

How to cure a smoky chimney

Jos. You do not know as much about managing smoky chimneys as I do, Squire, or you would cure them.

Hollon. Ah, how did you ever ~~had~~ smoky chimney cured?

Jos. Had a smoky chimney cured? I reckon I have. I had the most ~~one~~ smoky chimney, once, and I cured it a little to much.

H. How was that? Jos.

Jos. Why, you see, I built a little house out yonder at Wolf Hollon, ten or twelve years ago. Jim Bush, the fellow that built the chimney, kept blind drunk three quarters of the time, and crazy drunk the other. I told him that - he would have something wrong, but he stuck to it - and finished the house. Well, we moved in, and built a fire the next morning to boil the tubbles. All the smoke came through the door and went out of the window, not a bit went up the flue. We tried it for two or three days, and it got worse and worse. By and by it came on a rain, and the rain began to come down the chimney. It put the fire out in a minute, and directly it began to come down by the parfull. We had to get the Baby off the floor as soon as we could, or it would have been drowned. in fifteen minutes the water stood three feet upon the floor. Then I went out and took a look. I did not rain half so hard out side, and pretty soon I see what was the matter. The drunken cuss had put the chimney wrong end up, and it drawed downwards; it gathered all the rain for a half a mile around, and poured down by the Buckets full.

H. Well that was unfortunate, But what in the world did you do with your house? Surely you never cured that chimney?

Jos. Didn't I though? Well, I reckon I did.

H. How did you cure your chimney.

J. Turned it the other end up, and then you had ought to see it draw. That ^{was} the way I cured it to much.

H. Drawed to much? how could it draw to much?

J. Well, enquire you may judge for yourself. Pretty soon after we got the chimney down, and the other set up, I ~~missed~~ ^{missed} the chairs out of the room, and directly I saw another of them shooting towards the fireplace. Next the table went; and then I saw the backlog going up. Then I grabbed the old woman under one arm, and the baby under the other and started; but just as I got to the door I happened to look back and I ~~saw~~ ^{seen} the old cat going across the floor backwards holding on to the carpet with her claws, and yelling awfully. It was no use; I just seen her going over the top of the chimney, and that was the last of her.

H. Well, what did you do there of course you could not live in such a house?

J. Couldn't I though? but I ^{did} put I put a poultice on the jam of the fire place, and that drawed the other way, so we had no more trouble.