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## The Western Home Monthly

# The Strategy of Eliza Jane Bohunnan

#### By Seumas MacManus.



townland to myself, an' it's well I mind her. She was one of the She hard-headed Scotch that we have so many of in this end of Ireland. An'

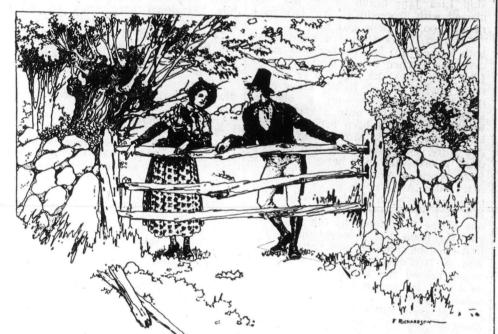
hard-headed as she was, every mortial bit was she as hard-handed, for, like her industrious kind, she wrought sore an' fast, from four o clock on Monday mornin' till eleven on Saturday night, with cows an' pigs, tubs, pots an' kettles

An' that was small shame to her, an' less harm; for the boys of her own kind who were on the outlook for the makin's of a good wife set more value on a rough hand than on a fine face, an' considered a strong arm fittin er than a purty phiz, any day, for a farm-er's wife—for that was their way of lookin' at things, though it wasn't ours. An' as this Liza Jane, independent of

her kitchen an farm-yard acquirements, was given out for a hundred pounds of dry money, there was, as ye may well suspect, a tremendious traffic of boys come afther her. But its little encouragement they got from Eliza Jane; she home. considered coortin' a ridiculous waste

IZA JANE she lived house. In was in Andy McClarnin's in the very next neighborhood, an' she knew well Andy would be there, because, bein' a boy of renowned capacity in the feedin' line, he almost passed his winter travellin' from one public bun-worry to another (overpolite people call them tay-parties) in his own parish an' in the next parish-es to it, an' was reported once to have accounted for five buns over an' beyond Long Rabin MacHamrish-though Rabing Rabin MacHamrish—though Ra-bin had been fastin' from the night afore, an' Bab's Andy had only done without his dinner. Anyhow, Bab's Andy was at the Alt-a-roe tay-party sure enough, an' Liza Jane pushed up an' took her sait beside him, an' put speak on him, an' give him points about the reatin' of calves an' the right sort the rearin' of calves, an' the right sort of a dhrink to give a cow that's got the Complaint—till the tay begun to be served an' the burs to go 'round. She so interested Bab's Andy that he proposed to walk home with her. An' took the opportunity of their starlight sthroll to talk romantically of the darlin' fine price pigs were fetchin' in the last fair of Donegal. An' when they parted at the gate, Liza Jane had undertaken to go to meetin', to the Killymard Meetin'-house, next Sunday night, an' he was to be there an' see her safe

Liza Jane got a new skirt thrown to-



"An', time afther time, as she unfolded bit by bit her exthraordinary stock nowledge

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t e vorship of Bab's Andy for her was growin' greater an' greater, till at las he looked on her as an angel that dhropped through the thrap-door of heaven. Il manner of farm-bastes greater an' greater, till at last

of time that a pair of tomfools, only, gether for herself, to keep the new hat might engage in; an' as for marryin' the most of the lads that presented themselves, she said she wouldn't make dish-clouts of them, to wipe a pot.

This, I say, she thought of most of the neighbor boys, but not of all. There was one, Andy McClarnin, or Babs Andy, as he was better known, by raison, as there was a roughess of full namesakes of his in the same part, each was easier known by tellin' whose son he was—an' his father's name was Bab. Anyway, this Bab's Andy was no eye-sore to Liza Jane, for he had a fine farm that fed five milch-cows, an' give him ten head of stock to sell off every harvest: his father, poor man, was five years dead. An' Bab's Ardy was neither lame nor lazy, an' looked on both sides of a ha'penny afore spendin' it; an' it was generally understood that he had as much wit (of the world'y sort) to spare as would make five fools wise

An' Liza Jane Bohunnan, knowin' that she had come to the time of day to look about her an' think of a likely man, saw that, all things considered. s'e couldn't get, an' wouldn't ask for, a better or a warmer sittin'-down than Bab's Andy's. An' accordin'ly she made up her mind that she'd marry Bab's

in countenance, an' went to meetin' a often now in one month as she had troubled it in three months afore, till Mr. McPollin, the minister, noticin' it. remarked that Eliza Jane Bohurnan was very seriously turnin' to religion. An' Liza Jane now likewise become a religious attender at all the tay-parties in the three parishes, an' magic-lantern entertainments, an' night lectures by missioners who had just come back from terrible adventures among the black haythen. An' Bab's Andy fetched her home sofe from every one of theman' as a reward for his dutifulness larnt more in three months about the proper way of rearin' up young pigs than he had larnt in half his life afore. An time afther time, as she unfolded bit by bit of her exthraordinary stock of knowledge about the right feedin' an' breedin' of all manner of farm-bastes. the worship of Bab's Andy for her was growin' greater and greater, till at last he looked on her as an angel that dhropped thrugh the thrap-door of heaven.

When that winter was through with, Liza Jane looked back on it with an a sy conscience, considered she had done her fair share of the coortin', an'

A. H. IRELAND, Superintendent of Branches

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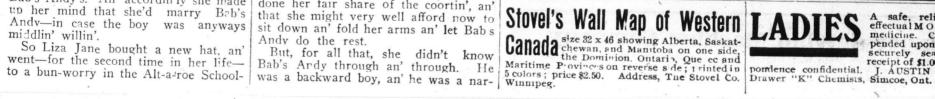
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