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# FLOUR AND FIEED DEPOT.

Shorts

Bran Cornmeal Cracked Feed

A crotchety and contrary old chap was Dick Shellen, a rich old farmer, as stubborne as a mule. He had made his way in the world by the doggedest obstinacy-seizing hold of whatever came his way, and retaining hold, as though life depended upon it.

Shellen had one son-a handsome, clear-headed young man-straight as a young larch, tall and as tenacious in his way, when he chose to have one, as old Dick himself. This son, as he grew up, had proved a great assistance to his father in working the farm, and his services had been made the most of.

The old man managed to keep him

at home with him some time after he ought to have been doing for himself. Not an acre of his father's possessions was ever called his son's; he owned nothing, save a horse, which some neighbor had given him when it was a sickly colt, and some sheep obtained in much the same manner; and the old man grudged him the keeping of these. Shellen and his son differed often. but there were two points in which the difference amounted to something serious. The first point concerned education, for which the old man had the most profound contempt, and the son had not. There was a college some dozen miles from the Shellen farm, and thither-having thoroughly prepared himself in spite of fatherly thwarting and opposition--Henry betook himself, and by one contrivance and another, and helped by his mother's small marketing, kept himself there for several months.

The second point was not likely to be so easy of arrangement. At college Henry had found something besides scholastic honors. He had chanced upon a very charming Biddy. combination of curls and azure eyes, a red-lipped, dimpled-cheeked fairy, daughter of one of the professors who, and his father's niggardliness compelled him to wear, never seemed to be ! when he was near.

In short, Henry had found some one to love, some one that he wanted to marry, as he gravely informed his upon one pretext or another, detainfather. You should have seen the ed him. old man's eyes; it was a mercy they When at last they entered togethwere fast in their sockets. "Marry a girl student-it was ridiculous!" "And pray what harm is there in Bertha Halmstead, when Henry told her, half laughing, half vexed, and al- first, thinking he had set foot in cometogether rueful; for without assist- body else's house instead of his own. ance from his father he could not marry her for a long time yet.

Henry laughed again, but with some embarrassment, saying, "My father is afraid that a daughter of Professor Halmstead would not make a very ap with pillows in a great easy chair good farmer's wife." "Does he think" -- Bertha hesitated, looking with smiling perplexity at her little white hands.

"That these pretty hands don't know much about baking, etc.? Exactly; I believe he thinks that." "Then he thinks wrong," said Bertha, reddening and looking up at her ! lover with a comical little pout. "Didn't I hear you say you wanted a servant at home? I've a mind to go spread table and made a most hearty

down and offer to take the place." Henry laughed. father will not suffer one inside the watched Biddy askance, too.

and green plaid dress, the checks very could, Biddy's mysterious presence.

from one side. The face, what could be seen of it, was a very curious one to be inside such a bonnet, Just now, as she surveyed th ekitchen and Henry, herself unseen, the muscles about her mouth twitched nervously and her eyes twinkled with roguish brightness. Presently Henry looked that way. Instantly the face took a lugubrious length, and, coming from the room,

out looking at him: "An would ye be afther employing a with the fringe of her shawl. "I believe not," said Henry, coloring with some annoyance, perhaps, at the nature of his employment.

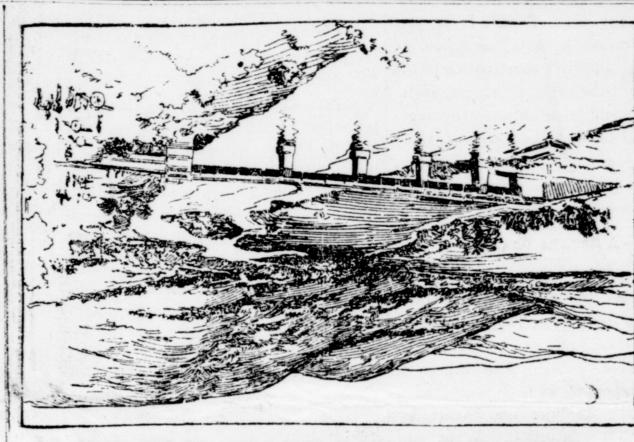
"Shure, sir, and the lady that sin me said you'd be shure to take me on her recommendation, which I has in my pocket, and here 'tis now.' She gave him a note which proved to be from Miss Halmstead. Henry read it with very lover-like careful-ness, but shook his head.

