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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW by Washington Irving. FOUND AMONG THE PAPERS OF THE LATE DIEDRICH KNICKERBOCKER. A pleasing land of drowsy head it was, Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye; And of gay castles in the clouds that pass, Forever flushing
ound a summer sky. CASTLE OF INDOLENCE. In the bosom of one of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of the Hudson, at that broad expansion of the river denominated by the ancient Dutch navigators the Tappan Zee, and where they always prudently shortened sail and implored the protection of St. Nicholas when they crossed, there lies a small market town or rural port, which is more generally and properly known by the name of Tarry Town. This name was given, we are told, in former days, by
ne good housewives of the adjacent country, from the inveterate propensity of their husbands to linger about the village, tavern on market days. Be that as it may, I do not vouch for the fact, but merely advert to it, for the sake of being precise and authentic. Not far from this village, berhaps about two miles, there is a little valley or rather lap of land among high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the whole world. A small brook glides through it, with just murmur enough to lull one to repose; and the occasional whistle of a quail or tapping of a woodpecter is almost the only sound that ever breaks in upon the uniform tranquillity. I recollect that, when a stripling, my first exploit in squirrel-shooting was in a grove of tall walnut-trees that shades one side of the valley. I had wandered into it at noontime, when all nature is peculiarly quiet.
  , and was startled by the roar of my own gun, as it broke the Sabbath stillness around and was prolonged and reverberated by the angry echoes. If ever I should wish for a retreat whither I might steal from the world and its distractions, and dream quietly away the remnant of a trou
oled life, I know of none more promising than this little valley. From the listless repose of the place, and the peculiar character of its inhabitants, who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY HOLLOW, and its rustic lads are called the Sleepy Hollow Boys throughout all the neighboring country. A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land, and to pervade the very atmosphere. Some say that the place was bewitched by a High German doctor, during the early days of the set lement; others, that an old Indian chief, the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson. Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power, that holds a spell over the minds of the
  ood people, causing them to walk in a continual reverie. They are given to all kinds of marvellous beliefs, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and hear music and voices in the air.
d twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the favorite scene of her gambols. The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region, and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air, is the apparition of a figure on horseback, without a head. It is said by some to be the ghost of a Hessian trooper, whose head had been carried away by a cannon-ball, in some nameless battle during the Revolutional to the wings of the wind. His haunts are not confined to the valley, but extend at times to the adjacent roads, and especially to the vicinity of a church at no great distance. In
 eed, certain of the most authentic historians of those parts, who have been careful in collecting and collating the floating facts concerning this spectre, allege that the body of the trooper ha ving attle in nightly quest of his head, and that the rushing speed with which he sometimes passes along the Hollow, like a midnight blast, is owing to his being belated, and in a hurry to get b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        buried in the churchyard, the ghost rides forth to the scene of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ack to the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       churchyard before daybreak. Such is the general purport of thi
            superstition, which has furnished materials for many a wild story in that region of shadows; and the spectre is known at all the country firesides, by the name of the Headle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    of Sleepy Hollow. It is remarkable that the visionary propensity I I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Horseman
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              efore they entered that sleepy region, they are sure, in a
  e mentioned is not confined to the native inhabitants of the valley, but is unconsciously imbibed by every one who resides there for a time. However wide awake they may have bee
   time, to inhale the witching influence of the air, and begin to grow imaginative, to dream dreams, and see apparitions. I mention this peaceful spot with all possible laud, for it is i
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                e retire d Dutch valleys, found here and there emboso
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  ed in the great State of New York, that population, manners, and customs remain fixed, while the great torrent of migration and improvement, which is making such incessant chang e
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           country, sweeps by them unobserved. They
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e like those little nooks of still water, which border a rapid stream, where we may see the straw and bubble riding quietly at anchor, or slowly revolving in their mimic harbor, undisturb
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  sed since I trod the drowsy shades of Sleepy Hollow, yet I question whether I should not still find the same trees and the same families vegetating in its sheltered bosom. In this by-p
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 hat is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy wight of the name of Ichabod Crane, who sojourned, or, as he expressed it, "tarried," in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing t
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       vicinity
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      as a native of Connecticut, a State
 hich supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodmen and country schoolmasters. The cognomen of Cra
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  with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. H
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 eyes, and a long snipe nose, so that it looked like a weather-cock perched upon his spindle neck to tell which way the wind blew. To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a wi
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 ne might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield. His schoolhouse was a low building of one large room, ru
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nzed, and partly patched with leaves of old copybooks. It was most ingeniously secured at vacant hours, by a withe twisted in the nancle of the door, and stakes set against the window shut ease, he would find some embarrassment in getting out,--an idea most probably borrowed by the architect, Yost Van Houten, from the mystery of an eelpot. The schoolhouse stood in a rath of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch-tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmur of his pupils' voices, conning over their lessons, might be
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to a woody fill, with a brook rufning close by, and a formidable brich-tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmer of his pupils voices, comining over their lessons, might be he hum of a beehive; interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command, or, peradventure, by the appalling sound of the birch, as he ur athoritance in the strong of the service with discrimination rather than severity; takin by the strong. Your mere puny stripling, that winced at the least flourish of the rod, was passed by with indulgence; but the claims of justice were satisfied by inflicting a double skirted Dutch urchin, who sulked and swelled and grew dogged and sullen beneath the birch. All this he called "doing his duty by their parents;" and he never inflicted a chastisement and thank him for it the longest day he had to live." When school hours were over, he was even the companion and plant and the least form the first the longest day he had to live." When school hours were over, he was even the companion and plant and the least form the first had been determined in the first had only in the solution. The first had a tone with the sum of the least flourist to the same time for it. From hence the low minimation for the low minimation for the low manner. The least flow in the solution of the low manner of the low minimation for the low minimation for the low minimation for low minimation for the low minimation for the low minimation for low minimat
