## A HOMELY TALE OF

MIRAMICHI ADVANCE, CHATHAM, NEV

THANKSHVING

THANKSHVING

TWillow Willow's farm hat may be composed to the control of the con A new light came into the saves the cold farm was as silent as when its first owner caved it from the virgin wilderness. A rushing of the shrubbery that fringed the tall, stiff ranked pines on the hill beyond the barn took of that a visitor was coming to Lonely Farm. A human head appeared in sight. It was crowned by a woolen cap from beneath which peered a pair of diack, bright eyes. Their owner took off the cap and mopped his brow. He was a rugged county lad of 18, well kinit and sturdy with a pair of ruddy cheeks, white teeth and lips roay, but with a droop of sadness.

New England, always hard to be children, had taken from that had cones been home.

"House looks like mother's used to after she got to oake couldn't get about," soliloquized the boy, staring at the smokeless chimney. "The tetre a first been nobody near the widder in a week, an 'Il' bet, while I'm bettin,' that she needs somebody. Guess I'll find out what's the matter."

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"Tould am'am, if could come as year as his own, and the chance he as we upon the cane and sustential and the things of the simple marriage service. Then came the country wedding supper.

"Tould, ma'am, if could come as year as his own, and the chance he as we upon the cap and mopped his brow, the was a rugged country lad of 18, will kinit and sturdy with a pair of uddy cheeks, while teeth and lips roay, but with a pair of uddy cheeks, while teeth and lips roay. The could far the widow in the country in the widow in the country in the widow in the country in the country in the widow in the country in the widow in the country in the widow in odded the reas in the widow in the country in the widow in t

Only the crow in the oak tree was disturbed by the unwonted noise and flew away, with a caw of alarm. A second knock startled the fowl in the barnyard which greeted him with a suppressed chuckle, but there was no answer from within. "Guess I might as well go in." He pushed cpen the crazy door and entered the room which served as kitchen and sitting room all in one. A table stood in

a faint, quavering voice.

"It's me—Jem Hastings. I've twilight of summer,

d. Perhaps"—
"What, an' you ain't had nothin'

but I don't want to. This suits fire. A huge fire-place yawned at one side of the room, hung with a black iron crane, from which was suspended a tea kettle. The wood widow's heart.

A wonderful change had been

Wrapped in a shawl of Canton silk, the heirloom of a grandmother whose father once sailed from Salem to the Indies, the widow sank back into her comfortable arm chair with a deep sigh of content. She closed her eyes from sheer weakness, while Jem tipteed

Thanksgiving dinner. about the room, "setting things to rights" and preparing the table for a prospective meal. To be sure

"You've made me very happy, Jem-very thankful." "Well, ma'am, I'm glad of it.

day? It's the first time I've for- the two shook their heads know-

which served as kitchen and sitting room all in one. A table stood in the centre of it, covered with a snowy cloth and set as if for supper. A tall clock ticked in the corner under the stairs, but its rhythmic beats only seemed to make the silence andible. "It has presented than it had ever before experienced. In front of the western door he threw out a platform, protected by a lattice work covering, and here the widow passed all the spare time she could snatch from her indoor duties. It has never occurred to anyone because kinder greeny that's a fact. make the silence audible. "It seems kinder creepy, that's a fact. Hope there ain't nothin' happened to her. Wonder where she is? P're haps she's asleep!"

He rapped loudly, and then put his ear down to the keyhole, listening intently. At first there was no response. Then he though he heard a faint quavering voice. she sat and mused during the long

"Come in." The feeble voice such comfort here," she said. "Be-"Yes, I'm so glad you've come. I was taken faint yesterday and had just strength enough to crawl to bed. Perhaps"—

"Yes, I'm so glad you've come. I was more than willing to give up the farm and go away, But now, Jem, I want to live here the rest of my life. I would not leave it for the world." would not leave it for the world." "That's so, ma'am. It would have been a greet mistake to leave "No" with a feeble smile.
"Well if you'll let me try, I'll make a cup of tea."

Jem closed the door, set his gun in a corner and looked around for the woods, where the great trees the woods, where the great trees are trees. the place in which the widow kept her stores. The dressers ranged against the wall were bright with old-fashioned pewter platters and china. Here he found a caddy of the control of the c

suspended a tea kettle. The wood pile was outside, near the back door, and brushing off the snow Jem soon had some dry wood, with which he made a roaring blaze. It was not long before he had the satisfaction of seeing the kettle bend forth a volume of steam, and a few minutes later he tapped again at the bedroom door with a tray, on it a tempting cup of tea and two well-buttered slices of bread.

A wonderful change had been effected by the time another year had rolled another Thanksgiving into the calendar. The roof of the old house no longer leaked. The barn had been raised from its attitude of deep dejection, and its mows were crowded to bursting with hay and grain. The old horse spent his days chiefly in the pasture, while a younger and more vigorous animal did the work, assisted by a yoke of big and handassisted by a yoke of big and hand-some oxen. The solitary cow now had plenty of company, and frisky calves gamboled about her in the summer time. There was no long-

Thus the seasons succeeded one BOOTS! another with their measure of content. Each found the widow more a prospective meal. To be sure there was very little in sight, but he had faith that there might be something in the cellar and in the cupboards, for the widow was known in the township to have been a "good pervider" in her days of affluence.

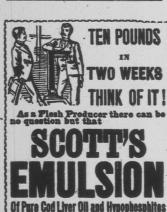
She clung to him as she might have clung to the son of whom she had been deprived in the springtime of her wifehood. As her tottering footsteps were supported down the aisle of the village church on a Sunder for of the church on a Sunday few of the congregation knew that the handsome young man who watched over her so assiduously was not in fact her own son. Those who were "What | Really Thanksgiving cognizant of the relations between Building

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