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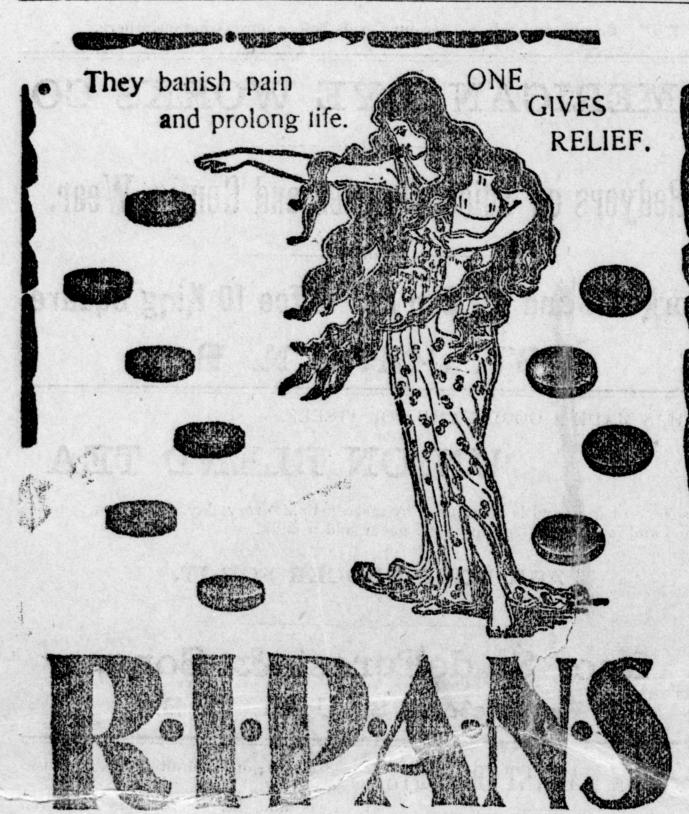
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Literature.

WILL IT BE YES?

BY EUGENIA B. BIGHAM.

(Concluded.)

He wheeled about and looked into Rayda's sympathetic eyes. She stood beside a grave on which she had just placed fresh flowers-the grave of Henry Hess.

Richard wondered if it would forever eparate them.

"I thought something serious had hap-

ed-well, absorbed and displeased." problem, Mrs. Hess. Do you believe one love can so occupy any human heart

that no other love can ever enter it?" "No," she answered. "A real love but fits one for loving others, so that all the world seems closer."

"Not that," he said, almost petulantly. "Forgive me if I dare too much, but do you believe that any woman, having loved and lost as you have, for instance, could ever give such love again?"

"I cannot say. I only believe I never could."

in his face made her feel strangely troubl-Instinctively she moved nearer to the

grave, as though to gain strength from the memories connected with it. "Why do you ask me this?" she said. He saw her uneasiness, and it gave him

"Because yours is too noble a life to waste in grief," he said, boldly. "Love

s possible-" not listen—it is treason. My life is not wasted-it belongs to him."

ly enough, moved a little from it. "I looked on with brimming eyes, not knowcan never love another-I shall be true ing for whom she felt the more, the par-

"Her words were a spur to the heart of | wept. he man at her side.

to the end.'

you will change your mind because I will that you shall!" he said within his soul. Aloud he said, "But you-you are one woman in a million."

Just then footsteps beat the hard roadway, and they saw a man from the foundry making directly toward them.

"The boss sent me for you, Mr. Patterson," he cried. "The river has risen of town is in danger."

"I will come at once," Richard said; good will the people went to work.

and bowing to Rayda, he was gone That night few at Beltvilla slept and hundreds of lanterns twinkled here and there, neither gas nor electric lights having yet blessed this mountain town. Women and children watched the rise of the waters, while men worked heroically to we threatened property.

The scene was weird and exciting, and shortly after midnight screams for help | magnetism. added to it a tragic element. They came from people who, trying to save their household effects, had dared too much and were caught in the swirling, onrushng waters.

so entrapped might have been rescued. As it was a panic settled over the throng and mothers called frantically for their children, husbands for their wives, and leading rather than guiding.

missing. But other groups moaned and

Presently it was whispered that no one could find Richard Patterson.

During the early part of the night he had been seen running hither and thither helping this one and that, working like a Hercules.

been seen last helping the foreman to save his goods. Since then, two o'clock, how many long hours had passed!

"Oh, he'll come directly!" trembling lips would say. But the hopeful words always faltered, the speakers being weighed with fear that the best friend Beltvilla had ever known would never again be seen in the place.

The morning dragged over the wrecked portion of the town and over the unwrecked portion. The afternoon dragged after it. Another black, rainy night set in, and Richard was still missing. His uncle sat in his library, his face was hidden in his hands, and every few min-

utes he murmured. "I won't be the one to tell the boy's

mother. I can't do that-no!" The great anxiety about Richard so far outweighed regret for loss of property, that almost unheeded the muddy waters soaked the carpets and lower walls of many a home.

The foundry itself was flooded; new dangers threatened, yet Richard's absence made other matters insignificant. Mounted men followed the river for miles telegrams flashed to many places, and every time a newcomer approached group he was hailed with the question:

"Any news of him?" Three days passed, and despair settled

on the town.

Rayda Hess never lost hope.

The rumor of Patterson's death had caused her a curious shock, the nature of which she did not herself recognize. With gleaming eyes and set mouth she went among the people, counselling, assisting, but ever on the alert for tidings of the man so universally mourned.