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would convoy some of the smaller ones home, who happened to have pretty sisters, or good housewives for mothers, noted for the comforts of the cupboard. Indeed, it be
The revenue arising from his school was small, and would have been scarcely sufficient to furnish him with daily bread, for he was a huge feeder, and, though lank, had th
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ance, he was, according to country custom in those parts, boarded and lodged at the houses of the farmers whose children he instructed. With these he lived successivel
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 th all his worldly effects tied up in a cotton handkerchief. That all this might not be too onerous on the purses of his rustic patrons, who are apt to consider the costs of sch
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     and schoolmasters as mere drones, h
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 had various ways of rendering himself both useful and agreeable. He assisted the farmers occasionally in the lighter labors of their farms, helped to make hay, mended the
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ter, drove the cows from pas
 ure, and cut wood for the winter fire. He laid aside, too, all the dominant dignity and absolute sway with which he lorded it in his little empire, the school, and became wonde rf
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          e and in gratiating. He found favor in the eyes
of the mothers by petting the children, particularly the youngest; and like the lion bold, which whilom so magnanimously the lamb did hold, he would sit with a child on on
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e with his foot for whole hours togeth
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  In addition to his other vocations, he was the singing-master of the neighborhood, and picked up many bright shillings by instructing the young folks in psalmody. It was
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    y to him on Sundays, to take his statio
 in front of the church gallery, with a band of chosen singers, where, in his own mind, he completely carried away the palm from the parson. Certain it is, his voice resounded
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ar above all the rest of th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    congregation; and there are peculiar
 uavers still to be heard in that church, and which may even be heard half a mile off, quite to the opposite side of the millpond, on a still Sunday morning, which are said to be legitim
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         cended f ro m the nose of Ichabod Crane. Th
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is, by divers little makeshifts, in that ingenious way which is commonly denominated "by hook and by crook," the worthy pedagogue got on tolerably enough, and was thought, by al
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 a wonderfully easy life of it. The schoolmaster is generally a man of some importance in the female circle of a rural neighborhood; being considered a kind of idle, gentlemanlike per
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 uperior taste and accomplishments to the rough count
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  swains, and, indeed, inferior in learning only to the parson. His appearance, therefore, is apt to occasion some little stir at the tea-table of a farmhouse, and the addition of a supernu
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                eetmeats, or, peradventure, the parade o
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 a silver teapot. Our man of letters, therefore, was peculiarly happy in the smiles of all the country damsels. How he would figure among them in the churchyard, between services on Sundays;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                es for them from the wild vines that overr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             gathering gra
in the surrounding trees; reciting for their amusement all the epitaphs on the tombstones; or sauntering, with a whole beyy of them, along the banks of the adjacent millpond; while the more bas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              umpkins hung sheepishly back, envying his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             hful country b
superior elegance and address. From his half-itinerant life, also, he was a kind of travelling gazette, carrying the whole budget of local gossip from house to house, so that his appearance wa
en as a man of great erudition, for he had read several books quite through, and was a perfect master of Cotton Mather's "History of New England Witchcraft," in which, by the way, he most fir
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ction. He was, moreover, esteemed by the wom
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           greeted with satisfa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            and potently believed. He was, in fact, an odd mixture of small shrewdnes
 and simple credulity. His appetite for the marvellous, and his powers of digesting it, were equally extraordinary, and both had been increased by his residence in this spell-bound region. N
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       o tale was too gross or monstrous for his capacious swallow. It was often his
  light, after his school was dismissed in the afternoon, to stretch himself on the rich bed of clover bordering the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       her's direful tales, until the gathering dusk of evening made the printed page a
                                                                                                                                 little brook that whimpered by his schoolhouse, and there con over old Mat
mere mist before his eyes. Then, as he wended his way by swamp and stream and awful woodland, to the
                                                                                                                                 armhouse where he happened to be quartered, every sound of nature, at th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      at witching hour, fluttered his excited imagination,--the moan of the whip-poor
 will from the hillside, the boding cry of the tree toad, that harbinger of storm, the dreary hooting of the s
                                                                                                                                  eech owl, or the sudden rustling in the thicket of birds frightened from the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      r roost. The fireflies, too, which sparkled most vividly in the darkest places, no
 and then startled him, as one of uncommon brightness would stream across his path; and if, by ch
                                                                                                                                  ce, a huge blockhead of a beetle came winging his blundering flight agains
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      him, the poor variet was ready to give up the ghost, with the idea that he was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ow, as they sat by their doors of an evening, were often filled with awe at hearing
 uck with a witch's token. His only resource on such occasions, either to drown thought or drive
                                                                                                                                     y evil spirits, was to sing psalm tunes and the good people of Sleepy Hol
 his nasal melody, "in linked sweetness long drawn out," floating from the distant hill, or a
                                                                                                                                    the dusky road. Another of his sources of fearful pleasure was to pas s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ng winter evenings with the old Dutch wives, as they sat spinning by the fire, wi
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 a row of apples roasting and spluttering along the hearth, and listen to their marvello
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                                                                                                                                  ghosts and goblins, and haunted fields, and haunted brooks, and haunt
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 oping Hessian of the Hollow, as they sometimes called him. He would delight them
                                                                                                                                 s anecdotes of witchcraft, and of the direful omens and portentous sight
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     and sounds in the air, which prevailed in the earlier times of Connecticut; and v
