# A LITTLE NORSK; OR, OL' PAP'S FLAXEN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649541362

A Little Norsk; Or, Ol' Pap's Flaxen by Hamlin Garland

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## HAMLIN GARLAND

# A LITTLE NORSK; OR, OL' PAP'S FLAXEN

Trieste

# A Little Horsk

## Ol' Pap's Flaren

OR .

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BY

### HAMLIN GARLAND

AUTHOR OF MAIN TRAVELED ROADS A MEMBER OF THE THIRD HOUSE, A SPOIL OF OFFICE JASON EDWARDS, ETC.



NEW YORK D. APPLETON AND COMPANY 1892

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PRINTED AT THE APPLIETON PRESS, U.S.A.

#### On the plain.

My cabin cowers in the pathless sweep Of the terrible northern blast; Above its roof the wild clouds leap And shrick as they hurtle past. The snow-waves hiss along the plain, Like spectral wolves they stretch and strain And race and ramp-with hissing beat. Like stealthy tread of myriad feet, I hear them pass; upon the roof The icy showers swirl and rattle: At times the moon, from storms aloof. Shines white and wan within the room-Then swift clouds drive across the light And all the plain is lost to sight, The cabin rocks, and on my palm The sifted snow falls, cold and calm.

God! What a power is in the wind! I lay my check to the cabin side To feel the weight of his giant hands— A speck, a fly in the blasting tide Of streaming, pitiless, icy sands; A single heart with its feeble beat— A mouse in the lion's throat— A swimmer at sea—a sunbeam's mote In the grasp of a tempest of hail and sleet!

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## A LITTLE NORSK.

#### CHAPTER I.

HER ADOPTIVE PARENTS.



NS, the next time you twist hay f'r the fire, I wish't you'd dodge the damp spots," said the cook, rising from a pro-

longed scrutiny of the stove and the bread in the oven. His pose was threatening.

"Cooks are always grumblin'," calmly remarked Anson, drawing on his gloves preparatory to going out to the barn; "but seein' 's this is Chris'mus, I'll go out an' knock a barrel to pieces. I want them biscuit to be O. K. See?"

"Yes: I see."

"Say, Bert!"

" Well?"