pounds of No. 6 shot from the scoop of the scales into one of the conical packages that our shot used to be done up in by storekeepers before the era of paper bags.

"Well, 'no, not exactly hunting." answered with a view to the possible need of excuses for an empty bag. "I'm going over to Bradley's to spend Christmas, and didn't know but I might see a pa'ridge." It would have been "stuck up" to call our best game bird "partridge," and no one would have recognized it under the name of "ruffed grouse."

"You hain't goin' to hoof it over the maontain?" he asked with the end of the string between his teeth as he wound the package with a frugal allowance of packthread. I nodded an affirmation while I silently admired his thrifty habit of putting the few spilled pellets into the box of unsold

"Wal, then, ye'd better let me put ye up a pound or two o' buckshot." No, sir," I said in a tone expressive of reproof for the suggestion. "I've no use for buckshot this time of year," for the close time for deer began this month.

"Of course not, but you'd want something bigger'n number sixes if the wolves got after ye," said Hiram, making a persuasive dip into the box of buckshot.

"Wolves," said I contemptuously; "why, there hain't been a wolf around bere for twenty years."

"Wal, there is, naow, a pack o'seven, anyway, an' mebby more. Why, hain't you heard? Amos Barker seen 'em full tilt after a deer an' counted 'em, seven of 'em. His man at was a helpin' of him on his coalin' job said there was thirteen, but Amos reconed he see double or counted some of 'em twice, an' there's lots o' folks 'at 's heard 'em. There's wolves ha'ntin' the maountain, you may depend. Better le' me weigh you about a couple o' paound."

"No, I guess it won't pay to carry any extra weight on the chance," I tickle Billy's two little shavers. Then of Hiram's buckshot. put up a half dozen crackers and a bit daylight."

the dark on the maountain. So you're feathers out of the bird without regoin' right over to Bradley's, be ye?" for me, and then began rummaging in of the clearing. a drawer of odds and ends. "Now, I wonder if you wouldn't jest as lives Aaron Clark left here for him, last spring. I guess it was. I guess he borried 'em some time or 'nother an' fetchin' 'em here is as nigh as ever he come to returnin' of 'em. If Bradley's ever needed 'em he must be beginin' to feel the want of 'em, an't it won't burden you no great to take 'em, if you're willin'. an' they'll be off'm my mind.'



GOIN' PA'TRIDGE HUNTIN'. BE TE? Hiram found the mould after a short search, and, slipping them into my pocket with the other articles, I retired to my bachelor quarters over Miss Diantha Gridley's tailor shop. where, after transferring the shot to a spring-top pounch, and filling my flask with better powder than Hiram sold, and exchanging my leather boots for a pair of the sheepskin boots tanned with the wool on, which were then the most approved winter footgear, with my double gun on my shoulder to lighten my steps. I set forth on the ten-mile tramp.

"Good-by, Mr. Markham." called Miss Gridley, coming to the door, red them. in the face from a close interview with her goose, "I wish you a merry Christmas, but I should feel easier about you if you hadn't got no gun. I'm always afraid of a gun's goin' off.'

"Well, mine's going off in a way that won't hurt you, Miss Gridley. Good-

Crossing the little river that turned the mills and forge of our village, and following the road as far as it ran in my direction. I held across the fields to the woods, before entering which I set my compass for my intended course. This was through six miles of mountain woodland, unbroken but for the clearings made in the operations of lumbering and charcoal burning. It was rough, but not very difficult traveling, for the mountain was not high nor

was not in my route. I did not deviæte much from my

very steep, except at the peak, which

or the woods, where convenies food is not so abundant as in the outskirts... When the backbone of the mountain was reached and my journey half accomplished, I had but one partridge. but there was a chance of more in the stretch of forest that lay before me, partial glimpses of which I now had through the stunted oaks and pines

that scantily clad the rocky ridge. Beyond the woods, bits of the valley farms could be seen and the clustered buildings of homesteads with banners of smoke floating from the chimneys, signaling the preparation of Christmas

The weather was exceedingly mild for the season, a circumstance which offered, but desired when it became proved very fortunate for me, and as evident that instead of driving off my I was quite comfortable in the warmth "Goin' pa'tridge huntin', be ye?" of the low midday sun, I gave my legs made them the more savagely persist.

