked after by Woodward & Stillman, of 22 William street. A representiative of this firm, of which James E. Stillman, president of the National City Bank, is the senior member, said that he was not aware that any such movement was under consideration. However, it was suggested to the reporter to see James Stillman, who spends much of his time at the bank, in regard to the reports. It is intimated in certain quarters that he personally might be interested in such a plan. Mr. Stillreporter called there yesterday for information as to the matter. Vice President Frank A. Vanderlip, when questioned as to the rumors, City Bank was not interested in the rumored scheme. "I don't known the first thing about it." he added.

rie & Co., it was stated that they had ing oh foot, but that it might be that had received instructions to make examinations and reports in which event the head office would be notified in due time. A number of examinations of Southern enterprises have been conducted with either the Chicago of-fice or the New Orleans branch.

It is pointed out by persons familinaking a perfect, lasting cure of a with the cotton yarn industry that catarrh in all lis forms. lar with the cotton yarn industry that catarrh in all there has been in the past large selling commissions paid to the commission houses which market the products of the mills and that possibly one of the schemes is to eliminate

Why Many Poor Get Poorer. Durham Herald. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer trying to

Kennedys Laxative Cough Syrup drives out the rold and stops the rough. Contains Honey and Tar. Free from any oplates. Conforms to the National Pure Food and Drug Law. Pleusant to take. Sold by Hawley's Pharmacy.

traveling man at the Morris, take a team and drive down it semer going out by Glann Si turning towards the Grasselli thence to Bessemer away from atreet car tracks. On the return of back the north road away from car line. Then the next trip go vehicle out Fifth avenus to Avonds Woodlawn and East Lake, swing be by Underwood avenue on back to the city, and after that you will understand that the thousands who through the streets of Birmingham come from countless small homes not only the car lines, but blocks away from them. This is for twenty straight as the crow flies. Now, the other way, north and south, and ham could easily have half a million population in ten years. And Greater Birmingham will.

Tillman's Chicago Speech.

Tillman's Chicago speech did not

Hawking and Spitting Dropping Into the Throat, Foul Breath, CURED

#### Through the Blood

by Botanie Blood Baim (B. B. B.) is your breath foul? Is your voice husky? Is your none stopped? Do you sneeze a great deal? Do you have frequent pains in the forehead? Do you have pains across the eyes: Are you losing your sense of smell or taste? Is there a dropping in the throat? Do you have ringing in the ears? Is there a constant bad taste in the mouth? Do you have a hack-

ing cough? If so, you have a nack-ing cough? If so, you have catarrh. Catarrh is not only dangerous in this way, but it causes ulcerations, death and decay of bones, kills ambition, often causes loss of appetits, and reaches to general debility, idiocy and insanity. It needs attention at once. Cure it by taking Be-tanic Blood Baim (B. B. B.) It is a quick, radical, permanent cure, because it rids the system of the poison germs that cause catarrh. Blood. Balm (B. B. B.) purifies the blood. does away with every symptom, giv-ing strength to the entire mucous membrane, and B. B. B. sends a rich, tingling flood of warm, rich, pure blood direct to the paralyzed nerves, giving warmth and strength just where it is needed, and in this way

DEAFNESS. If you are gradually growing deaf, or are already deaf or hard of hear-ing, try Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. Most forms of deafners or partial deafness are caused by catarrh, and in curing catarrh by B. B. R. thousands have had their hearng re-

Botanic Blood Balm (D. D. Botanic Blood Balm (D. D. Botanic Blood Balm (D. D. Botanic Ingredients, Strengths) ens Weak Stomachs, dures Dyspepsia, Sample sent free by writing Blood Sample sent free by writing Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga. Sold by degists, \$1 per large bottle, or sent

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