

# St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

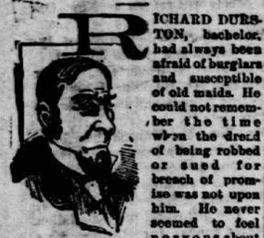
W. G. KENTZEL, Editor.

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VOL. XV.—NO. 46.

## DURSTON'S BURGLAR.

Unusual Dealings With a Midnight Intruder.



**R**ICHARD DURSTON, bachelor, had always been afraid of burglars and susceptible of old maid. He could not remember the time when he was not afraid of being robbed or sued for breach of promise not upon him. He never seemed to feel nervous about dogs, lightning, or fire. He even dared to right now and then. On the whole he was as plucky as the average man in spite of his conviction that the time would come when he would have trouble with a burglar and a suit at law with an old maid.

Durston, as you know, lives in a handsome house on an up-town cross street. He has always held that the majority of burglaries are effected through the treachery of servants. He has, therefore, kept bachelor's hall for many years with the aid of only one assistant—an old woman—a kind of heirloom in his family. As he generally dines at his club he has managed to live very comfortably without keeping a boarding house for men and women who might be in league with robbers. His aged housekeeper is not ambitious. He feels confident she will never see him for breach of promise nor permits burglar to make a breach in the house.

Durston's library and bedroom are on the second floor. The old woman sleeps in a back room on the floor above. She is very deaf, so when Durston wishes to call her he touches a button at the head of his bed. This sends a mild electric current through the reclining form of the housekeeper upstairs. She approves of this process in the belief that it tends to hold her phlegmism in check. It seems a very shocking way to treat an old woman, however. And then Durston must find it unpleasant to discharge a servant two or three times a day.

But let us return to our burglar. One night last winter Durston awoke as usual. As he was about to get up he examined the doors and windows in the lower part of the house and then went to the library. He found his smoking-jacket and slippers in their accustomed place. A wood fire was crackling in the grate and a decenter of whisky and a box of cigars tempted him from the center table. Durston smiled contentedly as he drew an easy chair toward the fire. Life was very pleasant to him. He was one of those happy bachelors who have no regrets. Not that Durston lacked sentiment. Far from it. In fact, he was not at all what the world calls a practical man.

No, Durston was inclined to look at the romantic side of life, and as he smoked a perfect and sipped his whisky and sat in front of the blaze that might be indulged in imaginings that would have shocked the hard-headed housekeeper upstairs, were that he had private electric current the day the battery was overcharged.

Durston had for the moment forgotten all about old maids and burglars. He was in a condition of bodily and mental repose that drove into outer darkness all the unpleasant things of life. Finally the conviction came upon him slowly that it was time to go to bed. He fought hard against the proposition, but there was no escape for him. Looking at his watch he found that it was long after one o'clock. Turning on the lights in the library he entered his bedroom. He was still in a state of sleepy contentment. Just as he was about to put out the gas he was startled by a slight noise that seemed to come from the cellar. He listened faintly. Five minutes passed, but there was no further sound from below. Durston surrounded himself by perfect darkness and crawled into bed. But he could not sleep. That unquiet noise had rendered him feverish. The thought of burglars had destroyed his serenity of mind. His revolver lay on a chair by the bedside, and he kept his hand on it for some time. The weapon

seemed to whisper to him: "Peace, Durston; go to sleep, my child. I will not go off until the burglar comes." This assurance on the part of the pistol quieted Durston somewhat and he was beginning to feel very sleepy again when he heard a light step on the stairs. There was no mistake about it. After keeping sullenly aloof for years Durston's burglar had come at last. At first our bachelor felt a cold chill creeping up his spinal column. Then, as the burglar carefully unlocked the door and entered the library, Durston was astonished to realize that a housebreaker in the next room, and that he was beginning to enjoy the adventure. The thought flashed through his mind that even a breach-of-promise case might not be as horrible as he had imagined. "The reckless fellow seems to think

## TOLD BY ENVELOPES.

Character Disclosed in the Way You Write Your Friend's Address.

