AT THE END OF THE ROAD

"They ain't to know a thing about it unless they mistrust It's to be a real surprise," said Lou Harlow, poising borself like one about to take a flight, in the doorway of Mrs. Green's kitchen "You must come, Mis' Green. 'T' will do you good, to get out You're too , much shut up Sarell will miss you if you don't come She'll want to see her neighbors, if nobody else is there. Get 'Rastus to bring you down "

Mrs. Green set the teapot further back an the stove and murmured an indefinite "M'm". The antikhouse door opened with a rattle of pails. Lou's eyes turned slightly in that direction as she talked on persistently

"Brother Ed was going to stop yesterday and invite you, but he had to go another way, so I stopped in now. It's rather late to be giving invitations, I know, but it's all been planned in such a hurry that we are out and out flustered I thought, too, that I might stir you up to coming better than Ed could It does seem too bad not to have a lot of folks at a tin-wodding surprise party Everybody's to bring something besides refreshments, you know. I've the cutest little oatmeal cooker that I got at the five-cent store in the city, and I Shall take that. Well, I won't hinder you any longer from your supper Good-by. Now, do came if you can Good-by."

The kitchen door timed its closing Fith mathematical accuracy to, the string of a young man from the ilkhouse Through the window, Mrs feen saw Lou's innocently surprised tart and cordial tow, but the bit talk, that followed was inaudible her She felt certain, however, at it was about the surprise party III those Harlows ain't managin'!" her mental comment "But it'li ke more'n a pretty puttin' on to ake Lou, one mite engagin' to 'Rass, I guess "

Rastus came in presently, and, afer washing at the sink, sat down to supper. He was thin and not over tail, with a vivid boyish complexion and a chin like his mother's, marked by a decision that almost severe coldness of gray blue eyes accentuated It was only when 'Rastus smiled that one knew how winning his face could be.

"Lou Harlow stopped in to ask us to a tin weddin' surprise at her brother Will's Probably she mentioned it to you," said Mrs Green, as she poured the tea. "I shall have to carry somethin' in the shape of tin I wonder if the dipper, I got of that pedler last week won't do. I took for rags now, I declare it's hardly worth savin' 'em Il it hadn't been for them old overalls of yours I shouldn't made out enough to get this dipper ".

"Likely they won't have more'n seven dippers," said 'Rastus, helping have rode down well enough I know himself to a second dish of apple Sauce.

Mrs. Green looked disturbed.

"Well, dippers is, handy. Every ousekeeper needs two, and they use p quick. Dippers nowadays ain't what dippers used to be. There's pardly one to be got but has a Weakness in the solderin'. I don't know what's more provokin' than to have a dipperful of water como plashin' on the floor and leave nothin' but a handle in your fingers." The quick bright smile flashed over Rastus's face.

Better carry a pan or something that kind."

His mother took the question as ôloundly serious.

I haven't one I, could spare. Can't, stop for the Blake girls, 'Rastus? by like to get out, and it's rather for 'em to walk now they're fail' I declare it goes to my heart to poor Miss Betsey so meechin' ly. She doesn't seem to know ther her things is on straight or Last Sunday 't was all I could o keep my mind on the sermon wantin' to straighten her. false

'Twas twisted so the partin' over one eye., And it's real pac to see Miss Harriet hoverin' her sister and fussin', to make comfortable, when all the time Harriet's the oldest. Mics Bet-Min't but sixty-eight. I shouldn't er if 'twould chick 'em up conable to go to the surprise party

i, you can take 'em; I'll walk. ald be too crowding in the bugat, the business wagon. There's

venin'.'

icke loose.!! At Green looked narrowly at

"But, 'Rastus, I can't bitch old Nell, You know how she acts the minute we get out-caperin' and pull-

"I'll be on hand to look out for you " 'Rastus pushed away his chair, and the door closed after, him,

'Rastus was not long in finishing the chores. When he had harnessed old Nell to the Concord buggy and hitched her to a post by the back door he came in to shave Mrs. Green was sitting by the kitchen window, dressed in her best yown. a black alpaca, with fashionably large sleeves. It had just been made over, and the size of the sleeves was

supposed to offset the scantiness of the skirt. At any rate, as she told the neighbor dressmaker, "there was" n't any more pieces, and 't was better the scrimpin' should come in the skirt, for one's skirt didn't show in one's coffin, and if she was to die sudden before styles changed, why, the waist would do nicely for her to be laid out in "