Hiram Hull asked as he poured four a good rest while I ate my lunch and rounds of No. 6 shot from the more savagely persist. a good rest while I are my lunch and ent. I tried slugging the shot in a lazily smoked and dreamed in the cartridge made of a hit of the lining midst of the quietude.

> pines and the occasional rustle of an at my wit's end how to raise the slege, unfallen withered leaf, nor a living thing to be seen but a mite of a winter wren exploring the intricacles of a fallen treetop, and a few flies that were buzzing about the sunny side of a tree trunk. There was no snow even on those heights, and, in proof of the exceptional mildness of the season, a flower of herb robert bloomed beside me, paler than its own scarlet leaves. At last, after a musiderable continuance, this silence was broken by the sound of light, cautious footfalls on the dry leaves at some distance behind me, evidently on my trail, drawing nearer, then it ceased behind a screen of underbrush, and, as I looked and listened, receded, giving me but a

glimpse of gray fur. I guessed that it might be a lynx, sneaking inquisitively along my track. and was quite willing he should satisty his curiosity without showing more



said, admiring the store-keepers cun- of himself, for I would not have liked ning attempt to sell me something I to let him go unshot at, if fairly seen, did not want. "But you may put up | nor yet risk a shot with such charges that small doll and that Jack-in-the as were in my gun, a possible continuous for me. They're light and they'll gency that made me wish for a pound had the satisfaction of seeing the sepa-

As I began my vity down the mountof cheese for lunch, fill my tobacco box, ain a glauce at the sun showed me we of it into the mold and got three good and let me have an extra pipe, and I'll were likely to part company before bullets at the first smelting, but lost be off. I want to make the trip by my journey was ended. Half a mile one, which fell to the ground. further on, in an old charcoal clearing. "I hope ye will. I ra'ly do. I would I flushed a partridge, at which I took n't want to have you get ketched in a snap shot that knocked a cloud of tarding its flight, but I was sure it was he continued as he shuffled about be hard hit, and began a diligent search hind the counter to put up the articles where it had disappeared at the edge

Looking the ground over carefully. step by step. I and gone much further take him a pair o' bullef molds 'at than one who does not know how far a mertally wounded grouse can fly would think it of any use to search. when I heard, far behind me, what I took to be the piteous howl of a lost bound.

I was wishing the poor fellow might find my track and come up to me, when the long-drawn, plaintive wall was repented at a point so distant from the first that it was evident it could not have been uttered by the same animal. and presently it was taken up at another distant point.

Still groping over the ground in search of the dead bird, I wondered at so many hounds having gone astray that day, when, just as I found my bird lying belly up, stone dead, I also came upon something that gave me a startling enlightment.

The fallen leaves and the soil were torn and furrowed and stones and patches of moss vere overturned, in bullets, making fifteen, in all, which I evidence of a desperate struggle, the evidence of a desperate struggle, the thought might answer my purpose, result of which was plainly shown by and I whipped out the fire with a green the antiered skull and recattered bones branch. of a deer and a mat of coarse gray hair trodden into the mold.

Hiram's wolves were no harmless creatures of the imagination, but savage realities, and a chill ran down my back as I realized the probability that the pack was now rallying on my trail. I did not doubt that I had heard their voices.

I took my bearings and went forward at my best pice with far less thought of hunting than the fear of being hunted. Thus I went on for half an hour, hearing nothing but the snapping of twigs and swish of branches made by my own rapid progress till clamor of jays broke out forty rods in my rear. As I drew near it was mingled with the rustle and patter of many swift feet. I was near the crest of the ledges that ridge crosswise the long westerly incline of the mountainside, and, looking backward down the slope, I saw two wolves break through the undergrowth of whortleberry bushes, and had glimpses of others behind

My next look was for a tree that rould be climbed, and I was fortunate in discovering one close at hand, a now standing upright on his hinder low-branching pine of more than two leet and pawing the air and snapping leet in diameter at the base of the feet in diameter at the base of the trunk, which for ten feet up to the whorls of sturdy green boughs bristled with stribs of dead limbs that made convenient steps.

