

A Woman that Could be Depended on.

A certain lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, (we will not give the name or number) determined to have their lodge room done up clean and nice. It was resolved unanimously that Mrs. K., should be employed to do the job. After the meeting adjourned, the Guardian, who knew the inquisitive character of Mrs. K., procured a billy goat and placed him in a closet that was kept as a reservoir for the secret things. He then informed the woman of the wishes of the lodge, and requested her to come early the next morning, and he would then show her what was and what was not to be done.

Morning came, and with it madam K., with her broom, brushes, pails, &c., and found the Guardian waiting for her. "Now, madam," he said, "I will tell what we want done, and how we want to employ you. The brothers said it was difficult to get anybody to do the job and not be meddling with the secrets in the closet; we have lost the key, and cannot find it to lock the door. I assured them that you can be depended on."

"Depended on! I guess I can. My poor dead and gone husband he belonged to the Free Mason or anti-Masons, I don't know which. He used to tell me all the secrets of the concern, and when he showed me all the marks of the gridiron, made when he was initiated, and told me how they fixed poor Morgan, I never told a living soul to this day; if nobody troubles your closet to find out your secrets till I do, they will lie there till they rot, they will."

"I thought so," said the Guardian, "and I want you to commence in that corner, and give the whole room a decent cleaning; now don't go into that closet," and then left the woman to herself.

No sooner had she heard the sound of his feet on the last step of the stairs than she exclaimed:

"Don't go into that closet! I'll warrant there's a gridiron, or some nonsense, just like the anti-Masons, for all the world, I'll be bound. I will take one peep, and no one will be the wiser, as I can keep it to myself."

Suiting the action to the work, she stepped lightly to the forbidden closet, and turned the button, which was no sooner done than "Bah!" went the billy goat, with a spring to regain his liberty, which came near upsetting her ladyship. Both started for the door, but it was filled with implements for house cleaning, and all were swept clear from their position down to the bottom of the stairs.

The noise and confusion occasioned by such unceremonious coming down the stairs, drew half the town to witness Mrs. K.'s effort to get from under the pile of pails, tubs, brooms and brushes in the street.

Who should be the first at the spot but the rascally door-keeper! After releasing the goat, which was a cripple for life, and uplifting the rubbish that bound the good woman to the earth, he anxiously inquired if she had been taking the degrees.

"Taking the degrees! If you call tumbling from top to the bottom of the stairs with the devil after you taking things by degrees, I have them, and if ye frighten folks as ye have frightened me, and hurt to boot, I'll warrant they will make as much noise as I did."

"I hope you didn't open the closet, madam," said the door-keeper.

"Open the closet? Eye ate the apple she was forbidden. If you want a woman to do anything, tell her not to do it and she'll do it certain. I could not stand the temptation. The secret was there. I wanted so know it. I opened the door, out popped that tarnal critter right into my face. I thought the old boy had me, and I broke for the stairs with the critter bawling me at every jump. I fell over the tub, and got down stairs, as you found us, all in a heap."

"But, madam," said the door-keeper, "you are in possession of the great secret of our order, and must go up to be initiated and sworn, and then go in the regular way."

"Regular way!" exclaimed the lady, "and do you suppose I am going near the tarnal place, and ride that tarnal critter without a bride or lady's saddle? No, never! I don't want nothing to do with the man that rides it. I'd look nice perched upon a billy goat, wouldn't I? No, never! I will never go nigh it again, and if I can prevent it, no woman shall ever join the Odd Fellows! Why, I'd sooner be a Free Mason, and be broiled on a gridiron as long as the fire could be kept under it, and pulled from garret to cellar, just as was my poor dear husband. And he lived over it, but I could never live over such another ride as I took to-day."

Before taking liberties with a strange dog, observe his tail and wait for the wag on.

Merzy Consolation Smith, is Fort Wayne's handsome girl. Merzy will no doubt be a Consolation to some fellow.

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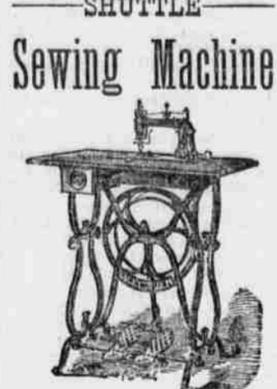
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