

SUNSHINE-SHADDER

At the time of the tiff Mrs. Pompey had reached the middle forties, tall, sparingly-fleshed and energetic. Moreover, she was a childless widow, having suffered the bereavement of Isaac Pompey, a quiet, unobtrusive individual, some years before.

Next door, Melissa Binks, a bright, sunny-faced little woman, who never seemed at cross-purposes with life, lived through the twelve months of each year in a manner corresponding to that of her neighbor. From time immemorial she had been the confidential friend of Mrs. Pompey, the friendship being of such a warmth that scarcely a day passed during which the talkative cup of tea was not brewed by one neighbor in honor of the other. Neither had ever strayed very far from the hillside. They loved the quiet village, and Melissa frequently remarked to Mrs. Pompey that it was "most in course" she would remain Melissa Binks of Sunshine-Shadder to the end of the chapter. It was a time-worn remark, but one to which Mrs. Pompey would wink her bright blue eyes and murmur that she "'spected it beed to be." And so did the neighbors, for several years had passed since David Grey had left Melissa to await his return from the distant gold diggings where one day the looked-for letters suddenly ceased.

Companions in private life, both worked side by side in the interests of the red-brick church, very little being said or done in which they did not exercise the principal voice. The majority recognized their good judgment, and even Melissa upheld Mrs. Pompey's opinion to such an extent that she seldom received a