

TIT HEN a person is down in the world, an ounce of help is worth a pound of preaching.-Bulwer. ...

# Mr. Tompkins' Opportunity By EBEN E. REXFORD Farm and Home.

You needn't fret about my mussin'

HE entire Tompkins family had gathered on the "front stoop." Something unusual was about to take place. Mrs. Tompkins was set-ting forth on a visit to Sister Mandy, who lived "down in Pennsylvania Who lived down in Pennsylvania. This visit had been hanging fire for years. Mrs. Tompkins had talked about making it as regularly as fall came, ever since the youngest of the family could remember, but she never family could rememoer, but she never got any farther than that. It was the general opinion in Milltown that the long-talked of, long-deferred visit the long-talked of, long-deferred visit would never be made. But this fall she had announced that she "was really going this time," and much to the surprise of the Tompkinses, she had made all necessary prepara-tions for going, and this morning she was actually about to start out on her trip.

They had confidently expected that she would change her mind at the last moment, but in this they were to be disappointed, it seemed, for her suit case, packed with the various articles that would be necessary during that would be necessary during the stay at Sister Mandy's, was standing on the steps, and she arrayed in her new black alpaca, and the hat that had been "made over" from last year's one, and looked "just as good as new," as she declared, was wait-ing for Mr. Tompkins to drive around

ing for Mt. Fompenis to drifte about to take her to the train. "Now, girls, you be careful and not let the settin' room get all dirt from one end to the other while I'm gone," she said. "It'll be just like gone," she said. "It'll be just have the men folks to want to set around there, as soon's I'm out o' sight, but don't you let 'em do it. Your father would smoke there if he had his way about it. But don't you hear to it! I'd know if he did, as soon's I got back, for you can't get the tobacco smell out of a room so / couldn't smell it six months afterwards.

'I don't know just when I'll be ck. I've kind o' set my mind on back. Twe kind o' set my mind on stayin' a month, if i's agreeable all 'round, for it ain't no ways likely 1711 ever eo azain, an' it costs so much, I don't feel's if I'd be rettin' the worth o' my money if I didn't stay quite a spell. But there ain't nothin' certain about it. I might take it into my head to come back in less'n a week. But you take care o' the house just as I do when I'm to home—...' hack home-

"I'd like to know if you're goin' to talk so long you'll get left," sang out Mr. Tompkins, who had driven Mr. Tompkins, who had diver around to the gate shortly after she had begun her parting advice to the girls. "We hain't got any too much time to catch the train." Mrs. Tompkins responded that she

was ready and had been waiting for him for "auite a spell." Then she climbed into the wagon and settled herself in the seat.

"Now, girls, you mind what I told you about the settin'-room," she call-ed back, as they drove off depotward.,

"All right—go ahead," said Mr. Tompkins, after looking the figures over. "I'll have some of the lum-ber on hand bright an' early to-mor-rer mornin', an' we'll wo right at it, an' hustle it along to beat the band. You see, I'm afraid stormy weather might set in before it was also be not work and the set of grass with a queer sort of a grin in his face, and then he winked at him mysteriously. The carpenter looked mysteriously. The carpenter looked at Mr. Tompkins in a nuzzled way for a moment, then a look of comprehen-sion stole slowly over his countenance, and he grinned

"What under the sun have you and the carpenter been putting your heads together about?" asked Mary of her father, when Mr. Pendegras had

father, when Mr. Pendegras had taken his departure. Mr. Tompkins took the cirls into his confidence. "I'm goin' to do somethin' that mebby you'll think is ruther rash, 'h e said, 'bu'l Im goin' to do it all the same. I've been turn-ed out o' house an' home, as you might say. You know as much about that as I do, so there ain't no use in that as I do, so there ain't no use in that as I do, so there ain't no use in sind a owned me a micro of my own. mind to make me a place of my own, that I can't be drove out of. I'm goin' to build me a room on the north side o' the house—a rood, big room o' my own. I reckon your mother would say I was foolish, or childish,



### "Just on the Side" at a Farmers' Institute Picnic

This illustration is from a photo snapped by an editor of Farm and Dairy at the annual picuic of the Peterboro County Farmers' Institute. This piculo was held or the farm of Mr. T. Graham, of Smith Township.

Mr. Tompkins did not think worth while to make a reply to this last remark of his wife's, and the re-mainder of the trip was made in silence. But he was thinking seriously all the time. Fortunately—for him— his wife did not know what he was thinking about. If she had—!

up the settin' room,' said Mr. Tomp-kins gruffly; I'd a good deal rather

"I'd ruther you would," said Mrs. Tompkins, "That is, if you're goin"

to smoke, an' scratch the varnish off'n the floor with your old shoes, an' get the sofy cushions soiled by layin' on 'em. You men folks hain't on idea here the soft of the soft of the soft of the solution of the soft of the soft of the soft of the solution of the soft o

layin' on 'em. You men folks hain't no idee how much work you make

round the house

After he had put his horse in the barn, on his return from the village, barn, on his return from the village, the girls noticed that he went around to the north side of the house and stood there for a time evidently taking observations. He looked at the build-ing. Then he paced off a few feet at right angles to it, and took more observations

'I "onder what he is going to do?" said Mary.