"I'm very sorry, my good girl, but we do not wish to hire a servant.' "Belike your father mayn't object when he sees me," the girl persisted. Henry looked at the soiled white hat wondering what his father would say. But he was of too kindly a nature to peated what he had said before, assuring her that it would be of no use to see his father.

The girl stood for a moment "If you please, sir, I'll just see him moment. Belike he may take a il'tin' to the look of me." And before he could reply she had crossed the room and stood upon the threshold of the next. Henry followed presently, curious to see what kind of a reception she would get.

Shure, an' I'll be worth a lot to yees," she was saying, with innocent emphasis, as Henry entered. She talked rapidly, pouring out such a torrent of words that the old man could not by any possibility slip one in among them, and sat regarding her with an expression of the most ludicrous astonishment.

This remarkable volubility completely baffled th eold man's slowness. He could not say a word now if he wished to, and she concluded with "I can bake bread that'd bring the very eves out iv yer head and make ye swally yer tongue with delight." He could only twirl his thumbs in a sort of ridiculous awe, and asked her, wit'n a sudden smile, how much she expected "to get for doing all these



BRIDGE OVER THE TUGELA RIVER AT COLENSO, BELOW LADYSMITH. (Here the Boers expect to cut off reinforcements for Gen. White.)

Henry deliberated and furtively face, and, reaching toward him he her. For some time she seemed unconscious of his scrutiny; but presently she turned, and clasp- hating a poor girl because her name's broom handle, said, with a mix- O'Flynn? ture of bravado and archness too na-

"Well, Henry, what do you think?" The young man laughed and looked said Bertha in her natural voice. annoyed in the same breath. "Then it is you, Bertha," he said; "I was suspecting something of the

"Not till I looked at you," said the roguishly retreating as he ap-"Shure, an' why ain't it the thing

dacently and honestly?" And that was all he could get out of Having acknowledged her identity with Bertha, for an instant, she was the most unapproachable Bid- however. Extending that pretty hand dy the next, and would have nothing of hers, she said, sweetly: to say except in that character. "Does your father know of this,

severed Henry. face toward him, saying: 'Shure, an' it's my own fadder would he inteferin', wid me, would he?" said In vain were all remonstrances

with the roguish and willful girl. She persisted in being Biddy, even to him, and maintained a distance between instead of curving her dainty lip at them very different from that bethe home-spun suit which his poverty tween him and Bertha in her own proper self. Annoyed, provoked, chagrined, almost angry, the advent of his father forced him to retire from the conscious of anything or anybody else kitchen, for fear of betraying her secret, which he would not have done for a good deal. It was several hours before he could

return to the house, his father having,

er, kitchen and dining-room, both of which had been in a most untidy state when they left there, had undergone cess that old Shellen draw back at Supper was smoking on the table-

such a supper as old Shellen, at least. had not seen for months. To crown all, Mrs. Shellen was sitting propped and looking wonderously contented and with reason-the poor lady had not very few of their neighbors even knew Mrs. Shellen was not as well as usual,

Shellen sat down to the daintily "We want one badly enough, but my strange to say, ate very little, and he This was only the beginning of re-

"We do our own cooking," Henry said, that mother and son were fast friends with a return of the half-smiling, and always of one opinion-she told form of flour. This, of course, means side would have bought from the burwith a return of the half-smiling, and always of one opinion—she told form of flour. This, of course, means that half-embarrassed expression. "We her secret to Mrs. Shellen and fairly that the wheat offal is not consumed is now valued at £300,000,000. The cook for ourselves or do without." wheedled the good lady into approval. in this country, so that our farmers gold finds of the Witwatersrand were which witnessed this conversation at first and looked wondrously are deprived of a much valued feeding- followed by others within the Trans-Henry was at home busying himself shocked. It was so charming to have stuff, and further, that the money vaal's borders-at De Kaap, at Zout-Henry was at home busying himself shocked. It was so charming to have stuff, and further, that the money pansberg, in the northeast mountains; over some culinary operations, when those little soft hands fluttering that would be paid in wages for contact Lydenburg, in the same direction;

