A Rough Way Home.

It was a bitterly cold day in February, 186- The sky looked like a hard, leaden surface, and the bitter ungenial influence of the keen air without seemed to make itself felt even in a bright, warm kitchen where two girls were carnestly talking. The younger, a fair haired, soft-syed girl of sixteen, was standing by the window, ready dressed for a journey, with a little hundle to her hand, her blue eyes fixed on the sky without. The other a few years older, was exceetly expostulating

Indeed, Janie, it afar too cold a day. Mother would never want you to go such a bitter day. And it might come on a storm any minute. You never can go."

"I may get a 'chance,' you know. Most likely I shall. There's almost sure to be a sleigh going that way. And, any way, I know my mother wants me. I

must co.

must go."
"There's the bell, and I must answer it. Wait till I come down, any way."
And the elder sister hurried away up stairs, hoping to get her kind master and mistress to enforce her own expostulations. mistress to enforce her own expostulations and entreaties. Janie was called up stairs, kindly reasoned with, and urged not to try go hezardous an experiment as that of walking ten miles on such a bitter day. But the girl who looked so yielding was in-

flexible.
"My mother is sick: she wants me; I must go," was all the burden of her reply, and at last her friends gave up the use-less argument. The kind sister Elizabeth, since she could not keep her, did all she and to wretest her cruiset the last and the second to the could be the c could to protect her against the cold by muffling her in every available wrap, and with many a charge to be sure and look out for a passing sleigh and to return if she saw any symptom of a storm approach ing, Janie was at last allowed to depart, carefully carrying the little bundle of articles which it had been a part of her errand in town to procure.

For the first two or three miles she

trudged bravely and lightly on, warm with the glow of her resolution to hasten home to her invalid mother and protected by the manifold wrappings. But by-and-by the sharp, searching blast made its way even through these, and shivering she looked around in hope of seeing the familiar sleigh of some neighbor which would take her up and carry her on her way. Two or three country "teams" passed her, but the sleighs were full already of people whom she did not know. Some empty wood-sleighs passed, too, but several rough-looking men and boys had already seized the chance of riding as far as they went, and the timid gir'—wistfully as she looked at them—could not find it in her heart to ask them to take her up. A sleigh crammed full by a merry pleasure-party sleo passed her by, one or two of the laughing girls it contained looking compassionately at the slight figure trudging along so patients and wandaring to their art. whether she had far to go.

The first half of the journey had not been accomplished, and she seemed to feel

the wind growing keener and more piereing at every ster, when a few sharp snow-flakes atruck her cheek. They were the heralds of the storm which had been sullenly gathering in the darkening sky. Soon the whole air seemed to be a whirling mass of sharp, cold particles of snow, which struck the face almost like needles, and half blind-ed the poor girlasshe pulled the folds of her sloud more closely round her face and still bravely held on her way in the teeth of wind and snow. But it was hard work. Every joint seemed growing numb, every step heavier amid the fast increasing snow that elogged the road. Sometimes she was fain to turn her back on the blinding ruch of sain to turn her back on the binding rues of snow, feeling as if she could not fight on a moment longer. Then there would come a temporary lull, and taking heart and breath she would brace herself again for the

The day began to close in, and in the scattered farmhouses that she passed she could see faintly through the white mist of snow tempting lights glimering in the win-dows. "Come in," one after another seem-ed to say to her as she thought what a re-lief it wou'd be to yield to the welcome invitation and so in to the rest and warmth and comfort within. One house in particular, a little way from the read, seemed to invite her more temptingly than any of the rest, and she thought how sorry Robert Blake would be if he knew that she was out there in the storm, and how welcome she would be if she went in and surprised them now. But then she knew they would never let her go on that night, and she persis-tently said to herself, "My mother wants me; I must go on." And at length the last house was passed, and between Janie and and her mother's house lay only about a mile and a half of lonely road, which she must traverse as bestshe could amid gather ing darkness and deepening drifts.

But that mile and a half seemed to stretch out into an interminable distance. The fatigue and strain and exposure she so bravely contended with hitherto bore heavily on her now. Every step became more and more difficult, although happily the snow was now less blinding or she could not have gone at all. An over-powering heaviness stole over her which it was pain to contend with, and yet she knew she must; for to yield to it would be death. Several times her little bundle slipped from her numb grasp, but she always found it again, and still summoning all her determination she pressed on, with feet that now seemed hardly to belong to her, so cold and heavy did they feet.

