

THE MULE GAVE IT UP.

As the road turned around the hill I came upon a mule and cart and a man. The wheel of the cart had sunk deep into a mudhole and the mule stood with his head down and ears lazily working to and fro. As for the man, he lay on his back in the shade of a tree and seemed to be taking solid comfort.

"What is the matter?" I asked as he sat up and looked at me. "Mewl has balked," he slowly replied.

"You mean that he has refused to pull the cart out of the mud?" "Zactly."

"But it's a big load and a small mule," I urged. "Why don't you give him some help?"

"It's agin my principles I've yelled at him and I've licked him till I'm tired, but I'll be dog-goned if I take anything off that load or boost that cart! No, sah—we stay right yere till the pesky critter gets up and humps hisself and pulls that cart out of the mud!"

"Then you are not in a hurry?" I queried.

"No, sah; no hurry 'tall," he replied, as he hitched back to get more shada.

"My son Dan is plowin' out co'n with the cow, the ole woman is fixen' up the fences, and I've a gallon of whis-kev and a pound of terbacker in the cart. It's a question of bein' sot, and if I can't stav sot longer'n a \$30 mewl then I'd better move out of Alabama."

Five days later I met the man at Greenville and asked him how the "sotness" came out.

"Oh! yes!" he replied with a grin. "Wall, I camped right there fur two days and nights, a singin' hymns and restin up and havin a good time, and then that mewl a-seein' that when it come down to sotness he wasn't in it with me. took right hold and pulled that cart out the mud and galloped all the way home!"—Detroit Free Press.

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