

they threw into the cleft, raising its bottom to a sufficient height to admit of the huffy Mrs. Gooney's passage between its shearing walls. This work consumed several hours, during which the mouse was lost; but the willing gentlemen pulled her in front and boosted her from behind, until the fair one mounted the wobbly and uncertain path.

At the farther end, the sheriff slipped. He was leading Mrs. Gooney, who, naturally, slipped also, and fortunately—from her point of view—employed the officer of the law as an unsympathetic buffer when she landed on terra firma.

"Dammer!" roared the sheriff, whose head alone protruded from beneath the ample person of Mrs. Gooney; "she done it a-purpose! Puller off!"

Now, somehow, this seemed to amuse the widow vastly, for she laughed till the rocky hills resounded with her merriment. This was bad. When the widow laughed, she shook; when she shook, she settled; and when she settled, it added to the sheriff's happiness. It added also to his peaceful frame of mind; and when finally rescued, he offered to make bloody the nose of any qualified descendant of brute creation who considered smiling a healthy pastime. Therefore, the posse marched solemnly to the mouth of the cave through which they must pass to reach the town, and encountered the third obstacle.

The cave, at a casual glance, was far too tight a fit to accommodate the lady's net dimensions, for even at its widest point she nestled like a cartridge in a gun. One idiot suggested that they try her sideways.

"She ain't got none," observed a local wit; whereupon, because of the ancientness of the jest, another deputy smote him with a pistol butt, quite deservedly. The posse looked at one another in silent consternation. The sheriff expressed himself as one who talks aloud in a beautiful, vivid dream.

"My!" said Mrs. Gooney, clapping her hands upon her ears; "this ain't no fitten company for any lady, an' I'm goin' home."

"Hi yi!" exclaimed Eph, in characteristic negro humour, and retreated

out of range of the sheriff's hard brown fist.

Suddenly it dawned upon the sheriff why the widow Gooney had, of her own volition, remained for seventeen years in the valley. It dawned upon him, also, that there she would remain till death; unless, indeed, she bant frightfully or left in some specially built balloon.

Before leaving, however, he did two things—unofficially. He gallantly helped the widow Gooney back over the path of pine boughs through the cleft; then he thrashed Sam Collins soundly, on general principles, and felt better therefor, both in body and in mind.

"Good-by!" called the ponderous Mrs. Gooney, from beyond the cleft. "When you all come up again, I hope you'll do it sociable. An' I'm much obliged for breakin' up that still. We was goin' out of business, anyhow."

On the following day the township foregathered to hear the evidence, while the sheriff showed cause before the learned court why his office should still be his. At the mention of the widow Gooney's personal charms, the sheriff's wife rose up and challenged the sworn testimony of thirteen eye-witnesses. The learned court suppressed her, and a foolish revenue officer presumed to laugh; whereat the virtuous sheriff waited upon him after court adjourned and thrashed him, unofficially.

Two days later, there journeyed to the mountains a second party, composed of several town officials, the sheriff, five agents for Uncle Sam, and two civil engineers—these latter gentlemen being employed to compute the cost of blasting away sufficient slices of the mountain to allow one Missus Gooney to be haled justice.

They weighed that lady by the process of mental arithmetic, figured her displacement as compared to the estimated cost of uprooting four miles of rock, and presented figures which made the committee curse.

"Now, look a-here," suggested the venerable justice of the peace, "s'posin' we demand a good hot dinner in the form of bail, an' bid Sis' Gooney over fer to keep the peace. She kin swear on oath

to stay where she's at right now, till subpennered by the cote."

"All right," agreed the corpulent widow cheerfully. "Ef you'll wait half a hour, I'll cook you a dinner what'll make you set up as' forgit yo' mothers. An' say, ef any of you gent'men wants to wet yo' whistles some, I reckon you won't be forced to drink spring water, neither."

Three minutes later the earnest committee foregathered about the cabin door in spiritual convocation.

"Here's lookin' at yer!" cackled the venerable justice of the peace solemnly, and Uncle Sam's five agents responded sheepishly.

"Here's to Missus Gooney!" toasted a lumber-conscience officer of the sacred law; then he wiped his eyes, for the juice of the rye was green.

(End.)

## THE WORKERS' FRIEND.

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## A Good Neck.

This is what many girls and women desire, though nature is often somewhat niggardly in this respect. In former days when this happened one had to make the best of it; but now art has something to say in the matter, and much may be done to improve nature in this respect. And the first thing to do it to give up too high and too tight collars and neck bands. Compression is fatal to the line of beauty in any part, and the neck is no exception, while nightly application of a good cold cream, well massaged in, will help to nurture as well as whiten the skin. But suitable exercises are the main thing to develop and beautify the throat, and neck. The hollows in a thin neck may be filled up first by breathing exercises. Inhale deeply through the nose, and force the breath against the throat. Hold it for ten to twenty seconds, and then exhale through the mouth. While inhaling, rise on your toes, and while exhaling drop on your heels. Another exercise is to stretch your arms out straight from the shoulder, and raise them slowly above your head, inhaling and rising on your toes as you do this. Hold them at the greatest height, and then, without letting your breath go, sniff through your nose deeply three times; exhale and brings your arms sharply down, and drop on your heels. Then turn your head to one side, nod it as deep and raise it as high as possible. Do this on both sides, and if you stand before a mirror you will see how this effects the neck muscles. All exercises should be done in the morning and at night, when your clothes do not compress you in any way.

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