large, a yellow shawl and a very tum- Having made a good beginning, Bidbled white bonnet. A red feather, dy established herself in a short time

poor woman, wasn't a very tidy housekeeper. Under the new reign order in holiday garb all the time, and an atmosphere of social cheerfulness pervaded everywhere. One morning, Biddy had said some-

thing the day before, the old man ended a grumbling complaint of Henry's with "I never see no good come of eddication yet. If it hadn't been servant the day?" and stood fidgeting for that college business you might have taken a liking to a sensible girl He glanced at Biddy as he spoke. She

turned scarlet and came near dropping just published, and make an analysis the dish she was holding. It was not of the 23,060,136 quarters of bread-creased to 137, but those paying divi-

relenting distance all that time.

himself with amazement.

tion soon after, he crept with the importance we have named.

len, struck with a sudden suspicion of "cousins" across the

her close cap as immense as ever. She fact in itself is of great importance, acquaintance.

"Sure, sir, an' ye won't be afther both her little hands on top of Bertha Halmstead instead of Bridget "You-you Professor Halmstead's

girl ?"

"What's that?" Bertha repeated it. "And you're not Irish?" "Niver a bit!" The old man stood for a moment,

better get out the horses now and take for a poor girl to be gettin' her living Halmstead's girl home. He must want to see her by this time." mingled anger and amazement.

Bertha did not change countenance, "You'll shake hands with Bertha? What would he say?" per- hand awkwardly. The girl took it in ish powdery dirt, that has since prov- time.

> Shellen hummed and hawed, and Then the rush began. The Boers, stammered out at last: Miss O'Flynn-I mean Miss-

> Bertha did come back, in a very few work. weeks, too, and nobody was gladder to Meantime the news of the find see her than old Shellen, though he spread over the borders into English Halmstead's girl. She soon made him in Cape Town and a horde of advenforget everything save that she was turers at once set out. The news Henry's wife; and the way he humored reached London and started the adventhe sly puss to sundry grants of money turous there. Within a year nearly refurnishing and repairing, I couldn't every working claim was under the begin to tell.

ENGLAND'S DAILY BREAD.

Canada Is Second in the List of Countries

The British public as a body do not were developed. The gold was found generally know to what extent we rely in a formation seen nowhere else in on foreign countries for our food sup-ply, and very few thoughtful readers the world. Regular beds, or reels of dry, powdery conglomerate, in thickness from two to twenty feet, are have yet realized to what extent Great found throughout this district. This had a woman's hand about her before Britain depends on the good will of black veldt is the ore. Nowhere else since her illness. They lived in such other nations for her daily bread, says easily or so cheaply. an isolated, inhospitable manner that the Pall Mall Gazette. The inhabitants In 1887, midway in the district and of the British Isles number 40,500,000 on the site of a hamlet that had be Biddy, as she called herself, had tidied to-day and consume breadstuffs equal come the centre of the industry, the poor lady up in a wonderful man- to about 301-2 million quarters of the city of Johannesburg. It was wheat. Of this total quantity requir- named after the surveyor. Its altied during the last cereal year, the tude is 5,600 feet above the sea. In and keenly relished meal, glancing British farmers contributed 8,740,000 twelve years the finest and largest askance at Biddy meanwhile. Henry, quarters and there came from abroad the bare mountain side, and the hills 23,060,136 quarters. Unfortunately for have been lined with the huge chimthe English millers, of the quantity of neys, the reservoirs, the engine sheds, "Why, how do you live then? Who forms this darling girl instituted. breadstuffs imported in the cereal year of great works that employ 60,000 nacooks for you now that your mother | First, however, for her own peace of just ended nearly one-third of the tive miners and 10,000 Europeans. mind as well as Henry's-knowing wheat reached us in the manufactured Fifteen years ago £10,000 at the out-

the outside door, which stood ajar, about her and to see such brightness werting the wheat into flour in our at Malmani, on the Bechuanaland borwas noiselessly pushed wide open and and comfort spring up around, that a singularly attired form presented it- she could not, for her own sake, help mills if the breadstuffs had been im- der; at Klerksdorp and at Heidelberg. self on the threshold. It wore a red countenancing, as much as silence ported in the form of grain is not ex-

