

**THE HOOSIER
SCHOOLMASTER;
A NOVEL**

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The Hoosier schoolmaster; a novel by Edward Eggleston

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EDWARD EGGLESTON

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SCHOOLMASTER;
A NOVEL**



STANDING GUARD OVER HIMSELF. See page 128.

THE
HOOSIER SCHOOL-MASTER

A NOVEL

BY
EDWARD EGGLESTON

WITH TWENTY-NINE ILLUSTRATIONS

NEW AND REVISED EDITION

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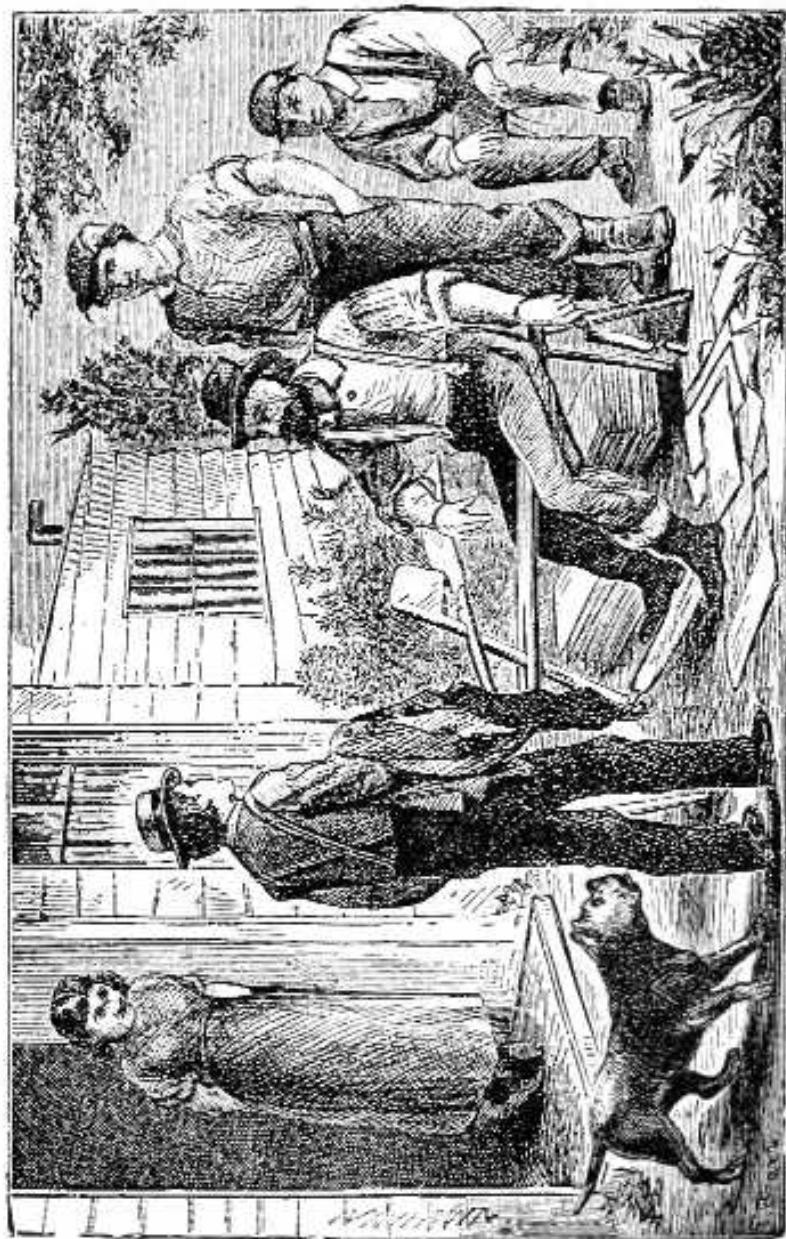
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FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH FLAT CREEK.

The Hoosier School-Master.

CHAPTER I.

A PRIVATE LESSON FROM A BULLDOG.

“**W**ANT to be a school-master, do you? You? Well, what would *you* do in Flat Crick deestrick, *I'd* like to know? Why, the boys have driv off the last two, and licked the one afore them like blazes. You might teach a summer school, when nothin' but children come. But I 'low it takes a right smart *man* to be school-master in Flat Crick in the winter. They'd pitch you out of doors, sonny, neck and heels, afore Christmas.”

The young man, who had walked ten miles to get the school in this district, and who had been mentally reviewing his learning at every step he took, trembling lest the committee should find that he did not know enough, was not a little taken aback at this greeting from “old Jack Means,” who was the first trustee that he lighted on. The impression made by these ominous remarks was emphasized by the glances which he received from Jack Means's two sons. The older one eyed him from the top of his brawny shoulders with that amiable look which a big dog turns on a little one before shaking him. Ralph Hartsook had never thought of being