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do that Nell was old enough to vote when we got her, and you know how many years we've had her. Why can't you be sensible and let me get something for her rather than shoot her one of these days."

"Have your own way about it John," I answered shortly, "you will anyway."

As the door slammed behind him I glanced out, and there was old Mr. Winters coming up the road leading a horse,-presumably the one of which John had spoken. The matter must have been all fully arranged before, and for a minute my blood boiled with righteous anger.

But why-why was he leading the horse and walking !

Perhaps, as John says, I am naturally suspicious.

Mr. Winters came through the gate leading the new horse right up to where John was ploughing in front of the house, and I saw him looking over her critically. So did L all unobserved. from behind the sheltered curtains.

She was a dark bay with small, sensitive ears, ears that twitched and were constantly in motion, expressing her every shade of thought, and she had thoughts, plenty of them, and deep ones

Her mane was short and unkempt, her hair rough as if from lack of good grooming, while her short tail was frayed and uneven, as if it had been chewed by some mischievous colt or young calf. This much I saw from the window, but John, who came in to draw my attention to her and if possible win my approving smile, added the information that she was wiry and tough as whalebone, and had such a kind eye in her head.

Well, the deal was made, and the horse was hitched to the wagon with her new mate. John volunteering to drive Mr. Winters home. The latter expostulated and seemed anxious to walk, but John good-naturedly insisted and the old gentleman climbed gingerly up behind and poor old Nell, the children's cherished pet, was led away to a strange

The new horse was on her good behavior, and knew her business well. All evening and far into the night I heard her praises sounded; John mentally patting himself on the back the while for his clever trade.

Next morning she was harnessed and led out to the plough with the other horse. When just in front of the house she cast her eyes round at John, squealed and bobbed up suddenly.

She kicked only by "spells"! Well, this promised to be one of them. But the promise was nothing to the fulfil-

When he started to plough she started to kick, and such kicking !

Higher than John's head, fiercely and incessantly her heels flew, while at every kick she grunted or squealed. Mud and water flew in showers, the

other horse backed around and looked at her in surprise, but she never ceased until she stood free. Mr. Winters had suggested kindness

when she had one of her tantrums, and John certainly held his temper well. Patiently he again fastened the tugs and started, but it was the same old story. At the commencement of the furrow, again in the centre, and at the end she had her spell of kicking. At last, his patience exhausted, John

unhitched the other horse and took her to the stable, fearing that she might be kicked or spoiled. Then, between his teeth, by way of emphasizing the remark, he vowed that Kate (such was her name) should plough alone or he would know the reason why. And plough she did. Bravely she bent to the task, and though he drove the plough deeper and deeper, almost to the beam, she sailed ahead, and still she kicked just as she had at the beginning. Thoroughly tired and almost disgusted he unhitched and came round to the stables, but instead of putting her in

he tied her to the fence and came into "Isn't she a proper ——————?" he the house.

queried.

I don't mention the word as it sounds rather profane, except when used in church, but I never before heard of a proper one. John, however, needs much excusing, for he was sorely tried. I merely nodded my agreement.



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