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WHOLESALE & RETAIL.

Grandmother's Signs.

Our Story.

Continued.

After dinner, which was the great event of the day, the entire family, with the exception of grandma and baby Dan, strolled out into the orchard with our visitors, From the orchard we went on over a narrow bit of meadow land in search of wild strawberries, which were abund-

Then we went up a grassy hillside and into a little grove of oaks and elms. There we all sat down on the grass and enjoyed what we called a "real sociable time," until father, bethought him to look at his watch, and said.

Why, it's nearly four o'clock. We have been away three hours. Danny will have quite worn grandmother out with the care of him. We must hurry home.

When we reached the house, we found grandma fast asleep in her rocking chair on the piazza, a lock of her gray hair blown over her face by the June wind, and her wrinkled hands crossed peacefully in the sunshine that fell across her lap. She heard our footsteps and was awake in an instant.

Where is Danny? asked mother. It isn't possible that he has slept all this

I guess he has, said grandma; I haint heard a sound from him.

Mother stepped hurriedly into the room in which Danny always took his noonday nap. She came out instantly, quite pale, and saying, in a trembling voice; He isn t there; he's gone!

What-did-you-say, Susan? asked grandmother rising to her feet and speaking with painful deliberation.

He's gone! said mother again.

Grandmother gave a low moan, sank back in her chair, and said solemnly: I knew it would be so. You laughed at my signs, Susan. You wouldn't hear to them. I feel in my bones that Danny Bertram will never be seen again on this earth. The signs don't fail me.

I remember that I set up a dreadful howl, in which I was joined by my brothers and sisters. Father and our friends began an immediate and thorough search for Danny, but no trace of him could be

Grandmother encouraged us by saying from time to time, between her broken sobs: It's no use to hunt for him. He's gone. He'll never be seen again on this earth.

short time, and lay crying on a lounge, ed quite uncomfortable. with one of my aunts bathing her temples and talking soothingly to her.

the little feet could never have straved

It looks to me like a case of kidnapping, said one of my visiting uncles to to care for conversation, I sat down to the

seem possible that-

It ain't possible, David, interrupted colts with four wings apiece, for noth-

What on earth would colts of any kind want with Danny? asked one of my

An hour and more passed, and Danny was not found. We hurried to the near-40 ends and pieces last seasons est neighbors. They had not seen any Carpets will be sold at a great re- suspicious characters in the neighborhood, and knew nothing about Danny's Remember we are headquarters disappearance. They came to our house in great numbers, full of sympathy and harrowing reminiscenses of similar dis-Please examine before placing appearances, in which the missing children were either found dead or were never found at all.

The evening drew on. The sun went down. Mother had said over and over again that we must find her baby before night came on. She could not endure the thought of having him away when the darkness came. Father began to grow pale, and his voice trembled when he spoke.

Parties of men and boys were searching in the neighboring woods, and planning to drag the streams. It was nearly dark, and we were sitting tearful and anxious, in mother's room, when we heard a loud commotion outside.

In a moment the door was thrown open, and there stood our big, jolly Uncle Darius Bertram, and, high on his shoulder laughing and making a desperate effort to talk, sat-Danny!

Well, such a time and nobody to it! said Uncle Darius, as he put Danny into mother's outstretched arms.

O Darius! where did you find him? cried mother.

I found him lying in his bed about halfpast three, this afternoon. My wife and I PHENIX SQUARE, F'TON, were driving into town, and called here to

seeyou, but found no one at home but ? grandmother and the baby. Grandmothet was asleep and baby seemed to be having a lonely sort of time of it kicking up his heels in his cradle. So wife and I thought we'd take him out for an airing, the day being so fine. I wrote a little note on a leaf of my pocket-diary, telling you we had him. Didn't you find it?

No, said father; where did you put

Why, I pinned it to baby's pillow, didn't I? I know wife said for me to.

