RACHEL.

A True Story of Western Farm Life.

BY MRS. E. V. WILSON. It was the middle of a short December afternoon. From the scholars in the little log schoolhouse in the Stillman district rose a buzzing sound as they bent over their desks, intent on books or mischief, as the case might be. The teacher, a good-looking young else does; I am master here." man of 20 or thereabouts, was busy with "Teacher, Rachel Stillman's readin'

a story book." "Bring the book to me, Rachel,"said the teacher quietly, and the delinquent, a girl of about 14, slowly rose, and walking to him placed a much worn ancient-looking! volume in his hands. 'Why," he said, glancing at the open page, "it is the 'Pilgrim's Progress." No wonder you are interested, Rachel. But you must not read it during school

The child lifted to his face a pair of large blue eyes, beautiful with their timid wistfulness, as she replied: I know I oughtn't, sir, but I wanted to see how they got out of Doubting

Castle so bad." He smiled. "I will give you the book," he said "after school; then you can read it to-night at home."

"Oh no," she whispered, "father won't let me'read story books." "He surley would not object to this will keep it untill recess to-morrow Hopeful will outwit the old 'giant vet'" grateful smile Rachel returned to her

"First-class in spelling, take your places." called the teacher. Rachel belonged to this class, as did all of the larger scholars, among whom was her brother Thomas, two years older than herself. The teacher had promised a prize at the end of the term to the member of the class obtaining the greatest number of head-marks, and consequently a good deal of interest was taken in the lessons. Rachel had been at the head of the class the evening before, therefore she now took her station Tom, said: at the foot. Tom, her brother was "head," and for some time no change in position was made, but finally "somebody blundered," and Rachel, who was one of the good spellers, kled; "but Rachael was called up." went up in the long line. Presently another hard word was missed, and this time Rachel walked to the head. Tom gave her a spiteful push. "Another mark, Rachel." said the teacher, "for that is the last word." The class resumed their seats, and in a few minutes school was dismissed for the day. 'Good evening," said the teacher as Rachel and her sister, a pretty, delicate-looking child of 10, passed him at the about Christian, Rachel."

"I won't," she answered laughing. "I guess he'll get out. Didn't he stand up to old Apollyon?" "Like a good one," said the teacher,

"Hope I'll come off all well." She looked at him inquiringly, but he Let us precede them and see what man- home for good." ner of home it is to which these chil- The child bent over her slate, but her the buildings substantial, and every- forth in spite of her. thing has a prosperous well-to-do look. stout, comfortable looking man of 45 or | the childish brain.

blue eyes and fair hair.

and the men, followed by Toun, entered horses he worked.

place, as usual! Pity there wasn't two life.

or three more girls layin' about." about the well spread table.

"Oh, father," said Margaret, "don't you.

"Christmas," interrupted her father, wonderful allegory to her vivid imagin-"Well, don't we always butcher then?" ation was very real. And now to leave "Yes, I know," answered the girl, her hero in that awful dungeon, never her lips trembling in spite of her effort to know how he escaped, was almost to control herself, "but, father, we more than she could bear.

never enjoyed the holidays and I "Here, Rachael," said the teacher

ought maybe this year—" when the time for recess came, "here is your book." He held it toward her thought maybe this year-" have," broke in the father angrily. "I but she did not take it, "Father," she

and your girls want to go gadding ested in Christian, Rachael, that I will HORSE FOR SALE

around the country."

a class in arithmetic when a shrill voice was not to be disputed. He was master March the term closed, not even the and well his wife and daughter knew it. prize as best speller—a beautiful copy Poor Mrs Stillman. Two fortunate of the Pilgrim's Progress-consoled baby girls had died a, few weeks after her. shed over the little coffins were not the winter's work, which had been held to her bosom.

quietly out of the house, and, going to to leave her, and told her so. half dozen cows awaiting them. It Susy cryin' when old Grey bid us goodwas pretty dark and cold, but no words bye," said Tom at home the evening of were spoken except to the animals, as that last day of school. the girls hurried through the milking and hastened back to the kitchen where Rachel and the mother cleared away Hope I'll not have to go next winter," the supper things and made needful said Tom. preparations for next morning's break-

