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Then he came back, the muscles of his mouth twitching, sat down by the fireplace, and hid his head in his hands. "I didn't think you'd have done it, Old Man. I didn't think you'd have done it."

Old Man affected to be busy with his accoutrements. When he had finished pottering about, he came up to Ikey, and laid one hand on his shoulder.

"Git up, you idgeot, or I'll larrup you."

Ikey sprang up, and pushed Old Man back against the wall with a force which astonished him.

"You're goin' away acause of her," he shouted. "Acause of her! I see it all now, blasted fool as I was. It's me as orter be goin' away; it's you as orter be tryin' on theseyer store-clothes an' shiney boots." He kicked the parcel contemptuously into the corner, walked to the window, and began to haul down the muslin curtains. "I was kind of allowin' to myself theseyer flower-pots didn't look nat'ral by no manner of means," he said, grinding one to pieces beneath his heel. "Ain't thar nothin' else as I kin smash afore we starts, Old Man?"