

"First of All"
BY CHARLOTTE M. STANLEY.
I've quarreled with my father on your account," said Joe Liston, standing with his young sweetheart's hands in his, and looking down somewhat gloomily into her uplifted, anxious blue eyes. "He wants me to marry old Seton's girl; she'll have a fortune, she says, that'll match the one he means to give me if I do his will. I shan't do it, though. I love you, my own little Rose, and I only you will I have for a wife. So the upshot of it is that father showed me the door this morning, and told me I'd better get out and set about making a home for you at once, for you should never have a share of his. Not that I care," he added, scornfully. "I'm only telling you, so that you may see what a sacrifice I've made, willingly, for your sake. Then, his young tones softening as he stooped suddenly and kissed the two little hands held aloft—"not that it's much, after all. I'd do far more than that for you, my darling!"

Heaven knew that thought, and that it gave her the keenest pang of all. Meantime the aforesaid engagement had been made by the two fathers, without much reference to the feelings and wishes of the young people concerned. "Joe Liston wants to marry you," old Seton told his only child, "and I've said yes." Meg listened, stared, pouted, laughed, frowned, and then cried out, pettishly: "Ridiculous! I know he likes me; but I—well!"—she checked herself suddenly—"I'll have nothing to do with another woman's sweetheart!" And she avoided further controversy by running out of the room. Her father judged best not to follow her. "Opposition will only make her obstinate," he thought. "I'll let her alone. She'll come round. Joe's the best looking fellow in the place, and the richest, and she has no other sweetheart—unless it's some 'o' them fine city sparks she met in town last winter, and she knows I won't give my consent to that!" And it never occurred to the self-willed old farmer that his handsome, motherless and equally self-willed girl (whom he had spoiled and humored from her birth) might possibly care so little for his consent that she might even make shift to do without it. "Handing me over to Joe Liston just as he might give away a sheep or a cow!" muttered Meg to herself, indignantly, as she ran down to the post-office at sunset that evening. "If Joe really wants me at all (which I don't believe), it's only for my money; and I know some one who'll take me without one cent!" And probably it was to that "some one" that the letter went which she entrusted to the mail that evening. Certainly a most contradictory girl—there was no making anything of her; never for two hours together in the same mind. She was going to be married, and she was not; no one got the same answer from her on the subject twice. Congratulations on her approaching marriage were just as likely to call forth frowns as smiles, and questions were met somewhat in this fashion:—"So you're going to be married, Meg?" "Oh, I suppose so—some of these days." "But your father says you are to marry Joe in three weeks—"

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SEEDS NOTICE. The subscriber will open up in a few days a very excellent line of English Scotch and Canadian Seeds suitable for spring and summer sowing. Also a beautiful and choice lot of English Coasting, especially selected in Montreal, S. MORRIS, 100 St. John Street, N. B. These goods will admit of my making suits 10 per cent less than heretofore.

Medical. JOHN M'CURDY, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, CHATHAM, N. B. DR. CHANNING'S Sarsaparilla FOR THE BLOOD. A HIGHLY CONCENTRATED EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA SARSAPARILLA AND T. C. STRATTON'S PURELY VEGETABLE EXTRACT OF SASSAPARILLA.

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