It is doubtful whether there is any nearly as long as his arm, streamed completely in the good graces of the necessary of life receiving more attention at the present time throughout 863,750. Of these twenty-eight mines, He had a lurking fondness for neat- the civilized world than bread, and this with a capitalization of nearly \$50,000,ness and good order, and Mrs. Shellen, is due to the fact that wheat prices 000, paid \$14,750,000 in dividends, or grew out of chaos; the house seemed W. Crookes who predicts a scarcity of paying no dividends, and the remainper acre throughout the chief produc- was \$58,520,000, an increase of fifteen ing countries is greatly increased. But millions over the year before. the most interesting portion of the Nevertheless, there were great losses wheat problem to our readers is to during 1897, due to unscrupulous know on what countries we rely to speculation, more than four hundred supply us with our daily bread, and to companies having been formed for what extent we are indebted to their stock jobbing purposes in localities good nature. If we take the

GOVERNMENT RETURNS

the first time Henry had heard such stuff that were imported into the dends had increased from twenty-eight insinuations, and he rather enjoyed Biddy's trepidation.

United Kingdom during the cereal five companies paid dividends of \$25,tember 1, 1898, and August 31, 1899, we 448,925 on a capital of \$101,473,375, or smiling maliciously, "just pick me out find that the United States sent a lit- something more than twenty-five per a wife, and see what will come of it." the over 64 per cent of the total quant-"The only girl I know of worth hav- ity of breadstuffs imported, and of this ing wouldn't have you, I dare say- large amount some two-fifths came in would you, Biddy?" Shellen said, the form of the manufactured articlegrumblingly, but suddenly turning to licur. For many reasons it is pleas- a minority of fifteen thousand burghthe girl, Bridget O'Flynn, who had kept ant to note that the second place in ers, all told, ruling a majority of six-Bertha's lover at a tantalizing and un- the list of countries that furnish us ty thousand enlightened, wealthy and with our bread supplies is Canada, who prosperous aliens, who although they He was taking his revenge now, sent during the last cereal year almost possess the richest, and most valuable Making a desperate effort, Biddy 10 per cent of the quantity imported, rallied her confused senses to say, while India came next in the list with with considerable self possession: about 83-4 per cent. In passing, it "Shure, sir, it isn't myself that'll be may be as well to recall the fact that after having any man till I'm asked?" seven years ago Russia supplied us "Biddy, will you marry me?" said with most of our breadstuffs, namely, Henry, gravely extending his hand. 36 per cent and the United States only "I will that, now," said Biddy, 3d per cent but last year Russ a came promptly putting her hand in his, fifth on the list of countries, and did while old Shellen came near choking not send us more than 31-3 per cent of the total, while the Argentine Re-It was too late to recede, however, public had the position immediately whether he had really wished such a above her, with 71-3 per cent of the thing or not, as they soon made him total. Australasia only sent to the presently, privately pinching himself to ascertain if he were really in his senses or not. Seeing the two standing Austria, France, Germany, Chili, Turing by the window in close conversaunderstand. He went out of doors United Kingdom a little over 21-2 per ing by the window in close conversa- key, Roumania, etc., in the order of

under cover of the bushes that grew that we only receive about a fifth part of the bread supplies imported from "Now, Bertha," Henry was saying, within the empire, and that the farmlaughingly, "what is to be done next? ers of the United States have not only himself there." It is also said that I must say you have managed won- kept their position in the corn trade of derfully so far; but what do you sup- this country, but have beaten the Rus- of his host receiving the same punpose he'll say when he knows you're sian peasants nearly out of the field; ishment, and that he quietly sketch-"Not Biddy at all!" screamed Shel- breadstuffs that we receive from our corner where the small boy stood. he knew not what, as he started out pond" to that sent from our colonies, we find we imported from the English-There stood Biddy, the white frill of speaking race over 85 per cent which the world you'd think would scrape ar

GOLD PROVES BOERS' RUIN. THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE PRESENT

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA. Jarvellous Richness in the Witwater rand, Realized Too Late by the Burg hers, Overwhelmed Their Territory With a Rush of Outlanders, Among

Whom the English Predominated. When you get right down to the facts, this war in the Transvaal is all for gold. It is not, to be sure, a war of loot on Great Britain's part. Great Britain is fighting for civil rights. The burghers are fighting for Dutch supremacy. But there never would have been any war if gold had not been discovered in the range of hills known as the Witwatersrand, some fifteen years ago.

