and made a prisoner at last. The officers expected he would be shot at

once as a spy.

The side door was open and I could bear no more, so I slipped quietly out no one noticing me, so rapt were they all in the old man's story. Jack had been vindicated—had proven himself a hero what more could I ask? But oh—the longing to have seen him if only just once, to let him know how proud I was of him!

Father would tell me the rest quietly at home, would tell his parents too, for I noticed they were not present.
As I reached home, I could not go indoors I felt, and almost instinctively turned toward the stables. Poor old Mollie! She loved him too! The door was open and as I entered I caught my breath There with his right arm over her neck, his left in a sling was a khaki-clad figure so like—Then he turned, and with a cry I ran straight into his one strong arm. Jack alive and looking

well, but oh, so badly crippled!

I accepted the miracle quite calmly after the first thrilling surprise. He told me how he had escaped from the Germans, how he had been nursed to convalescence, and had finally come home with Dr. Brown who had been like a father to him. Then we talked of other things, interesting only to Jack and me.

Suddenly we ran to the gate. Down the street came the shouts of many throats. The noise and hubbub became louder and nearer. A crowd of men were coming, cheering as they came. At last we caught the words—"What's the matter with Kennedy!" and the answer—"He's all right!" Then again—"Three cheers for our hero Kennedy!"

I turned to flee but Jack held me by the arm. Father's arm-chair was seized from the garden; Jack was unceremoniously but tenderly, placed in it, raised upon the shoulders of his old-time comrades and school-fellows and borne aloft through the town that all might see him, the returned hero!

I believe every citizen excused their "Sunday" behavior, but such an Easter was never before known in our town. Jack told me all about it later in the

day, as he stroked Mollie's silken neck.
"Isn't it wonderful Katie, the changes
a year has made for me? And best of all I've won the dearest girl in the whole

I hid my face against Mollie, and laughingly said, "Yes Jack, and all because of dear old Mollie."

Out of the Soil.

BY F. MARLETT BELLSMITH.

"I can't stand this much longer," muttered Joe Lewis to himself one spring morning as he hitched the horses to the seeder and drove out of the barn-yard. "The strain of this kind of life is becoming unbearable. Gee there you Meg!" and he gave the bay filly a vicious cut with the whip, which served no better purpose than to make the nervous creature still more restless. "I know what I'll do; I'll see Tom and get him to hurry up his Sis' wedding and look after the farm, and I'll go to the Klondyke.' And having made up his mind he went through his morning's work in a stolid

At dinner time Joe made his wish to leave the farm known to his sister in these words:

'I guess the old place won't see much more of me, Sis.

"Why Joe, what do you mean?" and Mary looked up in surprise from where she was taking a pie out of the oven, and burnt her fingers in con-

Well," drawled her brother in his slow way, "you know what the papers said about Billings making a fortune at the Klondyke. I've been thinking about it, and I don't see why if a fellow like him can do it I can't. And I just tell you," with a slap of the hand on the table for emphasis, "I can and I will."

Mary Lewis was not a girl to get easily excited, even about a matter which she regarded as serious as this. She sucked her burnt fingers in silence for a moment, then put the pie on the table, served her brother to a generous piece and took a smaller piece herself; after which she poured out two cups of strong tea and finally asked in a quiet

tone:
"Going to the Klondyke will cost

money for the outfit as well as to get there; how do you propose to raise it?" "By a second mortgage," promptly answered Joe.

Mary shook her head, and her brother went on in a tone which indicated that he did not like opposition, "I don't know why not; the old farm is worth it.

The sister said nothing, though with sounder judgment than her brother she thought he would find it rather hard to persuade any one to lend him money with the land in its present run down condition, especially as it was already mortgaged for nearly its full value. Therefore the two finished their meal in silence. It was when Mary had begun to clear away the dishes that

she ventured another question:
"What will I do while you are away,
Joe?" She had a shrewd idea of what She had a shrewd idea of what the answer would be; and the thought was not at all unpleasant to her. Joe had been the obstacle in the way of her marriage, but she was not selfish enough to welcome her own chance of happiness at his expense.

"That's plain sailing, Sis.; you and Tom have been engaged for nearly two years and I don't think he'll object to coming here to live. This is his night for coming over and I will ask him to look after things here while I am gone.

Mary watched her brother through the kitchen window with tear-dimmed eyes as he crossed the yard. Their father had died when they were young and their mother had kept the home together and had managed the farm with good judgment and success until she was taken three years before, since when, Joe, always discontented in disposition and a little inclined to be lazy had let the land run to seed; so that, in spite of all that Mary could do, they were not only unable to pay off any part of the principal but had great difficulty in meeting the interest. The prospect, therefore, was none of the brightest; and to have Joe propose to raise a second mortgage and go away to the gold-mines at the present juncture filled her with the deepest concern.

Tom Plainman called that evening as expected, and Joe hurried out at the first sound of rattling wheels; he was anxious to have a word with the visitor alone before he entered the house. as they unhitched Tom's high-stepping black gelding, which made Mary the envy of half the girls in Cranberry and the countryside, Lewis told his plan. Plainman was as quick as Mary to see that it meant happiness to them, and not being as unselfish as she, jumped at the chance. However, when Joe proposed that Tom become manager of the Lewis farm he demurred:

"I am afraid, Joe, that you will not be able to raise the money," he suggested, "but what is the matter with selling the farm to me? I have a little money saved and I'll give you a thousand dellars each and accurate the more reaches. dollars cash and assume the mortgage; what do you say?"

Joe was not the man to drive a bargain, and then he knew in his heart that his prospective brother-in-law's offer was a very generous one; so he closed with the deal on the spot.

Mary was forestalled. She had been thinking all afternoon of how she would divert Joe from his foolish purpose, but now she could only yield to the inevitable. The wedding was fixed for three weeks ahead, for Joe was determined to leave as soon as seeding was done. They were busy weeks

At last the day came and Joe drove his pretty sister to the Methodist church in Cranberry with the buggy newly varnished and the team of grays specially groomed for the occasion.

It was the most popular wedding held in the district in a long time; for both of the young people were highly thought of. Mary was liked for her sweet un-selfish nature and Tom was respected because of what he had done in a few short years. It seemed to the old-timers like the day before that he had arrived from England, green of the green, to whom to try and teach farming was sheer foolishness. Yet now he was recognised as one of the best farmhands in the neighborhood, with money enough saved to buy a farm for himself.
At the celebration which followed, the

minister said that not since he had come to Cranberry had a wedding given him so much pleasure. At which one of the young ladies turned to her neighbor and said in a whisper:

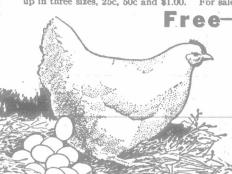
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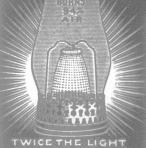
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