

MARIA DALE

Riggs remarked one day as she stood on the verandah of the general store in conversation with Limpy, who had followed her to the door.

"Neow, I differ with ye theer, Lizzie Riggs, fer if theer be a woman on this here hill who was allers above board, 'n' has a show o' happiness comin' her way, it's 'Riah Dale."

"We air told in the Bible that Jacob waited seven year. Wall, she has waited fer fifteen fer the sign to come thet Albert was innercent, 'n' she did it in a very hefty way, tew, fer o' all the folks in Sunshine-Shadder she has lived in the shadder all them years."

"Yees, that all may be," Mrs. Riggs unwillingly admitted. "She has made her last dress for us, anyways, 'n' although the house is ter be closed up, 'n' some things go ter the swell house in city, 'long with that howling cat, Peter, they be a-comin' ter spend a few weeks here every summer."

"I'm right glad ter hear that," Limpy exclaimed, "fer the hill is thinnin' out fast, aye, thinnin' out fast," he added, half mournfully, as he turned into the store.