

and Toronto papers and be read and discussed by the entire population of the United States and Canada. After all why should he not marry Lydia Baker, if she would marry him, of which he did not feel quite sure. She had been a pleasant companion, why should she not make a good wife?

Jack Halsey took the first train for Freeport that morning, with a great resolve in his mind. When he reached there his first visit was to a jewelry store, where he bought a costly diamond ring. Then he directed his steps to the home of Lydia Baker's parents.

He found Lydia alone with an open letter in her hand; it was his own letter. There were tears in her eyes, but whether they were caused by the effects of the snuff or by the words she had been reading, he was never able to learn. She jumped up hastily as he entered.

"Oh! Jack," said she, taking him by both hands, "I'm so glad you have come."

"And I am glad, too," replied Jack, "do you really intend to marry me?"

"Yes Jack, if you want me."

"Then," said Jack as he drew the ring on her finger, "We are really engaged and if the day will suit you it will suit me."

The day happened to suit and Jack and Lydia were duly married. Old Mrs. Halsey on the occasion formed a combination of silk, ancient lace and

smiles that was delightful to behold. Jack looked happy and there is the best reason to believe that he will never regret his choice.

The very day that Jack was married the postmaster and his cronies were together in the inner room of the office. A mail bag was being opened and Silvanus was very jocular and merry over Jack Halsey's love affair and its result. "It's my opinion," said he sagely, "that she'll make it hot for Jack."

"Betcher life she will," responded Jeff Burton.

"Dead sure," echoed Tom Coy.

Just then a big official letter bearing the Ottawa postmark tumbled out of the bag. Silvanus opened it nervously for it was addressed to him personally. It was from the Postmaster General and informed him that his resignation was required at once. Plummer's countenance fell, so that his friends could not but notice it.

"What is it," asked Burton "is it a kick out?"

"Pretty much that," replied Silvanus.

"Then we'd better git," said Tom Coy and the advice was so promptly taken that the old man a minute later had the office to himself.

The following week Capt. Pipes was duly installed as postmaster of Crouchville and the world moved on as before.

ENCOURAGING.

"Would you marry a Chinaman?" he asked.

"Oh, dear," the girl who is sarcastic replied, "this is so sudden! But I always supposed you merely looked like one."

REMARKABLE.

"Yes, sir," said the new benedict, "I've got a remarkable wife. She can cook and play the piano with equal facility."

"The idea! Where did she ever learn to cook a piano?"