A moon in its second quarter was showing above the eastern horizon as 'Rastus walked across the lots after helping his mother off Beyond, at the end of the lane, was another house, old-fashioned and yellowpainted There lived Mr and Mrs English, two childless, middle-aged people They were coming up from their house now As he waited by the fence in the shadow of a filac bush he could see them distinctly in the clear moonlight-two somewhat bent figures, stepping irregularly. Between them walked another figure, with youthful poises of head and shoulders, and his heart gave a queer little jump at the sound of a girl's laugh

"If I haven't stove my thumb into this cake," Mrs English was saying "Never mind, ma. Turn it 'tothe side to when you hand it in, and nobody'll notice," suggested her husband.

The musical girl laugh sounded again

"Let me carry it, Aunt Martha" With a thrill of satisfaction 'Rastus saw the napkin-covered plate change hands. The slim quick-stepping figure was ahead of the others now As she reached the gate he seized the coveted opportunity, and moved forward, awkwardly snatching off his

"Good evening, Miss Holland Let me open the gate for you."

hat

Never did gate latch so long refuse to lift, and when she had passed through, was it not to pause and turn back with a pretty "Oh, deart" How he blessed the rose branch that caught her skirt, and so held her for his releasing "Thank you." she said demurely, looking at him with the moonlight in her eyes. Old Nell it for rags. They, do pay so little came up at a brisk trot, but his widow with an overgrown daughter mother was alone, sitting very and holding the reins far apart

"The Blake girls couldn't come Miss Betsey had a bad turn last night, and Miss Harriet didn't want to leave her So you see you could you've spoiled your new shoes a-trottin' through the wet grass 'cross lots."

"Well, you won't have to ride home alone," said 'Rastus, happily, as he helped her out. What were new shoes in comparison with that interchange of glance from a girl's eyes? "I don't believe the Harlows were very much surprised after all, mother. When I got here every window was lighted We're early, too "

One by one, in twos and threes and merry family loads, the guests arrived, and there was talk and laugh and interchange of kisses among the women, an awkward standing aloof or scraps until the elder masculine element drifted to the kitchen, the younger to the long hall, and the sitting-room circle was strictly femi- thing in the turn of his head remind-

Lou Harlow, bustling about among the guests, was more busily hostesslike than Mrs. Harlow herself,

"Sarell never mistrusted until the last minute." she was telling every one. "When we suggested her fixing more'n usual for the evening, she said she just knew something was

"Yes, it was a real surprise until then," corroborated Sarell Harlow, her usually quiet face very animated, "I didn't suppose any one would remember that Will and I had been married ten years to-day. It's real pleasant to have one's friends so remembering."

Mrs. Oreen, taking inventory of the tin things on the table, smiled beus all, and I don't want to inignly upon the speaker. She had found, but one ? disper among the pile, and naturally feit the prestige the repose of his face indicated of being the only person who had given an unduplicated article, Mrs. in any girl of my own I like to nee

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Dodgson, the local merchant's wife, began talking at her elbow.

"How nice You Harlow looks tonight. That lace at her throat is very becoming. I hear something about her and your 'Rastus How's

Mrs Green drew herself up stiffly "Folks can hear a good deal," she said -

"Rastus looks rather young to think of marrying And Lou-why, she's-let me see" Mrs Dodgson screwed herself into arithmetical puckers "She's three years of n 'Rastus! I remember she was born the same year as my Ameret."

"Oh, well, it's the fashion nowadays for men to marry ol'n, themselves," Mrs Green answered, with a blandless born of remembrance that Mrs. Dodgson's own son had wedded a woman ten years his senior—a just entering her teens-and that th affair was very displeasing to his

But her neighbor's friendly inquisitiveness set her into a new train of thought What if Lou Harlow had been the one whom 'Rastus had fancied Before her rose a vizion of heavy bread, cake smelling of saleratus, careless housekeeping, which she knew to be the rule at the Harlow homestead She thought of what it would be to live day after day with Lou's giggling laugh, her persistent chatter and good-natured officiousness Looking across the room at one who but a few hours age she characterized as "that flitterin' little Holland girl," she noted with a stirring of pride akin to what she felt in 'Rastus, the trimness of the black-gowned figure, the quiet manner, the delicate contour of a face whose prettiness did not conceal decision and capability 'Rastus was talking with ber now, his attitude marked by that new dignity which his mother had noticed of late Someed her of his father when he had come courting out Pemigewasset way, where she lived as a girl.