Some persons claim that character discloses itself to the observer from the outside of an envelope, and although the assertion seems decidedly odd, it is not without foundation. It all depends, however, on that little clause "to the observant." If one stops an instant to think, a blurred or hazy address suggests that the writer has had a good deal of "don't care" in his make; if the contrary were the case, and an accidental blotting of the envelope had occurred, it would have been destroyed and a clean one taken its place. If letters come habitually from one person and are habitually blurred and slovenly in their address, it argues a certain slovenliness in character.

If the penmanship is a quick, careless dash, it argues that the writer is of a quick, nervous temperament, while if the writing itself is hurried to slovenliness it discloses lack of system, an individual always in a hurry. A running hand, small and concise, bespeaks the collegiate, accustomed to taking notes at lectures; a round, full hand, a public school education with Spencerian teaching in writing; a very angular up-and-down hand hints at the writer's great initiative powers, for that is never natural; a very bold, dashing style argues individuality, and a peculiar hand originality with strength of character, especially if the peculiarity in the chirography is not pleasing.

If it is a labored hand it means one of two things, either lack of practice—perhaps in early education—or a very careful, painstaking individual. If it is, however, a particular careful, round, even, beautiful hand, it argues vanity, for the writer has evidently been praised for his penmanship and likes praise. If it is a neat, pleasing address, believe in the person's good opinion of you, for he does his best in writing you. If it only pleases you because it is conventional, neat and good form, believe in his general good breeding and education, for his writing is like the smile on the face of a society woman.

Again, if the chirography be almost illegible never ask the writer to do you a favor; he would not bother himself to be nice to any one.

As for the envelope itself, if a plain, ordinary affair, it means, not as might be supposed, poverty of purse, but either poverty of cultivation or the filling of so chance a need, and the letter itself will reveal that it is a borrowed article and its use a case of it or none at all. If the envelope be pictured or tinted you may doubt the owner's good taste, while if it has a monogram or crest you can be sure it indicates pride or self-esteem. If it be something unique and novel in design, as very long and slender, or very broad and square, look out for the gushing maid.

Of course the summer girl is extremely particular about her stationery and takes with her the very latest fads or nothing at all; she is prone to fancy something a trifle newer than the conventional cream, white heavy or lining paper. Perhaps the very latest thing she can get is a paper in deep heliotrope and blue tones stamped with a good sensible conventional design of paper is highly satisfactory. The address is the only thing that is now stamped upon one's paper by those who study good form in every thing, the envelope accompanying it being plain.

A woman who looks after her letter paper and watches that her supply does not exhaust itself and her needs require her to take up with any thing pro tem, adds one admirable quality to the list of attainments which should make her an individuality. Precision, dainty ways are acquired characteristics which should not be sneered at.—Chicago Herald.

## WOULDN'T HAVE IT.

Widow Grangely Draws the Line at Being Called Old and Deceitful.

The Widow Grangely had an important case in court. She knew that if she should win, her condition thereafter would be one of financial ease, and she had accordingly employed the most effective lawyer in the county. When the case came to trial, the shrewd lawyer saw that his road to success lay through the emotions of the juryman. "Gentlemen," said he, "look at this poor woman. Is she not enough to excite the pity of any beholder? Deceitful she has not spared her, and age is fast spreading its blight upon her once fair face. She—"

"You stop right where you are!" exclaimed the widow. "I need the money that might come out of this case, but I'll be hanged if you shall stand up there and call me old."

The lawyer hastened to her and said: "Why, madam, I must talk that way or lose the case."

"I don't care if you do have to talk that way, you sha'n't! I'd rather lose the whole thing than to be called old. I am as good-looking as I ever was, and I want you to understand that fact. Deceitful indeed! I'll bet I could gather you up and throw you over a ten-rail fence right now. If you want to talk about the law there is in the case, go ahead, but if you call me old again, we'll fight, that's all."—Arkansas Traveler.

