calico are different things. I expect Jim

picked it up somewheres."

"If he'd picked it up, would he have folded it in tissue-paper? No, she wears a pink calico frock. An' I'll tell you another thing, Sister. Last Sunday he was so fretful. I couldn't get dinner carly enough for him an' he was the early enough for him, an' he was the greatest while dressin', prinklin' like a girl, until it was four o'clock when he went out of the gate. I clim up the attic with husband's spie glasses, an' I seen him go into Masons' door! There, now!"

"Masons' got a fine family o' girls."
"Oh, are you awake, Gran'ma? Goin' to set up an' be sociable, ain't you?
That's right. Yes, they are nice girls.
There's Amanda. She's the oldest. An' so steady! She taught five winters to the academy an' saved every cent. She don't dress so much as the others, but I do like to see a girl sensible, don't you? I'm scared she's a little old for Jim, though. Twenty an'-Husband, what year was it the academy burned down? Husband, do you hear me?

"What year was it the academy burned

down?" "How should I know?"

"Well, of all things! An' him one o' the trustees! I know she's the same age as Annie Stringer. An'-lemmesee-she's thirty-five. That's too bad. I don't think a man's wife ought to be ten years older, do you?

"I've knowed some pleasant marriages that way. There was a lady in our town onct that was twenty years older than her husband, 'an he never knowed it to his

dyin' day. They were happy togetr."

"P'raps so, Gran'ma, but it ain't natural. Not what I'd be real pleased if Jim would take to Amanda. Well, there's Katherine. She comes next. If Amanda's thirty-five, Katherine's twentynine, because they lost two children in between. Katherine makes every bit o' bread that's eat in that house. An' I must say all her cookin' is fine. Still-well, don't you think, Sister, she's got a kind o overbearin' way with her? I allers wanted ter have Jim's wife to live with me. I don't b'lieve I could, if it was Katherine. She'd run this house. She'd run us all, even Husband. I seen her old gran'father dodge onct when he passed her. It didn't look nice.'

"You wouldn't see me dodgin' for her." "P'raps not, Gran'ma, but then you've got such a sperit. I can stand out onet or twict, but day in an' day out—lawsy me, I know I'd knuckle down. It would

be turr'ble "I wouldn't borror trouble 'bout it till

I was real sure, Phemie. 'I shan't, Sister. Mebbe it's one o' the others. Bessie comes next. If Amanda's a good scholar, an' Katherine a good cook, Bessie's the most romantic girl I ever seed. She's allers readin' 'bout knights an' torments—you know, that game where they run round with a stick an' poke at another. An' she don't do a thing from knittin' a shawl to patchin' her petticoat that ain't got some romantic idee in it. That's all I've got agin' Bessie. Anything that comes out o' a book she can do, but real ordinary duties, such as gettin' supper or makin' apple-sauce, she'll forget. If Jim was took with small-pox I expect she'd nurse him through it, but I shouldn't be real satisfied 'bout the state of his socks. She'd be a splendid wife for war-times, a real ministerin' angel 'mongst the wounded, but I don't b'lieve she'd keep the cellar clean. You wouldn't like that, Gran'ma, would you? You're so partic'lar 'bout the cellar. Oh,

she's gone to sleep agin!"
"If it's anybody, Phemie, I think it's Bella. She's more Jim's age than the

"P'raps you're right, Sister. Bella is the best lookin'. She's fine lookin' an' she makes every one o' them pretty frocks she wears. She's so sought after, too. There's always a crowd o' young men hangin' round the door. This one wants her to go ridin' in his automobile. That one invites her to a sociable. An' a third's got • box o' candy under his arm. She'll set up a whole night to make a new dress for a dance, an' the next night will go footin' it along in a Portland Fancy till most folks are tuckered out. But then, don't you think Jim would kind o' tire o' all that, after the weddin'? A man likes to have his fling onct, but after he's settled down, so much gaiety is wearin'. He'd rather have a pleasant home, an a quiet place to read his paper. he, Husband? Wouldn't he?" "What?"

his paper? You oughter know.'

I never had it yet. "That's polite, I must say! I never get a word out o' you. Sometimes you do say 'yes' or 'no,' but it's only when you're hungry. Wait till you have a stylish young daughter-in-law, then you'll have to set up. I expect she'll cost Jim a sight in clothes. I don't think she is one to make over much, or provident, or far-seein'. She had hats from Boston onct or twict, as if town millinery wasn't good enough, an' proba' ly Mr. Mason would sooner see her married than any one o' the others."
"Ain't there another girl?"

had the scarlet fever an' lost all her hair. She wears caps most o' the time made out o' pink calico. Lawsy me! Could it ha' been a sample from them caps? She's a good-hearted child, an' pleasant mannered. I oughtn't to say a word ag'in her, but I should like my daughter-in-law to live contented with a woman in pink caps.

"Don't a man like a quiet place to read have hair! She's as bald as an egg, an', in winter she wears wigs made out o' lamb's wool. My, oh, my! S'pose the children should take after her! Husband, how would you like that? Husband!"

"Do for goodness sakes, let me be, Ma." "Well, answer me this one question. How would you like to have a bald-headed daughter-in-law? An' bald-headed gran-

children?

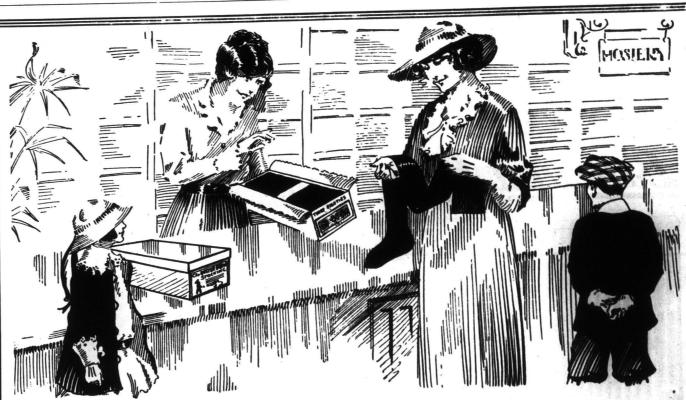
'I wouldn't care." "No, I don't s'pose you would. You wouldn't care what happened, so you could read your paper in peace. You needn't tell me there's all that news in it. You jes' read things over twict, so you won't have to talk to me. An' what "Yes, Sister, there's little Dora. I kind of a pa be you, not to care what bodon't think she'd take Jim's fancy. She comes o' your son? Poor boy, if it wasn't for me who takes an interest in him, there's no knowin' what would happen. His gran'mother goes to sleep, an' his pa reads the paper, an' all the time the poor child's off somewhere makin' hisself miserable for life. For I know no man could

P'raps he's askin' her right now, an' I can't do a thing. Lawsy me! Lawsy me!

"I wouldn't get so excited over it, Phemie.

"It's easy for you to talk, Sister. You with her if it happens. You won't have to see the little bald-headed tots runnin' about an' callin' you gran'ma. We've always been a good lookin' family, an' had our hair. Why, gran'ma there used to set on hers, an' Jim's got an' awful thick crop. Well, I've heerd folks say, 'Love laughs at locks.' I never knowed what it meant afore. We'll be the laughin' stock of the whole town, that's what we'll be. Gran'ma, wake up! Wake up! It's dreadful distressin' to hear you snore that way.'

"What? Yes. I'm purty old, an' changes come hard to old folks." "I wa'n't talkin' 'bout changes. I was talkin' 'bout snorin'. Not but what there is a change comin' that you take hard.. Ain't that Jim's step? I thought so. Nobody slams the door like Jim.



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