RACHAEL A True Story of Western Farm Life.

BY MRS. E. V. WILSON. Concluded. June came with her blue skies, her and the poor, delicate mother. What down now for all I care.' extra help could they need, although all the men ? You see "hands" could surprise saw the well-known figure o be got for low wages if the farmer Dr. Lewis on the porch. "Driven in done; and what else had the women to do? True, mother was not as strong plain. She was only more shadowy and quiet than ever; and Mr. Stillman themselves, and not let mother do all

the work. "Oh, dear," said Margaret, one morning as she and Rachel were bendi ng over the wash-tubs while mother, dangerous. It's the weather's weaken-Elizabeth and Susy did the churning ed her so.' and baking and prepared dinner, "I fourth; everybody's going.

"Maybe we can," said Rachael hopeully. "I heard father say he would days." not cut the wheat until about the sixth, and also, Margaret, I heard him say It is so small for you."

Margaret laughed. "The calf is mine," she said, "it would have died if I had not taken care of it, and father gave it to me, so I will have a new dress and you shall have my old one." Out in the barnyard, as the girls

talked and worked, Mr. Stillman and

lounging about in the shady yard en- was coming. joying their "nooning." As they entered the dining room

Mr. Stillman handed Margaret a pack- her. age, saying: "There's your share of the calf, Margaret.' "My share !" she exclaimed, "why,

the calf was all mine; at least, you said

and unrolled a piece of cheap lawn, soon." bright yellow, with b'ue flowers. With an angry gesture she threw it on the floor and left the room. Mr. Stillman stood a moment amazed.

Then turning to Rachael he said: "You | she was so soon to enter. Just as the can have the dress, Rachael. I'll teach Margaret a lesson.'

"I don't want it," she said. "It was bought with Margaret's money. Why didn't you give her her money? When trembling limbs he bent over his dead you sold Tom's pigs he had his money to do as he pleased with."

"Nice girls, these of yours, mother," said Mr. Stillman to his frightened wife. "They'll be turning us out of doors next. You pick up that goods, late. Miss.

Rachael obediently took up the lawn mine," he went on, "I only meant to pay Margaret for earing for it."

"You should have said so, then," answered his daughter, facing him with eyes as keen as his own, "but you told her if she could raise it she could have it,; and, of course, she thought you meant what you said."

The father raised his hand as if to strike his child, then, as she did not his sisters. drop her eyes, he turned and left the

and told the girls to keep "mother out tried hard to do. But the mother could not rest. There was so much to Enzabeth was not well, she knew, for means." the patient elder daughter seemed drooping, and a hopeless look had settied on her face as if for life.

At last there came a morning, about the middle of July, when mother did not rise to breakfast. "Hadn't we better send for Dr.

Lewis, father," said Elizabeth. "O, no, your mother did not sleep, t was so hot last night. She'll be up directly. Keep her out of the kitchen, and see you have a good dinner on

time. Well have to work to finish to day, an' I am expectin' a storm; man of whom his sisters were extremely the air feels like it.' Twelve o'clock came. Dinner for a dezen hungry men! was on the table, and still Mrs. Stillman was in bed.

While the men were eating Rachael slipped in to her mother. She found The spare room is metamorphosed into her awake, but her flashed checks and bright eyes startled the girl. "O, mother," she cried, "you must

have the doctor, you are so sick." "No, no, dear," the mother answered, "tather is too busy now, he couldn't take time. You run over to Mrs. Lansing after dinner. I'm not much sick, but'I would like to see her."

Rachael returned to the dining-room. "Take that fly-brush, Ruchael," said her father. "Susy's no account." Poor, feeling of bitterness she cherished tired little Susy crimsoned to the roots of her hair as she handed Rachael the

When dinner was over Mr. Stillman her will. If mother could have done glanced in his wife's room. She seem- that she might have been alive still." ed sleeping and he did not go in. "Mother hasn't eaten a bite to-day, did not man œuvre or flatter, but knowfather," said Rachael. "I wish she'd ing ber place she maintained it as mis have the doctor."

ly, "if she's no better by mornin' I'll ing to the master's humor. And an- old familiat hymn Mr. Stillman came zend for him."

their work when she returned. Mar- arranging the supper table, said : may always be king." garet was doing up the work and Eliza- "Rachael, do you remember old Grev. both and Susy trying to make the poor, as I used to call him, that taught our Mek woman comfortable by bathing her | "chool one winter about six years ago?" head and tanning her, while they beg- "Yes,' she answered. g ther vainly to drink the tea they "Well, I met him in town to-day. Should send that sum to the WEEKLY MESSEN-

had brought her. "Rachael," said Mrs. Lansing, "I saw Dr. Lewis' buggy coming down the road as I came here, you run out and stop him when he gets here.'