## Loss of Appetite.

Principal of Girls' Boarding-School (to her butcher)—From to-morrow you can send me three pounds of meat less than the usual quantity.

"Have you lost some of your boarders?"

"No, but four of the girls have fallen in love."—Reader's Nachrichten.

## EASY AND ELEGANT.

Benefits Require for These Women Duties to be Done for the Benefit of the World.

For the first time in the history of her evolution woman possesses a garb that for ease and elegance may be fairly compared with masculine attire—a sort of business suit that fills every condition of modesty, beauty and comfort. This modern costume consists of a woolen skirt made to escape the ground all round. Individual taste is exercised as to whether the material be laid in kilt folds, or draperies over the shawl underneath. With this is worn a linen shirt made, stitch for stitch, after the pattern of her brother's garments. They fasten with studs down the front, linked sleeve-buttons are used, and the broad, stiffened cuffs and high white collars are becoming to ninety-nine women out of every hundred. It is correct form to wear the silk cravat tied in a butterfly bow, or any of the numerous styles of scarfs. The skirt of the shirt is secured about the waist with a drawing-string, and very rarely pulls up enough to be uncomfortable. The question of waistcoats is still a vexed one, but for every-day use nothing takes the place of a yard of black China silk laid in smooth folds over the waist-line. The ends need only be tucked under the skirt-belt in the back to be safe and satisfactory. Coats—black, brown or blue—of rough or smooth cloth, cut-away or double-breasted, and fastened with cords, hooks or buttons, are all approved. They are half-fitting, and just here is the real reason why women are at once thankful and happy to assume this new raiment. It means an entire absence of lacing. All necessity of stay-strings is done away with by the straight lines characteristic of the cut of the several articles worn. With a shirt and coat, no one knows how many inches a waist measures. It may be snug or expansive, but the coat never tells. In this attire, with broad-soled flat-heeled shoes, a woman can endure three times the fatigue suffered when dressed according to conventional styles. Her respiration is free; her arms, chest, hips and shoulders untrammelled; she is, in fact, a normal being. For working-women, those who toil in office or behind counters, this costume can not be improved upon. There is nothing about it to attract curiosity or attention, and the laws of hygiene are strictly adhered to. Another thing to recommend the new fashion is the introduction of subdued colors. One of the most serious faults to be found with the costumes affected by the working-class is a general flashiness and flimsiness of material. The women, as a rule, are fond of garish shades, and in attempting the distinctness of lace and fine feathers, that do well enough for home toilets, they succeed in attaining to an unusual amount of tawdriness. With plain or slightly-colored linen, and dark skirts and coats, nothing very dreadful can be done, and if girls who work could be persuaded how much quiet dressing had to do with begetting a general respect for their personality they would adjust all trappings in future. In New York city this year, pretty fashion has taken a very strong hold, and it is believed that after enjoying its pleasures for a season women will refuse to abandon the new dress, no matter what pressure is brought to bear.—Illustrated American.

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## SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

In Trinidad there will soon be a Presbyterian Synod. There are 68,000 Hindoos in the island.

The Gospel of Matthew has been published in the West tongue of the Lower Congo, by Mr. Fleck.

The Swiss conduct an industrial mission in India. Christian artisans teach the natives various employments and the truth of the Gospel at the same time.

The enrollment plan is a movement among the Episcopalians of this country to raise \$1,000,000 for missions, domestic and foreign, from 300,000 contributors at \$5 each.

The new Baptist Grace Temple Church in Philadelphia, Rev. R. H. Conwell, pastor, is to have seats for 4,200 people, and with additional chairs, is expected to accommodate 5,000. The expected cost of the edifice and site is \$200,000.

The Chinese, who hold fast to examinations as the corner-stone, and of their civil service, are in hot water over the discovery that cheating is largely practiced at these examinations. They have not yet discovered a way of dealing with it effectively.

