RACHEL A True Story of Western Farm Life.

BY MRS. E. V. WILSON. It was the middle of a short December afternoon. From the scholars in the little log schoolhouse in the Stillman district rose a buzzing sound as they bent over their desks, intent on books or mischief, as the case might be. The teacher, a good-looking young man of 20 or thereabouts, was busy with a class in arithmetic when a shrill voice called out:

"Teacher, Rachel Stillman's readin a story book."

"Bring the book to me, Rachel,"said the teacher quietly, and the delinquent a girl of about 14, slowly rose, and walking to him placed a much worn ancient-looking! volume in his hands. "Why," he said, glancing at the open page, "it is the 'Pilgrim's Progress." No wonder you are interested, Rachel, But you must not read it during school

The child lifted to his face a pair of large blue eyes, beautiful with their timid wistfulness, as she replied:

I know I oughtn't, sir, but I wanted to see how they got out of Doubting Castle so bad.'

He smiled. "I will give you the book," he said "after school; then you can read it to-night at home." "Oh no," she whispered, "father

won't let me'read story books." "He surley would not object to this book,'answered the young teacher,"but will keep it untill recess to-morrow morning and never fear, Christian and Hopeful will outwit the old giant yet"

The wistful eyes lighted, and with a grateful smile Rachel returned to her desk.

"First-class in spelling, take your places," called the teacher. Rachel belonged to this class, as did all of the larger scholars, among whom was her brother Thomas, two years older than herself. The teacher had promised a prize at the end of the term to the member of the class obtaining the greatest number of head-marks, and consequently a good deal of interest was taken in the lessons. Rachel had been at the head of the class the evening before, therefore she now took her station at the foot. Tom, her brother was "head," and for some time no change in position was made, but finally "somebody blundered," and Rachel, who was one of the good spellers, went up in the long line. Presently another hard word was missed, and this time Rachel walked to the head. Tom

gave her a spiteful push. "Another mark, Rachel," said the teacher, "for that is the last word." The class resumed their seats, and in a few minutes school was dismissed for the day. 'Good evening," said the teacher as Rachel and her sister, a pretty, delicate-looking child of 10, passed him at the school room door, "now don't worry about Christian, Rachel."

"I won't," she answered laughing. "I guess he'll get out. Didn't he stand up to old Apollyon?" "Like a good one," said the teacher,

"Hope I'll come off all well."

She looked at him inquiringly, but he turned to his desk again, and the sisters set out on their half-mile walk home. Let us precede them and see what manner of home it is to which these children belong. The farm is a large one, the buildings substantial, and everything has a prosperous well-to-do look. Mr. Stillman, the owner of these broad acres, and father of these three, Tom, Rachael and Susy, as well as of three more girls and another stalwart son--is a stout, comfortable looking man of 45 or 50 years; comfortable to look at, but a glance at his close, thin lips and keen gray eyes, would convince an observant person that he could and would make in his way. He must choose their it very uncomfortable for any person in pleasures. If they could not find his power who might differ from him in opinion or venture to dispute his it was not his fault. It was their perauthority. Just now he is chatting verseness. And as no two souls are pleasantly about to-morrow's work with alike, the attempt to fit a number of his hired man, and pays no attention to them by the same pattern necessarily the children who pass him on their way caused a good deal of pain to the souls to the house.

fair-haired woman who looks as if she completely crushed; her eldest daughowed the world an apology for being in ter's nearly so. Martha, the second it, is preparing supper, being assisted daughter, refusing to be shaped, had by her two daughters, Elizabeth, a sad- escaped by marrying a clever young faced woman of 24 and Margaret, a girl hired man who pitied and then loved of 18, with ther father's determined the pretty daughter of his employer, mouth and chin and her mother's large and persuaded her that by eloping with blue eyes and fair hair.

and kitchen.

mother, "and get warm; supper is about had been forbidden. ready."

"where is he?"

of feet as the door was thrown open | feelings than he did of those of the and the men, followed by Tom, entered | horses he worked.

the kitchen. "Supper is ready," said Mrs. Still-

ready," said Mr. Stillman, roughly, the stock and land to cultivate for himwhere's the washbasin? Nothing in its farmer he had a "right good start" in place, as usual! Pity there wasn't two life.

or three more girls layin' about." Nobody answered this tirade. The washing, ironing, milking, churning, hired man picked up the basin, Mar- baking, nursing the younger children, garet handed a towel, Rachel came with in short, sharing as far as she could her the water and soon the family gathered | mother's labors for her board and a about the well spread table.

"I tell you," remarked Mr. Still- She was 24 now and had never in her man after a few mouthfuls of the savory life known what it was to possess a five food had put him in apparently a better dollar bill. There are many Mr. Stillhumor, "I think we'll have fine weather | mans. Are they honest men? If the for hog killing by next week, and I son had a right to wages had not the never had a better lot of hogs, either." daughter? I leave the question with

"Oh, father," said Margaret, "don't you. butcher next week. Friday is Christmas and-

"Christmas," interrupted her father, wonderful allegory to her vivid imagin-"Well, don't we always butcher then?" ation was very real. And now to leave "Yes, I know," answered the girl, her hero in that awful dungeon, never her lips trembling in spite of her effort to know how he escaped, was almost to control herself, "but, father, we more than she could bear.

thought maybe this year-"

suppose," with a look at his wife that said, then sobs choked her utterance. made the poor woman shrink as from a The young man looked at her silently a blow, "this is some of your plans. You and your girls want to go gadding around the country."

