

THE TWO OLD BACHELORS.
Two old bachelors were living in one house. One caught a muffin, the other caught a mouse. Said he, "I have caught the muffin to him who caught the mouse."

"This happens just in time, for we've nothing in the house but a few pieces of lemon, and a teaspooonful of honey."

"And what can we expect, if we haven't any dinner?"

But to lose our teeth and eyelashes and keep on growing thinner?"

Said the one who had caught the mouse to him who had caught the muffin, "I hope we might cook the little morsel if we only had some studi-"

"If we had any sugar or oil, we could do extremely well to get that studi-"

"But how to get that studi-?" It is difficult to tell."

"I have two old bachelors crag quickly to the town, And asked for sage and onions as they wandered up. They borrowed two large onions but no sage was to be found, In either the market, or in all the gardens round."

But some one said, "A hill there is a little to the north, And it is perpendicular to a narrow way leads And there among the rugged rocks abides an ancient sage."

An earnest man reads all day a most perplexing page.

Clips up and seize him by the toes; all studious as a sage.

Then cuts him with your onion, cut up likewise like sage."

When you wish' will be ready, and very good, — perhaps."

These two old bachelors, without any loss of time, the nearly perpendicular crag at once began to the top, among the rocks, all seated a noon in a nook.

They had sage and onions, and the elder said,

"I have with me a small pot of gold."

"You earnest sage," said they, "your book you've read enough in."

"We wish to chop you into bits to make you into that old sage looked calmly up and winks his eye."

At these two bachelors' bold heads a sudden aim he took:

"And over old and prejicey they rolled prou-

"And once they rolled and never stopped, in lane or And when they reached their houses they found the men had fed and previous y had eaten up the mutton."

They left their homes in silence, by the once envir-

And from that hour those bachelors were never heard of more."

THE POT OF GOLD.

Elder Boyd, though a very good man in the market, had looked up with no respect at all the inhabitants of the town, the legal Oldville, was rumored to have, in Yankee parlance, a pretty sharp lookout for the main chance, a peculiarity from which elders are not always exempt.

In worldly matters he was decidedly well-to-do, having inherited a fine farm from his father, which was growing yearly more and more valuable. It might be said that under the circumstances the elder, who was fully able to do so, would have found a helping mate to share his house and name. But the elder was wary. Matrimony was to him, in some measure, a matter of money, and it was his first resolve not to marry unless he could thereby enhance his worldly prosperity. Unhappily, the little village of Oldville and the towns in the neighborhood were not of the few who were qualified in the important particular, and of those there were probably none with whom the elder's suit would have prospered. So it happened that Elder Boyd was in the prime of life—forty-four, or thereabouts—and still unmarried, and likely to remain so, but in all human calculation of that sort, they reckon' 'ill what the widows out."

Elder Boyd's nearest neighbor was a widow.

The Widow Hayes, who had passed through matrimonial experience, was some four years younger than Elder Boyd. She was still a buxom, comely woman, as widows are apt to be.

Unfortunately the late Mr. Hayes had not been able to leave her sufficient to make her independent of the world. And that is the reason she had a good old-fashioned house in which she lived, and a small amount of money, which was insufficient to support her and a little son of 6, likewise to be enumerated on the schedule of her property, though hardly to be classed as "productive" of any thing but mischief.

The widow was therefore obliged to take care of three boarders to eke out her scanty income, which, of course, imposed upon her considerable labor and expense.

Is it surprising that under these circumstances she should now and then have thought of herself a second marriage as a method of bettering her condition? Or again, need we esteem it a special wonder if, in her reflections upon this point, she should have cast her eyes upon her next neighbor, Elder Boyd? The elder, as we have already said, was in flourishing circumstances. He would be able to maintain a wife in great comfort, being one of the chief persons in the town, and in accord her a prominent social position. He was not especially handsome, or calculated to make a profound impression upon the female heart; this was true, but he was of a good disposition, kind-hearted, and would no doubt make a very good sort of a husband. Widows are, I take it (if any shall do me the honor to read this story), so fond of the market, less disposed to be won over by the widow's point of view, Elder Boyd was, however, a little surprised at the bank appeared to confirm this theory.

CATHOLIC CREDITS.

Peculiar Pastoral Letter Issued by the Provincial Council.

The Catholic Provincial Council, which met in Cincinnati recently, prepared a lengthy pastoral letter to be read in all the churches. It begins with a review of the progress of religion since the last council twenty years ago, and concludes the church should be informed from the mission speech to a condition of faith.

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"No; but she inquired whether we received deposits as high as \$10,000."

"Indeed!" ejaculated the elder. "Is that all she came for?" he inquired, a moment afterward.

"No, she exchanged a gold piece for bills."

"Yes."

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