In the 454 principal universities of the world there are 10,203 professors. Denmark lays claim to 40; Portugal 40; Norway 46; Holland 20; Belgium 28; Switzerland 30; Sweden 173; France 150; Spain 20; Russia 23; Italy 600; Great Britain, 824; Germany, 1,020; Austria, 1,510; and the United States, 4,240.

In the past twenty-five years the Methodist church is said to have built 6,000 more churches than are owned by the Presbyterians in the whole country, 7,000 more than the Congregationalists, 5,000 more than the Roman Catholics. Such figures speak loudly for the vigor and excellent management which make such advances possible.

The Waldensian church of Italy, which recently celebrated its two hundredth anniversary of the return of the exiled Vandals, gives evidence of continued life and vigor. It reports a roll of forty-four churches, thirty-eight pastors, twenty-seven evangelists, including colporteurs, six Bible readers, 4,074 communicants and 469 catechumens.

The Presbyterian Woman's Mission Society received for last year \$37,842. The society was able to support the following missions: Indiana, 33 schools, 164 teachers, 2,354 pupils; Mormons, 37 schools, 99 teachers, 2,375 pupils; Mexicans, 23 schools, 67 teachers, 1,627 pupils; South, 16 schools, 45 teachers, 1,213 pupils; total, 118 schools, 391 teachers, 7,473 pupils.—The Mid-Continent.

One of the best endowed manual training schools, little known in this region, is situated at Crest, Albemarle County, Va. It was founded by Samuel Miller, who gave a fund sufficient to produce an income of nearly \$100,000. The pupils must all be white children, but after admission they are clothed, fed and instructed, being given a course of four years in practical mechanics; farming, telegraphy, typewriting, dressmaking and other industries are also taught.

Secrets of Africa.

A Significant Silence About the Conduct of British Companies There.

A feature of the British enterprise in East Africa is the secrecy with which the operations of British Imperial East African Companies are conducted. In "Whitaker," which is supposed to give all official information on all public matters, the words "No information accessible" appear opposite the entry referring to this corporation. As the company conducts its operations under a charter granted by the Queen, this secrecy excites criticism; but little can be done. If Parliament should make a fuss about it the only result would be that the ministry would have to resign, because the sovereign can do no wrong, and if any wrong is done it is the fault of the ministry.

In view of the perils to which millions of the natives of Africa are subjected by the advance of civilization, in the shape of the British trader, it is thought that sufficient publicity ought to be given to the affairs of the company to insure the protection of the natives against outrages of the grossest kind. It is recalled in connection with this matter that in no case, except perhaps one, have the doings of an British colonial company been sufficiently known to permit adequate public discussion of them. Official secrecy has stifled the means of the native possessors of the soil. Very little is known of what is going on in the Congo State, except to the officers of the company, the employees of the company being bound over to silence in penance.—Illustrated America.

Kangaroos for America.

It would seem that the project of importing kangaroos into this country is seriously entertained by several enthusiastic and wealthy sportsmen in the West. The first rumors of such a plan were received almost universally with smiles, but later details show that sportsmen have decided that the project is entirely feasible. The extinction of the buffalo has left the plains without any big game of importance, and hunting is second in excitement and interest only to killing the buffalo. Kangaroo leather is exceedingly valuable and the animals breed rapidly. They have been successfully acclimated in England and France and it is said that there is actually no reason why they should not thrive here. The idea of the promoters of this plan is to introduce the kangaroos at the beginning of the warm season in Yellowstone Park and give the breed Government protection for a few years so as to bar out the pothunters.—Chicago Post.

## HOME HINTS AND HELPS.

Boiled milk can be sealed up in cans and kept quite a long while in good condition, but who opened it must be used at once or it will spoil.

Mold can be prevented from forming on fruit jellies by pouring a little paraffine over the top, which, when cold, will harden to a solid cake, which can be easily removed when desired.—Good Health.

