

THE ADVENTURES OF SPUR.

CHAPTER III. I HAD BEEN IN A TAVEN BRAWL...

"You see now women passed by, and by screaming at the sight of blood, put him out of all patience. Dragging them back by the skirts, he told me to take the depositions, and pulled out pen and ink horn.

"The charge is homicidium, or man slaying, or, in other words, 'murder.' Found my knife, and must be found guilty. 'But'—I looked round, but my boy was invisible, and my eyes fell on Master Daveman, who slowly shook his head.

"'I'll say no word,' said he, stolidly; 'Twenty pounds, one time, by a lawsuit.' 'Ay, and a young man was killed.' 'That's a shame! A man murdered!' 'Ay, and the worst is they say it was I that killed him!'

"'He's mad. The boy's stark raving mad!' exclaimed my kinsman. 'To come here in this trim!' 'Why, truly, nunk, thou art a strange one to talk of apparitions. Oh, dear! and I burst into a wild, unmeaning laugh, and the wine had warmed me up to play the comedy out.

"'To hear thee sing 'With a fa-la-twee-twee!' and—'Oh, nunk, that medlar on thy face is so funny!' 'Heaven's name, stop!' broke in the Prince Maurice. 'Am I mad, or only drunk? Rupert, if you love me, say I am no worse than drunk.'

"'Lor' bless 'em, answered his brother. 'I for one never this way before.' 'Indeed, your highness be only drunk,' said I, 'and able to that sign the order that I shall ask you for.' 'An order!' 'To pass the city gates to-night.'

"'Oh, stop him somebody,' ground Prince Rupert; 'my head is whirling.' 'With your leave,' I explained, pouring out another glass; 'is the simplest matter, and one that a child could undertake. Yes, this young man was killed, and they charged me with it; so away I ran, and the watch after me; and therefore I wish to pass the city gates. And as I may have far to travel, and gave my last groat to a thief for holding me over the wall.'

"'A thief—my wall!' repeated Master Carter. 'Oh, well, it is your poor mother in her grave!' 'Why, therefore I came for money,' I would say, sipping the wine, and nodding to all present.

"'Twas at this moment that, catching my eye, the Prince Maurice slapped his leg, and, leaning back, broke into peal after peal of laughter. And in a moment his brother took the same; also; and there we three sat and shook, and roared unquenchably round Master Carter, who, staring blankly from one to another, sat gazing, as though the last alarm bell had rung in his ears.

"'Oh, oh! Hit me on the back, Maurice!' 'Oh, oh! I cannot—'tis killing me—Master Carter, for my sake, look no more; but pay the lad his money.' 'Your highness!' 'Pay it, I say; pay it; 'tis fairly won.' 'Fifty pounds!' 'I'm sick of schooling you.' 'Be hanged if I do!' snapped Master Carter. 'Then be hanged, sir, but all the town shall hear of it, and I'll be the first to tell the world.'

possession for my use, or, when I happen to be out of the country, to let you have it. I finished the sentence by tossing off a glass. 'This is rare stuff!' I said.

"'Blood and fury!' burst out Prince Rupert, fumbling for his sword, and then gazing, as though he had seen a ghost, at the wine which he had just drunk.

"'Two hundred pound! Thou Jackanapes!'—began Master Carter. 'I'll let you off with fifty to-night,' said I. 'Ten thousand!' 'No, fifty. Indeed, nunk, I'll give you ten, simple.' 'The Crown's tavern!'

"'At a tavern!' 'At a young man die!' 'Died!' 'Ay, and a young man was killed.' 'That's a shame! A man murdered!' 'Ay, and the worst is they say it was I that killed him!'

"'He's mad. The boy's stark raving mad!' exclaimed my kinsman. 'To come here in this trim!' 'Why, truly, nunk, thou art a strange one to talk of apparitions. Oh, dear! and I burst into a wild, unmeaning laugh, and the wine had warmed me up to play the comedy out.

"'To hear thee sing 'With a fa-la-twee-twee!' and—'Oh, nunk, that medlar on thy face is so funny!' 'Heaven's name, stop!' broke in the Prince Maurice. 'Am I mad, or only drunk? Rupert, if you love me, say I am no worse than drunk.'

