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ness. For when death had come to him it had come without fear. His expression was as of a happy surrender, of a gladness that had passed too swiftly for absolute recognition. That awful fear, may, in effect, have killed him, but no avenging hand had struck the blow; the thrust had been from the clean rapier of Death. I understood. He had awakened to feel that final heart-pang, and in one joyful moment he had known pity for all tormented souls.

that Death came kindly, that here all his fear was laid to rest for ever.

I let in the clear light and air of morning upon his happiness. The sentinel salt-mounds glinted in the sun; boats followed each other one by one into the harbor; tackle clanked and cordage creaked; the great doors of the poissonnerie were slid back. And in

Trials of a Farmer's Young

Written for The Western Home Monthly by Bell Grattan

T is no make-believe I sit down at my desk to write about today, but something that is very apt to befall any girl that is so foolish as to become the wife of any man before she knows how to cook and do common housework.

As I look back on the years of my married life, its cares and perplexities come up before me, clearer in my memory than its joys-though the retrospect often provokes a laugh where the real experience caused bitter tears.

I was scarcely nineteen when I became the wife of a farmer. It was a

of skin from most every knuckle, and burning my arms and hands so that they looked like a map of some unknown country, I began to find out-that there was little poetry and no fun in the wash-tub. However, I got the clothes out on the line, but I cannot say the dirt was all out of them. When my husband came home I felt so proud to think I had the washing done, although he said I looked as if I had come through the war. But the ironing day was worse yet. Nothing but pride kept me from rolling up the starch-



The Tum Tum Mountain Range, B.C.

such common things as bread, meat and potatoes to preserve in its purity the divine passion. Everybody said I was totally unfit for a farmer's wife. had always been delicate, and from the day I left school I' had been bookkeeper in a clothing store. My mother was a first-class housekeeper, and always kept hired help. I was not expected to help with the cooking; in fact, I never thought to do any work, unless to keep my own bedroom tidy.

I do not wonder now that people could not see the propriety of his choosing me for his wife when several farmers' daughters — model housekeepers—stood ready to be chosen. My own family raised a good many objections, chief among them was that he was poor, and I unfit for a farmer's wife, having no idea of work of any kind. I remember how I felt when I cooked my first din-The potatoes were half cooked, the meat fried to a crisp, and the pudding not any better than the potatoes. It was a rice pudding, and I put three cupfuls into a small pudding dish and just covered it with water; how the rice swelled out, and I kept changing it from one thing to another until I had not a dish large enough to hold it all. Ah! how well I remember my first washing day. My husband had gone to town with a load of wheat, and would be gone all day, so I thought I would wash up everything that needed washing the least little bit. I was very happy at first, but after rubbing off little patches

love match, and with the usual thought- | ed things in a bundle and taking them lessness of lovers, I do not think it oc- about two miles to my nearest neighbor, curred to us that we could not live and getting her to do them and show upon love alone, or that it would need me how. I forgot to mention that my home was away out on the prairie in the far West, some hundreds of miles from my dear mother. I had never done any starched clothes of any description, but from my father at home I had exalted ideas in regard to the importance of having shirt bosoms without a spot or blemish. My husband told me all he could remember of his mother's methods, and then betook himself to the fields. Oh! shall I ever forget my feelings when the flat-iron, heated ten times its wont, and oh! so carefully applied to the glutinous surface, suddenly struck up an attachment for the same, and when forcibly separated left its whole image and superscription behind in black and brown colors! I have that shirt yet to show to those unwise mothers who are training their daughters for future uselessness. But it was in cooking that I found my chief trouble. All my attempts in that line had resulted in spoiling several kinds of rich cake, made in accordance with those impossible recipes which fill the cookery books. I had never made a loaf of bread in my life. Baker's bread served us for a time—so long a time, indeed, that we found out all its good qualities, and have not tested its excellencies for many years. It came to pass, after many days, that baker's bread became unendurable. I tried to believe in it. I praised it and tasted it; but it would not do-its glory had departed. I began heartily to approve of Pharaoh's course in lifting the head of the chief