A piece of oil cloth about two feet square is a useful thing to keep at hand in the dining-room; kept in an adjacent closet it may be used to stand jars upon or any damp article likely to soil the table cloth.

Gingerbread: Put one teaspoonful each of ginger, soda, one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon and clove, and fill with boiling water; one cup molasses and butter or drippings the size of an egg; flour to make little thicker than cake.—Boston Globe.

A Side Dish: From the skin bone, which has been left from the soup, cut the meat in small pieces, add a cold potato or two cut in thin slices, an onion, minced, and a sprig of parsley; cover with stock, season, add a small piece of butter, dredge with flour, and set in the baker or oven broiler.

Baked Beans: One pint beans, one cup cream, one tablespoonful sugar, one cup beans in water over night; drain water off in the morning and boil the beans until they are mealy. Put them in a baking dish, add cream, sugar and salt, and bake in a moderate oven until brown.—Housekeeper.

Chili Sauce: Take eight onions, good size, twenty-four ripe tomatoes, three peppers, four tablespoons of salt, six tablespoons of sugar, four teaspoons of ginger, one teaspoon of cloves, four teaspoons of cinnamon, five cups of vinegar. Peel tomatoes and chop onions and peppers. Cook slowly until thick.—Detroit Free Press.

Egg Sauce: Stir smoothly together a tablespoonful of flour with two tablespoonfuls butter. Add a teaspoonful boiling water and the same amount of scalding milk, stirring constantly, and let it simmer five minutes. Then mix with it the whites and yolks of two hard-boiled eggs chopped separately. Serve at once.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Lemon Tart: Fill a number of tart shells with puff paste and bake. Grate the rinds of two lemons, add two cups of water, one cup of sugar, one spoonful of almond flavoring and boil, and thicken with two spoonfuls of cornstarch. A small lump of butter improves it for some tastes. Fill the tarts while warm; ice the top.—Boston Budget.

Good Salad: Take one head of lettuce; wash all the leaves thoroughly; remove the meat from a two-pound lobster, saving the coral; chop the lobster, but not very fine; add to it one-half spoonful of cayenne, one teaspoonful of vinegar and a little salt; add one-fourth of the lobster torn into small pieces; place some of the large leaves round the edge of the platter; put the lobster in the center; pour over a dressing made of the yolks of two eggs well beaten, one teaspoonful of mustard, and add gradually oil or melted butter to thicken well; garnish with the coral and slices of lemon.—Boston Herald.

Notes on Novelties.

Hints for Ladies Who Are Well Supplied with Pin-Money.

Use all the scented soap you like at the bath, but spare your face.

Get a Harney tweed if you want a fall dress that you can wear till spring-time.

Not only plaids and checks, but plain cloths are cut on the bias for street costumes.

You can get an umbrella or parasol now with the stick and handle bound in kangaroo, alligator or carved leather.

There is no daintier house-gown for a girl than a nainsook empire belted high up with a three-yard sash of rose, green or brown china crepe.

If you succeed in carrying on a conversation without once using a question, you will be worthy of admission to the anti-intemperance club.

Ministère pins are the rage, and old curio shops are being ransacked for antiques painted on porcelain, with powder and patches portrayed.

There are fifty different kinds of ice-cream in the market, thirty-five styles in dog-collars, nineteen novelty wedding rings, six baby bibs and five shades of canary-colored hair dyes.

You can pay \$5 for a yard of black aureole silk if you don't know what else to do with your money. This magnificent fabric is flowered with branches of La France roses as artistically wrought as those of a fever-painting.

There are two characteristics of the aristocratic toilet. Easy-fitting gloves and long shoes with sensible heels. Only the raw element of society squeezes her hands in patent fastened gloves and pinches her feet in narrow soles to steel-point heels.

Traveling fasks for salts, stimulants and medicine are made after the antique lantern mock-guns ornamenting the blackened silver. The glass bottle is fitted into a silver, the upper half being colored with bull's-eye effects.