"'Lor' bless 'em, answered his brother. 'I for one never this way before.' 'Indeed, your highness be only drunk,' said I, 'and able to that sign the order that I shall ask you for.' 'An order!' 'To pass the city gates to-night.'

"'Oh, stop him somebody,' ground Prince Rupert; 'my head is whirling.' 'With your leave,' I explained, pouring out another glass; 'is the simplest matter, and one that a child could undertake. Yes, this young man was killed, and they charged me with it; so away I ran, and the watch after me; and therefore I wish to pass the city gates. And as I may have far to travel, and gave my last groat to a thief for holding me over the wall.'

"'A thief—my wall!' repeated Master Carter. 'Oh, well, it is your poor mother in her grave!' 'Why, therefore I came for money,' I would say, sipping the wine, and nodding to all present.

"'Twas at this moment that, catching my eye, the Prince Maurice slapped his leg, and, leaning back, broke into peal after peal of laughter. And in a moment his brother took the same; also; and there we three sat and shook, and roared unquenchably round Master Carter, who, staring blankly from one to another, sat gazing, as though the last alarm bell had rung in his ears.

"'Oh, oh! Hit me on the back, Maurice!' 'Oh, oh! I cannot—'tis killing me—Master Carter, for my sake, look no more; but pay the lad his money.' 'Your highness!' 'Pay it, I say; pay it; 'tis fairly won.' 'Fifty pounds!' 'I'm sick of schooling you.' 'Be hanged if I do!' snapped Master Carter. 'Then be hanged, sir, but all the town shall hear of it, and I'll be the first to tell the world.'

By this the day was clouded over, and the rain coming down fast. So that as soon as my comrade was decently arrayed at the first shop stop we came to, 'twas high time to seek an inn. So we went to a quarter at 'The Horn,' and scattered the traveler's room, and a fire to dry ourselves.

"In this room, at the window, were two men who looked lazily up at our entrance. They were playing at a game, which was some other than to raise up a pane of glass and water which should prove the faster.

"'A wet day!' said my comrade cheerfully. The pair regarded him. 'I'll lay you a crown it clears within the hour after the first of the late gale; and, moreover, I'll give nothing of the roof, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall hill with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a fish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope of entertainment.

"The building was an inn, though a sorry one. Nor, save for the lighted window, did it wear any grace of hospitality, but thrust out a bare shoulder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overhead and looked for all the world as though it were a piece of wood. The inn was opened at once, and I saw a couple of men in the lighted passage.

"'Heard the mare's heels on the road, Cap'n Hillio! What in the fend's name is this?' 'Said I, 'if you are of that keeps this house, I want two things of you—first, a civil tongue, and next a bed.' 'You'll get neither, then.' 'Your sign says that you keep an inn.' 'You're the 'Three Cups,' but we're full.

"'Your manner of speech proves that to be a lie.' I liked the fellow's woe so little that 'twas odds I would have remonstrated Mollly and ridden away; but at this instant there floated down the stairs, and through the inn, a strong smelling passage sound that made me jump. 'Twas a girl's voice singing: 'Hey nonny—nonny—non! Men folk that wish to bed, When the bells of death do ring.'

"There was no doubt upon it. The voice belonged to the young gentleman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards the stairs, and was met by the landlady, who, with a look of surprise, said: 'The second man, that'll not stand with me back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Mollly with his gaze. 'Twas hard to read his features, but there was there a look of earnestness, as though he was no other than Luke Settle's comrade, Black Dick.

"My mind was made up. 'I'll not ride a step farther to-night,' said I. 'This side there and freeze,' answered the landlady. 'He was for slamming the door in my face, when the other caught him by the arm, and, pulling him a little back, whispered a word of counsel. I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

By this the day was clouded over, and the rain coming down fast. So that as soon as my comrade was decently arrayed at the first shop stop we came to, 'twas high time to seek an inn. So we went to a quarter at 'The Horn,' and scattered the traveler's room, and a fire to dry ourselves.

"In this room, at the window, were two men who looked lazily up at our entrance. They were playing at a game, which was some other than to raise up a pane of glass and water which should prove the faster.

"'A wet day!' said my comrade cheerfully. The pair regarded him. 'I'll lay you a crown it clears within the hour after the first of the late gale; and, moreover, I'll give nothing of the roof, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall hill with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a fish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope of entertainment.

