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love her, and he had left to mourn him a sweetheart whose grief had driven out reason. As she stood there, fondling a doll dressed as a fisherman, she was approached by Marty Simpson, a man universally feared, and foreman of the fishing activities. He smiled at her not unkindly and patted her doll. He appeared to be interested in her but in reality his attention was rivoted upon a group of people who were now leaving the church. Captain Burke, owner of the village store and of a valuable fishing-trap in those waters, accompanied by his pretty daughter, Mary, was in earnest conversation with the minister. Simpson had long cherished the desire to one day make Mary his wife and the captain looked with favour upon him; so much so, in fact, that he had given him active charge of his fishing interests, thus placing unlimited confidence in him. Marty Simpson greeted the party as they approached, and on their invitation proceeded along the road with them. Some village children led by a certain youthful, mischievous spirit, Andy McTavish, who is to figure somewhat in our story, eager for a lark, found some pleasurable excitement in tormenting Elsie, who stood there forlorn and unprotected. Their sport took the form of dangling a live lobster into the face of the terrified girl. Their fun was of short duration however: The previous night a stranger, dirty, unshaven, unkempt and drunk, had been out off the steam packet. The village generally looked upon him as a desperate character and a fugitive from justice, and were giving him a wide berth. This morning he appeared to be still suffering from the effects of his spree. His gait was unsteady, his eyes heavy and sunken. As he watched the scene, however, he appeared to pull himself together and stepped forward. Captain Burke, Mary and Marty, returning, rounded the corner just in time to see the stranger snatch the lobster from the hands of Andy and seizing thaturchin by the collar shake him vigorously until the young tormentor wriggled from his grasp, and made off with the other children as fast as his legs could carry him. Elsie's deliverer turned reassuringly and petted her on the shoulder. In her peculiar way she peered at him: "You're a stranger, ain't you?" she enquired. He nodded. "They're all crazy around here but me," she continued. "I'm going to marry Will McNeil of the Schooner Elsie when he comes back down north. You didn't see him anywhere did you?" Pity overspread the man's face. For a moment he thought, then, regretfully: "No, little girl, I'm afraid I haven't." With disappointment written



on every feature Elsie turned and walked away. Bob followed her with his eyes, musing. As she turned to go he was confronted by Captain Burke, Mary and Simpson, who by this time had reached him. Bob appeared confused and taking off his hat to Mary, said: "I wonder if I could get something to eat. I haven't any money, but I'll work for it." Simpson stepped forward roughly. "There is no place for tramps here • we have to work too hard to get food for our? selves," he said brusquely. Resenting this lack of hospitality on the part of her admirer, Mary stepped up to the stranger and asked gendy: "What is your name?" Basil O. Harnish, CA. Coopers & Lybrand chartered accountants 225 Charlotte Street Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P1C4 Tel: (902)564-6239 Fax: (902)539-3033
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