

preparations that she was unable to answer or to remember that she already had salted the stew which she was preparing for dinner. As she wondered and worked, her husband came in.

"Wife," said Sam, "ev'rythin' seems turnin' upside down. Deacon Quickset came into the shop a while ago. What do you suppose he wanted? Wanted me to pray for him! I said I would, an' I did, but I was so took aback by it that I had to talk to somebody, so I came home."

"Why didn't you go talk to the preacher or Rey Bartram?" asked Mrs. Kimper, after the natural expressions of astonishment had been made.

"Well," said Sam, "I suppose it was because I wanted to talk to somebody that I was better acquainted with."

Mrs. Kimper looked at her husband in amazement. Sam returned his wife's gaze, but with a placid expression of countenance.

"I don't amount to much, Sam," Mrs. Kimper finally sighed, with a helpless look.

"You're my wife; that's 'much'—to me. Some day I hope it will be the same to you."

There was a knock at the door, and as soon as Sam had shouted "Come in!" Judge Prency entered.

"Sam," said he, "ever since I saw you were in earnest about leading a new life I've been tryin' to arrange matters so that your boy Joe—I suppose you know why he ran away—could come back without getting into trouble. It was not easy work, for the man from whom he took—he seemed to feel very ugly. But he has promised not to prosecute."

"Thank God!" exclaimed Sam. "If, now, I knew where the boy was——"

"I've attended to that, too. I've had him looked up and found, and placed in good hands for two or three weeks, and I don't believe you will be ashamed of him when he returns."

Sam Kimper lapsed into silence, and the judge felt uncomfortable. At last Sam exclaimed: "I feel as if it would take a big prayer and thanksgiving meeting to tell all that's in my mind."

"A very good idea," said the judge; "and as you have the very people present who should take part in it, I will make haste to remove all outside influences." So saying, the judge bowed in his most courtly manner to Mrs. Kimper and Jane, and departed.

"Let us all pray," said Sam, dropping upon his knees.

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