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Attorney at Law, Office at No. 17, East Jefferson St., Butler, Pa.

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Attorney at Law and Real Estate Agent, Office at No. 1, S. Main St., Butler, Pa.

H. H. GOUCHER.

Attorney at Law, Office on second floor of Anderson Building, near Court House, Butler, Pa.

J. F. BRITAIN.

Attorney at Law, Office at S. E. Cor. Main St. and Diamond, Butler, Pa.

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JOHN M. RUSSELL.

Attorney at Law, Office on South side of Diamond, Butler, Pa.

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New Felt Hats and Bonnets. New Trimmings, Ribbons and Wigs. New velvet and all colors. New hats, ribbons, velvet ribbons, broad ribbons and striped ribbons. New steel cord, twisted cord, head cord.

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1850 ESTABLISHED 1850

THE NOMINATION.

(LYNN R. MEERKINS IS HARPER'S WEEKLY.)

Abner Green and his good wife Jane were sitting in their easy chairs, resting after the day's work. He had closed his store at nine o'clock. It was a little cool for September, and the windows were down. The light was turned low, because Abner and Jane were economical, even in the matter of coal oil. They seemed satisfied with life. They had the contentment that waits on good appetites and well-employed energy. Indeed, they had gotten along unexpectedly well since the quiet marriage ceremony of eight years before.

Both being practical souls, no such useless expense of time and money as a wedding tour had entered their thoughts. After the parson said his prayer, they marched out of the church and went directly to the small store that Jane had started two years before. They gradually extended their store, saving the pennies and investing the dollars, and putting over their heads a large financial umbrella for rainy days.

Abner was a born success. People always said he would get along. On days when other boys were out gunning and playing, he was contriving and working and saving. His Saturday holidays were turned to strict account. By the time he was seventeen he had the business wealth of a man in the neighborhood. His wisdom ran ahead of his years.

When he was eighteen he determined to inaugurate an enterprise. Sussex District (or rather the Second District of Choptank County) was probably the only territory of his size that did not have a good country store. The people did their dealing in the town, eight miles away. At the point near the saw mill where three roads met, an old residence stood. It was vacant. Abner rented it and equipped the neighbors with a store. He got a stock of goods and began business. At first the returns were slow, but Abner was content with small profits, and the customers gradually saw that it was fully as cheap to patronize him as it was to drive to town over indifferent roads, and a great deal more convenient. Moreover, Abner quickly gained a good reputation. He was looked upon as shrewd but just—the strongest kind of fame in a rural community. So he went along, saying little, offering no one, and attending strictly to trade. Two years showed him what he could do, and told him that he needed a wife. Like a good business man, he did not postpone a necessity. He looked around, and found a girl of strong practical sense and fine physical health, not much for beauty or brilliancy, but a great hand in the house and a general favorite with the people. Inside of a month they were married, and every body said it was a good match. They had worked and prospered.

Abner, as he sat in the big rocker, was a man with a good quiet face and a rugged frame. He had quick eyes, which looked at things calmly but shrewdly, a somewhat didactic tongue that was well used for good and quick for bad, and a dignified, but dropped in at the cross-road store. He found Mr. Green in an unemployed interval, and took possession of the opportunity with voluble but diplomatic promptness. He complimented the weather, the store, and Abner, and then he turned to the earnestness for the health of Mrs. Green, and then he plunged boldly into the purpose of his call.

"Thank you, he said, lowering his voice, 'what you have stated that you will endorse before my election.'"

"Abner told in a matter-of-fact way, although he secretly enjoyed the major's polite circumlocution.

"Yes, major," he said with business directness. "I'm on you. You ought to have this district. I have a right to it. And the way for us to get it is to get it."

This was the major's oratory. "Well said, Mr. Green—nobly said. In the distribution of legitimate rewards of the party, the just and equitable deserts of noble old Sussex have been overlooked. I shall be a proud privilege for me to lead in the demand for this recognition, and I ask you, sir, that you will allow your name to be used on the delegation to the convention—the head of that delegation, sir?"

The major said this with great personal emphasis, and he seemed to have it impressed by the merchant was doubtful. He rubbed his chin in a meditative way, and took some time to respond.

"Now, major, I want to keep out of politics," he said.

