AUNT LIEFY

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BY

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ILLUSTRATIONS.

AUNT LIEFY.

I.

I DON'T know how it come about exactly; mebbe 't was because I never rec'lected any folks of my own. Or again, p'r'aps 't was owin' to the people where I lived not bein' of the sociable sort. Or mebbe, likely 's not, 't was all the fault of my own queer, cross-grained, hard-to-get-along-with natur'. But tennerate, there 't was, — a fact well known to me and other folks, that I was the lonesomest creatur' that ever lived. I had n't a real friend on the airth; more 'n that, I had n't scursely any acquaintances.

Folks in the village and town knew who I was, most of 'em, and I knew their names and some of their faces; but that was about all.

You asked me for just one partic'lar part of my story, and I 'm goin' to give it to you. As for the rest, why, there 's no call for me to go into that now, and I ain't a-goin' to. How I come to be there in Hilton, without any one belongin' to me, or a soul in the whole world to set by me, or me to set by, why all that 's another story, so we 'll let it alone now. And I 'll begin just here, when I was a grown-up woman, hard featur'd and harder natur'd, not liked by anybody, and not havin', myself, a mite of int'rest in any one on this airth or outside of it. Never mind what I done for a livin'; I got along. I had enough to eat and drink, and clo'es to wear; and