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WHEN FOWLerville ENTHUSED
 By M. QUAD
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For years William Strong was the village cooper. He was called Bill by old and young. He was lazy and good natured. He had been married, but his wife had divorced him, and he kept house by himself in the rear end of his cooper shop. Bill had never been known to argue. He had never made a speech. He had never taken any interest in local matters. He had just made barrels and kegs and been Bill Strong. One evening when the usual crowd had assembled at the grocery and postoffice Mr. Strong turned Fowlerville upside down. Without having given a hint of his intentions he mounted the horse block and began a speech.

In the suburbs of the village dwelt Mrs. Henderson, widow, forty years old. Her husband had left her a poor old house and five acres of land. There were a cow and a horse, and by hiring the horse out by the day and renting most of her land and making her own garden she had managed to get along after a fashion. Bill Strong's speech was all about the widow. It was an appeal rather than a speech—an appeal to the sympathy and charity of his listeners. That's what knocked the breath out of the crowd. As Fowlerville had known Bill Strong, a dozen people might have been starving to death any time and he would have taken no interest. The speaker painted the picture of a lonely widow, a grieving widow and a hard up widow. It was a case worthy of any man's charity. It had brought tears to his

eyes and a sadness to his heart. Spring was here, the speaker continued. Four out of five of the widow's acres ought to be planted to corn and potatoes. He had no money, but he would give three days' work. Who would furnish the seed, who do the plowing, who work with him at the planting? Here was a missionary field at home. It was because Bill Strong made the appeal in such a surprising way that the crowd took hold. In five minutes all was settled. Next day the widow's acres were being plowed, and within three days the planting had been finished.

Bill Strong had a second appeal ready. He mounted the same horse block and thanked his collaborators in the name of charity and then proceeded to say that the widow's house was old and the roof leaked. As she sat there in her loneliness the water dripped down on her grieving head. He had no money, but he would give his work if others would give the shingles and nails. Others did so, and a brand new roof appeared. Then came the third appeal. Why not paint the old house and make it match the newness of the roof? Two coats would be the thing, and such was the enthusiasm that one of the merchants insisted on being one of the brush wielders. There was an old fence in front of the house. Bill Strong made no appeal about that. He didn't have to. Others saw the need, and a new fence was built. A new roof was also put on the cow shed and the well provided with a pump. Fowlerville enthused from top to bottom.

The women came to do their part. They presented the widow with dishes, carpets and furniture and gave her of their wardrobes. They clubbed their pin money and bought her a sewing machine. The Sunday school scholars bought the old horse a new harness and a stack of hay for their share. The Young Ladies' Literary club discovered that the widow's cow was on her last legs with old age, and the animal was sold to the butcher and a young one purchased. Never did so many gifts reach a widow's hands. She was somewhat in debt, and the Young Men's Athletic club insisted on paying them. So many actions, calling for so many tears, kept her eyes red and swollen all the time, while Bill Strong was looked upon with more awe and admiration than if he had won the welterweight championship of the world.

By the time all these good things had been done it was time to hoe the corn and potatoes and weed the garden. Fowlerville turned out en masse for that. It was made a sort of legal holiday, and over a hundred men and women turned out to make a picnic of the work. Those who didn't turn out furnished the lemonade and sandwiches for dinner. When the hoeing and weeding had been finished men and women agreed that there was nothing more to be done.

But Fowlerville made one more rally. It raised a clear hundred dollars in cash and placed the purse in the hands of the widow. She had shed many, many tears, but she squeezed out a few more.

Next morning the town beheld Bill Strong moving his few household goods out of his cooper shop. He had a busy air about him. He also had a changed look. When he had gone to a clothing store and priced a twenty-five dollar suit and been to the railroad depot to inquire the price of a ticket some one made bold to ask: "Well, Bill, is everything all right?" "Right as right," was the hearty reply.

"You seem to be a busy man this morning?"

"Yes, I am. Me and the widow Henderson were married last evening, and we start for Niagara Falls on our bridal tour tomorrow morning! Much obliged to you fellows for fixing us up in such good shape!"

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 "What horse?"
 "The horse in general."
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Pleasant fiction is the fairy tales about yourself.

There is no rose without a thorn and no girl without a florist's bill.

The greatest pleasure connected with knowing some persons lies in avoiding them.

You can't judge others by yourself, but you do.

Some persons act as if helping the other fellow were tantamount to knocking themselves.

The minute a woman gets everything she wants she doesn't want anything. Think this over.

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