The low, flaring collar is not a complete success. Worn by a thick-necked or fleshy woman, it gives her a hard look and makes her face hard. Like the cap and tarpaulin hat, the round, low collar is an institution for youth, grace and beauty. In brief it is girly and not designed for maturity or bulk.

Watches are not worn any more. Fashion and philosophy agree that time was made for slaves. This manly motto is fitted into a silver, the upper half being colored with bull's-eye effects.

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## A LAUGHING PLANT.

An Extraordinary Desert Cereus and Its Peculiar Properties.

While the Stanley expedition was crossing a portion of the southern extremity of the Sahara Desert, they were made acquainted with the peculiar properties of a plant known only to that region, called by the Arabs cull kola, or the laughing plant. Prof. Salehi, attached to the expedition, was fortunate enough to secure several fine specimens of this peculiar plant, which he is at present cultivating with a view to practical experiments.

The production of laughter by artificial means, it is thought, can be reduced to a science now that the discovery of a plant, the properties of which are a direct incentive to laughter, has been made. Any amount of cachinaction can be produced by simply increasing or diminishing the laugh-producing dose.

There was a time when the stimulant effects produced by the poppy were not generally known, but the specific properties of this plant are now beyond cavil and in a short time it is expected that Prof. Salehi will have a crop of the laugh-producing plants large enough for practical experiments. The now almost unknown plant will soon become a staple article of commerce and the principal cereal cultivated in many a vast garden will be the laughter-producing plant. As opium is certain to produce sleep so can the laughing plant be at all times relied upon to produce laughter in all animated creatures, from the micro-organisms of the oscillatorium up to the genus homo.

This strange plant grows in the arid deserts of Arabia and on the vast sea of the white sand known as the Desert of Sahara, in Africa. The plant is of moderate size with bright, yellow flowers and soft, velvety seed pods, each of which contains two or three seeds resembling small black beans. The natives of the district where this strange plant grows dry the seeds in the sun and reduce them to a fine impalpable powder by a process of maceration between two stones. A small dose of this powder has similar effects to that arising from the inhalation of laughing gas. It causes the most sober person to dance, shout and laugh with boisterous excitement of a madman, and to rush about cutting the most ridiculous capers for about an hour. At the expiration of this time exhaustion sets in, and the excited person falls asleep, to wake after an hour or more with a more or less vivid recollection of having been in the seventh heaven of enjoyment.—Philadelphia Times.

Utopia in Louisiana.

About five hundred persons in Iowa have decided to form a "Heliopolis colony" and settle in Louisiana. The "basic principles" of the enterprise are thus stated: "Man alone is nothing but a savage; he can support existence and that is all. It is only in and through society that he can obtain wealth and culture. Wealth is the product of man's labor expended on the earth, which is God's gift to the race. No man should be allowed to monopolize the National resources and levy a tribute on his fellowmen for the opportunity to labor. Every man is entitled to just so much liberty as will allow equal liberty to every other man. Each man should receive the full product of his labor, except an amount sufficient to discharge his debt to society." Each stockholder pays \$500 into the common fund, which reverts to himself if he resigns or is expelled from the colony, or to his heirs if he dies. Eight hours is to form a labor day, and wages are to be about an hour. No difference, it appears, will be made in the wages of skilled and unskilled labor, effective or non-effective work. A board of trustees will manage the business. Enterprises of this Utopian character are occasionally useful as object lessons.—Chicago Tribune.

Census-Taking in Germany.

They have a different way of taking the census in Germany than the one in vogue in the United States. They take the census every five years there, and cover the whole empire in one day; but only questions in reference to domicile, name, sex, age and social position are asked. Several days before December the enumerators go around in his district and find out how many persons live in each house. For each person he leaves a card containing questions, and on each card is written the number of the house and district. A duplicate of each card so filled out is kept in the central station. On December 1 the enumerator goes around and collects the cards, the heads of the families, agents or owners being under penalty to fill out the cards, or have them filled out, and to return them. By the duplicate a check is kept, so that the enumerators can not skip a house. In that way the exact number of persons living in the German Empire is secured on the first day of December.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

A Practical Business Education.