                                                                                                        egually by h i
 uld frighten them woefully with speculations upon comets and shooting stars:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     he time topsy-turvy! But if there was a pleasure in all this, while snugly cuddlin
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                                                                                                                               rming fact that the world did absolutely turn round, and that they were half
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    urchased by the terrors of his subsequent walk homewards. What fearful shape
 in the chimney corner of a chamber that was all of a ruddy glow from the
                                                                                               rackling wood fire,
                                                                                                                              and where, of course, no spectre dared to show its face, it was dearly
                                                                                         owy night! With what
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   cross the waste fields from some distant window! How often was he appalled by
and shadows beset his path, amidst the deim and ghastly glare of a sn
                                                                                                                                  ul look did he eve ev
                                                                                                                                                                              bling ray of light stream
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  sound of his own steps on the frosty crust beneath his feet; and dread to look over
ome shrub covered with snow, which, li
                                                 ke a shee ted spectre,
                                                                                     beset his very path! Ho
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                                                                                                                                                                           was he thrown into co
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 his shoulder, lest he sho uld behold
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                                                                         d not been crossed by a bein g that
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evil and all his works, if his p
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                                                                       ples who assembled, one evening in e
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-a woman. Among the music
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 farmer. She was a blooming
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beauty, but her vast expectatio
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off her charms. She wore t
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s not to be wondered at the
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 Van Tassel was a perfec
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                                                                                                                      tat
                                                                                                                                       ly s
                                                                                                                                             a ua
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  snowy geese were riding
                                      q
                                          convoyi
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                                                     nd Guinea fow
 na through the f
                                       rd . a
                                                                                                                                            g abo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     II-tempered housewives
                                      co int ented cry. Before th
 with their peevish
                                                                                                                                                                                 str
                                                                                                                                                                                      utt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     he gallant cock, that pa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     shed wings and crowin
ern of a husband. a
                                       warrior and a fine gentlema
                                                                                                                                                                                 ng his b
 in the pride and gladness o
                                     f his heart,--sometimes tearing
                                                                                                                                                                                   h with h
 calling his ever-hungry family of wives and children to enjoy
                                                                                                                                                                                     el whic
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       had discovered. The
                                                                                                                                C
 edagogue's mouth watered as he looked upon this sumptuou
                                                                                                             ro
                                                                                                                           mi
                                                                                                                                                                                       xuriou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       nter fare. In his devou
ng mind's eye, he pictured to himself ever
                                                     y roasting-pig r
                                                                                                                           ng
                                                                                                                                  а
                                                                                                                                                                                        with a p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ing in his belly, and a
n apple in his mouth; the pigeons wer
                                                                                                                                                                                       bed in a co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      mfortable pie, and tuck
                                                                                                                                                                                  heir own gravy;
ed in with a coverlet of crust; the gee
                                                       se w
                                                                                                                           mm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and the ducks
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     pairing cosily in dishes
                                                                                                                                                                        held daintily trussed up, with
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               its gizzard unde r its wing, and, peradven
eek side of bacon, and juicy relishing ha
                                                               m;
                                                                                         ot a turk
                                                                                                     е
                                                                                                                            ut h
                                                                                                                                       e b
                                                                                                    ht ch
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                                                                                                                                                               hi