"The building was an inn, though a sorry one. Nor, save for the lighted window, did it wear any grace of hospitality, but thrust out a bare shoulder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overhead and looked for all the world as though it were a piece of wood. The inn was opened at once, and I saw a couple of men in the lighted passage.

"'Heard the mare's heels on the road, Cap'n Hillio! What in the fend's name is this?' 'Said I, 'if you are of that keeps this house, I want two things of you—first, a civil tongue, and next a bed.' 'You'll get neither, then.' 'Your sign says that you keep an inn.' 'You're the 'Three Cups,' but we're full.

"'Your manner of speech proves that to be a lie.' I liked the fellow's woe so little that 'twas odds I would have remonstrated Mollly and ridden away; but at this instant there floated down the stairs, and through the inn, a strong smelling passage sound that made me jump. 'Twas a girl's voice singing: 'Hey nonny—nonny—non! Men folk that wish to bed, When the bells of death do ring.'

"There was no doubt upon it. The voice belonged to the young gentleman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards the stairs, and was met by the landlady, who, with a look of surprise, said: 'The second man, that'll not stand with me back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Mollly with his gaze. 'Twas hard to read his features, but there was there a look of earnestness, as though he was no other than Luke Settle's comrade, Black Dick.

"My mind was made up. 'I'll not ride a step farther to-night,' said I. 'This side there and freeze,' answered the landlady. 'He was for slamming the door in my face, when the other caught him by the arm, and, pulling him a little back, whispered a word of counsel. I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

By this the day was clouded over, and the rain coming down fast. So that as soon as my comrade was decently arrayed at the first shop stop we came to, 'twas high time to seek an inn. So we went to a quarter at 'The Horn,' and scattered the traveler's room, and a fire to dry ourselves.

"In this room, at the window, were two men who looked lazily up at our entrance. They were playing at a game, which was some other than to raise up a pane of glass and water which should prove the faster.

"'A wet day!' said my comrade cheerfully. The pair regarded him. 'I'll lay you a crown it clears within the hour after the first of the late gale; and, moreover, I'll give nothing of the roof, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall hill with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a fish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope of entertainment.

"The building was an inn, though a sorry one. Nor, save for the lighted window, did it wear any grace of hospitality, but thrust out a bare shoulder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overhead and looked for all the world as though it were a piece of wood. The inn was opened at once, and I saw a couple of men in the lighted passage.

"'Heard the mare's heels on the road, Cap'n Hillio! What in the fend's name is this?' 'Said I, 'if you are of that keeps this house, I want two things of you—first, a civil tongue, and next a bed.' 'You'll get neither, then.' 'Your sign says that you keep an inn.' 'You're the 'Three Cups,' but we're full.

"'Your manner of speech proves that to be a lie.' I liked the fellow's woe so little that 'twas odds I would have remonstrated Mollly and ridden away; but at this instant there floated down the stairs, and through the inn, a strong smelling passage sound that made me jump. 'Twas a girl's voice singing: 'Hey nonny—nonny—non! Men folk that wish to bed, When the bells of death do ring.'

"There was no doubt upon it. The voice belonged to the young gentleman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards the stairs, and was met by the landlady, who, with a look of surprise, said: 'The second man, that'll not stand with me back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Mollly with his gaze. 'Twas hard to read his features, but there was there a look of earnestness, as though he was no other than Luke Settle's comrade, Black Dick.

"My mind was made up. 'I'll not ride a step farther to-night,' said I. 'This side there and freeze,' answered the landlady. 'He was for slamming the door in my face, when the other caught him by the arm, and, pulling him a little back, whispered a word of counsel. I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

By this the day was clouded over, and the rain coming down fast. So that as soon as my comrade was decently arrayed at the first shop stop we came to, 'twas high time to seek an inn. So we went to a quarter at 'The Horn,' and scattered the traveler's room, and a fire to dry ourselves.

"In this room, at the window, were two men who looked lazily up at our entrance. They were playing at a game, which was some other than to raise up a pane of glass and water which should prove the faster.

"'A wet day!' said my comrade cheerfully. The pair regarded him. 'I'll lay you a crown it clears within the hour after the first of the late gale; and, moreover, I'll give nothing of the roof, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall hill with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a fish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope of entertainment.

