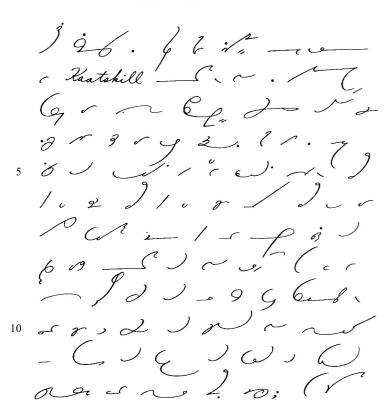
RIP VAN WINKLE



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¹Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson must remember ²the Catskill Mountains. They are a dismembered ³branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen ⁴away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble ⁵height, and lording it over the surrounding country. Every ⁶change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the ⁷day, produces some change in the magical hues and ⁸shapes of these mountains, and they are regarded by all the ⁹good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers. ¹⁰When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed ¹¹in blue and purple, and print their bold ¹²outlines on the clear evening sky; but sometimes,

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¹when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will ²gather a hood of gray vapors about their ³summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, ⁴will glow and light up like a crown ⁵of glory.

At the foot of these fairy mountains ⁶the voyager may have descried the light smoke ⁷curling up from a village whose shingle roofs ⁸gleam among the trees, just where the blue ⁹tints of the upland melt away into the fresh ¹⁰green of the nearer landscape. It is a little ¹¹village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the ¹²Dutch colonists, in the early times of the province, just ¹³about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant^a ¹⁴ (may he rest in peace!), and there were some of the houses ¹⁵ of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of ¹⁶small yellow bricks brought from Holland having

^aPeter Stuvyesant, one of the best known and most important governors of the New Netherlands, from 1647 to 1664 under the Dutch rule

¹latticed windows, gable fronts surmounted with weathercocks.

In that same village, and in one of these ²very houses (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time-³worn and weather-beaten), there lived many years ⁴since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, ⁵a simple, good-natured fellow, of the name of Rip ⁶Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles ⁷who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of ⁸Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina. ⁹He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ¹⁰ancestors. I have observed that he was a simple, good-natured ¹¹man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor and an obedient, ¹²henpecked husband. Indeed, to the latter circumstance might be owing ¹³that meekness of spirit which gained him such universal ¹⁴popularity; for those men are most apt to be obsequious ¹⁵ and conciliating abroad who are under the discipline of shrews at home.

¹Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered pliant and ²malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation, and ³a curtain lecture is worth all the sermons ⁴in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and longsuffering. ⁵A termagant^a wife may, therefore, in some respects, be ⁶considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van ⁷Winkle was thrice blessed. Certain it is that he was a ⁸great favorite among all the good wives of the ⁹village, who, as usual with the amiable sex, took his part in all ¹⁰family squabbles, and never failed, whenever they talked ¹¹those matters over in their evening gossipings, to lay all the ¹²blame on Dame Van Winkle. The children ¹³ of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. ¹⁴He assisted at their sports. made their playthings, taught ¹⁵them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them ¹⁶long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever

^aquarrelsome, scolding

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¹he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a ²troop of them, hanging on his skirts, clambering on his ³back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity; ⁴and not a dog would bark at him throughout ⁵the neighborhood.

The great error in Rip's composition was an ⁶insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labor. It ⁷could not be from the want of assiduity or perseverance; for ⁸he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod ⁹as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish ¹⁰all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged