

ABSALOM'S



RUBBER BOOTS

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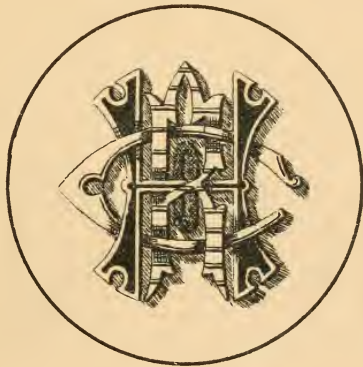
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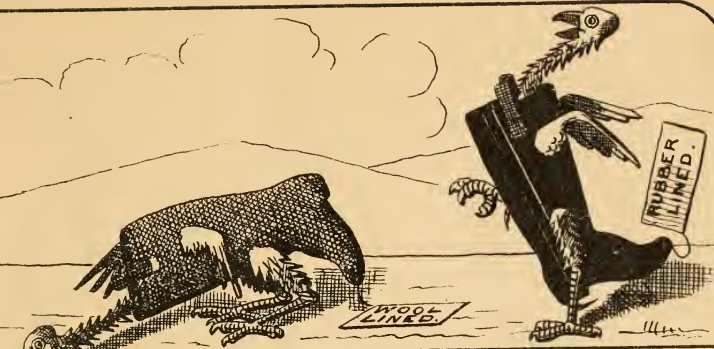
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HALL RUBBER CO.,



BOSTON, MASS.

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by
James S. Goodwin.



Absalom's Rubber Boots.

One rainy evening, at the close of an unusually prosperous season on the old farm, a season marked by the excellence and abundance of the crops and a scarcity of woodchucks and crows, Absalom Perkins sat himself down in the chimney corner, and with a piece of chalk and the bottom of a butter firkin began to figure the receipts and expenditures of the summer, with a view of determining just how much he could afford to draw from the stocking — his bank — to spend in luxuries. After a long struggle with a series of figures, which after setting down, chance alone enabled him to read, he slapped his thigh with a hand that in size and texture resembled a ham, and exclaimed, "I'll have 'em at last; here's seventeen dollars and thirty-eight cents ahead, and if a five spot 'll buy em, they're mine!"

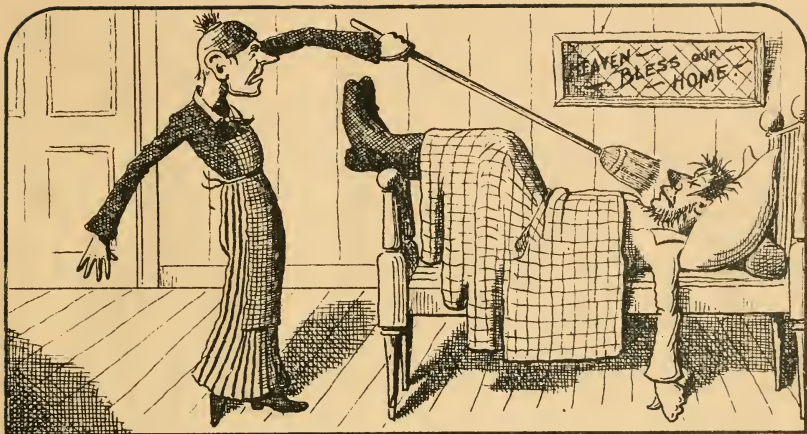
We claim that the Rubber Lined Boots do not perspire and draw the feet one half so much as the wool lined boots, for the reason that the wool lining absorbs the moisture and perspiration from the feet, and becoming damp, acts as a sort of poultice.

In the course of a long life Absalom had never known the luxury of a pair of rubber boots. His feet had been dampened, wetted, soaked and dried again so many times that they had assumed the appearance and consistency of well tanned leather; but the similarity ceased at this point, for the elements which had united in placing them in this condition had not been kind in the matter of feeling, and Absalom was wont to say that he would be perfectly and entirely happy if the pangs of countless corns, chilblains, callouses and their species, with which he was afflicted, could be alleviated, or transferred to the feet of some other person. The farm was located on Cape Cod, and a large portion of it was swamp land, the tillage of which, in the cranberry interest, involved an inter-

mittent succession of wet feet and colds in the head, so that with the disadvantage of pedals constructed on an eminently generous plan, Absalom had been, during the greater part of his life, a confirmed invalid below the ankles. But now a good genius, in the shape of a balance on hand enabled the worthy man to make the investment, and after a deal of haggling and trying on, he bought a pair of wool lined

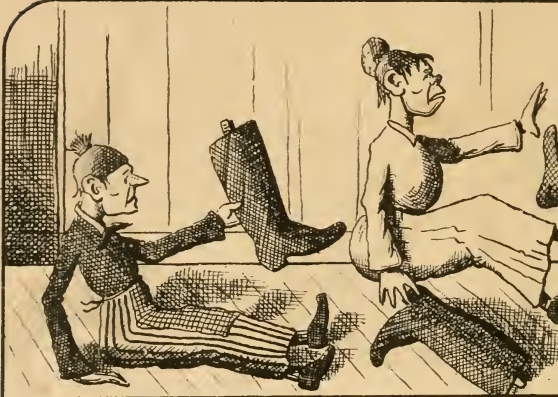


If wet accidentally inside, the Rubber lining will dry of itself in two minutes. The wool lined boot must be filled with hot stones, corn, oats etc at a great expenditure of time and trouble, and even then is left damp.



boots at the village store and, as the day was wet, wore them home. So proud was he of the acquisition that it was with much difficulty that his wife persuaded him not to wear them to bed, and he was up and into the boots before daylight the next morning, and proudly staking about the farm. But he was not allowed to long enjoy his triumph, for on the third day after the purchase, he found that on trying to pull them on in the morning he could not, with all his tugging and swearing, succeed in getting his foot by the instep of the boot. Pulling it off at last, and inserting his hand he found that the wool lining was damp and soggy, and nearly two hours had to be lost in filling the insides with hot sand and waiting for them to dry out. Not quite pleased with the delay, Absalom worked them on, and started

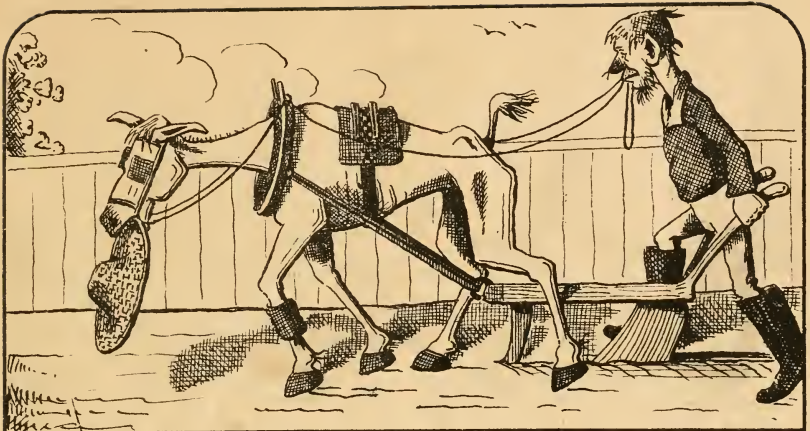
The wool lined boot, by absorbing all the moisture and perspiration from the feet, in a very short time, — no matter how neat or careful its wearer may be, — becomes foul and unhealthy.



for the cranberry patch where he was soon busy in gathering the few remaining berries. But suddenly a new and strange twinge of pain ran up his legs from his toes, and a peculiar compressing sensation in the region of his ankles, com-

pelled him to cease work and again pull off the offending boots. He sat himself on a stump to do this, but after all manner of contortions and lusty tugs accompanied by loudly uttered complaints and execrations, he found it impossible to start the casings a hair, and was obliged to limp slowly home, every step being a torture. Arriving at the house, the services of his wife and the house-maid were called into requisition, and after lying on his back for full ten minutes, with his hands clasped convulsively around a friendly bed-post, the boots came off with a loud explosion, and the two ladies sat suddenly and ungracefully down in a remote corner of the room, each convinced that, compared with this labor, ordinary housework was a recreation. On examination it was found that the heated sand, in expanding the boot, had loosened the lining, so that in placing his feet in

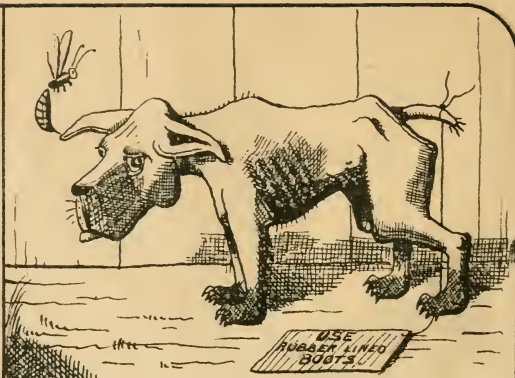
The durability of the boot is increased by the rubber lining, as the lining strengthens the outside. In the wool lined boot the outside rubber is coated on to rubber cloth, and the wool lining, — in which there is no strength, — cemented to that cloth.



the cold water of the swamp it had contracted and put Absalom into a sort of foot-vise from which, as we have seen, he had great trouble in extracting himself. After some thought, a little glue and a flatiron repaired the damage enough to allow a new insertion of the feet, and for a few days the farmer enjoyed comparative comfort. The weather, which had been cool, suddenly changed one night, and an extremely warm Indian summer day followed, during which our friend attended to some fall plowing which had been neglected. He came home at night hungry and tired, and sat down to supper without removing the boots in which he had been toiling and perspiring all day. While stowing away the oatmeal and milk which constituted the repast, his wife quietly arose and although a shower was making it moist outside, opened the

In the Rubber Lined Boot, the outside rubber is coated on to cotton cloth, and the two surfaces of the latter firmly cemented together; so that every time the boot is bent in walking there is something on the other side to strengthen it,— like a hinge on a gate,— which prevents cracking.

window; on resuming her seat with a relieved air, Absalom asked the reason for letting in the wind and weather at such a time. She explained the action by saying that it was close in the room, and that her head ached a trifle. At this moment the house-



maid, remarking that a sick friend needed her attention, started out at a speed which promised a quick arrival at her destination, and was soon out of sight. Shortly after this, the family dog sauntered in, but though in the habit of feeding with the rest, he, on investigating the atmosphere with his nose, sniffed discontentedly a few times and immediately retired to his lair in the woodshed, with an expression of profound disgust marring the usual serenity of his countenance. While wondering as to the cause of the dog's unwonted tea time evolutions, the farmer became aware that everything was not as it should be in the region of his feet, and noticed on looking under the table that an ethereal blue mist was slowly emanating from the tops of his boots, together with an over-powering, and all-permeating odor, as of a triple extract of distilled Pandora's box. Hurriedly kicking them off, he fell over backward on to the hearth in a condition of

If a small piece of rubber is chipped or chafed from the outside of the Rubber Lined Boot, the boot does not leak, for the lining keeps it tight, as it is a double boot, or a boot within a boot.



semi stupefaction which was only relieved by dragging himself to the doorway and drawing copious draughts of pure air into his lungs. His wife, pinching a clothes-pin tightly on to her nostrils, pushed the boots into the door-yard with the broom, and after burning nearly a pound of coffee the family breathed freely again. On looking into the matter it was found that the combination of the heat and perspiration of the day, acting on the tainted wool lining had caused a certain gas, of wonderful power and deadly effect, to be generated in the interior of the boots, and this escaping had well nigh asphyxiated the whole household. How to remedy this serious fault was a problem which for some days staggered the wits of the unhappy agriculturist, and it was a long time before he again dared to let himself into his purchase. When he did so it was not until a pint of powdered

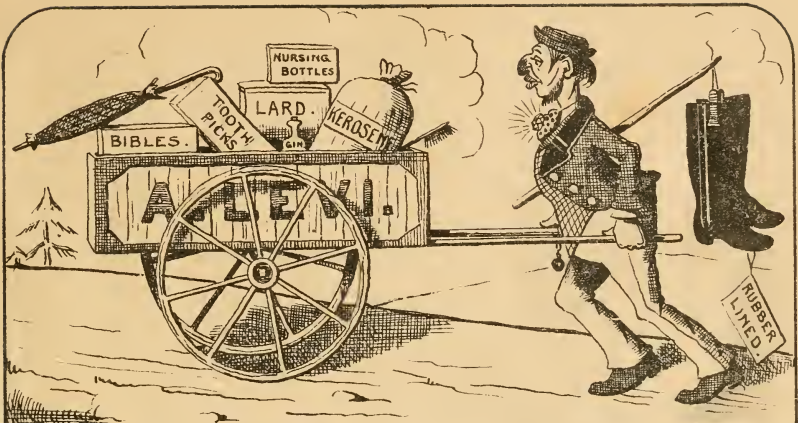
The wool lined boot leaks at once, when broken, and as we have said, is dried with great difficulty, only to go through the same process when again wetted.



Camphor had been introduced, and this soon proved an objection, as the constant chafing of his heels on the rough wool caused large blisters to develop, into which the camphor worked, and his feet were soon in a condition compared with which a well cultivated bunion was a treasure. Too proud to admit that he had been cheated, Absalom bore the pain with heroism and insisted on wearing the boots constantly, until one rainy morning he stubbed his toe on a rake tooth and tore off a piece of rubber of the size of a postage stamp from the sole of one boot. Although the rent did not extend through the lining, his

foot was soon in, — so to speak, — a watery grave; and as he came in to dinner with water spurting in every direction as he stepped, to the music of a sucking and gurgling sound, he was forced to declare that a wool lined boot was an appliance and tool of the Devil; and taking them off with superhuman exertion, he stood at his portal and flung them to the most remote corner of the back yard, where they reposed on a pile of garbage until the inclemency of several seasons warped and decayed them into oblivion. Absalom went back to brogans and

After wearing the wool lined boot for a week, the lining at the heel is like a nutmeg grater, and becomes a great destroyer of stockings. The Rubber lining wears smooth, and is no more destructive to the stockings than a leather boot.



their attendant army of feet excrescences, and for years it was dangerous to mention rubber boots in his hearing. But one day a peddler came by, with one pair of Rubber lined Boots left in his pack, which from their extensive proportions he had been unable to dispose of, and at a murderous discount sold them to our sufferer with the warrant that, should they leak, draw the feet, break or crack, he would refund the price paid, or eat the boots, sole, leg and strap. And now at last began a delightful existence for the happy Absalom. If by any chance his feet became wet, by water getting over the tops of the boots, it was only necessary to kick the latter off and turn them toward the fire where they would instantly dry, with no disastrous odor or evil crackling. His feet grew hardy and free from tenderness, and after years of wear, even when the outside rubber

The Rubber lined Boot is much warmer than the wool boot, it being always dry, and experience has proven that with the same thickness of stocking, the Rubber lining is by far the most comfortable.

had worn away, leaving nothing but the lining, his son who at the death of Absalom came into possession of his estate and personal property, was enabled to go through water and swamp with no risk of cold or damp. His testimonial to the above effect is before me, and in closing I will quote from the same, and say that if the wearers of rubber boots would throw aside the wool lined, pain creating, old style monstrosity, and adopt the neat, servicable and comfortable Rubber lined Boot, they will, to a man, bear witness to the great and lasting relief which will be experienced, and will sincerely thank the introducers,— the
Hall Rubber Company,
 of Boston, Mass.



The Rubber Lined Boots are never made in the cheap grades, consequently in purchasing them, the consumer can not obtain an inferior boot.

Buy Hall's Rubber Lined Rubber Boots.

