HuUcKLER ERE Y FUN

going to be. There is ways to keep off some kinds of bad luck, but

this wasnt one of them kind; so I never tried ro do anything, but just

poked along low-spirited and on the watch-out.

I went down to the front garden and clumb over the stile where

you go through the high board fence. ‘There was an inch of new

snow on the ground, and I scen somebody's tracks. They had come

up from the quarry and stood around the stile a while, and then went

on around the garden fence. It was funny they hadn't come in, after

standing around so. I couldn't make it out. It was very curious, some-

how. I was going to follow around, but I stooped down to look at the

tracks first. I didn't notice anything at first, but next I did. There was

a cross in the left boot-heel made with big nails, to keep off the devil.

Iwas up in a second and shinning down the hill. I looked over my

shoulder every now and then, but I didn’t see nobody. I was at Judge

Thatcher's as quick as I could get there. He said:

“Why, my boy, you are all out of breath. Did you come for your

interest?”

“No, sir,” I says; “is there some for me?”

“Oh, yes, a half-yearly is in last night—over a hundred and fifty

dollars. Quite a fortune for you. You had better let me invest it along

with your six thousand, because if you take it you'll spend it.”

“No, sir,” I says, “I don’t want to spend it. I don't want it at all—

nor the six thousand, nuther. I want you to take it; I want to give it

to you—the six thousand and all.”

He looked surprised. He couldn't seem to make it out. He says:

“Why, what can you mean, my boy?”

I says, “Don't you ask me no questions about it, please. You'll take

it—won't you?”

He says:

“Well, I'm puzzled. Is something the matter?”

“Please take it,” says I, “and don't ask me nothing—then I won't

have to tell no lies.”

He studied a while, and then he says:

“Oho-o! I think I see. You want to SELL all your property to me—

not give it. That's the correct idea.”

‘Then he wrote something on a paper and read it over, and says:

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