

out'n 'im," said Chadwick. "That's the way I use to do when my ole steer lay down in the road."

But Deomateri shook his head. For sundry reasons this mode of moving the hunchback was not to be thought of. While they were holding what Chadwick called a council of war, Danny Lemmons's wife came in sight, followed by the negro woman who had been the means of the capture of the hunchback.

"Well," remarked Chadwick, — anticipation in his tone, — "yander comes Miss Cassy herself. I reckon maybe she'll up an' tell us how to make the creetur' move; an' ef I ain't mighty much mistaken she'll whirl in an' he'p us."

At this the hunchback showed signs of uneasiness. He twisted himself around, as if to see where his wife was. Failing in this, he gathered his long legs under him and rose to his feet. He saw the woman and then glanced furtively around as if to find some avenue of escape.

"Gentlemen!" he cried, "you-all'll have to keep Cassy off'n me, bekaze she's plum ravin' deestracted when she gits mad." His