When the milk had been put away book, answered the young teacher, but and all things were in order Mrs. Still- when she wanted to vex him. "But morning and never fear, Christian and large room adjoining the kitchen, mark in the world, see if he doesn't." which was used as a bedroom by the The wistful eyes lighted, and with a parents and sitting-room for the family,

was reading would have brought a tor- father had forbidden it. rent of wrath on the head of the offend-"Well, how did you get along at

school to-day?" "Oh, fisrt-rate," said the boy, in whose mind that lost head mark ran- people. not answer.

gress' just a little, father. It's not a der than ever. story, it's-"

study your school books, and I don't skill, was more successful.

"Bring it home, indeed! No, ma'am. | caped into the kitchen. I guess you can find enough to do at me. Not a word now," as he saw set out on their half-mile walk home. her about to speak, "or you stay at

dren belong. The farm is a large one, | tears would fall, and at last a sob burst "Clear out to bed this minute,

Mr. Stillman, the owner of these broad Rachel," said her father, "I want no acres, and father of these three, Tem,
Rachael and Susy, as well as of three
Upstairs in the cold, dark room, more girls and another stalwart son-is a what bitter thoughts surged; through

50 years; comfortable to look at, but a Mr. Stillman loved his wife and glance at his close, thin lips and keen | children although you may not think gray eyes, would convince an observant so. He wanted them to be happy, but person that he could and would make in his way. He must choose their it very uncomfortable for any person in his power who might differ from him pleasures. If they could not find pleasure in the things that pleased him in opinion or venture to dispute his it was not his fault. It was their perauthority. Just now he is chatting verseness. And as no two souls are pleasantly about to-morrow's work with alike, the attempt to fit a number of his hired man, and pays no attention to them by the same pattern necessarily the children who pass him on their way | caused a good deal of pain to the souls undergoing the trying operation. Mrs. Indoors, Mrs. Stillman, a slender, Stillman's sensitive organization was fair-haired woman who looks as if she completely crushed; her eldest daughowed the world an apology for being in ter's nearly so. Martha, the second it, is preparing supper, being assisted daughter, refusing to be shaped, had by her two daughters, Elizabeth, a sad- escaped by marrying a clever young faced woman of 24 and Margaret, a girl hired man who pitied and then loved of 18, with ther father's determined the pretty daughter of his employer, mouth and chin and her mother's large and persuaded her that by eloping with him she would be more happily situ-The clock struck 4 as the school girls ated at all events than she was at home. entered the kitchen, a large room, which | The mesalliance angered Mr. Stillman in winter did duty as both dining-room | greatly, and since the marriage, which and kitchen.

"Run in the room, girls," said the mother, "and get warm; supper is about ready."

had taken place a year ago, all intercourse with the disobedient daughter had been forbidden.

Margaret, the third daughter, as we "Oh, we're not cold, mother," said have seen, also rebelled at the fitting, Rachel. "Let me hang, up your things, and having a goodly portion of her Susy. Mother, I got another head father's determination it was evident he would have some trouble in complet The mother smiled. "I hope you or ing it. So far Rachael had given him Tom will get the prize," she said, no trouble. She and Susan were only babies in his opinion, and as he ordered She was interrupted by a stamping them about he no more thought of their of feet as the door was thrown open feelings than he did of those of the

With the boys it was different. They "Supper is ready," said Mrs. Still- would be men some day. They must "We were just going to call be treated with more consideration. At an early age, John, two years older "Well, I guess it'll keep till we're than Elizabeth, was given a share in ready," said Mr. Stillman, roughly, the stock and land to cultivate for him-"Rachel, bring some water. The buck- self, so that when at the age of 24 he et is empty, of course. Margaret, married the daughter of a neighboring where's the washbasin? Nothing in its farmer he had a "right good start" in