ture, a necklace of savory sausages; an
                                                                                                                                                                          mself lay sprawling on his b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ack, in a side dish, with uplifted claws, as if
craving that quarter which his chivalrou
                                                     s spirit disda
                                                                                                                    sk
                                                                                                                                          hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               chabod fancied all this, and as he rolled hi
                                                                             in
                                                                                                      to a
                                                                                                                                   w
                                                                                                                                                               le
                                                                                                                                                                               living. As the enraptured I
s great green eyes over the fat meadow
                                                      lands, the rich f
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                                                                                                                            h
                                                                                                                                        ea t.
                                                                                                                                                                of
                                                                                                                                                                                   ye, of buckwheat, and In
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               dian corn, and the orchards burdened with
ruddy fruit, which surrounded the warm
                                                                                                                                                                                   earned after the damsel wh
                                                      tenement of Van T ass
                                                                                                                                                                 rt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                o was to inherit these domains, and his im
                                                                                                                                       h
                                                                                                                                          ea
                                                                                                                                                                                   h, and the money invested in i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                mense tracts of wild land, and shingle pal
agination expanded with the idea, how
                                                     they might be readil
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aces in the wilderness. Nay, his busy
                                                     fancy already rea
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                                                                                                                                       his h o
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W
                                                                                                                                                                                     es, and presented to him the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  oming Katrina, with a whole family of ch
                                                                                                                   ze
                                                                                                                           mp
, T
ldren, mounted on the top of a wagon
                                                   loaded with househ
                                                                                               old t
                                                                                                                  ru
                                                                                                                                                                                            ith pots and kettles dangl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   beneath; and he beheld himself bestridi
                                                                                                                                       er
                                                                                                                                            у,
ng a pacing mare, with a colt at her he
                                                        etting out f
                                                                                         r Kentuc
                                                                                                                                      en
                                                                                                                                                                  es
                                                                                                                                                                                             see,--or the Lord knows whe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    When he entered the house, the conqu
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                                                                                                                                              ho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      loping roofs, built in the style hande
est of his heart was complete. It was one o
                                                          f tho
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                                                                                                                                                                 us
                                                                                                                                                                                                es, with high-ridged but low
d down from the first Dutch settlers: the lo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            nt, c
                                                          wp
                                                                                 ojecting eav
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dr
                                                                                                                                                                                                          piazza along the fro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      apable of being closed up in bad we
ther. Under this were hung flails, harness,
                                                                              ious utensils of
                                                                                                                                               sban
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  and nets for fis
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       in the neighboring river. Benches v
                                                                                                                                  u
ere built along the sides for summer use; an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    n at the other, s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  how
                                                                            great spinning-whe
                                                                                                                                                                                                      a chur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ed the various uses to which this i