"Do not say that, Mr. Green. Extract it in thought and purpose. It is upon such men as you—upon the yeomanry of the party, if I may say so—the selection of good standard-bearers and the perpetuity of free institutions must depend. You are a good citizen, sir, to be a member of that convention."

Abner paused again; he paused so long that the major walked back and forth in great uneasiness.

"Well, as you put it in that way, of course I guess I'll have to think about it," said the good citizen at last. "But I am for Major Powderdy."

A light of joy burst upon the coal and illuminated the face of Major Powderdy. He grasped Mr. Green's hand and thanked him not once, but countless times. Presently he turned to the merchant and said, "That's just it, Jane. The good Lord has laid out for us certain duties in this world. A man may sometimes get away from his path, and wander over the field; but he always has a kind of compass in his hand, and he is pretty apt to hit the road while he is tramping around. Now Major Powderdy's business is running for office. It is running a store. I've got along all right in the store, because the people have encouraged me. Now what the major wants is more encouragement. So let him have it, I say, and let us all elect him. Then, too—let me say you needn't mention it—if he gets through, he may pay us a little bit for our votes."

"Well, Abner, you certainly look at things with both eyes," said Jane, with a decision that had in it a small undercurrent of admiration.

"Of course I do, Jane; and when they fail to see what I know two other eyes that are nearer what's pert about finding the right side."

Jane smiled, and felt quite happy. It wasn't often they paid each other such compliments.

"Jane," said Abner, after a pause, "if the folks talk any more to you about me, just say that Abner is too busy attending to the store to go running after the whole county for an office, and that he votes the ticket for his convictions and not for rewards, and that he has said that Major Powderdy would make a good man for the place. Don't go out of your way to say this, but if anybody makes you talk, just put it in to 'em straight and earnest like; and if you want to, you might add something about my not caring for me to give up a good looking for any such fool business, and so forth and so forth."

Jane said the would, and as two o'clock had arrived, they took up the lamp, looked over the house, and went to bed. But before going to sleep she added, "And, Jane, you might say that the talk me and Colonel Short had was on private business."

It did not require an age for anything to get over the district. News was so scarce in Sussex that it had the volatility of hydrogen with the combined expanding qualities of all the known gases. Somebody had mentioned Abner Green's name in the shanty, and it met with force. It was time the district was getting the office. Abner was a good party man, a reliable conservative citizen, and a neighbor who was popular. The people talked quietly at first, but soon it was known that Abner and Colonel Short had a long talk, the discussion took a wider range. As it became more public it aroused a factional opposition, led by the reliable and enterprising Major Powderdy, a talkative upholder of party principles and an inveterate seeker for a place on the ticket. Abner green said nothing, and attended to business.

The next day after their little talk Jane left Abner at the store, and made a few visits. The matter of the nomination was for discussion everywhere he went. She was not slow in making prompt and decidedly emphatic comments.

"Yes," said she, "I have heard that they are talking about Abner; but I reckon it's a lot of breath wasted. He's been a working going on ten years, and he's never been elected, and he ain't such a goose as to throw away his business for an office. That talk he had with Colonel Short was about a private matter. There ain't much money in politics and as for our part, we'd rather have what we get than go trying to try a chance. Abner don't vote the ticket expecting to be paid for it; he'd just do that kind. As far as I'm concerned, I'm glad of it, for it's not everywhere that you can get good neighbors. What's more, Abner's looked upon as a good man now, and if he was to go into politics, goodness only knows what they'd say against him. And Abner ain't one that takes much things easy. He told me no later than last night that he was in favor of Major Powderdy. 'If our district is to have it,' said he, 'why give it to Major Powderdy.'"

The good wives that good wife Jane talked to in the afternoon told to their good husbands at supper, and before bed time it was generally known that Abner Green was for Major Powderdy.

The major heard of it with indignity at first, but then he thought. He knew that Abner Green's endorsement would have great weight with the people. "I have always liked Abner," he said. "He's a man of business, a man of honor, and a great credit to this neighborhood. I have watched him since he was a boy, and each year has increased my good opinion of him. When the people talked about his name I opposed it, because I knew that it would only bring him down."

The major talked in this strain so, as to once his friends, that they were disposed to regard him as a man of sense. That was a peculiarly of his oratory as well as of his conversation. He could talk himself into any belief, while the cold and listless crowd stood by and doubted.

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