

THE RED ASCENT

BY ESTHER W. NEILL  
CHAPTER VI  
IN THE ATTIC

When Richard reached home it was four o'clock. He had wasted two hours of a precious day. It had been so long since he allowed himself any leisure that he felt conscience-stricken when Betty met him at the door and asked: "Where have you been all this time?" "I've been talking to Miss Fielding."

ing and she looked so woebegone that he put his arm affectionately around her. "I'll do anything you say, Betty, dear, but if we haven't anything to wear, I suppose that you will agree that we will have to stay at home."

now that you have something so fine to wear. He threw the coat obediently into the cradle, and exerting his great strength he lifted the heavily-packed trunk from the pile that reached to the ceiling. As he did so a thin box clattered to his feet, and a heap of old letters were scattered on the floor. As he stooped to pick them up, mechanically, the yellow papers suggested a thought to him.

"Have you your uniform?" she asked. But he had forgotten it. In one arm he carried a dozen of his grandfather's shirts, in the other hand he held the tin box of papers. It beat against the banisters as he descended the narrow stairs.

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