

## WHEN ABNER GOT MAD

By M. QUAD

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Miss Eunice Glasser was a "sorter" old maid, but it was not her fault. Abner Jackson, who was a "sorter" old bachelor, had been courting her for five years without actually popping the question. She lived with her widowed mother in the village, and he worked a little farm just outside.

Abner wasn't lazy. He was just a good natured poke of a man. He was going to get married some day, but there was no hurry about it. He always talked as if he intended to marry Eunice, but he didn't come down to details. He didn't ask her to come the day and arrange the bridal tour. Eunice liked Abner and bore with him, but she was getting rather tired of it when her Aunt Hannah came on a visit. Aunt Hannah saw Abner two or three times, understood his nature and then said to her niece:

"Look here, you've got a poke of a man hanging around after you, and it may be ten years more before he'll say anything about marriage. Are you going to put up with it or do something?"

"Why, auntie, what can I do?"

"Get mad at him and make him think he's going to lose you."

"He only laughs when I get mad."

"Then set in and criticize his feet, his nose, his eyebrows. Tell him that he's the homeliest man you ever saw."

"I don't think he'd mind it at all."

"Didn't you ever see him show any temper?"

"Not a bit. He was run over by a drove of hogs once and got up laughing. No, you can't make Abner mad. He's a poke, but an awfully good man."

"And are you going to keep right on for the next fifty years, are you?"

One afternoon three or four days later a vinegar barrel with one head out was left at the house by the grocer to be used as a rain barrel. The house stood on quite a hill, and there was a sharp slope down to the village street.

About the hour Abner usually appeared Eunice was sent on an errand to the other side of the village, and when the "poke" arrived Aunt Hannah was the one to greet him. She took him to the corner of the house where the barrel stood and promptly began:

"See here, Mr. Jackson, you've been dawdling around here for years. What are you after?"

"Why—why?" he stammered as he leaned up against the house and could say no more.

"Oh, you can't tell! I knew you couldn't. You've come here almost every night in the week for months and years and squatted yourself down, and what for? Your talk can't interest anybody. The sight of you isn't inspiring. If I was Eunice I'd just as soon have a wooden man around. And yet you come and squat and squat. I ask you, sir, what you mean by such conduct?"

"I guess I'll go home," answered Abner, who was too astonished to see straight.

"And I guess you won't," said Aunt Hannah, at least not until you have explained yourself. I've been looking at you. If I don't know as how as you are I'd know her in the hand with the ax. Hump-shouldered, bow-legged and feet like an elephant, and yet you come here and squat around and I ask you, sir, what you mean by such conduct?"

"I'll never come again!" exclaimed Abner in a changed voice.

"That's good. That's what I wanted to hear you say. Go and squat somewhere else. Go and find the homeliest girl in the country to match you. The first time I saw you I knew you was a poke of a man and you hadn't grit enough to push a toad off its nest."

"Woman, be careful! If you aggravate me too much—"

"Aggravate an old poke! Why, man, it would take you three years to get mad, even if you started in tonight."

The next thing she knew she was being lifted off her feet in Abner's strong arms and deposited in the handy barrel. Before she could yelp twice the barrel was whirled on its side and given a kick to start it down the slope. It took an erratic course. It ran to the right a few feet and then slid to the left. It stopped for a moment at a gooseberry bush and then dodged and jumped clear over a crabapple tree. There were yelling and screaming from the inmates of the barrel, but Abner stood and watched the circus and shouted back:

"I'm a poke, am I? I'm a squatter, am I? I've got bowlegs and humped shoulders and feet like an elephant! Go! Run your hide, roll on!"

And the barrel rolled, and Aunt Hannah rolled, and neither of them stopped rolling till the barrel crashed through the fence and brought up against a shade tree in the street. No one was killed. No bones were broken. Aunt Hannah crept out and up to the house and was just finished with the last of the arnica when Miss Eunice came rushing in with radiant face to exclaim:

"I was coming back home—and I met Abner—and he was swearing—and he grabbed me by the arm—and he said he'd break my neck if I didn't go right to the preacher's and be married—and—and—"

"And you went?"

"Yes, and we were married. I had to be. Abner ain't a poke any more, but the swiftest, determinedest man you ever heard of. Why, auntie, he told me to tell you that you could go to thunder and be darned to you!"

## FANCIES AND FADS.

Smart Trimmings of the Coming Winter and Other Accessories.

More fur will be used than usual as a trimming this season on gowns, coats and hats alike. It combines especially well with velvet, and, as this will be the leading material for dressy street frocks, most of these will be decked with strips or ornaments on cuffs, neck, girle and hem or mark-



CAPE FOR SMALL TOYS

ling the opening when that is the front of a garment.

Smart high boots for the winter are made of black satin or of black velvet. They are buttoned and quite high.

Fancy hand bags with broad metal tops are carried by means of long double silk cords. These cords match the color of the material in the case of suede, but where the bag is made of one of the Persian fabrics or of plaid the cord must match the color of the gown or suit with which it is carried.

The best lace to have dyed to match the gown is Irish crochet. This lace is so strong and durable that it may be employed again and again and will outlast many finer real laces, which are also far more expensive.

Simple circular capes are much worn by small girls. The cape in the cut shows has openings in the front through which the hands can be alloped and is finished either with a hood or a collar. When the hood is lined with a bright color the effect is very pretty.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

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## WINTER SHOE STYLES.

If Your Footgear is Smart It Must Conform to These Rules.

The styles for winter shoes are in. Pay attention to them when buying your new shoes, so that you are not fooled into purchasing an old fashioned pair.

The most prominent leathers are dull calf and Russian as well as patent leather in combination with cloth or kid tops.

For dress, patent kid vamps with velvet and satin topplings, black of course. Some corded and self colored figured silks are used.

Black suede topplings are also seen, and a few browns and quiet purples. These, too, have patent leather vamps. Heels are not so high as recently. One and seven-eighths inches is the highest for day wear.

Vamps are nearly all short. If you get a longer vamp you must get a lower heel.

Toes are either round or long. The latter are Frenchier and more favored. Tops are rather high and slanting, being longer in front than in back.

Long coats that cover the dresses worn beneath them are extensively

worn this season, and this one is well adapted to girls and small women of similar figure. The seams that extend to the shoulders make a feature of the latest style.

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## FASHIONS IN TOILET ARTICLES.

Convenience Mitigates May Have set Her Toilet Table.

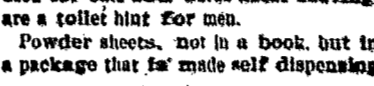
A most compact manicure set is contained in the buffer which opens like a box.

A salve box equipped with a glass lining that protects the box from discoloration from the salve is new.

Flexible bath brushes consisting of fourteen linked brushes the size of a hand brush, each with a coral handle at either end, is most convenient.

Sticks of perfumed stum and glycerine sufficient to last a lifetime, to be used for cuts and burns after shaving, are a toilet hat for men.

Powder sheets, not in a box, but in a package that is made self dispensing



WOMAN'S FASHION

so that pulling off one sheet brings the next into view, are new.

Semitransparent, glassless brillian- tines in stick form is put up in an aluminum case.

Nail polish comes in crayon form, each crayon with its individual box.

Aprons that really cover the dress are what active girls require. The apron illustrated can be made simply, as in the cut, or with square neck or with and without pockets, as shown in the smaller view.

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