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pa, though she had a ring on her finger all right; never said nothing except that we could call her Mary. Nobody asked her no questions, and she didn't offer no answers. She had a little money, and when she was well enough she bought two or three acres of land from Dad and hired some of us to build her a cabin and set her out a garden patch. And when it was done she went to

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Catalogue

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housekeepin' as quiet as you please. "Folks didn't like her at first. She warn't our kind, and we knowed it. She was mighty pretty to look at, and the boys used to gawk at her a heap; but most of 'em didn't do any more. There was the baby you see, an' the ring on her finger, and the fact that she didn't wear black. Buck Fanshaw tried to make up to her, but he stopped mighty quick. He never told what she said to him, and Buck wasn't a sort of man you'd care to question; but he was always mighty nice to her afterwards. The women-folks was kinder shy of her, the Lord knows why. They just let her alone, and she wouldn't let the boys fool around her place. She'd have been pretty lonely sometimes if it hadn't been for that baby of her'n.

"He was the beatenist boy I ever see I've had plenty of my own, sons and grandsons and great-grandsons; but none of 'em was like him. He was so strong and big and handsome The women fell in love with him at sight, an' the men weren't far behind. He was mighty tender hearted too. You know When she come back he was gone. He

how children just naturally love to torment pets? I reckon it's because they don't understand how it hurts. But Harry-his ma called him Harold: but of course nobody'd stand for a fool name like that—was always doctoring them up instead. Before he was three years old he had a regular nursery of hurt things that he was a-curing. The boys used to bring him everything they come across that was ailin'. He was mighty popular. It was goin' to see him that made people get to know his mother.

"Then come the time when he was lost. The little school-teacher left him in the house one day while she went to the spring for a bucket of water.

must have wandered away and got lost in the brush, though I ain't never been able to figure out how he could have got lost anywhere about Bald Knob. But lost he was! An' dark was com-in' on, an' the mountains was full of gullies and dead falls an' catamounts. And him only five years old.

"The little schoolmistress-she warn't the schoolmistress yet a while; but it comes handier to call her so-the little schoolmistress come running to our house a-panting like a wounded deer. An' of course we all turned out an' hunted. There was fifteen of us here in them days, an' when we didn't find him quid we sent for the Fields an' the Jeffersons and the Floyds. Before dark 'most a hundred men was combing Bald