The Transvaal was nothing but rolling inland tract of meadow and mountain. It was fit for nothing but farming and ranching, with an occasional good shot at big game. The Dutch settlers had won it from the savages by blood and suffering and ÆTNA, they held it against the English with their lives' forfeit. The English let them have it. 'Why not? It was "Professor Halmstead is my father," scarcely worth the quarrel. The land did not even possess a seaport. It was in 1880 the British left the

Boers their barren republic. Resources were few, exports fewer and the treasury was empty. There was "Well, Henry," he said, rather sour- little communication with the outer "Do you think it quite the thing, ly, "you' have outwitted me again; world, for there were no railroads, It much good may it do you. You had was forty days by ox cart to Cape In 1884 a man named Arnold told a

"Yes, sit." And Henry colored with farmer named Geldenhuis that there was gold on his land. Geldenhuis did not believe it, but repeated the gossip and sold his farm to two adventurous brothers named, Struben, who put Whether our patrons be RICH or Shellen turned back and gave his up a mill and began to work the gray- POOR we aim to please every both hers, bending her bright, arch ed the richest gold ore the earth has face toward him, saying:

ed the richest gold ore the earth has ever shown. The Boer government "I shall come back some time, sir. proclaimed nine farms public gold Will you be glad to see me?" fields.

always slow where enterprise wins "Ye-es; come back, Biddy-I mean out, were unbelieving; They could not make up their minds to abandon "Bertha," suggested the girl, quietly. the certainty of cow punching for the "Yes, come back; and the sooner the uncertainty of mining, even with rich better. There, Henry, make the most claims crying for takers. A few settled on the Witwatersrand and went to

was a little shy at first of Professor territory. The word made a sensation spade and nearly, all were in English hands. The Boers, on the spot, had made up their minds too late.

DISCOVERY OF GOLD. The workings of the Witwaters-That Supply Her Wish Wheat and rand-White Water Range, in English -were thirty miles in length when all

All of these develop gold in well pay-ENORMOUS DIVIDENDS PAID.

The capital of the 198 gold mines working at the end of 1897 was \$363,are low in spite of the assertions made nearly thirty per cent. Sixty-four wheat "within appreciable distance," der was in course of being opened. The unless by the aid of science the yield total value of the gold yield in 1897

> where no gold existed. Some weak companies went to the wall, also. In 1898 the 198 companies had de

"It is a curious anomaly," wrote Major Ricarde-Seaver, in 1894, "to see, at the end of the nineteenth century. in its management. \* The franchise must be extended to all qualifying for citizenship, and when this is done, the Outlanders, as a class, will cease to exist. They will become citizens, and | ial prices. the control of the State will pass into the hands of the majority, or in other words, 'the Anglo-Saxon race."

ABOUT PAINTED FLOWERS Sir Edward Burne-Jones, the artist,

loved children very dearly. When his small children were naughty, their ed to be quite severe punishment to painted in the corners where his children were punished sprays of flowers, saying, "If he has to go to the same laudable intention toward them, From these figures readers will see painted in the corners where his chilsaying, "If he has to go to the corner I am determined he shall enjoy the artist, when visiting, found a child so that if we add the quantity of ed, with a pencil, flying birds in the

THE LAST MAN. Blobbs - There goes the last man in

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The end of it was that her services laughed though, when she saw him, and also somewhat of a safeguard Slobbs — Bank cashier? Hicks—To be strictly up-to-date you hould get an automobile.

Nawson — I suppose I auto; up-to-date you hould get an automobile.

Nawson — I suppose I auto; up-to-date you hould get an automobile.

CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK.

The end of it was that her services and, deliberately taking off her cap, should war break out between any shook her bright curls all about her shook her bright curls all about her European powers.

Look a STRANG The end of it was that her services and, deliberately taking off her cap, should war break out between any should war break out between any shook her bright curls all about her European powers.