

logged stool went out to make known the proposition to Abbott. In less than one hour the terms were proposed, the bargain concluded, and secrets confided between Abbott and the merchant-tailor. The whole establishment was put to right, the ready-made clothing renovated, and the begrimed shop window laved, secured and polished. The late clothing store of Christopher Frow appeared with a new face and a new proprietor, business increased rapidly; the store in process of time, for the greatest part of the day, was inundated with customers, chiefly of the ragged tribe, and, with the aid of a few skilful journeymen tailors, garments of all descriptions, from the superfine wedding coat to the heavy coarse unmentionables, were made on incredibly short notice. From this prosperous result in the affairs of Christopher, he was soon in a position to liquidate all debts, and with the surplus fund which Abbott had laid up over and above his necessary expenditure had largely increased the stock, and became ostensibly a partner in the business. The firm of Abbott & Frow waxed great in the eyes of all whom they endeavored to *suit* (of course in the clothing line), and within six months from the day on which Christopher announced to the public that he had formed a union with an experienced hand all the way from the great city of London, they erected an extensive building, designed not only to clothe the naked but to feed the hungry. Ornamental cards and tastefully-printed hand bills were circulated in the region round about, advertising the addition of the provision branch to the clothing and tailoring departments.

While in this prosperous position, and on the smooth road to affluence, Abbott piously conceived it to be right to take unto himself a wife; he was now a widower of fifteen month's standing, and the probability is, had ceased to mourn for the loss of the gentle and amiable Clara. Now, in places with small populations there is never any difficulty in discerning a new comer, and until the stranger becomes thoroughly installed into the acquaintance and social peculi-

arity of the natives therein, there is always an itching curiosity on their part particularly of the female portion of the community, to pry into his antecedents, to sketch his general appearance, to notice very minutely how he dresses, and how he looks in church when Sunday comes; whether he is handsome or ugly, whether he is respectably connected, and last of all, whether he wants a wife if not already supplied. Abbott was subjected to such scrutiny together with many other little annoyances, until he had served a full apprenticeship to the village of R—; at the expiration of which, and so soon as he was known to be successful, anxious mothers worked hard to make marriageable daughters appear to the best advantage, more especially on public occasions, such as local concerts, social tea parties, etc.— Introductions to him were eagerly sought by several young ladies, who imagined that, from certain admiring glances he was pleased to bestow upon them, perhaps in the same seat at church or the next one to it, he assuredly must be loved, cricken; each fair rival feeling that she was the more highly favored, and the most pointedly noticed. One of these, after a formal introduction and a courtship of brief duration, won his heart and hand while playing an evening quiet game of love. The marriage ceremony soon followed, the bells rang out merrily, the schoolmaster gave a holiday to his pupils, and the children skipped upon the green and raised their little voices in songs of rejoicing, as the bridal party passed by that way. Harman Abbott was revered and beloved by old and young in the village of R—, although a resident there but a short period; and now that he had married quite a village favorite, an accomplished young lady of nineteen and the daughter of the Reeve, who by the way was far from being accomplished himself, his popularity increased, and his business prospects were daily most cheering.

Some months after the marriage, while Abbott was enjoying the convivialities of an evening party at his father-in-law's house, the town constable came to inform