

I DON'T KNOW. It is a very simple phrase. When you are in doubt, you say "I don't know."

When asked about a certain thing occurring long ago, and which you do not remember, you say "I don't know."

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None cares on aught, or small or great, of ignorance to show. We have and have not, but hate to say, "I do not know."

Tim would to him yield, ready praise "Who means the I should be free; but I have not, but hate to say, "I do not know."

RUTH'S ROMANCE. CHAPTER XII. One day, in late winter, a telegram was brought to Ruth. It was from Winstead. "I'm afraid Aunt Rachel's sick," she said apprehensively, as she unfolded the paper. It was a brief message—only this: "Mrs Nugent died last night. Come at once."

"SAMUEL THAM I ORD," Dead! Aunt Rachel dead! She went about like in a dream as she made her preparations to go to Winstead. Had any one been with Aunt Rachel, she would have known when the end came. She had seen her, or herself. She thought not, or the telegram would have come from them instead of Sam Crawford.

"You must have died suddenly," thought Ruth, as she looked at the telegram. "But she would have sent for me if she had been ill." Then, what Aunt Rachel had to say to her at parting came into her mind. "I'm sorry you couldn't have been here before she died," she said. "I started for the old homestead. There was no one but Hully and me with her at the last."

"Poor Aunt Rachel! She'll die," she had lived, alone.

"Have you seen Sam for Arthur Kurd?" Ruth asked of Jones.

"The lawyer, he telegraphed to him to place where he was the last time he wrote to Mrs. Ruth, and they didn't know where he was. But Aunt Rachel had a letter from him last night. How still and strange everything seemed as Ruth opened the gate and went up the path. The deal slates of the porch showed here and there, through the drifts, like ghosts of what had been, up reaching to the hands of passing clouds. The silence seemed dead. Silence was everywhere. Even the snowbirds that fitted about the brown weeds, whose tops reached above the snow in the few open cracks of the earth search for food."

Hully met her at the door, with her arms around her. "I'm sorry you couldn't have been here before she died," she said. "I started for the old homestead. There was no one but Hully and me with her at the last."

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THE HAND OF FATE. MAEY KVILIC DALLAS. When I was still going to school, in the graduating class, to be sure, and past sixteen, and very large for my age, four of us made up our minds, on Saturday afternoon, to have our fortune told.

There was a gipsy camp out in the common beyond the town, with vans, carriages, cauldrons, and the whole paraphernalia of gipsy life, and everybody walked or rode out to visit it. We rode to walk, as if we were bright-colored, and I paid the gipsy better than if we had been copped up in the stage, or in a carriage.

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There were visitors in plenty, and the fortune tellers were busy telling fortunes. As we approached, a woman who had been sitting on a wooden bench, and a man who had been talking to a group of people, turned their heads and looked at us.

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MARRIED WOMEN IN ENGLAND. On the first day of this year the relations of husband and wife in England were not a complete change. The married woman's property act of 1882 is the last in a series of legislation entirely superseding the old common law rule that the rights of a wife are merged in her husband.

The result is that there are four classes of married women in England having distinct rights and liabilities. First, those married before August 9, 1870 are entitled to their wages, and earnings and to any property the little to which accrues as from day to day. But their husbands are liable for their debts before and after marriage. Those married between 1870 and 1884 are entitled in addition to the above to all sums coming to them as UCNI of kin under intestacy, to sums coming by will or deed to \$1,000, and to rents of freeholds descending to them as heiresses. Husbands of these women are not liable for debts contracted before marriage.

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