

LIMPY'S NEW YEAR

flow of solicitous enquiries from the group at the gate unexpectedly checked the greetings upon the lips of the minister and Billy.

Suppressed mirth became visible upon both faces, but controlling it admirably they announced to the open-mouthed enquirers that Mrs. Pompey was in the enjoyment of excellent health. "In fact," emphasized Peter Paul, "she has decided to begin the new year as Mrs. Limpold Beggs."

It was about five that afternoon when Billy Parker crossed the fields to pay his respects to Tommy Stead and his daughter Sue. He not only carried a gift for Sue, but a very juicy piece of news, which he lavished upon the astonished ears of his host after the hearty handshake had been given.

"Who'd ever thought o' Limpy doin' it up so slick at his time o' life? Why, if it wa'nt first o' year, I would say 't was April fool," exclaimed the incredulous Tommy.

"Wall, Billy," he remarked a little later as he presented himself unexpectedly at the parlor door and interrupted Billy, who was demonstrating the interpretation of a conversation lozenger, "I was goin' ter remark," he added, as he diplomatically turned his eyes to the ceiling, "that if I hev'n't lost my thinks, I'll be durned if the widder didn't toe it consid'ble with Limpy afore he lost his leg, arter which she did the durnest ack o' her life by hitchin' herself ter that liver-complainted sang-tew-moses Pompey."