I always hoped to leave them to a son when I was through with them."

This is one of the tragedies of rural ite in Ontario these days. The old homestead that has cost so much of homestead that has cost so much of toil and patience is passing into the hands of strangers because the sons have gone from it. The old folks go to some neighboring village. The old man pines for the freedom to which he has been accustomed all his days. The inactivity shortens his span of life by

His parents were facing this situation when Jamie came heme at Christmas. He was quick to note how his father had aged. His hair was grayer and the wrinkies in his face were

deeper.

One evening he talked it all over with his mother. She told him of the plan to sell the stock in the spring.

"Father can't do the work any more, 'she said. "It won't be long he fore we'll have to sell the larm too.

We den't want to Jamie, but what else can we do?"

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There followed a long silence, Jamie There followed a long stience. Jamie did not find it easy to ask what he had come home to ask. Pride makes our duty hard at times. He had fought his way to an admission to himself that he had made a mistake. He found it very hard to tell even his mother that he knew he had made a mistake and was willing to begin over

"De you think dad would be willing to let me come back?" he asked at

last.
"I've learned that the farm isn't so
bad a place after all. And I don't
want to see the old home sold."
And so it was arranged. The boy
who found the farm so it/some was
glad to come ba-k to it as a man. He
took up the werk in real earnest. The
glow of health returned to his check,
returned. He was lamuw He leave returned. He was happy. He knew himself to be a man.

#### V

A crescent moon hung low in the west. The bright stars twinkled above, A whippoorwill called out of the shadows of the wood.

Two young people sat on the school house steps. They had been silent a long time. There are occasions when words seem unnecessary

words seem unnecessary.
Then the young man spoke.
"Nena, do you remember that drive
the night before I went to the city?"
"Yes, Jamie."
"And do you remember what you
told me then? And what you said
you couldn't tell me that night?"
She smiled but did me speak.
"Would your answer be the same
now. Nena?"

and the whippoorwill called again out of the shadowy wood. . . .

### **Doubtful Consolation**

"Mary," complained the husband,
"why do you suppose it is that people
all say I have such a large head."
"I don't know, I'm, sure, John,"
sad his wife consolingly; "but never
mind, there's nothing in it."

. . .

Farmer Jones (over the fence) "Does your cow give a lot of milk?" Father Town (lately from the city):
"Well, I think she would give a lot,
but my wife and I agreed we would
be saving of it, and I only milk a pint or quart, or just what we want to use so there won't be any wasted."

# . ######################## The Upward Look

"Our Poor"

"Only they would that we should remember the poor: the same which I also was forward to do." Gal. ii:10. also was forward to do." Gal. ii:10. How like Paul these last few words were; Paul, so impetuous, wholesed, eager to help and do! In the verse before we learn that James and John with Cephas, who as he said seemed to be pillars, had given him the right hand of fellowship, and had expressed the wish that he go unto the heathen. This did not arouse the same enthusiasm with him, as the suggestion in the above verse. So much is implied in the word

"only," which is peculiarly applica-ble now, in the dread times through which we are passing. Our hearts ache with pity and sorrow for those closely connected with the war; those lonely and sorrowful left behind; those wounded and dying on the field; those maimed and tortured through no fault of their own. "Only" in our generous and respon-

only in our generous and respon-sive sympathy with those far away, we must not overlook the poor and suffering in our own land. This and the next winter will mean untold mis-ery for many; some who have felt the pinch of poverty before, others who have never done so. A little boy was overhead saving to-day: "Daddy is overnead saving to-day: "Daddy is only spare-man on the road now; I don't know how we are going to get along but I suppose we can manage somehow. It isn't as if he was put off all those that have been "put off," or all those that have been "put off," or atter going to be

are going to be.
Have you ever been to a rummage Have you ever been to a rummage sale, where are all things of every description, which have been given, and then sold? If you have, you will never forget, when the doors are first opened the wild rush to the counters containing what each one needed most. At one we recall the greatest most. At one we recall the greatest need seemed to be boots, as two young, rayged lads, who reached there first, literally threw themselves upon them to get the first choice of that varied assortment of all sizes and conditions. You would never for and conditions. You would never for-pet the cager, anxious search through old overcoats and cast-off dresses. "That will make a dressing gown for my missus, and something else for little Johnnie," was one man's satis-

You would never forget some of all those faces, with such sad marks of sin, poverty, dirt, neglect. Many also bore brave traces of conquest, par-ience, resignation. It made one think

now, Nema?"

Still sho was alient and looked away toward the shadowy wood. De whiptoward the shadowy wood. The whipwood was alient and looked away to the needy everywhere. Each of us must remember those open marry a farmer, "You marry a farmer," and who are our neighbors, or have some or who are our neighbors, or have some or had to use the spectrum of the properties of the needy everywhere. Such as the spectrum of the properties of the needy everywhere. Each of us must remember those or had on a farmer, and the need to use the needy and to to us, if we also needed assistance.—I. H. N. W. . . .

It is the life of every day from which elements of a better life must come.





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