My gun was of German make, rigged with a sling, which till now I had always thought a useless appurtenance. out in this emergency it proved quite otherwise, when by slinging the gun others scattered a little, but presently over my back I got up, easily and returned, snifting at their dead comquickly. None too quickly, for in two rade and lapping his blood. Poor doininutes the leavers of the pack were beneath me, and glaring up at me with cruel, hungry eyes, having evidently lack-in-the-box unhooked the lid, seen my ascent, for they were not at whereupon the little imp filliped his fault a moment.

Others came until there were seven in all, some circling about the tree, course for the sake of hunting, but held straight on, contenting myself with the few shots that chance offered, which were few indeed, for one seldom finds many ruffed grouse in the heart chops: some sitting on their haunches and grandfather as he warily skulked part. Christmax dinner was ready for in he beyond the others, and the others, and the others, and then broke his back. He writhed about much more nicely cooked by his broke his back. He wound a moment, and then bradier than I could have done in the

I climbed to a secure and comfortable seat on a limb twenty feet from the ground, and, after getting m, breath, and my nerves were a little settled, I tried the effect of a charge of No. 6 on one of the besiegers, as I got a tolerable fair aim at his uplifted muzzle through an opening. There was a yelp of surprise and pain, followed by a general commotion among the crew, and when the smoke had lifted above me I caught glimpses of the stung brute clawing his head with alternate forepaws.

I fired several times as opportunity assailants the sting of the small shot of my coat, but it amounted to nothing. There was not a sound to be heard Bewailing the incredulity which had above the constant murmur of the made me refuse the buckahot, I was

Perhaps my supply of provisions would last till the enemy was starved out, if the weather did not turn cold and freeze me on my roost, which was a prospect less agreeable than that of subsisting on raw partridge nesh.

Then it occured to me to climb to the top and see if there was any chance of making alarm shots heard down in the settlement. Slinging my gvn I began the ascent. But ten feet further up the pine came to an end, for there above a whorl of stout branches on to which I climbed, but could get no ontlook through the tree tops.

I filled and lighted my pipe, and, chancing to throw the unextinguished match onto the scub, which was broken about square across, and was at least a foot in diameter, it ignited a handful of dry pine needles that had alighted there. The flame lasted but a moment, yet long enough to suggest the idea that are enough might be built here to roast small hits of the partridge, and close upon this followed another, which gave me hope of deuverance.

There was the bullet mold in my pocket, and if I could but manage to turn my paitry shot into a dozen solid balls I would soon rid myself of the wolves. As I was refilling my pipe with a view of stimulating invention my tobacco box gave me a clew to a solution of the problem. It was an old-fashioned steel box with a hinged cover and square corners that would serve as a spout to pour melted lead

I transferred the tobacco to a pocket, made a cut of a small green limb firmly on to the open cover for a handle, and had what promised to be a service-able smelting ladle. Then, reaching out, I gathered some dry twigs and bits of branches, and I soon had a small fire burning in the center of the stub. When it was well going I held the improvised ladle, with a couple of ounces of shot in it, over the hottost molten lead, I managed to pour most



I GOT UP QUICKLY.

Better luck attended three more sucessive trials, which gave me thirteen

It was now near sundown, so there was no time to be lost if I was to get away by daylight.

The bullets were much too small for the bore of my gun, therefore I put two in each barrel, with a light charge of shot, and descended to the lower branch, where I seated myself upon the one where I could get the clearest view of the ground.

The wolves greeted my reappearance with a chorus of savage yelps as they gathered eagerly beneath me, snapping and snarling, each struggling for the nearest place that he might be first at the expected feast. One grizzled old fellow, the patriarch of the tribe, who had curled himself up in the fallen treetop, to bide my downfall, now had his philosophical patlence overcome and limped forth from his lair, sneaking around the outskirts of the crowd with his hungry eyes constantly upon me. The largest and strongest of the pack kept the position directly under me, now springing upward more than his length, then tumbling back upon his mates that crowded beneath him, was in this posture, I fired one barrel

straight into his mouth. The recoil almost unseated me, but I ecovered myself with no greater mishap than losing the toys out of my nocket. The big wolf made no motion, but to sink in a lifeless heap with his back of his head blown out. The ly got a cruel bite from one that spoiled her beauty forever. Another nosing snout, and I could not help laughing at the fright it gave the great cowardly

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## Don't pay fancy prices for your Chi when you can make every dollar do

dragging his paralyzed hinder parts, the stump said I beau objected as crawled out of sight. The others were getting somewhat sliy, but plucked up ourage during the cessation of hostiliics, while I reloaded, and then came

lose under me again.

A third shot killed one nearly outright, and the fourth broke the shoulder of another as he ran. He retreated to a sare distance and amused himself with his wound, while the unhurt survivors stood off, now regarding curiously their dead and wounded com-

any longer in my neighborhood.
When my gun was reloaded I settled the question for them with two shots. The first one bore such a hole in the belly of one that his entrails dragged upon the ground, and the second string another so sharply that he stood not but Pur straid to use it. in all speed in company with his un-scathed comrade, while the fellow with the broken shoulder hobbled after



follow them, turning now and again to bite his own entrails, entangling his feet and catching on stubs and stones Evening was already deepening the orest shadows, and I had little time to spare in mercy to the merciless brute, but when I got to the ground I mustily loaded my gun and inished alm with a shot in the head.

Then, picking up the toys and taking my course by the compass and the evening star. I held forward at such peed as the rough and darkening way would permit. Fortunately, the almost full moon was well up in the clear sky, and I had little difficulty in clear sky, and I had little difficulty in "Heaven bless her?" said the parsoi finding my way down the mountain, "And as for the others, may they no and reached Bradley's before their pe rewarded according to their deeds and reached Bradley's before their early bedtime.

Little Molly Bradley prized the doll all the more for the scars which proved her hair breath escape, and her brother looked upon the jack-in-the-box that had scared the wolf as a hero as doughty as Jack the Glant Killer. Their father seemed to doubt my story till I led him to the scene of my adventures the next morning and showed him the four wolves for we found the proken-backed patriageh after a short search.

When I went home the pasts day my pocket. But I found no the Bobit

A PARSON'S CHRISTMAS

Amongst the Many with Only One. Was Worth Anounting

"Has my one sent in anything yet?" Parson Preachem had just recurred panions, now me, with growing recalls, and he had known nearest spect, and evidently doubting whether went away that his inder was almost it was worth their while to continue as bare as old Mother Hubbard's, and the next day would be Obristipas.

"Slater Sharper has sent in a jer of thibarb, but I think that it is work-ing and Sleter Wealthy has sond lig-card wishing us a happy Christian." "In that all!"

Why Wall, I beard fleter Maskly say the Dorcan Society the other it that their chickens were all of his

that their chickens were all different cholers, and
"Oh, throw the foul few away?
Anything else"
"The Smalls sent in half pipe on maple syrup and a dosen signs boltonly three of the eggs were good, as I found out when I tried is make a cake with them. Sister Prons sent in some specked apples and Brother Roarer called some Christians cheer, in the shape of some spongy turnipe and a frost-bitten squash. Brother Whiner sent in a pound of broken candy."

"And he the richest man in the par-ish! groaned the parson. "And that is

"Sister Brass told me at the Dorgas Society that she intended sending me a far of goosebetry preserves that mone of her family would touch, as we might as well have it as not and sister Gall chimed in and said that her mincement had begun to spoil and I could have some of it it I wanted to "That all?"

Not quite. Old Susan Goods, they numblest kindest and almost the persent woman in the ratish, has just been overflowing with happiness becames some friends of hers in the country have sent her a hig turkey and everything else needed for a complete Christilinger, and abe wants us to come and dinner, and she wants us to come and dine with her and bring all the chil-dren. She simply wouldn't take no tor an answer, and she simost creed for joy when I finally accepted the kind old soul's invitation."

A curious old minute in the Ten indicates that English lawyers dide always curb their speech in Childs

time. It orders:
"That no gentleman of this soci bor any other, by appointment, che or assent of any rentlement choise of assent of any rentlement of Can source, should in time of Christian or any other times take upon him to use the name Disco or commandment of the Love or unvarienties or commandment of the Love or unvarienties of the Love or unvarienties.