

## TWO SCHEMERS.

When first we practice to deceive.

The Widow Smith sat up late, reading the country paper, usually the *Weekly Budget* did not interest her, but on this occasion she read and re-read a certain part of its columns and laid it down at last with a sigh.

"I've heard tell," she mused, "that a man who's advertised to 'embody' wouldn't have to advertise for a wife. All alone in the world, 'Poor man' I feel incommensurably drawn toward him. 'Likes peace and quiet.' So do I. We're of a mind there. I'd answer if it wasn't for the—"

The clock striking startled her. After a long fit of thinking she went to the clock-shelf and took down a pen and a bottle of ink; then she looked in the family Bible and found some writing paper.

It took the Widow Smith a long time to compose that letter. When she finally had it to her mind, she copied it, after which she read it a great many times.

"I hope I haven't done wrong," she said to her conscience. "But I can almost see the hand of Providence peering in the way. A widower as well-to-do, alone in the world. It would be almost wicked not to try."

Then she wound up the clock, put the cat out, and was soon dreaming of a new adorer.

Mr. Josiah Brown, a comfortable farmer, who lived in the next township, was the man whose advertisement for a wife had enlisted the sympathy of the widow Smith. He had been in the lonely and forlorn state of a widower about a year, and was tired of single life.

"She's Mrs. Brown No. 2," he chuckled. "She says she's small—I like little women—has a farm on a good house, and of course is all alone in the world, or she wouldn't have answered at all. Says her friends call her a good housekeeper. She's a master hand to write—begins every word with a capital and she appointed a meeting at Gabriel Simpson's. She! I've known Gabe since we was boys together. I wonder if he'll help me out about this—"

The good man choked abruptly, and seemed flurried.

"She won't mind that," he rejoined. "I'll appoint next Thursday to meet. Friday ain't lucky, an' Saturday's too near Sunday. I'll tell Simpson to keep dark till I come there. Wonder if the widdler is good lookin'. Wonder if she'll be disappointed."

The widow was first at Simpson's, and held his best ear for private audience.

"You're in luck if you get the widdler," he said. "But I can't say it's fair to tell her about the—"

"H-u-s-h! whispered Brown nervously. "It'll do all right. I'll make her a good husband and she won't mind the—"

Another severe fit of coughing, which nearly strangled the good man nipped his discourse in the bud.

"I say, Simpson," he enquired, presently, "has the widow any—"

there are nobody but grown-ups. I believe you told me you hadn't any."

"They are all in the grave yard! Every one of 'em, poor things, sobbed the widow with the handkerchief to her eyes.

It took some time for Mr. Brown to undo the mischief. He was compelled to support the clinging form and dry the tears he had drawn forth by his careless remark.

"She's a tender hearted little thing," he said to Simpson; "she'll come around all right when she sees the—"

"You old fraud!" thought Simpson. But he only said, politely, "Of course she will."

They were married quietly, only the immediate friends of the family being present at the ceremony, and they went to a town where nobody knew them, and spent their honeymoon prowling around in each other's company, seeing the sights, and were as old folks in love usually are. Not that either of them was old!

When they went back they first located at the Brown homestead. As they couldn't live in two places at once, the widow had decided to sell and invest her money in more land in the neighborhood of her new home, a plan highly approved by her new partner.

The first cloud on their horizon, of their new lives appeared when they reached home. It was no larger than a man's hand, or a boy's hand—in fact, that was just the shape it took on the white wall.

Mr. Brown looked frightened; but he asked boldly: "My dear, don't you think it's kinder, lonesome in a house where there isn't any—"

A curious interruption happened. A troop of half grown boys rushed in at that moment to welcome the bride. They did not go through the ceremony of knocking, and seemed very much at home. They could have sung, "We are seven," exactly as to numbers.

"Who are they?" gasped the new Mrs. Brown.

"I-I-I don't know," faltered Mr. Brown, his legs shaking like castanets. "Run home, boys, run home."

"Where'll we go, pa?" inquired the youngest, a cherub of five.

"Oh, gasped the bride, faintly, "I thought you wanted a quiet home! I have been basely deceived! You said you hadn't any—"

The Collie. Probably the name collie, or more properly speaking, colley, is derived from the term colly or black, that originally being the color.

Their use has always been as a shepherd's or cattlekeeper's dog, and it is shepherds that the dog has obtained his knowledge of, and affection for, man and his ways.

Away on the mountains, miles from every one else, the shepherd, with no one to talk to but his dog, has evolved that almost human sagacity which is so great a feature of the collie.

Steadfast, faithful, thoughtful of his become, and were he endowed with the power of human speech, he would equal any, excel many members of the human family.

Many actual speech may be denied, there is nearly always between shepherd and his dog an ability to communicate instructions on the one hand, and to understand, even to anticipate them, on the other, so that speech is needless.

In dumb signals are all that are required. In days and districts where different breeds were scarcely known, one kind of dog was kept to do all kinds of work, and to this we owe the versatility of the sheep dog, which may be trained to meet all demands upon him.

To watch a sheep dog at work is a most interesting sight, especially in the lake country of England or the Highlands of Scotland.

The careful way in which he will gather in all the sheep, even though wildly scattered, the gentle yet firm control he has of them, and the readiness with which sign from, or word uttered by his master is obeyed, is remarkable.

It is no uncommon thing for dogs to be left alone with a flock, for days, or to gather a flock from a whole mountain side, not one to be missing.

Shepherds can tell many tales of the sagacity of collies. They will, during the dipping season, guard the undipped sheep, and separate one by one as rapidly as they are required until the whole have passed through the tub.