When about 4 o'clock the rain began singing birds, her wealth of beauty. to fall in torrents Mr. Stillman had the But there was no time at Stillman's to satisfaction of seeing the last load of enjoy it. A larger crop than usual had grain just inside the great barn door, been put in and extra hands employed, and taking off his hat he wiped the Not in the house. Why, there were moisture off his face exclaiming, "Well, five women, counting 10-year old Susy boys, we beat the rain; it can pour

Replacing his hat on his head he washing and cooking must be done for | turned towards the house, and to his boarded them and had their washing by the rain," he thought; "guess I'll get him to see mother.

"Well, doctor," as he stepped up on as she used to be, but she did not com- the porch, "how are you! Just got my wheat in in time; lucky, wasn't I?" . "Very," said the doctor, gravely, told his daughters to "stir" around "but I just came from your wife's bedside, and she is, I find, very il'. I

> ought to have been called long ago.' Mr. Stillman was startled. "Why," he said, "doctor, you can't think her

The doctor was silent a moment. wish we could go to the picnic on the Then he said slowly: "Mr. Stillman, it is my duty to tell you that your wife can live at the farthest but a few

For once in their lives the men at Stillman's ate a cold supper and did your calf was worth \$10. If he gives the milking. Mrs. Lansing took the you the money you can get a new white superintendence of everything on herdress and I might wear your old one self. John and his wife were sent for and came, and before morning Jim Lansing, who had learned the state of affairs from one of the "hands", quietly hitched the horses to a wagon and went for Martha and her husband.

mother for more than a year. All night Mr. Sullman watched by Tom were putting the pretty calf in the his wife's bedside or walked restlessly waggon preparatory to taking it to the up and down the long back porch. It could not be. His wife was not dying; When the girls went in to dinner the | she was only tired. Yes, that was it, men had finished theirs and were Mr. Stillman; she was tired, and rest

Poor Martha, who had not seen her

When Martha came the mother who had so longed for her did not recognize

"Mother! mother!" cried the daughter in anguish. The mother looked at her with dim eyes that saw no more of earth, and muttered as she tossed upon her pillow: "Hurry! girls! oh, hurry, As she spoke she opened the paper it's almost 12, and father will be in

> Then she grew quiet, only her restless hands, which her daughters vainly strove to hold, kept reaching out as if trying to grasp at the unknown land sun rose in the morning Mrs. Stillman "entered her rest."

> Her husband seemed stunned by the terrible shock. With baggard face and wife. 'I loved her so," he said. "how could she leave me?"

Ah, Mr. Stillman, you are by no means the first person who has failed to care for their beloved ones until too

after the mother had gone; for a little and began to fold it. "That calf was while the father had been kinder, but as time went on old habits were resumed. Elizabeth went listlessly about, evidently failing in health.

Margaret was growing every day they have been separated so long." more defiant toward her father, and constantly quarreled with Tom, who, now that his gentle mother's influence was no more felt, grew every day more meddlesome and everbearing toward in the room where in her childhood

The summer following Mrs. Stillman's death, Mrs. Lansing's eldest son July came, but the Stillman girls Frank took unto himself a wife, and did not go to the pienie. Tom and the late in the fall the neighborhood was "hands" went, and Mrs. Lansing and electrified with the entirely unlooked her boys stopped at Stillman's on their for marriage of Mr. Stillman to Mrs. way and offered the girls seats in their | Lansing. Herboys on learning of her wagon, but the offer was not accepted. | intentions had remonstrated earnestly "The women folk," Mr. Stillman said, with her, but she said; "You boys do "had to get ready for the harvest not need me now and those girls are hand-,'and there was more cooking and going to destruction. Think of Rachel churning and washing as the days went saying, 'God had nothing to do with on. No wonder Mrs. Stillman grew her mother's death, and she didn't weaker until even Mr. Stillman noticed think He cared anything for women half turns to go out again, but someit and brought her a bottle of bitters anyhow. He just created them for thing in his attitude touches her. He men's convenience,' and then look at of the kitchen," which they, indeed, little Susy, the child's face haunts me." | ing at something he holds in his hand "Well," said Jim, "I know things do. The girls could not get along, and Susy's face that haunts me by any face. Drawing near, she says: "Are

> His mother laughed. 'I shall take good care of Magaret, 'she said, "the poor virl needs some one to look after her, she and E izabeth are both being the fair young girl who had been his worked to death."

Time has slipped four years more over the heads of the Stillmans-years well improved by Rachael and Susy at the academy in the village near their swered. father's farm, years which gave Margaret's happiness into Jim Lansing's keeping, brought Susy to the verge of womanhood, and made Tom a young proud. Even Elizabeth's wan face looks as if life might still hold a little happiness for her, for under the new wife's skilful management life at Stillman's has taken on a different color,

a pretty sitting room for the young folks. "We don't want them always with us," says Mrs. Stillman, as she shows her husband the change she has made. That is one of her peculiarities. She does what she thinks best without talk, taking it for granted that Mr. Stillman will view matters in the same

light that she does. As for Rachael, she enjoyed fully the change for the better; but now to the against her father was added a touch of contempt. "See," she thought, "how this wife can flatter and bend him to

Rachael was mistaken; the new wife ress of the home, not as a sort of upper "Well," said Mr. Stillman, imparient- servant to be snubbed or praised accord other summer had been added to Rach- quietly in and sat down to listen. So Not stopping to est Rachael went ael's 19 years when Tom came home let us leave Rachel and her sisters, hophalf a mile through the July sun for from town one evening and hurrying ing that whatever may befall them in Mrs. Lansing. The men had gone to into the dining-room where she was the journey of life, "love, for them

He is one of the lawyers in the Sanders case, and he knew me right off; he's coming out this evening, so look your prettiest, for I tell you be's a smart one.