-what a long last it was-she could see the home light glimmering faintly through the darkness, and the thought of her mother watching for her within gave her for the moment a new stock of strength. She hurried on, reached the gate at some little distance from the house, heard Rover within barking his notice of some one's ap proach, struggled up the heavily-drifted lane till her momentary strength gave way, and with one long, mournful ery, "O mother!" she sank down in the soft snow almost insensible now to the storm, the snow, and the home so close to her.

There she might have remained, her close visibility unknown to the mother she had been so anxious to reach. For the extreme cold of the weather and the violence

of the storm had made her mother hope and believe that Janie was still safe in town with one of her sisters. But the dog's joyous greetings had startled them into expectation, and then the faint echo of her despairing cry struck the mother's quick expeciant ear. The little brother and seter rushed to the door. So did Rover, but he rushed out into the door and several conditions the door door. So did Rover, but he rushed out into the darkness, and soon was standing over Janie's prostrate figure, licking her face and hands, and whining inarticulate lamentations over the helpless girl. The mother, sick and weak as she was, was soon out in the deep snow beside her exhausted child, and the three together,—the only helpers within reach,—managed to get Janie safely into the house, home at last, after her desperate journey. But, alas, in what a plight! Numb, exhausted, with hardly enough strength left too answer a question, and with feet that had no more flexibility of feeling than pieces awer a question, and with less that had no more flexibility of feeling than pieces of wood. The mother rubbed and chaffed them, but soon it became only too evident that they were indeed frozen. And then in her anxiety and her ignorance she did the thing which, of all others, she ought not to have done, brought warm water in which to plunge the poor frozen feet.
The fatal consequence followed only too

surely. Instead of recovering their ordinary circulation the feet mortified, and a day or two after, Janie was taken back to town to be placed in a hospital, there to undergo amputation of the greater part of both feet which, through her mother's mis-take of applying warm instead of cold water, could never be restored, and must be taken off in order to save her life.

Then came a sad, weary time, during which she lay unable to move from her narrow little hospital bed, the mutilated feet wrapped in rags which were kept constantly wet by water dripping from a pail suspended above them. Janie was as patient and uncomplaining now as she had been brave in the storm; but it is hardly to be wondered at if her heart often sank at the present of a Tong life. often sank at the prespect of a long life before her as a cripple, unable to run as she had been accustomed to do, and obliged to wall on crutches, like an old man site had been wont to pity, as long as she should live.

But there was a kind gentleman who came sometimes to the hospital who brought great help and comfort to Janie. He was great help and comfort to Janie. He was a very wise and learned man, a professor and a clergyman, a very busy man, too; but he found time to remember his Lord's words, "I was sick and ye visited me." "In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me," And, therefore, busy as he was, he found time to visit the sick and lonely sufferers in the hospital, and many a time did his radiant smile and genial face and kindly tones of constraint and many a time did his radiant smile and genial face and kindly tones of Christian love not only "make a sunshine in a shady place," but helped those to whom he spoke to realize, as they had never done before, the loving kindness of the unseen divine Friend of whom he spoke to them spoke to them

spoke to them

In Janie, with her gentle child-like face and uncomplaining suffering, his kind heart was at once deeply interested, and he sought to draw her thoughts from this life below, which had become so darkly clouded for her, to the life eternal in the heavens, to the Saviour who had gone before fo prepare a place for her. He showed her that, though the path that led thither—this earthly life—might seem to her as cold and stormy as the path that had led to her mother's house that dreary February day, still the Father's house and the Father's love at the close of the journey would be an ample recompense for all the toil and au ample recompense for all the toil and all the dreariness at last. And by degrees the blessed faith and assurance that sprang out of his kind and true words shed a light and peace into her heart and into her gentle blue eyes which had never been

But if Janie's earthly path was stormy it was not destined to be long. Her physicians thought her doing well, and saw no reason why she should not recover. But even as she had felt as if her mother were calling her home when she took that last fetal invener were realistic. fatal journey, so now she felt in her heart the voice of her heavenly Father calling her to her heavenly home, and she was ready and willing to go at once. The messenger He sent for her came unexpectedly, at least to all around her. She passed away in a moment, from some affecion of the vous strain she had undergone, and without a word or, apparently a parting pang. The Father she had learned to love had called her, and these who locked on the pale and lifeless frame knew that she was safe at home, though she had been led thitter by a stormy path; led as he so often leads his people, "by a way they know not."

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