"He is not dead," she said. "Good would not let him die. He will come back to us, and be all he ever was. Somewhere Richard Patterson lives."

And her faith was rewarded. On the fourth day after the flood the postmaster received a letter from a village some fifty miles south.

It stated that a man and two children had been taken from a piece of flooring pened to you," Rayda said. "You look- floating on the river; that one child was dead, the other uninjured; that the man revived long enough to give his name as Patterson and his town as Beltvilla.

When asked whom he would like to breath. see he had answered "Rayda."

This last item filled Rayda with sur prise and a certain kind of alarm.

She asked her heart a dozen questions, failing to find answers to some of them. But she was one of the large party that boarded the noon train to go to the town where Richard was suffering. Awed and apprehensive silence dominated the people during the trip. All felt that Richard Then she looked at him, and someting had risked his life to save the children. And now would he himself be dead when they should reach him?

> A crowd of wondering villagers watched the little company of strangers who walked in silence from the station across the street to the hotel. But the hotel keeper allowed no one to enter with

Richard, he said, was still delirious, and his kind eyes readily singled out the "Stop!" she cried, sharply. "I will and he saw a living child snatched to the arms of her parents, while a man and a woman knelt, sobbing, by a rude casket She pointed to the mound, yet, strange- | wherein lay their little one. And Rayda ents who rejoiced or the parents who

But for Rayda herself the next few "You may believe that, but I believe days were full of anxiety, wonder, revela-

> In his delirium Richard insisted that she should stay by him, and other sentences of his made her guess correctly the state of his feeling for her. She was sincerely glad when he was pronounced out of danger and she was free to go home.

It was several weeks before Richard himself returned to Beltvilla, but he orso much since morning that all our part | dered the routine at the foundry to go en as if he were there, and with right

> The place showed not the faintest sign of the freshet when at last he did return, and he was cheered until he was compelled to mount a nail keg and make the workmen a speech.

He was very white and weak, and leaned on his uncle's walking cane; but his eyes were luminous, his smile radiant, and his whole bearing full of the old-time

His first private interview with Rayda Hess took place several evenings later. The hour was late when he at last stood on the front steps bidding her good night. The moonlight fell on his bare head and But for the darkness of night, everyone upturned face, and on Rayda, standing on the porch looking down on him. He

"That is true. You never gave me so much as a word, so little as a look, on men for each other, the many calls mis- which to build a hope. Yet, thanks to you, my nature has been lifted from low The remainder of the night was fraught | to high estate, and I have been so en with agony. The dawn, gray, and sullen, nobled through my love for you that I revealed wreckage everywhere, and ter- am strong enough morally, even spirituror-stricken faces looking questioningly ally, to keep foothold on my present at other faces. Here and there family plane without the possession of your love. groups clung together, glad no one was But, oh! with your love, what could I not dare? May the God your pure life taught me to reverence guide you when you write me the decision you are to

make to-morrow." He put out his hand, and Rayda said good-night as she placed her own in its clasp. For a moment they looked silently into each other's eyes; then Rayda As nearly as could be recalled, he had | turned, passed slowly into the hall, up the stairs to her own room. the door she went directly to her trunk, took therefrom a case of gold about the size of a man's watch, opened it, and sat down to gaze at the pictured face of Henry Hess. Tears were in her eyes, but she smiled even as she wept.

> "You will understand, Harry," she murmured. And when she at last put away the locket her face was bright with a new hope.

Can you guess what answer she gave Richard Patterson on the morrow? (The End.)

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We have made arrangements with the 'Family Herald and Weekly Star" Publishers whereby we can supply that paper and the QUEENS COUNTY GAZETTE, for one year, for \$1.50. Subscribers will also receive the beautiful picture entitled | 22rd, 1897. the "Thin Red Line." Taking the picture into consideration, the subscribers for the "Family Herald and Weekly Star" and the QUEENS COUNTY GAZETTE will receive two papers for the price of one. This is a golden opportunity. Address, JAS. A. STEWART,

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Sheriff's Sale.

There will be sold at Public Auction, in front of the Office of the Registrar of Deeds, in Gagetown, in the County of Queens, on FRIDAY, THE SEVEN-FEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY next. between the hours of twelve o'clock noon and the hour of two o'clock in the after-

All the right title, interest, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever either at Law or in Equity of Rebecca J. J. McDonald of in and to the following described lands and premises, viz.: "All that certain piece or parcel of land situate parents of the children. Another minute in the Parish of Waterborough, in the County of Queens, southeast of Wiggins Cove the northerly part of Lot No. 5 Second Tier and bounded as follows, on the north by lands occupied by Gilbert Wiggins, on the east by the road leading from the Union Settlement to Young's Cove, on the south by the road leading from the Union Settlement to Wiggins Cove, and on the west by lands occupied by James F. Roberts, containing twenty-six acres more or less, it being part of Lot No. 5 granted by the Crown to William Welton bearing date 25th September, 1865." Together with the buildings and improvements thereon and the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging. The same having been seized by me un-

der and by virtue of an Execution to me directed issued out of the Saint John County Court at the suit of Nathaniel C. Scott against the said Rebecca J. McDonald. Dated at Gagetown, Q. C., the fourteenth

day of November A. D. 1898. JAMES REID. Sheriff of Queens County.



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