

mornin' arter mornin' in gettin' it by heart. Well, the day the great meetin' was to be, off he starts down to the lower village, with a two-horse waggon, to bring some of the young ladies to hear his eloquence. Well, as soon as I seed him off, I goes to his desk, takes his speech, locks the door, and walks up and down the room, a readin' of it over and over, like a school-lesson, and in about two or three hours had it all by heart; and that, that I couldn't repeat verbatim, havin' a pretty loose tongue of my own, I could give the sense and meanin' of. But I had it in a manner all pretty slick. Then I puts the speech back in its place, takes a walk out into the fields, to recite it aloud, where none could hear, and I succeeded most beautiful. He returned, as I intended he should, before I went back to the house; and when I went into the room, he was walkin' up and down, a mutterin' over his speech; and when he stuck, lookin' at the writin'.

"'Hullo,' sais I, 'are you back already? How's the ladies, and where are they?'"

"'Hush!' said he. 'Don't talk to me, that's a good feller; it puts me out, and then I have to cipher it over again. The ladies are below.'"

"'Well,' sais I, 'I'll go down and see them;' and, to make a long story short, the meetin' was organised, the lecture was read, and the first resolution was moved. I mind that it was a very sensible one, and passed unanimously. I don't exactly recollect the words, but its substance—'Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that those who drink nothin' but water, will have no liquor to buy.' I rose to second it; and there was great cheerin', and clappin' of hands, and stampin' of feet; for I was considerable popular among the folks in them diggins. At last, silence was obtained; and I commenced with Horatio Mulgrave's speech, and delivered it word for word. Well, it warn't a bad speech for the time and place. Considerable flowery—mixed with poetry to please the galls, and solemnecolly and tearful for the old folk; sometimes they cheered, and then they cried. Arter I had got on a piece, Mulgrave sprang up, half distracted with rage and surprise; and takin' hold of me by the coat, 'Why, confound it, Slick,' sais he, 'that's my speech. I wrote it myself.'"

"'Pooh!' sais I, 'don't be foolish.'"

"'Well, I never,' said he, 'in all my born days! This beats the devil! What a Yankee trick!'"

He said this quite loud. So I stopped short, and paused, and looked round.

"'Gentlemen and ladies,' sais I, 'Mr. Mulgrave sais I am speakin' his mind, and not my own; and that it is his oration, and not mine. It's strange our minds should be so much alike; for if it is actilly the case, I must be makin' a very poor speech, I can tell you. So, with your leave, I'll sit down.'"