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My Neighbor.

- My neighbor was a widder, an' she had a rundown farm
- her cows an' pigs an' chickens done a mighty lot o' harm
- To my fields adjinin', an' I stood it quite awhile.
- Till I wouldn't be imposed on in no such kind of style.
- So I looked my very maddest as I walked up to her door,
- Till she looked up at me smilin' while a-washin' up the floor,
- An' her cheeks was red as roses an' her hair es black es night; I forgot to scold an' sass her, for she
- seemed so sweet an' bright. But my hand was to the plow now, an'
- it wouldn't never do To forgit them depredations jes' by lookin' at her shoe.
- So I gathered up my anger an' I said, Now, Mrs. Brown,'
- An' my tones put out her eyes' light an' the lashes they fell down.
- But I ain't no man for foolin', and I went right on to say How her pigs et all my melons an' her
- cows et tons of hay ; How her chickens scratched my corn out,
- an' I wouldn't hev it so, Gittin' harder all the time, like a mad
- man will, you know. Then the widder she looked up, with a
- teardrop on her cheek.
- An' a somethin' in her throat that wouldn't let her speak
- But she sobbed an' cried out in a kind o' teary tone.
- That she had no one to help her, an' was poor an' all alone.
- An' my hand was off the plow then an a-reachin' out fer hern.
- I had learnt a sudden lesson that I never thought I'd learn. Well, my scoldin' was a failure, seein'
- what I thought to do,
- For her pigs an' cows are all here, an the widder's with 'em, too.
- -Will F. McSparran, in New York Farmer

HORSE REFLECTIONS

- I'm only a horse, at a heavy old dray, But I ponder and think, while I'm tugging away ;
- As I hear, ev'ry day, of man's latest invention.
- I wonder we horses don't get more attention.
- We slip and we fall on the wet, snowy street,
- While a driver shouts, "Why dom't you
- stand on your feet?" And many a horse that is heavily loaded, Though doing his best is upbraided and
- goaded;
- en a brute, without conscience of heart,
- Drives a hungry, long-suffering horse to
- And I think, as I look at this scum of the nation,
- "So you are what man call 'A lord of creation.'
- I hope there's a fortune that someone will
- For a non-slipping horseshoe, for streets
- that are wet;
- 'Twould be an invention much more to my notion
- Than one you can talk with to men on the ocean.
- But while we are waiting, if some kindly
- hand Would spread, here and there, a few
- shovels of sand
- Where borses are slipping and trembling and quaking
- Twould save many limbs from so needlessly breaking.
 - -I. F. Layton in Rider and Driver.

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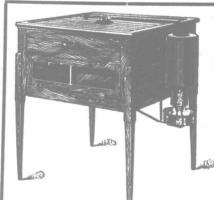
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