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way; suppose, then, Mr. Puffer suits himself in the pig question?" interposed the counselor, mending his pen for a fresh start.

"Come, now, that is no more than fair!" assented Mr. Puffer; although, of course, the arrant hypocrite was all the time conscious in his inmost heart—and utmost, too, for that matter—that he had never for a moment intended to abide by the decision of good Mrs. P. in the last dispute.

Therein you see a silent partner has an advantage in an argument; for good Mrs. P. herself, having no power of knowing this mental reservation, was obliged reluctantly to concede.

Thus, inch by inch, and animal by animal, they fought their way through the live stock; and coming after a tedious while to the personal property, found that to be even more refractory.

"He must have two bed quilts and two pairs of sheets to my one. I shan't give my consent to anything else; for his mother is getting too old and feeble for quilting, and weaving, and the like of that work," affirmed the Good-wife, with cheerful benevolence.

"Of course, I shan't take her setting out, and she needn't propose it!" protested the Good-man.

Mrs. P. opened her mouth with a face that evinced a burst of words as clearly as ever a black cloud betokened a burst of rain.

"You need not say a word for nor against. I tell you I won't hear to it, even if you ran out a case as long and as strong as the Moral Law!" added her lord with unusual fervor.

"H-m-m! yes-es! Wa-al, wa-al, my advice to you two good people is, seeing that you can not agree, to separate, to get into your wagon and ride home together," said wise Counselor Sabin, at last, cleaning his pen upon his hair and twisting the paper of minutes into a cigar lighter.

The good people were finally persuaded to follow this advice, which has proved the soundest advice he ever gave; and paying the price of the fatted swine for it, they elampered into the high-backed wagon and rode off, with a joint feeling of conscious relief, yet too shame-faced to speak during the whole distance home.

When they arrived there, Bose came running to the end of the lane which led to the house to give them a gruff bark of welcome, and Mrs. P.'s heart warmed with pleasure. She even stopped to pat him, and called him a nice fellow upon her way into the porch in full view of Mr. Puffer, who felt grateful to the very tips of his callous fingers for this unwonted token of friendliness, while Bose jumped and frisked awkwardly around, whining with delight.—Then she disappeared through the doorway into the kitchen; and when she saw the homely room and its furniture looking so familiar and kindly, as they, in their way, gave a mute welcome home again to their mistress, she sat down in her old splint rocking chair and had a hearty cry. Then she brushed away her tears, which were by no means bitter ones, and raked open the very coals upon the stone hearth, which she had covered so carefully before leaving the room forever, as she believed, hung the tea-kettle upon the crane, and drew out the table for supper.

So when the husband came in from unharnessing the horse, and feeding the cows and pigs, instead of the dreary stillness he had been bargaining for, he found the room alive with warmth and cheeriness. The fragrance of new made tea, mingled with that of stewed peaches and broiling beef, which spluttered a pleasant sort of accompaniment to the humming tea-kettle, while the Good-wife, with a satisfied face, was putting a plate of smoking flap-jacks, buttered, and sugared, and quartered, upon the table, and singing as blithe and light of heart as a May-bird. To tell the truth, the weak-minded woman had been actually kissing, with tears in her eyes, the clumsy old rolling-pin, which, from its rough finish, had been to her like a thistle in the shoe for years.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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