

LUCINDA, *glancing around*:

He was here a minute ago.

(Re-enter Joe Mann. Lucinda continues to pack suitcase).

INEZ, *grasping Joe's hand*:

My partner, Mrs. Strange-Ada, scientist, reformer and...

MRS. STRANGE-ADA, *in loud voice, puffing out her chest*:

A reformer and reformed all along the line. And you know that the reformed are firm, steadfast and never waver.

JOE MANN, *under his breath*:

(The reformed are puritanical and never strike a happy medium).

Please be seated, ladies.

INEZ:

We are in a great, great hurry. (To Mrs. S-Ada) Make your speech brief and to the point.

(This starts an argument that looks like a woman's squabble).

MRS. STRANGE-ADA:

It is up to you if you can do better than—

INEZ, *impatiently*:

Oh, hurry!

MRS. STRANGE-ADA:

Why did you volunteer if...

INEZ:

Why did you ask if...

MRS. S-ADA:

Now what is the use of—

INEZ:

Oh, hurry—we shall discuss that when—

JOE MANN, *pacing floor*:

Just like women—When they are in a hurry!

LUCINDA:

Oh, I don't know as men always do things without arguing.

MRS. STRANGE-ADA:

Well—

INEZ:

Such a waste of time!

MRS. STRANGE-ADA *prepares to speak to Joe Mann*:

Well—

INEZ, *nervously*:

Be careful of what you say and how you say it—He is a very sensitive man. I humor him.

MRS. STRANGE-ADA, *scornfully*:

Why so MEEK? You have just entered the happy bonds of matrimony. What cause can progress with such tame, afraid cat methods?

JOE MANN:

I am at your service, ladies.

(Mrs. Strange-Ada suddenly remembers what she came for).

MRS. STRANGE-ADA:

Oh—Thank you.

INEZ *cautions her in a low whisper*:

Flatter him.

MRS. S-ADA, *with a withering glance*:

Forget it—(To Joe) Mr. Mann, we have come to ask you to present a bill at Albany. We want a law to compel men to give their name and support to their children born out of wedlock.

JOE MANN:

That will fill a long felt want.

MRS. STRANGE-ADA:

As one, of the two thousand women, who signed the petition for the betterment of child labor laws, I felt so insulted when told that the signature of two thousand mice would be just as effective, that I plunged with renewed vigor in to scientific research to find the elemental secret of life—So that woman—

(Inez is tugging at Mrs. S-Ada's skirt, trying to restrain her).