













(Continued from first page.)
had come meaning to take them with him to "live in clover," and this was the way she had welcomed him. All the lady castles in the air which she had been building during the past week were shattered and tumbled to the ground, and she was left to look at the wreck of her dream.

At Lizzy's cry, "Oh, mamma, I thought he was the tramp!" I thought he was the mother's dress, and cried as if her heart would break. The other children joined in the chorus. Ben looked at all, and I saw that he had broken down. He was the distracted Mrs. Milham.

She finally got voice enough back to get up. "Well, really, Uncle Patterson, I don't know how to say it, but at this point she was interrupted by a new demon of a man who stepped forward and said, "I thought he was the tramp," his angry and surprised expression slowly dawned on him, and finally he broke in upon Mrs. Milham's confused exclamations with a tremendous laugh.

Lizzy stopped crying in wonder at the sound. The old man's amusement was so contagious that Mrs. Milham, in all her mortification, could not help joining in. The children began to think it all very funny when their mother would laugh and cry at the same time. At last Uncle Patterson gathered himself slowly from the floor, and said, "Don't ye say another word! Thought I was a tramp, did ye? Now ye've got me right and wrong, and I like ye spunkier when I see 'em. Go to knock me on the head, was it? How'd I like that? Never mind, don't ye cry, I served me right for comin' in on ye that way. And there ain't no harm done, except the hat, and I guess I owe ye a darn to give ye a new one, anyway."

"Ye see, Betsey, I went on, taking a chair in the kitchen, got as close to the door as I could, and walked over to the room. Then I'd have to go to the door, but when I got here it was so hot that it seemed as if I must get in some where or not. So, I thought, nobody was in, I made free to climb in your window, but I got caught in your burglarize!"

What a merry time they had together that evening! They talked and laughed and sang away all afternoon together. The children played in their usual way, and Mrs. Milham, who had been so mortified, was now so happy that she had almost forgotten her own name. And at last, when Uncle Patterson had had his fill of the good things, he said, "I'm glad to see ye all so merry, but I must be going. I'll be back in a few days, and I'll bring ye a new hat, and I'll give ye a new one, anyway."

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