

*THE MEANEST MAN*

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Yes, I might have found one much younger  
If I had gone looking around,  
But you can keep house, little woman,  
With the best of them, I'll be bound.

Looks shan't count when I hunt a woman,  
Said I to myself, long ago,  
That she's savin', an' strong, an' hearty,  
Is all that I hanker to know.

I tell you what, Jane, such a bargain  
Won't travel your road every day,  
I've fixed my affections right on you,  
When shall it be? What do you say?

We're both of us steady an' honest,  
We've both got a fair share of pelf,  
I've looked quite a while for a woman  
Who thinks just about like myself."

I gasped, Sarah Ann, for a minute,  
Was never so shamed in my life,  
And old Abner Green stood there leering,  
Quite certain, that I'd be his wife.

"Do I look so anxious to marry?"

Said I, with lips scornfully curled,  
"That you really think I'd go partners  
With the meanest man in the world?"