When came a homeward movement among the guests, Mrs. Green pauxed, talking in the open door on her way out. Her quick eye had recognized two .young figures at the gate, and she turned her back upon them, barring the progress of Mr and Mrs. English.

"I have enjoyed it all so much; haven't you, Mis' English? I do think a surprise tin weddin' the best way of romemberin' the anniversary It don't make so much work for the folks of the house Seems to me it's a pretty long while since you and your husband have been up to take tea with me. Now, why can't you be a-mite more neighborly and come soon? Say Wednesday Nothin' to hinder, Well, I'm real glad And you are to bring your niece. Not have

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a bright face like hers roung once in a while I guess 'Rastus must have got the horse unhitched by this time Good-night.

'Rastus was patting Nell's nose as he stood by her when his mother came out. Retta Holland was still at the gate, waiting for her aunt and uncle, and Mrs Green smiled as she passed. Mother and son drove along the bush-fringed lane at a plodding gait, for old Nell seemed in an indolent mood, and 'Rastus was loath to urge her on The moonlight lay white and beautiful over everything

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A FEW TESTIMONIALS

193 King Street East, Toronto, Nov. 21, 1901. John O'Connor, Esq., Toronto.

DEAR S'R,-I am deeply grateful to the friend that suggested to me, when I was a cripple from Rheumatism, Beaedictine Salve I have at intervals during the last ten years been afflicted with muscular rheumatism. I have experimented with every available remedy and have consulted, I might say, every physician of repute, without perceivable bead-fit When I was advised to use your Benedictine Salve, I was a helpiese cripple. In less than 48 hours I was in a position to resume my work, that of a tinsmith A work that requires a certain amount of bodily activity I am thankful to my friend who advised me and I am more than gratified to be able to furnish you with this testimonial as to the emcacy of Benedictine Salve Yours truly, GEO, FOGG,

Tremont House, Yonge street, Nov. 1, 1901.

John O'Connor, Exq., Toronto. DEAR SIR-It is with pleasure that I write this unsolicited testimonial, and in doing so I can say that your Benedictine Salve has done more for me in one week than anything I have done for the last five years. My allment was muscular rheumatism. I applied the salve as directed, and I got speedy relief I can assure you that at the present time I am free of pain. I can recommend ony person afflicted with Rhaumatism to give it Yours truly, (Signed) S. JOHNSON 288 Victoria Street, Toronto, Oct. 31, 1901.

John O'Connor, Esq., Nealon House, City: DEAR SIR-I cannot speak too highly of your Benedictine Salve It has done for me in three days what doctors and medicines have been trying to do for years. Whe'l first used it I had been confined to my bed with a spell of rheumatism and sciatica for nine weeks; a friend recommended your salve I tried it ant it completely knocked theumatics right out of my system I can cheerfully recommend it as the best medicine os the market for rheumatics. I believe it has no equal. Yours sincerely, JOHN McGROGGAN

475 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ont., Sept, 18, 1901. John O'Connor. Esq., Nealon House, Toronto, Ont .:

DEAR SIR-I have great pleasure in recommending the Benedictine Salve as a sure cure for lumbago. When I was taken down with it I called in my doctor, and he told me it would be a long time before I would be around again. My husband bought a box of the Benedictine Salve, and applied it according to directions. In three hours I got relief, and in four days was able to do my work. I would be pleased to recommend it to any one suffering from Lumbago. I am, your truly,

(MRS.) JAS. COSGROVE 7 Laurier Avenue, Toronto, December 13, 1801.

John O'Connor, Esq., Toronto, Ont: DEAR SIR,-After suffering for over ten years with both forms of Plies, I was asked to try Benedictine Salve. From the first application I got instant relief, and before using one box was thoroughly cured. I can strongly recommend Benedictine Salve to any one suffering with Yours sincerely, JOS. WESTMAN.

