



HERE'S 'RICHNESS !

It is stated that Mr. Mercier is coming up to assist Sir Oliver by delivering addresses to the Electors of Essex. Here we have the Noble Count impressing upon the people the necessity of retaining a Government of economy and purity!!

needed. I ain't got anything against men, but they do seem sorter stuck up, to us spinsters. "Now I 'spose that's a woman's view of the question," said a man to me the other day. "Ef you'd only take a common sense view," he went on.

"Umph," says I mighty severe, "think I'd agree with the men then, I s'pose?"

He didn't like to say "of course" right to my face, but he meant it, and he's only one of a big crowd like him.

SUSANNAH.

LOST AGAIN.

"H AVE you seen my spectacles lying around to-day, Maria?" he enquired, as he came in last Monday evening, "I went without them."

"No I haven't dear, I——"

"Oh, I might have known you wouldn't have seen them! I don't know why I asked you, for you never know where anything I want is. I don't see how you can go round the house all day and never notice things. No doubt they are just where I laid them down - on the mantel-piece or somewhere."

"No, I would have seen them if they had been lying about. Are you quite sure they are not in some of your poc——?"

"There! I was sure you'd say that! Never knew you to fail! Do you suppose I'm idiot enough not to feel in all my pockets? You must think I'm a born fool!"

"Not at all, John, but sometimes one over-looks," ex-

plained his wife deprecatingly, "besides, you might have changed your——"

"Overlooks." What do you mean? Don't I tell you *they're not in my pocket*. Why, I had to buy a pair down town before I could do my business. Do you think I'd go and buy a pair if I had one in my pocket? *You* might do such a thing, but I'm not built that way. Money's too hard to get to go throwing it away in that style! I don't just have to go to my husband and ask for 'some money' to get it; I have to work for it, let me tell you, and it's likely I'd throw away hard-earned cash because I was too lazy to feel in my pockets, isn't it?"

"Oh, well, you needn't be so cross just because I happened to say that! Such a thing as your finding them in your pocket after having looked all over has occurred."

"Oh, yes, rake that up! That's like a woman. Because once, about ten years ago, I chanced to leave them in my best black coat, and didn't find them till the next Sunday - Oh—Ahem——"

Here a sudden thought seemed to strike the much-tried man, and interfere with the flow of his reproachful eloquence.

And when—after having made a quiet and unostentatious visit to his wardrobe—he made no further enquiries, and presently beamed upon her with his usual gold-rimmed placidity, his wife had the good taste to have forgotten the entire circumstance.

Alice Ashworth.