

*Sweetest,
Wildest
Tame Honey*

There was just enough light to work by, and it was in all its aspects an uncanny performance. For an owl hooted in a nearby tree, and Mrs. Charlie stood hard by, with a tin boiler uncovered, ready to receive the honey. And after the tree had fallen with a crash that must have shaken the dust of all who lay yonder upon the hill, she received until the boiler was almost half full of what was to the taste as if it were the rarest, sweetest, wildest *tame* honey ever produced.

"No," said Charlie, as he took hold of one handle of the boiler and his wife the other, "they didn't skunk us."

Then they all trudged along for a while in silence, the son and small boy following with the saw, and the owl keeping close to them, flitting from tree to tree. They were to return by the old road, and in order to do so, it was necessary to cross the creek, stepping from log to log just as we used to do when on the way to the berry patch. Twice Charlie slipped into water that went over his boot-tops, but the good woman clung like a leech to the slippery logs.

Presently they came out into the open, where the boiler with its precious freight was set on the ground while its bearers rested.

And it was in truth a restful scene. The old road, all grown over with grass, curved between the two clumps of bush like a natural corridor, and across Wilson's field could be discerned the several lights of the neighbouring village. A buggy rattled on the new road, and they could hear the doctor hurrying to some sickbed, saying, "Come, come, now! Get along, get along!" A weird cloud of mist hung over Hammond's lime kiln, and Charlie, with his head bared, stood looking at it.

"So they say I say there's no God," he said.

The moonlight fell full upon his face, a benign, even if gnarled old face, as we stood looking silently at him regarding the mist.

"I know nothing," he said gravely, "and I own up to it, except that God, *my* God, moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

*Charlie's
Philosophy*