"It looks as if he might be thinking of putting on an addition," re-sponded Susan. "You don't suppose sponded Susan. "You don't suppose mother put such an idea in his head, do you i

"No, I don't," answered Mary, very ositively. "If she'd planned anyboy too, too, answer and any, tory positively. "If she'd planned any-thing of that kind, she'd be here to see to it herself." That afternoon Mr. Tompkins "hitched up" and drove to the village

and came back with the local carpenter

The two men looked the north side of the house over, and Mr. Tompkins drew a rough sketch on a piece of board, and explained it to the carpenter who sat down and made some mathematical calculations, which were submitted to the other.

"That's what it will cost you," said the carpenter.

it if she knew. I've thought o' doin' it more'n once, but somehow I never c'd get right down to business till now

"Now I'm goin' ahead with my idee. But don't you let on to your mother about it, if you write to her, that'd upset all my calculations fer that'd upset all my calculations. If she knew what was goin' on she'd be home to-morrer. You see how it is, grink, I don't feel as if I was to home in her part o' the house, she's so everlastin' particl'ar. I'd like a nlace o' my own, where I c'd do's I like, 'thout feelin's if I was mussin' un things an' makin' a lot of work for other folles!' for other folks."

"I dont blame you," said Mary "I'd have just such a room as I want-ed, if I were in your place. You have right to make yourself comfortable after working as hard as you have." "I'm glad you look at it in that

way." said Mr. Tompkins. "It shows

way," said Mr. Tompkins, "It shows you're sensible. But-what do you s'pose she'd say, if she knew?" "I don't know what she'd say," an-swered Mary, "but I do know what she'd do-she'd take the first train for home."

On the morrow building operations began, and went forward rapidly.

As the addition grew towards com-pletion, Mr. Tompkins felt his dread of his wife's disapproval growing less and less. His sense of self-govern-ment and individuality. long repressbegan to reassert itself. ed

The time came when it was neces-sary to locate the doors of the addition.

## August 14, 1013.

"I s'pose you'll want on abo here," said the carpenter, indicate a place in the wall where he ne room joined the old house "No-sir-ee," answered Mr kins, very decidedly, "The Tong

be any door o' that kind in the you see, Sile,"—confiden don't want to make it too 1 -for folks in the other pa house. If theer was a I wouldn't feel so-so-If theer was a door -wel we say so safe as I would wan't any. That is," expla Tompkins, "I wouldn't feel much by myself, you know

"Yes, I see,' answered Mr "ras, with a grin that told fully appreciated the humosituation. "Your idee's suthin line fence between proper side's mine, that side's your "That's the idee, exactly," said M Tompkins.

So it came about that the So it came about that the 'ous fort room,' as the girls had you im the habit of calling it, was provid with no means of communicain with the rest of the house, save is way of the porch.

Work was rushed on the addition because Mr. Tompkins felt that h wife might appear at any moment two weeks from the beginning of the room was nearly ready for occ pane

The old loft over the woodshed wa ransacked, and furniture that ha long been discarded was brought light and again restored to use ness in furnishing the comfort ros Grandmother Tompkins' old wood rocker was given a position on a side of the fireplace Mr. Tompin had insisted in having built, and grandfather's clock that had done most a century of duty in the fa had a corner all to itself, where, a little cleaning and oiling by of the boys it went to ticking once more as briskly as if it newed its youth. On the other was a lounge that had done ye good service and bade fair to give many more, because it had been in the days when things were "on honor." The girls re-cove with a coverlet that Tompkins had woven in her hood, and this made it not or attractive piece of furniture, but verted it into an article of solid fort. Mr. Tompkins declared, like a piller or two for it," he "but don't you dare to rig it up

any o' your fancy sofy-cushion When everything was in plac owner of the room looked about new possessions with pride and s

faction. "It's just what I've always u ed," he said, rubbing his hands gether delightedly. "Just what always wanted! This fall weak use and the same same same same same same same always wanted! This fall weak gettier designtedly. "Just wh always wanted! This fall we gettin' ruther chilly. Build boys, an' we'll have a house in'!" Build a f in

Soon a fire was blazing bridy the hearth, making every note corner of the room bright with cherrful glow. Mr. Tompkin B his pipe from the jar of tohacor be had installed on the mand, lit it with a coal from the fire at rocker to enjoy the fruits of hit ors, while the boys and with low on and shared in his enjoymet. Teady the place had the true has feeling about it, Mary soid, at platon the house, with its septia gloom and chill. Soon a fire was blazing brisk gloom and chill.

There was a step on the porch There was a step on the point then the door swung open us moniously and Mrs. Tompkins s on the threshold. The boys and girls look of from

to their father with almost fright faces. They anticipated battle al. But Mr. Tompkins, though prised at his wife's unexpect (Continueg on page 15)

### August 14.

## -----The Up ............ What We

Be kindly affe with brotherly I Jesus did no able laws and word and activ rule n He left He taug sees principles of ri thinking that w of things. His those principles in their every d tal principles a application. application. A natterned on th s not apt to g particular diffic

tell him what J One of the gr world to-day is it is a curse; t countries are d into pitiable por a curse. Anyon moral effects of tary ideals of a influence Murder, becomes to a m thing glorious an f honor in nat ommitted in ap