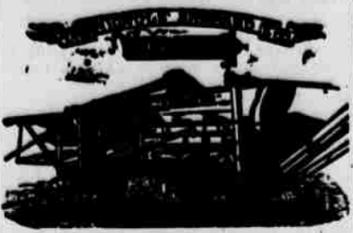


New Mrs. McGoochen Did Her Own Work.
 [From the Brunswicker.]
 One morning about two weeks ago, Mrs. McGoochen beamed blandly across the breakfast table on her husband, and informed him that she had concluded to discharge the hired girl, and do her own work. This announcement startled Mr. McGoochen almost as much as if she had declared her determination to commit suicide. He had long known that hired help was a heavy drain on his meagre salary, but his wife had educated him to regard it as indispensable, and he had made up his mind to endure it forever. That she should voluntarily offer to dispense with the services of a girl, was something for which he was not prepared. Looking at her with an expression in which hope and doubt painfully mingled, he said: "You—why, you can't do it, Eliza."
 "Can't do it, indeed? I'd like to know what's the reason? Lots of women in this town do a great deal more, and think nothing of it. Our family's small—just you and me and Henry Ward—and if I can't do the work for us three, I'd better go to a hospital, and have done with it."
 "What put you into the notion?" asked her husband, hardly yet recovered from his surprise.
 "Well, Peter," she replied, speaking in a tender, self-reproving tone, "I'll tell you. I've been thinking lately how hard you have to work, and how little I have done to assist you, in comparison with what I might and ought to do, and it appears to me that I should try to reduce our expenses as much as possible, and the best way I know of is to do my own house work. We are poor, just beginning in life, and it is my duty to help you."
 With a voice almost choked with emotion at this unexpected evidence of his wife's devotion and energy, he feebly essayed to break her resolution, saying that he didn't want her to be a slave for him, that she was too delicate for the task she contemplated, that all he asked of her was continued love and sympathy—
 "Oh, that's all romance," interrupted Mrs. McGoochen. "It's high time my love and sympathy were assuming a practical form. I'll discharge the girl this very day. But there is one condition, Peter."
 "Name it, my noble wife."
 "That new carpet you thought we were unable to get. Now, if I do my own work it will save us at least a hundred dollars a year, and you can certainly afford the carpet."
 "Of course, my love, if you are satisfied you are not undertaking more than you can perform."
 She was satisfied, and so it was settled. Mack lugged the carpet home at noon, and found the girl gone. His wife was gone, too, but she returned shortly, having only been around telling the neighbors that she was now doing her own work. Dinner was late, but then it was the first meal by her fair fingers, and he could make allowance for the novelty of the position in which she found herself placed.
 Acting on her suggestion, Mack brought home a new rocking chair when he came to supper. They were saving a hundred dollars a year, and could well afford such little things. When his wife returned from her visit to the rest of the neighbors whom she had been informing that she was now doing her own work, she was delighted with the new chair, and declared that they must have a full set of furniture to match it. "You know, Peter, that I will more than save the cost of it in the course of a year, and I will feel so proud to know that my labor secured it." This was said so beseechingly, and she hung so lovingly on his neck while, that Mack couldn't resist the appeal. The furniture was sent down next day.
 About three days after, Mrs. McGoochen coaxed Peter into buying her a silk dress, and the next day she wheedled him out of a set of jewelry. It was the same old plea—she was lightening the expenses so much by doing her own work, that she felt she was entitled to something extra. It would amount to more, she reasoned, than the hire of a girl, and Peter could well afford to give it to her.
 Mack began to get uneasy. Was there, after all, any saving in doing without a hired girl? Wouldn't that sort of economy bankrupt him in less than a year? He got a piece of paper and a pencil, and figured:
 EXPENSES ONE WEEK WITHOUT HELP:
 Carpet.....\$20.00
 Furniture.....50.00
 Dress and jewelry.....50.00
 Total.....\$120.00
 Cost of help one week.....2.00
 Balance in favor of a domestic.....\$148.00
 McGoochen was astounded. Grasping the paper and his hat, he made rapid strides for home. Opening the door, the first object that met his frenzied gaze was the hired girl! That scheming woman, having succeeded in tricking her poor husband out of the things she had set heart on, had recalled and reinstated the help.
 Mack is well satisfied to have the girl back, as he had become very tired of cold meals, but he wishes that the law would allow him to proceed against his wife for obtaining goods under false pretences.

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