

SUNSHINE-SHADDER

the nature of this unexpected visit. The widow had been in her pew the previous Sabbath and had presided at the Ladies' Aid Society the following Monday. To all appearances she had been in the enjoyment of her usual good health, and it was only after several brain-racking hours had ensued that the neighbors duly arrived at a two-fold conclusion which when summed up indicated that the widow must have taken seriously ill, and that Limpy, who knew the A B C of law, had been summoned with Billy as witness to write her will.

A little later a degree of confirmation was given to this when Peter Paul left the manse and bent his steps in the direction of Mrs. Pompey's cottage. Unrest prevailed in several hearts that morning to the extent that two or three of the most inquisitive females bonnetted and shawled themselves quite early in the afternoon and decided as they started forth to sift the little mystery to the bottom by calling upon Melissa Grey, who lived next door. She was usually found at home, but upon this occasion no response met their repeated knocks, and it was not until some minutes had elapsed that the thought occurred to them that Melissa would, naturally be at Mrs. Pompey's. Nursing this thought as a very feasible one, they turned from Melissa's door, and with hearts beating one-fourth anxiety and three-fourths curiosity, they directed their steps to the next residence.

As they unlatched the gate, the door of the cottage suddenly opened and Peter Paul and Billy Batterson came down the walk. Almost immediately an over-