                                                                                                                                              t one en
                                                                                                                                                              and
                                                                           zza the wondering Ichab
mportant porch might be devoted. From this
                                                                                                                                                                   nte
                                                                                                                                                                                                            d th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       e hall, which for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       the centre of the mansion, and the
                                                                                                                                                                                                      re
place of usual residence. Here rows of resplendent pe
                                                                                                                                                                    led
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ood a huge bag of wool, ready to be
                                                                           ter, ranged on a long dresser, d
                                                                                                                                           ZZ
                                                                                                                                                                                                        h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         eyes. In one corn
spun; in another, a quantity of linsey-woolsey just from th
                                                                             e loom; ears of Indian corn, and st
                                                                                                                                                  gs
                                                                                                                                                                    f d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          apples and peache
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              s, h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ung in gay festoons along the walls
mingled with the gaud of red peppers; and a door left ajar g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    mahogany tables shone like mirrors;
                                                                              ave him a peep into the best parlor, wh
                                                                                                                                                                    he
                                                                                                                                                                              C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  w-1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ooted chairs and da
ndirons, with their accompanying shovel and tongs, glister
                                                                               ed from their covert of asparagus top
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             orated the m
                                                                                                                                                               oc
                                                                                                                                                                                or
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           and conch-shells ded
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                antelpiece; strings of various-colored bi
ds eggs were suspended above it; a great ostrich egg was h
                                                                                ung from the centre of the room, and a
                                                                                                                                                               rn
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                                                                                                                                                                                                             0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           d. knowingly left open, d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            isplayed immense treasures of old silver and well-mended
china. From the moment Ichabod laid his eves upon these re
                                                                                 gions of delight, the peace of his mind w
                                                                                                                                                                    n
                                                                                                                                                                                     en
                                                                                                                                                                                                             an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            is only study was how to gain the affections of the peerless daughter of Van Tassel. In
                                                                                                                                                                a
                                                                                                                                                                                                           d,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           nything but giants, enchanters, fiery dragons, and such like easily conquered adversar
his enterprise, however, he had more real difficulties than gen
                                                                                 erally fell to the lot of a knight-errant of yore,
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                                                                                                                                                                    el
                                                                                                                                                                                        do
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                                                                                                                                                                                                             ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    da
                                                                                 es of iron and brass, and walls of adamant to t
es, to contend with and had to make his way merely through gat
                                                                                                                                                                                                           e keep
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            here the lady of his heart was confined; all which he achieved as easily as a man would
carve his way to the centre of a Christmas pie; and then the lady
                                                                                                                                                             d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       way to the heart of a country coquette, beset with a labyrinth of
                                                                                   gave him her hand as a matter of course. Ich
                                                                                                                                             abo
                                                                                                                                                                on th
                                                                                                                                                                                             ес
                                                                                                                                                                                                           ontrar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            had to win his