And a recent writer tells how one of these dogs will gather into a certain hollow, only indicated by a slight wave of his master's hand, all the sheep scattered over the hills and valleys for miles around.

In one case when the hiral or upwards of twelve hundred sheep were counted, four only were missing, and the good dog on being directed to go instantly and find them, darted off and was over the ridge in a few minutes.

Within an hour his bark was heard from the top of a steep ridge to the left, and he was seen bringing the four to complete the tale.

Of the faithfulness of the collie much can be said. The Ettrick Shepherd tells how at one time he had several hundred lambs which he was taking to the fold.

They scampered off over the hills in three separate divisions and in opposite directions, defying all efforts to find them.

Clocks, Watches and Sun Dial. Between the sun dial and the little gold-leafed, ticking, pocket-time piece is a long period of invention.

Thirty-one years ago the first American watch was made. It was a cumbersome affair, constructed under difficulties, but was a wide development from even the horological devices that followed the sun dial.

Earliest among these was the clepsydra, or "water-stealer," a transparent graduated vase filled with the pure liquid of nature, which slowly stole away through a little aperture in the bottom.

The receding surface, marked the going of the hours. The clepsydra was used in ancient China and Egypt under the Ptolemies.

Pompey introduced it into Roman courts, and the Britons used it when Caesar went among them. The mechanical ingenuity, and skill of many nations were employed in the constructions of the clepsydra.

It was devised in statutory, with tears flowing from the eyes; it was made in floating forms that arose and fell with the water, and pointed to the hours engraved upon an upright scale.

An improvement was made in this kind of time-piece by the introduction of a little wheel, on which the water fell, thus communicating motion to the hands upon a dial.

Finally the clepsydra grew into an ingenious and complicated water clock. A thousand years ago a Persian calliph sent one to the Emperor Charlemagne which had a striking apparatus.

With the completion of each twelve hours twelve doors in the face opened, from which issued twelve automaton horsemen, who waited until the striking ceased and then rode back again.

The time-keeper of the Puritans was but a modification of the primitive clepsydra. Rins and sand was substituted for the water.

The invention of the clock is claimed by many different people, and attributed to many eras. The Chinese declared they owned clocks 4,000 years ago.

The Germans insist that the first mechanical clock was made by them; only eight centuries back. The word originally signified bell and the French "cloche" still retains its meaning.

Clocks were regarded as curiosities until the eleventh century, when they were placed in all the monasteries. In this manner arose the fashion of placing clocks in church towers.

Even the use of clocks by saintly men did not keep the common folk from regarding them as the devil's own handy-work.

In the early part of the fifteenth century it was discovered that "clock work" could be set in motion as well by the gradual uncoiling of a spring as by the running down of weights, and that these motions could be made isochronous by the balance wheel.

In Front of the Muir Glacier. The finest feature of a trip to Alaska is the Muir Glacier, at the head of Glacier Bay. Nor is there probably, in the whole world, a really accessible region where the phenomena of glacial action can be better seen by the tourist.

The excursion steamer goes up the bay to within four hundred yards of the ice, standing waist-deep, so to speak, in five hundred feet of water.

A blue white cliff across the head of the bay, two miles in length by three hundred and fifty feet in height; a vertical wall of ice like azure-tinted marble, rent, fissured, and constantly breaking down with thunderous crashes, like the discharge of whole parks of artillery, and an out-rush of heavy wells which rock the vessel like a skiff, and would overwhelm smaller craft.

Fragments of ice, some of them no larger than a boll of hay, while others greatly exceed in size the steamer from which we watch the mouth of this ice-river, float down the bay in endless procession, and sometimes so fill the channel as to obstruct navigation.

It is estimated that not less than a hundred thousand tons of ice break off daily from the glacier's front, which may in strictest truth be regarded as a river of ice, its sources in the eternal snows of the Alaskan Alps, its mouth in the ocean.

In width the Muir Glacier varies from two to eight miles, and its length is estimated at forty miles. Fifteen tributary glaciers flow into it from out of its many alpine valleys.

But the entire glacier may be regarded as the outlet of that vast snow-field which covers all the high areas of this lofty range.

There is opportunity to land and climb the moraine on each side of the ice stream, vast masses and windrows of boulders and gravel, which the ponderous glacier, like some gigantic ploughshare, has turned up.

It is practicable also to climb upon the glacier itself, and even to cross it, though huge fissures or crevasses render the passage difficult, even dangerous.

The forward motion of the ice stream has been estimated, rather than measured—at from one to two feet a day.

Clambering over the crumbling moraines, or rambling over the wide gravel flats strewn with boulders, and utterly barren of vegetation, or skirting the worn and torn bases of the inclosing mountains, one gains a vivid idea of what the whole surface of the earth may have been like during the long millenniums of the glacial epoch.

All round to the north, the west and the east the landscape is a maze of gray rocky peaks and white snow fields. Rushing torrents, turbid with glacial silt, brawl tumultuously past, or broil up from beneath the ice cliff.

The slowly moving mass—a thousand feet in thickness—cracks loudly at intervals. Boulders roll and rumble along the stony beds of the torrents. The tides ebb and flow, leaving huge, blue blocks of ice stranded on the beach.

Seals rise from the water amid the ice cakes with a soft whist, and stare with limpid, wandering eyes at the steamer, while, at irregular intervals of two or three minutes, resounds the deep roar of an ice fall.

Such is the front of the Muir Glacier, a slowly shrinking relic of the earth's great ice age, a little miniature picture of what was once universal scenery.

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