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mind that he must break away, that, as it happened, I got a glimpse of the last act.

"Thank you so much, dear Monsieur Jewett," says Miss Vera, as they came back from their final slide together. Then, with a quick glance around to see that the Countess is out of range, she puts both hands on his shoulders, lifts herself on her toes, fixes her mouth just right, and observes coquettishly, "One kees for goodby, eh?"

Whether Elmer really met her halfway, or she did it all, I can't say; for Sadie and me were all ready to start a race with Pinckney and Polly Ditson. But we heard the smack, all right.

and Polly Ditsol. But we heard the smack, all right.

"Gee, Sadie!" says I, pushin' off. "This is no place for us. That'll gum the runners."

Do you think there was any bridge played at Hickory Sides that night? Nary a rubber! The program was an early dinner and everyone to bed by nine-thirty, with breakfast ordered for cight sharp next mornin. everyone to bed by nine-thirty, with break-fast ordered for eight sharp next mornin'. We had another whole day of it before the weather softened up and the crust went back on us. Even then they hadn't had enough snow fun; so it was a case of buildin' forts and havin' snowball battles, with Señor Del Riano commandin' one bunch, and Prince Ranji the other. Honest, them folks that hardly knew what snow looked like had the time of their lives in it.

AND when I fin'lly has to leave 'em to AND when I his hy has to leave em to catch a train back to town, who should come dashin' up to the station in a shiny cutter with a high steppin' horse, but Elmer Jewett. Also the young lady he helps out with such a flourish is one of these rosy checked, well built country belles that looks good enough to get.

cheeked, well built country belles that looks good enough to eat.

"Well, well!" says I, steppin' up as she disappears in the station. "Then that bashful dope Pinekney was givin' us about you was all wrong, eh, Elmer?"

"Not so much," says Elmer, laughin' sheepish. "Only I've braced up some since. Noticed Hattie, did you? Well, I've been wanting to take her sleigh riding every winter for the last five years; and b'gum, I'm just gettin' to it! But this won't be the last. You see, being up there with all those folks the other day sort of—well, sort of—"I get you," says I. "Miss Vera kind of broke the spell for you, ch? Something of a hummer, she is. Mother's an Italian Countess, you know. Goin' up for another goodby, are you?"

by, are you?"
"Gosh!" says Elmer. "Gid-dap!"

#### FIRES IN THE HOLD

SMOLDERING fires on board ship are

SMOLDERING fires on board ship are common enough, and in many cases are comparatively harmless. They arise mostly from spontaneous combustion caused by piling large quantities of coal in close quarters. It is said on excellent authority that there is not much danger from such a fire, hardly any on an iron or a steel ship. The first protective measure in such an event is to exclude the air, so that the fire can only smolder. Then the bunker is flooded with water, which usually serves to extinguish it.

Even in wooden ships the danger from smoldering fire is not half so great as has been pictured by non-seagoing folk. This is illustrated by the experience of the Captain of the Twin Brothers, engaged some year ago in the wheat trade between San Francisco and Liverpool. The vessel was returning from Liverpool with a thousand tons of coal in the hold as ballast. Just after it rounded Cape Horn it was discovered that the coal was on fire.

There was a steam pump on board, and after closing the lower hatches the crew flooded the hold until the ship had settled about four feet lower in the water. Then the Captain stood pat and let her burn. No one was frightened, and everyone was confident that the ship would be safely brought into port. Call was made at Valparaiso for fresh water and provisions; but not a man deserted the ship.

The vessel was seventy-two days in reaching San Francisco from the Horn, and all that time the coal burned, and little streams of smoke could be seen coming through the cracks in the deck. Arriving at San Francisco from the Horn, and all that time the coal burned, and little streams of smoke could be seen coming through the cracks in the deck. Arriving at San Francisco from the Horn, and all that time the coal burned, and little streams of smoke could be seen coming through the cracks in the deck. Arriving at San Francisco from the Horn, and all that time the coal burned, and little streams of smoke could be seen coming through the cracks in the deck.

of smoke could be seen coming through the cracks in the deck. Arriving at San Francisco, the Twin Brothers sailed out on the mud flats and was flooded until she settled almost even with her upper deck. This ex-

almost even with her upper deck. This extinguished the fire.

The appearance of the vessel after all this was pretty fair evidence what a ship may sustain in the way of a fire. In a dozen places the bottom had burned through, and all that was between the crew and the deep sea was the thin sheet of copper bottom. The weight of the coal and the pressure of the water kept about equal strain on both sides of the copper sheeting, and it had not broken, although it was little thicker than an ordinary tin pan. There was one place where this copper was exposed about the bigness of the top of a barrel.



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