

and give him somethin' to eat. He didn't know nothin' but just fear. About the time he was quietin' down in walked Dorime as cool as a cucumber. She looked at Tom, then she looked at me. Then she says, "You kin go now, Mr. Corn, I kin take keer of Tom, I don't reckon he'll be any more trouble."

"And he ain't. Been jest like you see him now ever since, timid, obedient, ready to lick your hand almost if you notice him."

"It seems that him and her had had a worse time than usual the last time he come home drunk, and the row had ended by her chasin' him across the paster s'rin' at him every jump till he run and fell into the well. I ain't never told that here in the Valley, and folks thinks he was jest drunk and fell in natural like. What I wish I knowed is whether she ever aimed to let him out. 'Taint for you to say, and I don't believe there's a man in this world that could tell what a woman would do under them circumstances, left to herself, with no preacher to put a conscience in her and no public opinion to influence her. For, take my word for it, Mister, the reason women are so prim and patient with us is beca'se they ain't got the chance to act up to their other capabilities. Every man gets to the place where it's his nature to let up on his victim, but a woman don't. Dorime's never let up on Tom yet. But she's took all the manhood out of him same as if she'd raised him to her lips like a gourd of wine and drained it dry. When he dies I doubt if God kin find his soul, and if he's got one it'll be the kind that grows dog ha'r instead of wings."

Too Clever.

A would-be ciever Boer up country in South Africa thought he would take a rise out of the local Government "vet.," and so he sent him a "smear" of blood from a finger-cut he was slightly suffering from, and stated it was blood from an ox of his that was ill. Would the "vet." be kind enough to let him know what the animal was suffering from? In due course the reply came, and the Boer, who could not read English, called in the local schoolmaster to translate the note. The Boer and all his family having assembled to hear what a fool the "Verdomde Roomick" was going to make of himself, the schoolmaster read as follows:—"I have examined the 'smear' you sent me, and have to inform you that it is not the

blood of an ox, but that of the common species of baboon. The disease the animal is suffering from is senile decay."

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