Winning a Widow.

Jotham !" quoth Mr. Wiggleton, to hand his chief farm

"Well, what's wantin'?" lazily re-sponded Jotham Harleastle, with a half masticated straw between his teeth, as he losted up from the bit of harness he

ten days afterward, as he came in, ten days afterward, as he came in, heatel and out of breath from a walk. (Mr. Wiggleton wasn't as he had been before his five and fortieth birthday, and the Locust Hill was a pretty steep

ascent.)
"Well what now?"
"Oh!" said Jotham.
"Oh!" said Jotham.
"It's rather late in life, to be sure."

"Yes."

"Blue eyes and hair as shiny as satin?"

"And a little white parasol lined with pink ?

pink "" "Yes." "Reckon likely it was," said Jotham. "But," persisted the puzzled land-owner, "she doesn't look at all like a widow."

widow." "There's as much difference in wid-ows as there is in other folks." observed Jotham, dryly. Mr. Wiggleton was silent for a minute or two

or two.

**Well,

"Well," "Has she sent to borrow anything?" "Sont yesterday forenoon—asked if we had a screwdriver to lend—the hinge was comin' loose on the garden gate." "And what did you tell her?"

"And what did you tell her?" "Said my order was contrarywise to lendin' or borrowin'." "Jatham you are a fool." "Tain't the first time you've said so, and tain't the first time you've been wrong, said Jotham, with a calmness of demeanor that was beautiful to behold. "Hard words is considered in the wages, and I ain't the man to find fault I only did as you told me." "Yes, but, Jotham — never mind—the

"Yes, but, Jotham—never mind—the next time she sends, let her have what-ever she wants." "Said somethin' about wantin' a man to come and hoe them early potatoes. Be I to go?" "Certainly—of course. Neighbours shuld act like neighbours, especially in the courty."

should act like neighbours, especially in the country." And Mr. Wiggleton sighed and wished that he was not too corputent and unused to labor to hoe the Widow Palmleaf's early potatoes himself. But he did the next best thing; he went over to look at the field after Jotham had hoed it, and gave the widow good advice concerning a certain rook uphill bit of sheeppasture that belonged to the cottage farm. "Td lay that down in winter rye, if I were you, ma'am," said Mr. Wiggleton. "May not?" demanded Mr. "And why not?" demanded Mr. "I am engagod!" owned up the charming widow, playing with the crim-son ribbons at her belt. "Might I dare to ask-that is-"Ch, certainly. It's Jotham Hard-castle."

Jotham had hoed it, and gave the widow good advice concerning a certain rocky uphill bit of sheeppasture that belonged to the cottage farm. "I'd lay that down in winter ryo, if I were you, ma'am," said Mr. Wiggleton. "I am so much obliged to you," said the widow, sweetly. "Since poor dear Hobart was taken away I have no one to advise me on these subjects." And Mr. Wiggleton thought how soft and pretty her blue eyes looked as she spoke.

spoke. "Oh, pshaw!" said Jotham; leaning on the handle of his hoe, "winter rye an't the sort o' crap for that spot. Spring wheat's the only thing to grow these."

there." "Hold your tongne, Jotham!" cried his employer, testily, "Yes, sir, I will," said Jotham, with a broad grin over Mr. Wiggleton's shining

bald head. "And about these hyacinth beds,

companionship of his own cogitations. These are times in which solitude is said to be the best company; perhaps this was one of these special occasions, in the estimation of Mr. Jotham Hardcastle.

"Well, what's wantin't iszily re-sponded Jotham Harleastle, with a half masticated straw between his teeth, as he loafed up from the bit of harnesshe was mending. "The Widow Palmleaf has taken in front of the Wiggleton mansion began to glow as if its leaves had been dipped' in blood and meitod gold: the asters reared their purple torches along the in obood and meitod gold: the asters reared their purple torches along the and ary seufe observer might have per ceived that Mrs. Palmleaf had aid down than reverence in his manner. "And if she sends up to borrow the rake or the hoe or the spide——""""Jotham!" said Mr. Wiggleton to his farmhand one evening; it was the first the tork was a chronic borrower I don't want mything to do with his widow." "All right," observed Jotham, phil-osophically, and his master resumed the persual of his newspaper once more, "Jotham!" said Mr. Wig leton, about ten days afterward, as he came in, "You an't goin' to hire another hand, be you?:"

be you' "No; to be sure not. You suit me admirably, Jotham, only"-and Mr. Wiggleton shot the words out with an

effort, "I am thinking of being married

thing." "Certainly not," said Jotham dryly. "You ought to get married. Jotham.," added his employer, speaking in rather a rapid and embarrassed manner. "Think so?" "Certainly. You might live in the little house behind the peach orchard; it moddet takes much to fit tue nicely

little house behind the peach orchard: it wouldn't take much to fit it up nicely, now that paint and paper are so cheap." Jotham stared reflectively at the firer "And your wife could take care of the cream and butter and all that sorts of thing for us. It isn't likely Mrs. P-Ahem!--it isn't likely, I mean, that my wife will care for such things." "Humph!" remarked Jotham. "I'd advise you to turn the thing all.

"Humph!" remarked Jotham. "I'd advise you to turn the thing all over in your mind, Jotham," said Mr. Wiggleton. "Yes, f will," said Jotham, with a

little cough. The next morning Mr. Wiggleton attired himself in his best suit, and

went to the cottage. Mrs. Falmleaf received him in a

charming crimson cashmere wrapper; with ribbous to match. Mr. Wiggleton wasted no time in use-less preliminary chit-chat, but uncer-emoniously bluffed out the business he

"Mrs. Palmleat ______i he began a little nervously, '1' have concluded to change my condition." "Indeed!" said the widow, smiling like an opening rose; "I am glad to hear it"

"And I am here this morning to ask you to be my wife!" pursued our hero, boldly.

Mr. Wiggleton stammered out a sen tence or two of congratulation, and took this leave. And when the "spring wheat" reared its green tassels on the hill side, Jotham married the young widow—and Mr. Wiggleton is single yet. He always felt as if he had been ill treated, but he never could tell exactly how.

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Gladstone and the Defence League

London, July 12 .- It is reported that Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Morley have ap-proved the Tenants' Defence League. Mr. Parnell will be President of the League A convention, at which the new League A convention, at which the new League will be formally floated, will be held in Dublin, Mr. Parnell pre-sidings, Wm. O'Brien says the chief feature of the new League is a vast national fund to save evicted tenants from the workhouse from the workhouse.

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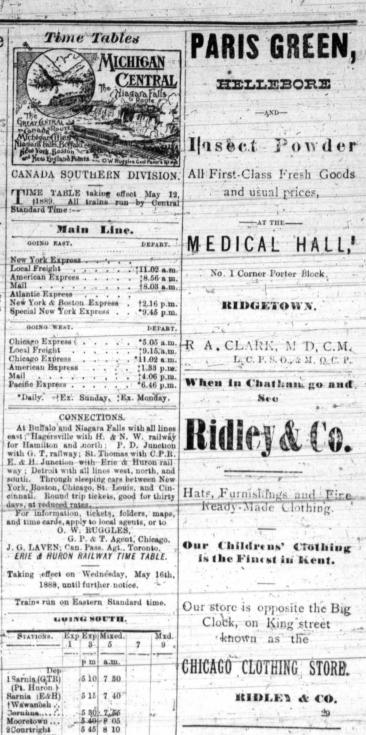
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