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“Well,” I says, “s'pose we got some genies to help us—can't we lick

the other crowd then?”

“How you going to get them?”

“[ don't know. How do shey get them?”

“Why, they rub an old tin lamp or an iron ring, and then the

genies come tearing in, with the thunder and lightning a-ripping

around and the smoke a-rolling, and everything they're told to do

they up and do it. They don't think nothing of pulling a shot-tower

up by the roots, and belting a Sunday-school superintendent over the

head with it—or any other man.”

“Who makes them tear around so?”

“Why, whoever rubs the lamp or the ring. They belong to whoever

rubs the lamp or the ring, and they've got to do whatever he says. If

he tells them to build a palace forty miles long out of di’monds, and

fill ic full of chewing-gum, or whatever you want, and fetch an

emperor’ daughter from China for you to marry, they've got to do

it—and they've got to do it before sun-up next morning, too. And

more: they've got to waltz that palace around over the country wher-

ever you want it, you understand.”

“Well,” says I, “I think they are a pack of flat-heads for not keeping

the palace themselves ‘stead of fooling them away like that. And

what's more—if I was one of them I would sce a man in Jericho

before I would drop my business and come to him for the rubbing of

an old tin lamp.”

“How you talk, Huck Finn. Why, you'd have to come when he

rubbed it, whether you wanted to or not.”

“What! and I as high as a tree and as big as a church? All right,

then; I would come; but I lay fd make that man climb the highest

tree there was in the country.”

“Shucks, it ain’t no use to talk to you, Huck Finn. You don't seem

to know anything, somehow—perfect saphead.”

I thought all this over for two or three days, and then I reckoned I

would sce if there was anything in it. I got an old tin lamp and an

iron ring, and went out in the woods and rubbed and rubbed till I

sweat like an Injun, calculating to build a palace and sell it; but it

warn't no use, none of the genies come. So then I judged that all that

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