"Mother never said anything about it," said Margaret, her temper rising, "But nobody else takes Christmas time to do their hardest and dirtiest work." "Will you hush?" thundered the father. "What do I care how anybody else does; I am master here."

Nobody spoke again. The assertion was not to be disputed. He was ma ster and well his wife and daughter knew it. Poor Mrs Stillman. Two fortunate baby girls had died a few weeks after their birth and the tears the mother shed over the little coffins were not half so bitter as those that fell on their innocent faces when first they were held to her bosom.

When on this evening the father had proved his authority his two elder daughters rose from the table and tak. ing a couple of large buckets went quietly out of the house, and, going to the barnyard, proceeded to milk the half dozen cows awaiting them. It was pretty dark and cold, but no words were spoken except to the animals, as the girls hurried through the milking and hastened back to the kitchen where Rachel and the mother cleared away the supper things and made needful preparations for next morning's break-

When the milk had been put away and all things were in order Mrs. Stillman and her daughters entered the large room adjoining the kitchen, which was used as a bedroom by the parents and sitting-room for the family, Mr. Stillman not permitting a fire kept

in any other room in the house. Mrs. Stillman sat down, knitting hand, as close in the corner as possible Elizabeth and Margaret brought out huge basket of rags and went to work cutting and sewing carpet balls. The younger children were busy with their lessons at the table where the father sat reading his newspaper. All were silent, for to have spoken while father was reading would have brought a torrent of wrath on the head of the offender. At last, however, Mr. Stillman laid down his paper, and addressing Tom, said:

"Well, how did you get along at school to-day?' "Oh, fisrt-rate," said the boy, in whose mind that lost head mark ran-

kled; "but Rachael was called up." "How was that, Rachael?" said the father, sharply. Poor girl! deep in the mysteries of "long division" she did not answer.

"Rachel," he repeated, "what were you called up for in school to-day?" She glanced up reproachfully at Tom. "I was reading in the 'Pilgrim's Progress' just a little, father. It's not a

story, it's-' "Never mind what it is," interrupted the father; "I send you to school to study your school books, and I don't want to hear, of your touching any

"May I bring it home?" faltered the

"Bring it home, indeed! No, ma'am. I guess you can find enough to do at home. Not a word now," as he saw her about to speak, "or you stay at

The child bent over her slate, but her tears would fall, and at last a sob burst forth in spite of her.

"Clear out to bed this minute, Rachel," said her father, "I want no sniveling here.'

Upstairs in the cold, dark room, what bitter thoughts surged, through the childish brain.

Mr. Stillman loved his wife and children although you may not think so. He wanted them to be happy, but pleasure in the things that pleased him undergoing the trying operation. Mrs. Indoors, Mrs. Stillman, La slender, Stillman's sensitive organization was him she would be more happily situ-The clock struck 4 as the school girls ated at all events than she was at home. entered the kitchen, a large room, which The mesalliance angered Mr. Stillman in winter did duty as both dining-room greatly, and since the marriage, which had taken place a year ago, all inter-"Run in the room, girls," said the course with the disobedient daughter

Margaret, the third daughter, as we "Oh, we're not cold, mother," said have seen, also rebelled at the fitting, Rachel. "Let me hang up your things, and having a goodly portion of her Susy. Mother, I got another head father's determination it was evident he would have some trouble in complet-The mother smiled. "I hope you or | ing it. So far Rachael had given him Tom will get the prize," she said, no trouble. She and Susan were only babies in his opinion, and as he ordered She was interrupted by a stamping them about he no more thought of their

With the boys it was different. They would be men some day. They must "We were just going to call be treated with more consideration. At an early age, John, two years older "Well, I guess it'll keep till we're than Elizabeth, was given a share in "Rachel, bring some water. The buck- | self, so that when at the age of 24 he et is empty, of course. Margaret, married the daughter of a neighboring

> But his sister toiled early and late, scanty, grudgingly given wardrobe.

> Poor Rachael carried a heavy heart to school next morning. The Tinker's

never enjoyed the holidays and I "Here, Rachael," said the teacher when the time for recess came, "here "We will do this year as we always is your book." He held it toward her have," broke in the father angrily. "I but she did not take it, "Father," she

moment, then he said, "I am so interested in Christian, Rachael, that I will read aloud if you will listen."

In all her life Rachel never forgot their readings at recesses and noons, which lasted not only until Christian reached the Celestial City, but until Christiana and her children joined him. And her gratitude to her young teacher would have surely awakened love if she had been a few years older. When in March the term closed, not even the prize as best speller-a beautiful copy of the Pilgrim's Progress-consoled

As for the teacher, he was only glad the winter's work, which had been undertaken solely to furnish means for the pursuit of his profession, was over. He liked some of his scholars very much, Rachael especially, she was so intelligent, so grateful, and when, with blue eyes swimming in tears, she said good-bye, he did for a second feel sorry to leave her, and told her so.

