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VNiVERSITAS
STVDII
SALAMANTINI
VIGORNIAN MONOLOGUE.

XX.

I thinks as it be a rottlin' good jaub as the waake be done awahy. 'T wuz a robblin' baad consarn on it. A wuz used t' git drinkin', an' swarrin', an' diffirin', an' fightin', an' some on 'em 'ud pretend to wrustle an' 'ud cry the belt. A wuz used to kick one another's legs, an' beeat one another a'mos' to dyuth. Dan Strung 'e as worked for Mas'r White, 'e was a despret mon for back-swordin'. 'E'd come down to the public-'ouse an' cry the 'at. 'E'd goo out ov a 'at, an' sahy, "Who'll plahy at back-swordin' fur a 'at, a goold-lace 'at, three men ov a side, an' no booty-plahyin'?" An' a wuz used to try who'd breeak the t'other's yuds fust; an' a 'ad a stick as big as thot un, an' a put a basket ower their 'onds, an a 've sin thur orms beeat black an' blue ov the blaows.

A mon sez to mah the t'other dahy, as thin's wuz wuss 'n thahy wuz used to be: an' I sez "Thahy be a dil better. Waages is better, an' fittle be chipper." When I wuz as good a mon as I hever wuz, an' I wuz twenty, Jarge Murgin 'e come to mah, an' 'e telled mah

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as Mas'r Smith, William's father, 'e as thur's a graave-stun to in the churchyard, waanted a mon as could do annythin', 'ahy maakin' an' pitchin' an' summat. An' I went to 'e, an' 'e sez "I mus' be to gie 'ee the seam as I gies the t'others, I s'pose, an' it wuz s'en shill'n's a wik an' drink; anp I 'ad a guinea in three wiks. Why! a mon 'as as much as thot in a wik now. An' flouer wuz twel' shill'n's a bushel, when I wuz first married; an' a gan aight pence fur a pun' o' condles , an' a gies fo'pence now; an' aight pence fur a pun o' sugar; and tay wuz aightin pence a quarter, an' now a con git a pun' fur the seam money. An' then when a druv plough the men wuz used to becall the bwoys sheamful, an' thraow clads an' stuns at 'em when a wuz anent the plough, an' beeat 'em despret ov the whip, an' thur wuzn't no laws agen it, nur no perlice, nur nobody as a could goo to about it. 'T didn't motter whur a wuz. If a mon couldn't stond hup for 'isself, 'e couldn't do nothin', thur wuzn't no laws to 'elp im. But now a looks ahter thay thin's, an' thur's the perlice, and the public 'ousen isn't kep hopen nights an' dahys, an' thur isn't the drinkin' an' fightin' Sundays, as thur wuz used to be.

When a sez to mah "The times is wuss 'n a wuz, a despret sight wuss," "Noa," I sez, "a yean't; a be a deouced dil better." Doan't let we 'a noane o' thayy good owld dahys bock agen, which I rickons as thayy times wuz 'ord times. A mahy 'a bin good dahys fur thayy, happen a wuz too good. A mahy or a moten't; I dusn't ventur' to sahy. But ov coorse I sez I knaows as us doen't waant thayy bock agen. Let aloan, I sez as thur ben't no likes on it, us couldn't awahy ov 'em wothever; a yean't 'ordly good enough fur we.