whims and caprices, which were forever presenting new difficul
                                                                                    es and impediments; and he had to encount
                                                                                                                                                                                                t o
                                                                                                                                                                                                          f fearfu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          dv ersaries
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   of real flesh and blood, the numerous rustic admirer
                                                                                                                                                                  hos
                                                                                                                                                            a
who beset every portal to her heart, keeping a watchful and a
                                                                                    ngry eye upon each other, but ready to fly ou
                                                                                                                                               t in
                                                                                                                                                                    he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      aus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                against an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    y new competitor. Among these, the most formidable
                                                                                                                                                                                                  CO
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              е
                                                                                                                                                                                                    Van Brunt, t
e was a burly, roaring, roystering blade, of the name of Abraha
                                                                                     m, or, according to the Dutch abbreviation,
                                                                                                                                               Bro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ero o fth
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           е со
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      untry round, which rang with his feats of strength
and hardihood. He was broad-shouldered and double-jointed, wit
                                                                                      short curly black hair, and a bluff but not u
                                                                                                                                                                    nt
                                                                                                                                                                                                      countenanc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e, havin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      g a mingled
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       r of fun and arrogance. From his Herculean frame
                                                                                                                                                nple asa
and great powers of limb he had received the nickname of BROM
                                                                                       BONES, by which he was universally know
                                                                                                                                                                  e w
                                                                                                                                                                                                      as famed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               r great k
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       wl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ge and skill in horsemanship, being as dexterou
                                                                                                                                                n. H
s on horseback as a Tartar. He was foremost at all races and cock
                                                                                       fights; and, with the ascendancy which bod
                                                                                                                                                                  y str
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ength alwa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    uir
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         es
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         n rustic life, was the umpire in all disputes, sett
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         acq
ng his hat on one side, and giving his decisions with an air and to
                                                                                    ne that admitted of no gainsay or appeal. He w
                                                                                                                                                                  alwa
                                                                                                                                                                                                     ys ready for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ight or a frolic: but had more mischief than ill
                                                                                                                                                  as
will in his composition; and with all his overbearing roughness, the
                                                                                  re was a strong dash of waggish good humor at b
                                                                                                                                                   ot
                                                                                                                                                                tom. H
                                                                                                                                                                                                     e had three o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            fo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            boon companions, who regarded him as their
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           guished
model, and at the head of whom he scoured the country, attending ev
                                                                               erv scene of feud or merriment for miles round. In col
                                                                                                                                                                weath
                                                                                                                                                                                                     er he was distin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            fur cap, surmounted with a flaunting fox's tail
and when the folks at a country gathering descried this well-known crest at a distance, whisking about among a squad of har
                                                                                                                                                                 riders
                                                                                                                                                                                                      , they always stood
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         by for a squa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            metimes his crew would be heard dashing alo
ng past the farmhouses at midńight, with whoop and halloo, like a troop of Don Cossacks; and the old dames, startled out of th
                                                                                                                                                                 r sleep
