

spiral, leaped high into the air, then dissolved into a shower of twinkling, vanishing sparks.

Something like a groan burst from Joseph's protruding lips. "Beast!" ejaculated Jenny, shaking an absurd little fist toward the sky.

"Ow-h, Lor'!" cried Mrs. Biggles.

"Good gracious!" exclaimed Aunt Anne wonderingly.

Darkness descended suddenly upon us, as Joseph proceeded to kick clods of earth over the embers; then I came to a sense of my duty, and sent him to the stable for a lantern to light our way across the fields to The Briars. I think Jenny must have gone also, for when he returned she was walking close beside him.

They led the way, and it was patent to anyone with eyes that Joseph's right arm encircled his companion; also, though I hesitate to record it, that one of Jenny's partially encircled Joseph. I can understand that Joseph might want to hold his beloved close at such a time, but I cannot understand why a comparatively winsome and attractive young person like Jenny should care to voluntarily embrace Joseph's ungainly bulk, and I think Aunt Anne and Mrs. Biggles, who