

Hildreth of Hall remained in the neighborhood about a week, and was with Loorany Parmalee pretty much all the time, except when he was asleep. They took long buggy rides together, and everything seemed to be getting along swimmingly. But one morning early Hildreth of Hall harnessed up his horses with his own hands and went off down the road leading to Clarksville.

It was noticed after that that Loorany was not as gay and as spry as she had been. In fact, the women folks could see that she was not the same girl at all. She used to go and sit in Mrs. Pruett's porch and watch the road, and sometimes her mind would be so far away that she would have to be asked the same question twice before she'd make any reply. And she had a way of sighing that Mrs. Pruett did n't like at all. You know how peculiar some people are when they are fond of anybody. Well, that was the way with Mrs. Pruett.

III

Nearly two months after Hildreth of Hall went away with his two fine horses and his shiny top-buggy, Tray Mountain got wind