                                                                                                                                                                                                       , would listen for a moment till the hurry-sc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   y had cla ttered by, and then exclaim, "Ay, there go
  Brom Bones and his gang!" The neighbors looked upon him with a mixture of awe, admiration, and good-will; and, when any m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ys shook their heads, and warranted Brom Bones wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                       nk or rustic brawl occurred in the vicinity, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             lwa
                                                                                                                                                                  cap pra
 at the bottom of it. This rantipole hero had for some time singled out the blooming Katrina for the object of his uncouth gallantrie
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   gentle caresses and endearments of a bear, yet it wa
                                                                                                                                                                   and thou
                                                                                                                                                                                                        gh his amorous toyings were something lik
 whispered that she did not altogether discourage his hopes. Certain it is, his advances were signals for rival candidates to retire, w
                                                                                                                                                                   felt no incl
                                                                                                                                                                                                         nation to cross a lion in his amours; inso much,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  that when his horse was seen tied to Van Tassel's pa
 ng, on a Sunday night, a sure sign that his master was courting, or, as it is termed, "sparking," within, all other suitors passed by in des 🛭 pair
                                                                                                                                                                                                           he war into other quarters. Such was the formid able rival with whom Ichabod Crane had to contend,
                                                                                                                                                                   . and carried
 d, considering all things, a stouter man than he would have shrunk from the competition, and a wiser man would have despaired. He had, howe ver, a happy
                                                                                                                                                                                                            mixture of pliability and perseverance in his nature; he was in form and spirit like a supple-jack--yield
ng, but tough; though he bent, he never broke; and though he bowed beneath the slightest pressure, yet, the moment it was away--jerk!--he
                                                                                                                                                                                                             nd carried his head as high as ever. To have taken the field openly against his rival would have beer
                                                                                                                                                                       was as erect,
 nadness; for he was not a man to be thwarted in his amours, any more than that stormy lover, Achilles. Ichabod, therefore, made his advan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                gently insinuating manner. Under cover of his character of singing-master, he made frequent visit
                                                                                                                                                                       ces in a quiet an
 at the farmhouse; not that he had anything to apprehend from the meddlesome interference of parents, which is so often a stumbling-bloc
                                                                                                                                                                       k in the path of lov
                                                                                                                                                                                                                rs. Balt Van Tassel was an easy indulgent soul) he loved his daughter better even than his pipe, a
 d, like a reasonable man and an excellent father, let her have her way in everything. His notable little wife, too, had enough to do to attend t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nd manage her poultry; for, as she sagely observed, ducks and geese are foolish things, and mu
                                                                                                                                                                       o her housekeeping
st be looked after, but girls can take care of themselves. Thus, while the busy dame bustled about the house, or plied her spinning-wheel at wooden warrior, who, armed with a sword in each hand, was most valiantly fighting the wind on the pinnacle of the barn. In the mean time, I
                                                                                                                                                                       one end of the piazza,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  onest Balt would sit smoking his evening pipe at the other, watching the achievements of a littl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    suit with the daughter by the side of the spring under the great elm, or sauntering along in the
                                                                                                                                                                        chabod would carry on hi s
wilight, that hour so favorable to the lover's eloquence. I profess not to know how women's hearts are wooed and won. To me they have alw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nd admiration. Some seem to have but one vulnerable point, or door of access; while others have
                                                                                                                                                                       avs been matters of riddle a
re a thousand avenues, and may be captured in a thousand different ways. It is a great triumph of skill to gain the former, but a still greater p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    in possession of the latter, for man must battle for his fortress at every door and window. He w
                                                                                                                                                                       roof of generalship to mainta
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     was not the case with the redoubtable Brom Bones; and from the moment Ichabod Crane made
no wins a thousand common hearts is therefore entitled to some renown; but he who keeps undisputed sway over the heart of a coquette is
                                                                                                                                                                      indeed a hero. Certain it is, this
e his advances, the interests of the former evidently declined: his horse was no longer seen tied to the palings on Sunday nights, and a dead
                                                                                                                                                                      ly feud gradually arose between
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     him and the preceptor of Sleepy Hollow. Brom, who had a degree of rough chivalry in his nat
ure, would fain have carried matters to open warfare and have settled their pretensions to the lady, according to the mode of those most con
                                                                                                                                                                      cise and simple reasoners, the kn
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    i ghts-errant of yore,--by single combat; but Ichabod was too conscious of the superior might
of his adversary to enter the lists against him; he had overheard a boast of Bones, that he would "double the schoolmaster up, and lay him o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and he was too wary to give him an opportunity. There was something extremely provoking