Judge Peterby—Where is your son now?

Colonel Yorgler—He is with Silver-stein.

"Isn't that the merchant who has failed several times and been burnt out a time or so?"

"Yes, that's the man. I want my son to get a practical business education."—Texas Siftings.

Tender Domestic Episode.

"Maria, don't you think there is some truth in the old belief that a husband and wife grow in time to look like each other?"

"Not much, John; I can't see that you have grown any handsomer since I married you."

"That may be true, but you know you've got a good deal more beard than you had then, Maria."—Chicago Tribune.

The Reason Why.

Smith (astonished)—Why, doctor! What made you move? You had such a large practice out there, and—

Doctor (disconsolately interrupting)—Yes; but they all died!—Puck.

## ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

Joel Joel and Aunt Martha Have a Good Time in Chicago.

A little old woman, clad in a stiffly starched green and white gingham dress, a black silk apron, and a white sun-bonnet with a blue lining, stood before an up-town drug-store, engaged in earnest conversation with an undersized, somewhat "dried up" old man, evidently her husband; and they gave certain tokens of having come from some peaceful home in the rural districts.

"Well, what we gals do 'bout it, Marthy?" said the little old man, urging his wife to a final decision about the matter that had been discussed for a quarter of an hour.

"I do 'em 'bout the little old woman, middy. 'I'll leave it to you, Joel." "Do you think we'd better?" "Just as you say, Joel."

"I'd rather you'd decide." "No; 'I'll leave it to you." "I'm kind in favor of it." "You think we kin afford it?" "I don't know but we kin. I been kind o' lottin' on for a week back 'er evenin' was planned to come to town, to-day. Don't you think we'd better?" "Just as you say, Joel."

"I wonder if this is a right good place." "Looks real nice." "Well, blamed if I don't just j'f love we'll do it. Might as well enjoy life a little, as we go 'long." "I do 'em 'bout you right, Joel." "Well, come 'long, then, Marthy—that is, if you don't think we hadn't oughter."

"Oh, I'm willin'. If you ain't." "Well, let's do it then. We're going to have a big hay crop; corn never looked better; there ain't a speck of rust or blight in the wheat; it's going to be a big year for apples and garden sass, and we kin afford a little too' of this sort. Come on."

And then they walked into the drug store, and boldly up to the soda-water fountain, where the little old man said, in a tone that had a little ring of triumph in it:

"Get up two glasses of the best soda-water you got in that thing; and mind you make 'em fix up well. Step up, Marthy, an' enjoy yourself."—Light.

Idle Tears.

Friend—I suppose you grieve very much over the death of your husband.

Mrs. Snooks—Indeed I do. If I had utilized before he died the tears I've shed since he died, I'd have half a dozen more dresses than I've got now.—Texas Siftings.

Uncle Ned—"Does your father ever play ball?" Tom (with the recollection of a recent chastisement in mind)—"No; but I am sure if he did that he would make a great batting average."

Widow Grangely Draws the Line at Being Called Old and Deceitful.

"You stop right where you are!" exclaimed the widow. "I need the money that might come out of this case, but I'll be hanged if you shall stand up there and call me old."

The lawyer hastened to her and said: "Why, madam, I must talk that way or lose the case."

"I don't care if you do have to talk that way, you sha'n't! I'd rather lose the whole thing than to be called old. I am as good-looking as I ever was, and I want you to understand that fact. Deceitful indeed! I'll bet I could gather you up and throw you over a ten-rail fence right now. If you want to talk about the law there is in the case, go ahead, but if you call me old again, we'll fight, that's all."—Arkansas Traveler.