

turning day or night, and them that's at the top one minute are down in the dirt the next, you may say 'I want to know' before you die, and be very glad to change your tune, and say, 'Thank heaven I do know!'"

"Is that a joke of yours," said the doctor, "about the young girl's geology, or is it really a fact?"

"Fact, I assure you," said I. "And to prove it I'll tell you a story about a Female College that will shew you what pains we take to spoil our young ladies to home. Miss Liddy Adams, who was proprietor and 'dentess (presidentess) of a Female College to Onionville, was a relation of mother's, and I knew her when she was quite a young shoot of a thing to Slickville. I shall never forget a flight into Egypt I caused once in her establishment. When I returned from the embassy, I stopped a day in Onionville, near her university—for that was the name she gave her; and thinks I, I will just call and look in on Lid for old acquaintance sake, and see how she is figuring it out in life. Well, I raps away with the knocker, as loud as possible, as much as to say, make haste, for there is *somebody* here, when a tall spare gall with a vinegar face, opened the door just wide enough to show her profile, and hide her back gear, and stood to hear what I had to say. I never see so spare a gall since I was raised. Pharoh's lean kine warn't the smallest part of a circumstance to her. She was so thin, she actilly seemed as if she would have to lean agin the wall to support herself when she scolded, and I had to look twice at her before I could see her at all, for I warn't sure *she* warn't her own shadow."

"Good gracious!" said the Doctor, "what a description! but go on."

"Is the mistress at home?" said I.

"I have no mistress," said she.

"I didn't say you had," says I, "for I knew you hadn't afore you spoke."

"How did you know that?" said she.

"Because," says I, "seein' so handsome a lady as you, I thought you was one of the professors; and then I thought you must be the mistress herself, and was thinking how likely she had grow'd since I seed her last. Are you one of the class-teachers?"

"It bothered her; she didn't know whether it was impudence or admiration; but when a woman arbitrates on a case she is interested in, she always gives an award in her own favor."

"Walk in, Sir," said she, "and I will see," and she backed and backed before me, not out of deference to me, but to the hooks of her gown, and threw a door open. On the opposite side was a large room filled with galls, peeping and looking over each other's shoulders at me, for it was intermission.

"Are these your pupils?" says I; and before she could speak, I went right past into the midst of 'em. Oh, what a scuddin' and screamin' there was among them! A rocket explodin' there couldn't a' done more mischief. They tumbled over chairs, upstot tables, and

went head and heels over each other like anything, shouting out, 'A man! a man!'

"Where—where?" says I, a-chasin' of them, 'show him to me, and I'll soon clear him out. What is he a-doing of?'

"It was the greatest fun you ever see. Out they flew through the door at the other end of the room, some up and some down stairs, singing out, 'A man! a man!' till I thought they would have hallooed their daylight's out. Away I flew after them, calling out, 'Where is he? show him to me, and I'll soon pitch into him!' when who should I see but Miss Liddy in the entry, as stiff and as starch as a stand-up shirt collar of a frosty day. She looked like a large pale icicle, standing up in its broad end, and cold enough to give you the ague to look at her."

"Mr. Slick," said she, "may I ask what is the meaning of all this unseemly behaviour in the presence of young ladies of the first families in the State?"

"Says I, 'Miss Adam,' for as she used the word Mr. as a handle to me, I thought I'd take a pull at the Miss, 'some robber or house-breaker has got in, I rather think, and scared the young fememine students, for they seemed to be running after somebody, and I thought I would assist them.'

"May I ask, Sir," a-drawin' of herself up to her full height, as straight and as prim as a Lombardy poplar, or rather, a bull-rush, for that's all one size. 'May I ask, Sir, what is the object of your visit here—at a place where no gentleman are received but the parents or guardians of some of the children.'

"I was as mad as a hatter; I felt a little bit vain of the embassy to London, and my Paris dress, particularly my boots and gloves, and all that, and I will admit, there is no use talkin,' I rather kinder sorter thought she would be proud of the connection. I am a good natured man in a general way, when I am pleased, but it ain't safe to ryle me, I tell you. When I am spotty on the back, I am dangerous. I bit in my breath, and tried to look cool, for I was determined to take revenge out of her."

"Allow me to say, Sir," said she, a perkin' up her mouth like the end of a silk purse, 'that I think your intrusion is as unwelcome as it is unpardonable. May I ask the favour of you to withdraw? if not, I must introduce you to the watchman.'

"I came," says I, 'Miss Adam, having heard of your distinguished college in the saloons of Paris and London, to make a proposal to you; but, like a bull—'

"Oh, dear!" said she, 'to think I should have lived to hear such a horrid word in this abode of learning!'

"But," I went on, without stopping, like a bull in a chiny-shop, I see I have got into the wrong pew, so nothin' remains but for me to beg pardon, keep my proposal for where it will be civilly received, at least, and back out.'

"She was as puzzled as the maid. But woman ain't throwed of their guard easily. If they are in a dark place, they can feel their