

**How I Got a Wife.**  
**FROM THE LOW GERMAN OF FR. REUTER.**  
 (Translated for the Best by L. W.)  
 (Concluded.)

In the village where I was appointed for a couple of years, there lived two very nice young fellows, one with the name of Wolfe, who was a blacksmith, and one called Horner, who was the miller of the village. The smith was a keen fellow and understood his business; the miller was rather stupid, but had lots of money. After a while it was talked around that the two were going to marry the two daughters of rich old man Schultze, and so it was, and they had a grand wedding. I remember it well, for my account, Lewis Brockman, a noted doctor of beer over in Bremen at the time, and when I got mad at him said it was only for fun.

After the wedding everything was quiet, and all seemed to be long, when the talk went around that the miller's wife was bearing her husband. And so it was. And the Sunday afternoon following the miller saw the smith go into the tavern he said to him:

"Well, I know what is going to happen to you to-night, and I know how you do you mean?" says the smith.

"Just as if you did not know," says the miller. "You and I got together, and you know what it means." "If with that you mean my wife," answers the smith, "let me assure you that I have done well."

"Yes," says the miller, "when she is born, and you know what it means." "Not at all," says the smith, "she is as pleasant as she can be, and does everything in the world to make my home agreeable to me."

"My son," said Uncle Mathias, "all the happiness in this world is not poured on one head; be contented with what you have got, and as for your married life, do you know old Johann Smith? The same who, together with his wife, lived till they were both eighty years old and was buried with her on the same afternoon. They had a long life, and I understand nothing about the matter myself." "Sergeant," said he, "married life is like an apple-tree; where somebody is sitting and picking and picking; but the best and finest are on top, and nobody can reach. If he is impudent and attempts to force the matter, and gets a long pole and beats them off, he knocks them in two and hurts the branches, which promise so well for the future, but if he is a thoughtful man and picks and picks, and then they fall into his lap by themselves and taste much better too. And therefore, lad," he added, and his wrinkles deepened, "look at your wife and honor as ever before, 'do not knock your red apples off the tree, but wait till late fall—your wife will be near—do not you bring the last one to your wife, then tell her about these tricks before your wedding, and you'll see, then she will laugh about them."

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