12 Bright Street, Toronto, Jan. 15, 1902. John O'Connor, Esq., Toronto:
DEAR SIR,—It is with pleasure I write this word of testimony to the marvellous merits of Benedictine Salve as a certain cure for Rheumatism. There is such a multitude of alleged Rheumatic cures advertised that one is inclined to be skeptical of the merits of any new preparation I was induced to give Benedictine Salve a trial and must say that after suffering for eight years from Rheumatism it has, I believe, effected an absolute and permanant cure. It is perhaps needless to say that in the last eight years I have consulted a number of doctors and have tried a large number of other medicines advertised, without receiving any benefit.

Yours respectfully, MRS. SIMPSON. 65 Carlton Street. Toronto, Fab. 1, 1802.

John O'Connor, Esq., 199 King Street East: I was a sufferer for four months from acute rheumatism in my left arm; my physician called regularly and prescribed for it, but gave me no My brother, who appeared to have faith in your Benedictine Salve, gave me enough of it to apply twice to my arm. I used it first on Thursday night, and applied it again on Friday night. This was in the latter part of November. Since then (over two months) I have not had a trace of rheumatism. I feel that you are entitled to this testimonial as to the efficacy of Benedictine Salve in removing rheumatic pains. Yours sincerely, M. A. COWAN.

Toronto, Dec. 30th, 1991.

John O'Connor, Esq., Toronto: DEAR SIR,-It 2 with pleasure I write this unsolicited testimonial, and in doing so I can say to the world that your Benedictine Salve thoroughly cured me of Bleeding Piles. I suffered for nine months. I consulted a physician, one of the best, and he gave me a box of salve and said that if that did not cure me I would have to go under an operation. It failed, but a friend of mine learned by chance that I was suffering from Bleeding Piles. He told me be could get me a cure and be was true to his word. He got me a box of Benedictine Salve and it gave me relief at once and cured me in a few days. I am now completely cured. It is worth its weight in gold. I cannot but feel proud after suffering so long. It has given me a thorough cure and I am sure it will never return. I can strongly recommend it to anyone afflicted as I was It will cure without fail. I can be called on for living proof. I am,

Yours, etc., ALLAN J. ARTINGDALE, with the Boston Laundry. 256} King Street East, Toronto, Dec. 18, 1801.

John O'Connor, Esq., Toronto: DEAR SIR,-After trying several doctors and spending forty-five days in the General Hospital, without any benefit, I was induced to try your Benedictine Salve, and sincerely believe that this is the greatest remedy in the world for rheumatism. When I left the hospital I was just able to stand for a few seconds, but after using your Benedictine Salve for three days, I went out on the street again and now, after using it just over a week, I am able to go to work again. If anyone should doubt these facts, send him to me and I will prove it to him. Yours forever thankful.

Toronto, April 19, 1962.

Mr. John O'Connor: DEAR SIR-I do heartily recommend your Benedictine Salve as a sure cure for rheumatism, as I was sorely afflicted with that sad disease in my arm, and it was so bad that I could not dress myself. When beard about your salve, I got a box of it, and to my surprise I found great relief, and I used what I got and now I can attend to my daily household daties, and I heartily recomment it to anyone that is troubled with the same disease. You have this from me with hearty thanks and do with it as you please for the benefit of the afflicted,

Yours truly. MRS. JAMES FLEMING.

13 Spruce street, Toronto. Toronto, April 16th, 1962.

J. O'Connor, Esq., City: DEAR SIR-it gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to testify te the carative powers of your Benedictine Salve. For a month back my hand was so badly swollen that I was unable to

work, and the pair was so intense as to be almost unbearable. Three days after using your Salve as directed, I am able to week, and I caused thank you enough. Respectfully yours, Respectfully yours, J. J.CLARKE. 78 Wooleley street, City.

119 George street, Toronto, June 17th, 1963. John O'Connor, Esq.:

DEAR SIR-Your Benedictine Salve cured me of rhoumatism in any arm, which entirely disabled me from work, in three days, and I am new completely cured. I suffered greatly from piles for many months and was Yours sincerely, completely cured by one box of Essedictine Salve. T. WALKER, Blacks

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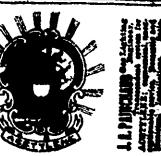
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