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VNiVERSITAS
STVDII
SALAMANTINI
A VIGORNIAN MONOLOGUE

IV.

I doan't sahy as it bean't lonesome; but I never feels unked. I allus 'as summat t'empty ma. Thur's th' children to 'attend to an' thur close, an' summat or another t' do fur thahy; an' I allus 'as ma a little pig, an' a waants feedin', and thur be fittle to bile fur 'e, an' thur be arrants to fetch when a con awhile.

I likes it better un livin' in thahy 'ousen up agen the hust, as a wus used to, and Betty Swing 'er lived under the seam ruff, an' thahy was near-dwellers to we, for a wasn't nah-ibours 't nevir doan't do fur two fomilies t' live anightst one another. The children goes out an' gits a playin' together, an' then thahy gits a fightin'; an' pahrents is allus droppin' out o'er th' childen, an' then th' childen gits desprit folks very soon, but the pahrents doesn't; a 'ardly hever gits hongy arter a's once dropped out.

I minds one dahy as our Lizbeth wuz out i th' groun' ov our Johnny amindin' 'e, an wen 'e runned awahy, 'er runned arter 'im, an 'er says Our Johnny you come along, a'll

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tell our muhther else, an Billy Swing 'e picked up a stun, and chuched it at 'er an' 'it 'er o' th' side o' th' yud, an' wen I goes out a' ought to 'a owned to 't , but a oodn't nur 'e didn't, an' 'e begins to cheek ma an' call ma all manner, an' 'is muhther 'er come out an' 'er sez 'Twasn't our Bill's faut 'er sez, an' 'er becalled me sheamful.

But pahrents does n't ordain thur childen as a wus used to. A cheeks folks an' is desprit saucy, an' pahrents calls it sprackness, an' I does n't 'old ov lettin' th' young uns 'a thur own wahy. It be doin' a very wrung thing. 'Twas n't no desprit big stun, dessay was n't no bigger nor a bannut. But a might 'a bin serous, if 't 'ad 'it 'er ov th' eye. But thot Billy Swing, 'e wuz an aninted young martal, 'e wuz a gallus un 'e wuz; thur was'nt no puttin' up ov 'im; a was allus took up ov summat as was'nt proper, an' gittin' issel' in trouble, an' I wuz glad wen 'e 'listed an' went off. I sin a swaddy the t'other dahy, i' th' road, an' wen a come close I sin it wuz 'im, an' a sez 'e be doing' well fur 'issel', an' is respected in 'is rigiment, an' is goin' out to Ingey nex' wik.

Thur be such a odds in childen. But you mind, thur be summut or another in mos' things more nor thur be in anything else. Our Lizbeth 'er wuz allus a good gurl. Er went to sarvice in 'Ooster, 'an' 'ad 'er a little plaace, an' 'er kep it. Er stahyed 'er yur, an' 'er engaged agen; but 'er come whoam for a few dahys to get 'er some moer cloes. An' arter 'er 'ad bin thur another yur 'er left an' 'er got 'er a copital plaace, an' 'er missus be despert fond on 'er an' does waant 'er to goo, an' 'er 'oodn't goo wotever. An' our Jarge, 'e be the t'other side o' Lunnun, an' 'e wrote to we the later part o' las' month, an' us wrote a letter baack, an' 'e said as 'e wuz comin' whoam soon, an' 'e wants Jim to get 'e a maggit, an' 'e said as 'e 'd bring 'e a canary. So I 'specs as a'll be 'ere, happen at the shank o' this wik. You remembers 'ow lissom 'e wus, more lissomer 'n mos' bwoys 'Iss our 'ouse be lonesome; stans off th' road like; but I bean't unked for a' that. I doesn't waant to be gaiting about an' junketing; I finds summat or another to do; an' I can allus commune ov the Lord.