But I'm such a forgetful fellow that I don't really know where I did put that note. It was written on a small leaf like this. He drew out his pocket-diary as he spoke, opened it and sat down looking very foolish.

Well, I swan! he said; ef I didn't clean forget to tear off the note, after I'd written it. I must be getting loony!

We were detained in the village much longer than we expected, said Aunt Harriet, Uncle Darius's wife; and I was afraid you would worry about baby, out he has been just as good as he could be, and he seemed to enjoy the ride so very much. I couldn't find his cloak to put on him, but I had a light shawl with me and I found his little every-day sunbonnet out in the yard. It was good enough to wear. To think of the anxiety the little chap's ride has cost you!

Grandmother was down on her knees crying over Danny, and of course not one of us said a word to her about those unfulfilled omens. It was months before the words 'signs' and 'omens' passed her lips. Then she spoke of them as though they were things beneath her notice. They certainly had no power over Danny,

for I have often heard him telling this story to his own children.

OUR FIRST QUARREL.

Herbert and I had quarrelled. It was all his fault, of course. The young people convinced that I am selling them at in our society had formed a dramatic club prices never known before in the city. for the benefit of the church, and I was a member of the club. We had just played 25 a little comedy very successfully, judging by the receipts and the encomiums of the townspeople. I had taken the part of 25 young lady heroine, and George Wakefield that of my devoted lover.

Poor Bert had no histrionic talent, consequently no place on the programme. As George Wakefield lived near the Smith 75 pairs Men's Pants, from \$1.50 to \$3.00, paternal mansion-my maiden name was Smith—he was naturally my escort on rehearsal occasions. The knowledge of all sizes and styles, marked away down to this fact, together with the stage love about cost. Mother broke down entirely after a making, had served to render my betroth-

The evening of the entertainment, Ber walked home with mother and me and We looked everywhere—in places that went in for a few minutes' chat in the parlor. He was rather stiff in his manner, and spent so few words in congratulations that I felt aggrieved. As he seemed not piano and began to play a waltz, one that So it does, said father; and yet it don't the orchestra had used for an opening

It's very evident where your thoughts grandmother. I'm satisfied that I hadn't are, said Bert, angrily; you haven't had an been asleep 10 minutes when you folks evening for me since this theatrical concame home, and I know that no one was cern was first thought of, and now it is near the house before you came home. over, you can't do anything but live it All the novelties of the present No, no, David, human hands never touched over in your mind. Folks must have easy soason. All qualities from the cheap- our Danny. I didn't dream of white consciences, any way, to get up theatres and say that they are doing it for the good of the church.

If you think our dramatic club so wicked, I retorted, I'm surprised that you should have patronized it.

Of course I know that you would have preferred me to stay away, then Wakefield could have walked home with you again, was the cutting rejoinder. I hope you don't think I am so blind as not to see how things are going; your lovemaking this evening was very realistic, very, in-

Ah? said I, with an exasperating smile. You are observant.

George Wakefield was a fop, and l couldn't endure him, but I wasn't going to say so just that moment. I understand you, said Bert, rising to

his feet in wrath. We will call our little love affair child's play, and I will trouble you no more.

To emphasize the last clause he brought down his fist heavily on the table, thereby utterly demolishing my new bonnet, which he had unwittingly made the target of his pugilistic effort. Instead of showing the slightest contrition, he scowled horribly and stalked out of the

On the whole I was pleased with the denouement; not that I wished to dismiss Bert-I simply adored him-but it was exciting, and I had always been curious to know how he would act when he was in a rage. We would, of course, make up again shortly.

The next morning I arose at a late hour feeling very cross and disagreeable. I suppose mother found my society quite unendurable, for she speedily asked me if I wouldn't like to go and spend a few days with Aunt Fanny.

Continued next issue.

Spring 1888.

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D POTTINGER, Chief Superintendent Railway Office Moncton, N. B. November 22nd. 1887.

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