

MRS. MULROONEY'S ROOSTER.

The next case was that of The State of Nevada vs. Jimmy Diffey. The prisoner was a short, thick set, red faced man, about thirty-four years of age—bushy, blonde hair, a bulbous nose, and a pair of eyes gone, tobacco stained teeth and left corner of mouth hitched up toward the ear on that side. He was dressed in a suit of corduroy, and, as he stood dangling a little hat, while hat by an end of its band, seemed altogether at his ease. Jimmy was up for petty larceny—arrested by officer Blossa on a charge of chicken stealing. His case was tried by Judge Townsend. The prosecuting witness was a Mrs. Mulrooney, a middle aged woman, keeper of a gin mill. She was a scrawny female, with high cheek bones, sunken grey eyes, and a wide, toothless grin, which she was always vainly trying to house inside of a pair of thin lips. This woman had lost a half dozen hens and a large rooster from a coop in her back yard, and had caused the arrest of Diffey as the thief. The hearing of the case was now about to begin. All the hangers on about Mrs. Mulrooney's dead-fall were scattered along up and down the street for a block or two, so as to be in the way of the officer when he began looking for a jury. While the officer was hunting up a jury, Mrs. Mulrooney had nothing to do but put on such airs as she thought becoming to a lady in her position.

Sheidgeted about in her seat, would her shawl tightly about her arms, unwound it and wound it up again; cast upon the spectators what she intended should pass for a look of virtue in distress, and then turned with fierce frowns toward the prisoner, who paid not the slightest attention to her venomous glances. The jury being found and sworn, the business of the case proceeded. Mrs. Mulrooney being sworn said: "Yer Honor, last Winsday afternoon I was standing in me back yard a lookin' into me back yard at me chickens, yer Honor—as fols chickens as yer Honor iver laid eyes on, too, they wur. Well lookin' up, yer Honor, I saw this man here (pointing to Diffey outside of the fence a lookin' over, and a castin' lascivious eyes onto me pets, yer Honor. The very nixt mornin'—Thursday mornin', yer Honor—the coop was clane robbed, an' I am sure this is the man that took me chickens, yer Honor."

Mrs. Mulrooney then sat down, turning as she did so to smile upon her friends of the jury.

Officer Blossa sworn—Was sent for by the widow Mulrooney about the stolen chickens; Mrs. Mulrooney told me about the suspicious actions of Diffey; found tracks of No. 9 boots in her yard; Diffey wears No. 9 boots found the outside of the fence a lookin' over, and a castin' lascivious eyes onto me pets, yer Honor. The very nixt mornin'—Thursday mornin', yer Honor—the coop was clane robbed, an' I am sure this is the man that took me chickens, yer Honor."

Robert Blossa sworn—I was well acquainted with Mrs. Mulrooney's chickens; knowed 'em all, hevery blessed vun. By a juror—You stops wif Mrs. Mulrooney, I believe! May I ask in wet capacity? and the juror eyed Blossa closely and anxiously.

Blossa—Vell, I'm round 'er place off an' on, as you might say, but I'm a 'sandy sort o' man. I always tries to make the 'oman comfortable an' keep 'er affairs straightened up a bit, o' course. Juror—You're not a reg'lar hired man, then?

Blossa—Vell, I'll not say I am.

Juror—You're not her husband? Remember you're now on yer oath.

Blossa—Vell, that's a good vun! If I war she'd hardly be a widder.

Court—These questions appear to have nothing to do with the case. Attend to me now, Mr. Blossa. (The Court then took a feather from the desk and asked a number of questions, to which Blossa gave such answers as occurred to him). Have you frequently seen Mrs. Mulrooney's rooster? Do you know this feather? Did you see it upon the rooster of Mrs. Mulrooney during his lifetime? Upon what portion of his person? Might it not have been upon his head?

Diffey—Well, I was passin' by when the old heifer came to the door and began grinnin' at me, and so I stood and grinnin' at her.

Court—Silly girl. Don't you know better than to speak in that way?

Diffey—In what way?

Court—To say heffer.

Diffey—What would I say?

Court—Can't you call her a lady?

Diffey—Her a lady?

Mrs. Mulrooney—Yes, me a lady! Don't you hear the judge tell yes?

Diffey—But the judge ain't under oath.

Court—No more of this, or I'll fine you for contempt. What have you to say about stealing them chickens?

Diffey—Never saw the old heifer's chickens, and have nothing to say about 'em. There is no evidence agin me, an' I ask to be discharged, yer Honor.

To be continued.

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