

"He wasn't very well eggicated, poor twoad, for sartain," allowed the old woman, tolerantly. "'Mazin' thing is how much he did knaw. But for the mercy of God he'd have been a full grawed zany — a fool, to say it wi'out onkindness."

"A fool, no doubt, mother," admitted Alpheus. "And the fools have done more harm in this world than the knaves, as you can very well see in Adam's case. For why? Because there are more of them, and they breed wonderfully free, do fools. You may have noticed that, if you've cast any particular thought to the parents of long families. Yes, one of the most unfortunate things that ever happened, Mrs. Hatherley, is that God Almighty, in His inscrutable wisdom, made our first parent so simple. To think of missing the Tree of Life — planted there under his nose! I speak as a mere man when I say it, of course."

Mrs. Hatherley nodded. It was a subject that greatly interested her.

"And growin' still in some outlandish foreign plaace so like as not," she said.

Mr. Newte smiled at the thought.

"If I had a hope to find it, I would go to the