

hopeless tone in which she had come to voice her few words.

"All right, Ma I'll do it if Leveque will take me in," Rodney had promptly replied. This was followed by offering his services to Leveque, who kept the boy during the busy season, until the family account was settled. Then he told Rodney that he did not need his help longer and that in the future Mrs. Merton would be obliged to pay for whatever supplies she wished to buy.

Hard times began in earnest after this dismissal, and it was by only the most patient industry and persistent watchfulness that Rodney contrived to keep his mother and himself in food. When the last hope of obtaining employment near home was gone, he had bravely set out to look for work of any kind in Grenfell.

Now he was returning, after having met with unvaried failures and rebuffs.