"You ought to have seen Rachaelan" Susy cryin' when old Grey bid us goodbye," said Tom at home the fevening of that last day of school.

"Did you cry?" asked Margaret. "Guess not. I'm glad school's out. Hope I'll not have to go next winter," said Tom.

"I guess you won't," answered Mar-

garet. "You're smart enough now, bub." She always called him "bub" when she wanted to vex him. "But old Grey, as you call him, will make his mark in the world, see if he doesn't." The entrance of Mr. Stillman closed the conversation, and Tom went out banging the door after him. No wonder Margaret was getting ill-natured. The winter was a long dull season in the Stillman home. Even her enjoyment at the few social gatherings she was allowed to attend in the neighborhood, was marred by the knowledge that she could not entertain her young friends in turn. Once or twice she had attempted to fix up the spare room and

father had forbidden it. "I'd like to know," he said, "why the settin' room ain't good enough. If your company can't sit with the family they can stay away, Miss."

have a fire there for company but her

And "they" stayed away, generally after one visit. Mr. Stillman was not a success as a host, especially for young

And a young minister who came home from meeting one Sunday with Elizabeth was so completely abashed by the cool reception he received that not even the daughter's pleading eyes could induce him to remain in the father's presence. A few weeks afterwards Elizabeth heard of his departure for a distant part of the State, and her face became sadder than ever.

neighbor, who managed a good sized farm and two grown sons skill, was more successful.

He generally brought his mother along on his visits, and while she, with ready wit, entertained Mr. Stillman, Jim, the girls and the carpet rags escaped into the kitchen.

sides, we will have all out-of-doors." [To be continued.]



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herwise they will be sued without further J. R. GOGGIN. Nov. 9th 1885.

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NOTICE.

settle en or before the end of the present month, October, as all accounts not then paid will, without exception, be placed in the hands of their Attorney for collection. BUCKLEY & McKINNON. Oct. 17th, 1885.

NOTICE

A LL persons indebted to the undersigned are requested to call and arrange the same within the next three months, otherwise legal proceedings may be commenced; and all persons having claims will if required have the amounts paid; no claims after that time will be acknow-RICHARD HUTCHISON

"Imperial Wringer. Wash-tub Stand. Clothes Forks, etc.

New devices for convenience on Wash daysave labor and lighten the work left to be done. H. P MARQUIS,

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Chatham, 3r October, 1885.

collected by Jas. Johnston JAS. JOHNSTON.

JAS. JOHNSTON.

Importations.

To the Editor of the Sun. Sir-In the advertisement in this mornings Telegraph, Mr John Mackay claims to have imported into this port from 1st January to 30th September, 1885, more than one fourth of all the Tea imported from Great Britain, China and United

This statement is not true, and to back my as sertion I will deposit the sum of One Handred Dollars in any bank in the city, Mr. Mackay to deposit a like amount, and the loser to pay his hun dred dollars to any charitable object that may be I may further state that during the time mentioned I have imported and sold more Tea than Mr. Mackay; and I claim to be the largest importer of Tea in the maritime provinces.

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200 Bbls. Brown FLOUR; 100 hlf-bbls do. do. 125 bbls. CORN MEAL. 50 do. MESS PORK. 150 Quintals new CODFISH. 40 Cases CANNED OYSTERS. LOBSTERS PEACHES. do COLEMAN'S MUSTARD.

Geo. S. DeForest. 13th May, 1885. ANTI-DUST

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Meerschaum and Briar Tipes and all Smoker's Goods.

As we intend leaving the Province next spring, the whole stock must be sold and will be sold. Call and see for Yourselves.

I HARRIS & SON. NOTICE.

requested to make immediate payment, All accounts not settled before the first of August will be placed in an Attorney's hands without I. HARRIS & SON Chatham, July 13, 1885

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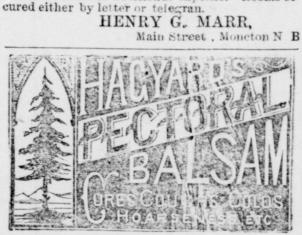
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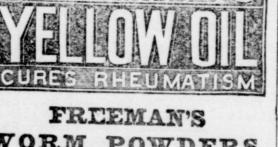
"But spring was near, and," thought Margaret, "he can't keep us out of the spare room in warm weather; and, be-

Douglastown, August 26, 1885

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JOHN PIRIE. Chatham, N. B., Oct. 31, 1885. The subscriber, who will continue the above business at the old stand, thanks the late firm's umerous customers for their patronage in the past, and respectfully solicits a continuation

Yours respectfully, J. J. McGAFFIGAN. To the Trade: The average public Auction Sales daily in London is ir the vicinity of Fifty Thousands Haff-chests. My Teas are bought by brokers under the Credit of Bank of Montreal. . J. McGAFFIGAN

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