A large 12 year old mare, very suitable for a thrashing mill, will be sold cheap. Apply at I heard some of the lawyers talking about him.

"Rachael," said Susy, as they arrayed themselves for the evening, "you are so hard to please this evening; what ails you! You look so excited.'

Rachael smiled. "I was thinking of old days," she said; "that is all." And she enters the little parlor where Mr. Stillman and the guest are

seated in a perfectly self-possessed manner, saying as she extends her hand: "Good evening, Teacher. How goes the battle with Apollyon?" And the young lawyer springs to his

feet, exclaiming: "Rachael! Is it possible?" And he holds her hand and looks into her eyes so long that Susy and Mrs. Stillman declare he fell in love then and there.

However that may be, it is certain Mr. Grey shows a wonderful interest in the Sallman district during his stay at Maywood. The trial is tedious, but his patience never gives out, and when some of the lawyers propose night sessions of court to basten matters he opposes it earnestly. "Too hard on the old Judge," he says.

case was at last decided in favor of Mr Grey's client. As Rachael congratulated him on his victory he said with a "How long must I stay in Doubting Castle, Rachael!

"Dear me," she answered, "I did not think a promising young lawyer, as father calls you, ever got into that dismal place."

Then Susy came in and the young man bade them good-bye, but he watched an opportunity to whisper in Rachael's ear a promise of speedy return, and as he traveled homeward. those wonderful eyes seemed to haunt him persistently. "Who would have thought," he said to himself, "she could have become such a woman? No wonder I never could find a girl to suit me when she has been my ideal."

You see he was trying to persuade himself that he had thought of her ever since that winter term of school; perhaps it was true. Maybe all unknown to him those eyes had held him. At any rate he says they did; and when time after time they drew him back to Stillmen's he at last succeeded in making Rachael believe it, and then with the little "key of promise" she delivered him from "Doubting Castle." Let us take one more look two years

later at the Stillman homestead. There is a family gathering and all the girls are present-Martha and her two little ones, Margaret with her two boys and Rachel with her baby. Susy, a proud young aunt, flits to and fro, now teasing one and now another of the children. Elizabeth, with unwonted brightness in her eyes, looks on and even laughs a sweet, low laugh at some of the merry mischief. "Well," says Life went on as usual at Sillman's | Margaret, "it does seem odd to think of Lizzie's lover coming back after all

these years." "Yes," answered Rachel in the same low tone, "and how happy she seems. I suppose the wedding will be soon; The husbands are all present in the

evening, and the old house is full of light and gayety. Rachel steps off upstairs to put baby to bed. As she sits she had spent so many unhappy hours, her tears fall thinking of them and the dear mother who had suffered and died, and the old bitterness rises in her heart. Baby drops asleep, and laying him gently in the cradle in which she herself had been rocked, she kisses two dainty lips and goes down stairs. Some impulse prompts her to enter the sitting room instead of agoing into the parlor, where she thinks all the family are gathered. As she opens the door she sees her father sitting by the table, where the lamp stands as of old, and is not reading his newspaper, he is look-She notices how gray he is getting, and are in a bad fix over there, but it isn't how age is tracing lines in his stern you sick, father?"

"O, no," be answers, "I was thinking of your mother, Rachael," and he handed her a faded daguerreotype of bride in the days of his youth.

'How like Susy, father,' she said with tears dropping on the lovely face, 'Yes, only she was prettier,' he an-

'I have been thinking of her so much lately, Rachel,' he went on; 'I am going to do something I think will please her if she sees. I bought that pretty little farm of Perry's the other day and I am going to put Martha and her husband on it. Dick's an industrious fellow, but it's hard gettin' on en a rented place, and Martha is worried too much. You don't think any of the rest would object ?' and he looked anxiously in her face,

'Object! Why father, they will all be glad, and dropping her head on his shoulder she puts her arm around him for the first time in her life, and as she slips the little daguerreotype in his hand a sweet peace fills her heart as she thinks "the bitterness is gone and

love takes its place. After a while she joins the group in the parlor. They are singing, while Susy plays accompaniments on the organ. 'Sing 'Coronation,' Susy, 'she says, as she sits down beside her hus-

"What is it?' he tasks. 'You look

unusually happy. 'Ah!' she answers, 'I have had a vision of the land of Beulah, and Love is its king.

As the voices joined in singing the

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accounts as usual at the end of the present settle on or before the end of the present month ctober, as all accounts not then paid will, with out exception, be placed in the hands of thei Attorney for collection BUCKLEY & McKINNON. Oct. 17th, 1885.

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