

willed and an absolut mona'ch in this household. I presume you' as obstinate about this mid-summer folly as about everything else?"

"I'll admit no such sweeping insinuation, Colonel. It's a nice thing, now, giving a clinging and dependent creature like me the same attribute of character that you're always profanely condemning in your mules. Now listen to reason. I have it from a score of friends that this is one of the most charming and healthful trips in the world. You know that auntie is gradually failing in strength and must have a change. We always go away in the warm season. Why not let me conduct this one expedition?"

"I prefeh the mountains, Flops. My affection fo' them is like that fo' an old and familia' friend. That's wheh my ancesta's went. The ai' is a bracin' tonic and theh's no other place like it fo' rest."

"Where's your boasted consistency, Colonel? Your ancestors did their traveling in stages or carriages. They delivered their cotton by horse power instead of steam or electricity. They powdered their hair and danced in knee breeches. What earthly right have you to depart from all these sacred traditions?"

"No use to ahgue with a woman. Theh's not a grain of logic in heh make-up. But you may comprehend a plain matteh of fact. It is out of the question fo' me to go on a long fresh watah voyage, leavin' all the stock and crops heah without my supehvision."

"Now, Colonel, don't try to humbug either of us with a poor, lame excuse like that. You couldn't take the stock and the crops to the mountains with you, yet they would be left without your invaluable care just as long. To be perfectly candid, Colonel, dear, I believe that your entire objection springs from your unconquerable antipathy to water."

At this shot the Colonel surrendered with a chuckle and an order to have everything prepared for the trip.