                                                                                                                                                                      n a shelf of his own schoolhouse;
n this obstinately pacific system; it left Brom no alternative but to draw upon the funds of rustic waggery in his disposition, and to play off
                                                                                                                                                                     boorish practical jokes upon his riv
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       I. Ichabod became the object of whimsical persecution to Bones and his gang of rough ride
rs. They harried his hitherto peaceful domains; smoked out his singing school by stopping up the chimney; broke into the schoolhouse at
                                                                                                                                                                    ght, in spite of its formidable fastenin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       s of withe and window stakes, and turned everything topsy-turvy, so that the poor schooln
aster began to think all the witches in the country held their meetings there. But what was still more annoying, Brom took all opportunities of turn
                                                                                                                                                                      ing him into ridicule in presence of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         is mistress, and had a scoundrel dog whom he taught to whine in the most ludicrous man
ner, and introduced as a rival of Ichabod's, to instruct her in psalmody. In this way matters went on for some time, without producing any
                                                                                                                                                                       material effect on the relative situati
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ons of the contending powers. On a fine autumnal afternoon, Ichabod, in pensive mood, s
t enthroned on the lofty stool from whence he usually watched all the concerns of his little literary realm. In his hand he swayed a ferule
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           rch of justice reposed on three nails behind the throne, a constant terror to evil doers, w
                                                                                                                                                                      that sceptre of despotic power; the b
 ile on the desk before him might be seen sundry contraband articles and prohibited weapons, detected upon the persons of idle urchin
                                                                                                                                                                    s, such as half-munched apples, popgu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ns, whirligigs, fly-cages, and whole legions of rampant little paper gamecocks. Apparen
  rthere had been some appalling act of justice recently inflicted, for his scholars were all busily intent upon their books, or slyly whisp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            he master; and a kind of buzzing stillness reigned throughout the schoolroom. It was su
                                                                                                                                                                 ering behind them with one eye kept upon
 denly interrupted by the appearance of a negro in tow-cloth jacket and trowsers, a round-crowned fragment of a hat, like the cap of Me
                                                                                                                                                           rcury, and mounted on the back of a ragged, wild, h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            alf-broken colt, which he managed with a rope by way of halter. He came clattering up t
 the school door with an invitation to Ichabod to attend a merry-making or "quilting frolic," to be held that evening at Mynheer Van Tassel's; and having delivered his message with that air of i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           portance, and effort at fine language, which a negro is apt to display on petty embassic
of the kind, he dashed over the brook, and was seen scampering away up the hollow, full of the importance and hurry of his mission. All was now bustle and hubbub in the late quiet s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           choolroom. The scholars were hurried through their lessons without stopping at trifles;
hose who were nimble skipped over half with impunity, and those who were tardy had a smart application now and then in the rear, to quicken their speed or help them over a tall wo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           rd. Books were flung aside without being put away on the shelves, inkstands were over
urned, benches thrown down, and the whole school was turned loose an hour before the usual time, bursting forth like a legion of young imps, yelping and racketing about the green
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            in joy at their early emancipation. The gallant Ichabod now spent at least an extra half h
our at his toilet, brushing and furbishing up his best, and indeed only suit of rusty black, and arranging his locks by a bit of broken looking-glass that hung up in the schoolhouse. T
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           hat he might make his appearance before his mistress in the true style of a cavalier, he b
orrowed a horse from the farmer with whom he was domiciliated, a choleric old Dutchman of the name of Hans Van Ripper, and, thus gallantly mounted, issued forth like a knight-err
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ant in quest of adventures. But it is meet I should, in the true spirit of romantic story, give
some account of the looks and equipments of my hero and his steed. The animal he bestrode was a broken-down plow-horse, that had outlived almost everything but its viciousness. He was gaunt and shagged, with a ewe neck, and a head like a hammer; his rusty mane and tail we
re tangled and knotted with burs; one eye had lost its pupil, and was glaring and spectral, but the other had fire and mettle in his day, if we may judge from the name he bore of Gunpowder. He had, in fact, been a favorite steed
of his master's, the choleric Van Ripper, who was a furious rider, and had infused, very probably, some of his own spirit into the animal; for, old and broken-down as he looked, there was more of the lurking devil in him than in any young filly in the country. Ichabod was a suitable f
gure for such a steed. He rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers'; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre, and as his horse jogged on, the motion of his arms was
not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings. A small wool hat rested on the top of his nose, for so his scanty strip of forehead might be called, and the skirts of his black coat fluttered out almost to the horses tail. Such was the appearance of Ichabod and his steed as they shambled out
of the gate of Hans Van Ripper, and it was altogether such an apparition as is seldom to be met with in broad daylight. It was, as I have said, a fine autumnal day; the sky was clear and serene, and nature wore that rich and golden livery which we always associate with the idea of a
oundance. The forests had put on their sober brown and yellow, while some trees of the tenderer kind had been nipped by the frosts into brilliant dyes of orange, purple, and scarlet. Streaming files of wild ducks began to make their appearance high in the air; the bark of the squirr
might be heard from the groves of beech and hickory-nuts, and the pensive whistle of the quail at intervals from bush to bus
 and tree to tree, capricious from the very profusion and variety around them. There was the honest cock robin, the favorite game of stripling sportsmen, with its loud guerulous note; and the twittering blackbirds flying in sable clouds; and the golden-winged woodpecker with his
 rimson crest, his broad black gorget, and splendid plumage; and the cedar bird, with its red-tipt wings and yellow-tipt tail and its little monteiro cap of feathers; and the blue jay, that noisy coxcomb, in his gay light blue coat and white underclothes, screaming and chattering, noddi
ig and bobbing and bowing, and pretending to be on good terms with every songster of the grove. As Ichabod jogged slowly on his way, his eye, ever open to every symptom of culinary abundance, ranged with delight over the treasures of jolly autumn. On all sides he beheld vast
tore of apples; some hanging in oppressive opulence on the trees; some gathered into baskets and barrels for the cider-press. Farther on he beheld great fields of Indian corn, with its golden ears peeping from their leafy coverts, and h
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