"The building was an inn, though a sorry one. Nor, save for the lighted window, did it wear any grace of hospitality, but thrust out a bare shoulder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overhead and looked for all the world as though it were a piece of wood. The inn was opened at once, and I saw a couple of men in the lighted passage.

"'Heard the mare's heels on the road, Cap'n Hillio! What in the fend's name is this?' 'Said I, 'if you are of that keeps this house, I want two things of you—first, a civil tongue, and next a bed.' 'You'll get neither, then.' 'Your sign says that you keep an inn.' 'You're the 'Three Cups,' but we're full.

"'Your manner of speech proves that to be a lie.' I liked the fellow's woe so little that 'twas odds I would have remonstrated Mollly and ridden away; but at this instant there floated down the stairs, and through the inn, a strong smelling passage sound that made me jump. 'Twas a girl's voice singing: 'Hey nonny—nonny—non! Men folk that wish to bed, When the bells of death do ring.'

"There was no doubt upon it. The voice belonged to the young gentleman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards the stairs, and was met by the landlady, who, with a look of surprise, said: 'The second man, that'll not stand with me back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Mollly with his gaze. 'Twas hard to read his features, but there was there a look of earnestness, as though he was no other than Luke Settle's comrade, Black Dick.

"My mind was made up. 'I'll not ride a step farther to-night,' said I. 'This side there and freeze,' answered the landlady. 'He was for slamming the door in my face, when the other caught him by the arm, and, pulling him a little back, whispered a word of counsel. I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

By this the day was clouded over, and the rain coming down fast. So that as soon as my comrade was decently arrayed at the first shop stop we came to, 'twas high time to seek an inn. So we went to a quarter at 'The Horn,' and scattered the traveler's room, and a fire to dry ourselves.

"In this room, at the window, were two men who looked lazily up at our entrance. They were playing at a game, which was some other than to raise up a pane of glass and water which should prove the faster.

"'A wet day!' said my comrade cheerfully. The pair regarded him. 'I'll lay you a crown it clears within the hour after the first of the late gale; and, moreover, I'll give nothing of the roof, which at this hour was quite deserted. So that, coming at length to a tall hill with a black ridge of pine wood standing up against the moon like a fish fin, I was glad enough to note below it, and at some distance from the trees, a window brightly lit, and pushed forward in hope of entertainment.

"The building was an inn, though a sorry one. Nor, save for the lighted window, did it wear any grace of hospitality, but thrust out a bare shoulder upon the road, and a sign that creaked overhead and looked for all the world as though it were a piece of wood. The inn was opened at once, and I saw a couple of men in the lighted passage.

"'Heard the mare's heels on the road, Cap'n Hillio! What in the fend's name is this?' 'Said I, 'if you are of that keeps this house, I want two things of you—first, a civil tongue, and next a bed.' 'You'll get neither, then.' 'Your sign says that you keep an inn.' 'You're the 'Three Cups,' but we're full.

"'Your manner of speech proves that to be a lie.' I liked the fellow's woe so little that 'twas odds I would have remonstrated Mollly and ridden away; but at this instant there floated down the stairs, and through the inn, a strong smelling passage sound that made me jump. 'Twas a girl's voice singing: 'Hey nonny—nonny—non! Men folk that wish to bed, When the bells of death do ring.'

"There was no doubt upon it. The voice belonged to the young gentleman I had met at Hungerford. I turned sharply towards the stairs, and was met by the landlady, who, with a look of surprise, said: 'The second man, that'll not stand with me back in the shadow, was peering forward, and devouring Mollly with his gaze. 'Twas hard to read his features, but there was there a look of earnestness, as though he was no other than Luke Settle's comrade, Black Dick.

"My mind was made up. 'I'll not ride a step farther to-night,' said I. 'This side there and freeze,' answered the landlady. 'He was for slamming the door in my face, when the other caught him by the arm, and, pulling him a little back, whispered a word of counsel. I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'

"'Oho!' thought I to myself, 'then I am to be kept for the mare's sake, but not admitted to the house; and said aloud that I could put up with a straw bed. 'Because there's the stable left at your service, as to the bed, and the singing still went on, only now I heard a man's voice joining in the catch, 'our house is full of company. But straw is clean bedding, and the mare'll help to put in a laugh. 'I guess, what this meant, but he solved not to draw back; and presently the landlady's voice began again, betwixt surlily and politely: 'Have ye too high a stomach to lie on straw?'