FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP OF THE LADDER.

CHAPTER IX.

CHAPTER IX.

ANOTHER BOUND UP.

"But I've got a holler tooth, and if a chank of mest gets stuck, John, how am I gom to get it out?"

"You'll have to wait till dinner's over, or use a toothpick very secretly. It's not allowed generally till after dinner's over. You'll see the toothpicks on the table."

The old man looked gloomity at the floor.

The old man looked gloomily at the floor,

"I'll never manage it," he said. "You will see me doth' all them things, and folks'il laugh at me, and you'll feel 'shamed of your old dad—you can' help it, boy—I won's blame ye. Reckon I'd better git back to Painted Poet, where folks ain't so fine, if they be honest. You're a-goin' up, John, but I'm tr old to folke. You'd better leave me behind."

There was a mountul ring in the old man's voice as he spoke, and John came affectionstely to his side, saying:

"Father, I've just seen the dearcest wish of my heart gratified. I've carned enough money to buy back your health. Now I've got some other wishes to gratify, and I ask yon to help me. Think of the old army of the Potomae, tather. How often I've heard you sell of the way the enemy drove you, again and again, all through Virginia, till it seemed as if ill luck was never to leave you! And then you came to Gettysburg at last. Well, did you ran? Did you give in to them?"

The old man's eye flashed.

"No by George, boy! We giv' it to 'em good 'it last. They might lick us; but the 6th floys was all there, ready for it, till "we's whipped 'em at last. Give in 7 No!"

John ran his arm through his father's

of hiring a larger house and taking boarders in May.

"But I don't know if you'll be able to stand it, mother darling," Ella had been just saying, as they discussed the project, when the ring of the postman disturbed their colloquy and set her to reading the letter at which we have just found her.

Her mother, lying back in the rocking-chair, looked rather surprised as the girl came back, and sald:

"Who's it from, Ella? Anything about school, my child?"

Ella shook her head, but made no answer, and went en reading, the color deepening on her face, a smile that ahe could not repress wreathing her lips, till, in the most inconsequential way in the world, she suddenly dropped the letter, burst out crying, fell on her knees by her mother, and hid her face in the old lady's lap, sobbing:

"The was two years ago, mother," she said; and with that she went and sat down by the window, looking into the street.

Her mother, in turn, seemed vexed. It was not not shat showed she was strugging with her feelings that she said:

"You seem to have watched this young ma's career pretty closely, Ella."

"I have mother," was the quiet reply. "I have mother," was the quiet reply. "I have mother," was over, and the experiment.

if mother, in the world, which is the world, in the world,

Don't talk that way. Who thinks of your losing me?"

Mrs. Morton put the clinging arms quietly away, and went on:

"When the time counce, it is a loss, my darling—a loss that you will one day understand. We women have to suffer it, sconer or later. We lose all we love, one after the other, till only one thing is left—the hope beyond the grave. But it is well, Ella. I knew it would come some day, child—though not this way. No, I never, truly, I never dreamed of this."

"And why not, mother?" Ella repeated, wistfully.

wistfully.
"You said yourself that he was a noble

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On that same March leavening, in an other quarter of the city, not nearly so fashionable, but very quiet and retired—at No. 148 Ashley street, in fact—a young lady was reading a leate in the front paralled was reading; and her amstern. The thin, hollow face of the girl of seventeen had filled to delicate roundness and pasch, in the street was not mark the street of the city, not meanly say the last the same fast, one would hardly have known her; for she was changed, far more than John Armstrong. The thin, hollow face of the girl of seventeen had filled to delicate roundness and pasch, it was not pasced that grand the pasced the father of the say of the pasced that the pasced the pasced the pasced that the pasc

(ann Pounte Page)



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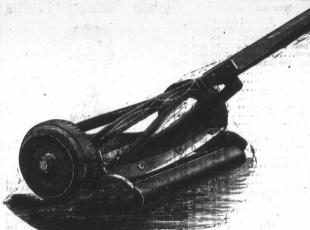
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