But his sister toiled early and late, Nobody answered this tirade. The washing, ironing, milking, churning, Tweeds of all Kinds, hired man picked up the basin, Mar- baking, nursing the younger children, garet handed a towel, Rachel came with the water and soon the family gathered mother's labors for her board and a GENT'S FURNISHING GOODS the water and soon the family gathered mother's labors for her board and a scanty, grudgingly given wardrobe. "I tell you," remarked Mr. Still- She was 24 now and had never in her man after a few mouthfuls of the savory life known what it was to possess a five food had put him in apparently a better | dollar bill. There are many Mr. Stillhumor, "I think we'll have fine weather mans. Are they honest men? If the for hog killing by next week, and I son had a right to wages had not the never had a better lot of hogs, either." daughter? I leave the question with

butcher next week. Friday is Christ- Poor Rachael carried a heavy heart to school next morning. The Tinker's

suppose," with a look at his wife that said, then sobs choked her utterance made the poor woman shrink as from a The young man looked at her silently a blow, "this is some of your plans. You moment, then he said, "I am so inter-

read aloud if you will listen." "Mother never said anything about In all her life Rachel never forgot it," said Margaret, her temper rising, their readings at recesses and noons, But nobody else takes Christmas time | which lasted not only until Christian to do their hardest and dirtiest work." reached the Celestial City, but until "Will you hush?" thundered the Christiana and her children joined him. father. "What do I care how anybody And her gratitude to her young teacher else does; I am master here."

would have surely awakened love if she
Nobody spoke again. The assertion had been a few years older. When in

their birth and the tears the mother | As for the teacher, he was only glad half so bitter as those that fell on their undertaken solely to furnish means for innocent faces when first they were the pursuit of his profession, was over. He liked some of his scholars very When on this evening the father had much, Rachael especially, she was so proved his authority his two elder intelligent, so grateful, and when, with daughters rose from the table and tak. blue eyes swimming in tears, she said ing a couple of large buckets went good-bye, he did for a second feel sorry the barnyard, proceeded to milk the "You ought to have seen Rachaelan"

> "Did you cry?" asked Margaret. "Guess not. I'm glad school's out.

"I guess you won't," answered Margaret. "You're smart enough now, bub." She always called him "bub" man and her daughters entered the old Grey, as you call him, will make his The entrance of Mr. Stillman closed the conversation, and Tom went out Mr. Stillman not permitting a fire kept in any other room in the house.

banging the door after him. No wonder Margaret was getting ill-natured. Mrs. Stillman sat down, knitting in The winter was a long dull season in hand, as close in the corner as possible. the Stillman home. Even her enjoy-Elizabeth and Margaret brought out a ment at the few social gatherings she A Full Assortment of huge basket of rags and went to work was allowed to attend in the neighborcutting and sewing carpet balls. The hood, was marred by the knowledge ounger children were busy with their that she could not entertain her young essons at the table where the father sat friends in ourn. Once or twice she had reading his newspaper. All were si. attempted to fix up the spare room and lent, for to have spoken while father have a fire there for company but her

"I'd like to know," he said, "why er. At last, however, Mr. Stillman the settin' room ain't good enough. laid down his paper, and addressing If your company can't sit with the family they can stay away, Miss." And "they" stayed away, generally after one visit, Mr. Stillman was not a success as a host, especially for young

And a young minister who came home "How was that, Rachael?" said the from meeting one Sunday with Elizabeth father, sharply. Poor girl! deep in the was so completely abashed by the cool mysteries of "long division" she did reception he received that not even the daughter's pleading eyes could induce "Rachel," he repeated, "what were him to remain in the father's presence. you called up for in school to-day?" A few weeks afterwards Elizabeth She glanced up reproachfully at Tom. heard of his departure for a distant part "I was reading in the 'Pilgrim's Pro- of the State, and her face became sad-

Jim Lansing, the son of a widow "Never mind what it is," interrupt- neighbor, who managed a good sized school room door, "now don't worry ed the father; "I send you to school to farm and two grewn sons with equal want to hear, of your touching any He generally prought his along on his visits, and while she, with "May I bring it home?" faltered the ready wit, entertained Mr. Stillman, Jim, the girls and the carpet rags es-

"But spring was near, and," thought Margaret, "he can't keep us out of the spare room in warm weather; and, besides, we will have all out-of-doors."



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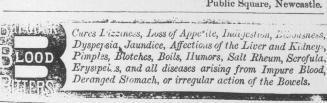
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