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A STORY OF LOVE AND WAR.

BY MARY J. HOLMES.

Author of "Lena Rivers," "Edna Browning,"

This was what Jimmie read, and with a feeling of relief as far as Tom was erned, he crushed the few lines into his pocket and went on with his preparations for the contest at Fredericksburg, which seemed inevitable, with kind of recklessness which characterized many of our soldiers. Jimmie had heretofore felt no fears of a bat-The bullet which might strike down another would not harm him, and he charged his preservation mostly to Annie's prayers for his safety; but in this, her last brief note, she had not said so much as "God bless you," and Jimmie's heart beat faster as he thought of the impending danger. Jimmie seldom prayed, but if Annie had failed him, he must try and see what he could do for himself, and when that night came down upon that vast army, camping in the woods and on the hillsides, it looked on one young face upturned to the wintry sky, and the moaning winds carried up to heaven the few words of prayer which Jimmie Carleton

Oppressed with a strange feeling of foreboding, he prayed earnestly that God would blot out all his manifold transgressions, and, if he died,-grant him an entrance into heaven, where Annie was sure to go. Close beside him crouched Bill, who listened with wonder to the "corp'ral," a feeling of ter-ror beginning to creep into his own heart as he detected the accents of

fear in his companion, "I say, corp'ral," he began, when Jimmie's devotions were ended. "be you 'fraid of somethin's happenin' to you when they set us to crossin' that darned river, and, if there does, shall I write to the folks and the gal you mentioned and tell 'em you prayed like a parson

the night before?" Jimmie was terribly annoyed with Bill's impertinence, and for a man who had just been praying did not exercise as much Christian forbearance as might have been expected. A harsh "Mind your business!" was the only reply. which Bill received with a good-humored Guess you'll have to try agin, corp'ral, before you get into the right frame"; and then there was silence be-tween them, and the night crept on apace, and the early morning began to break, and the wintry sky was obscur-ed by a thick, dull haze, which hid for a time our soldiers from view, then a deadly fire of musketry from the opposite bank of the Rappahannock opened upon them, till they fled to the shelter of the adjacent hills, where, forming into line, they again went back to the laying of the pontoon bridges, while the roar of the cannon shook the hills and told to the away that the battle of Fredericksburg

#### CHAPTER XXIV.

The streets of Rockland were full of excited people when the news first reached the town of the terrible battle which had left so many slain upon the field, and desolate so many hearts both North and South. Rose Mather was nearly frantic, for Will, she knew, was in the battle, together with her two brothers, and it was not probable that all three would escape unharmed. Eagerly she grasped the paper to see who was killed, wounded, or missing, but neither of the three names was there, and she began to hope again, and found time to comfort poor Susan Simms, whose husband was also in the fight, and who had gone almost mad with the fear lest he should be killed.

Two days passed, and then there came a telegram from Tom, and Mrs. Carleton, who read it first; gave a low, moaning cry, while Rose, who read it next, uttered a piercing shriek, and fell

sobbing into Annie's arms.
"Oh, Will!-oh, Will!-my husband!" was what she said, while Mrs. Carieton uttered Jimmie's name, and then Annie knew that harm had come to him, and placing Rose upon the sofa, she took the paper from Mrs. Carleton's hand, and read:

"Will was badly wounded,-lay on the field all night; Jimmie missing, supposed to be a prisoner. I am well. "T. CARLETON."

"Poor Jimmie!" Annie whispered, sadly, her heart throbbing with pity for the young man who had gone back

in time to meet so sad a fate. Never had so dark a day dawned upon Rose Mather as that which followed the arrival of Tem's telegram, but ere its close there came a message of hope to her. Will had been taken to Washington, where he had providen-tially fallen into the hands of Mrs. Simms, who sent the joyful news that "no bones were broken, and he was do-

ing well."
"Oh, Annie, God is so much better to me than I deserve; I must love Him now, and I will, if He will only send Jimmie back," Rose said, while Annie's heart went out in prayer of thanksgiving for Mr. Mather's comparative safety, and then went out for the poor prisoner, whose destination was as yet

That night Rose started for Washingon, and three days after there came to Annie a sofied, queer-looking missive, directed to "Miss Widder Anny Graam, at Miss Martherses," the name written at the top of the letter, and the superscription spreading over so much sur-face that, had there been another word, it must, from necessity, have been writ-ten on the other side of the letter. It was from Bill Baker and it read es

"Army of Potomac, and about as licked out an army as you ever seen. To all it may concern, and 'specially Miss Anny Graam. I send you my regrets

"Tempest and Sunshine," Etc., Etc. greetin' and hopin' this will find you enjoyin' the same great blessin'. Burnside has made the thunderinest blunder. and mor'n a million of our boys is dead before Fredericksburg. Mr. Mathers was about riddled through, I poor, poor husband." guess, and the Corporal,-wall, may as well take it easy,-I fit for him like a tiger till they knocked me endways, and

> an awful cut on his neck; nd now what I'm goin' to tell you is this: the night before the battle I came upon him prayin' like a priest, knedin' in an awful mud-puddle, and what he said was somethin' about heaven, and Anny, whitch, beggin' your pardon, I think means you, and so I ast him, in case of bad luck, if I should write and tell you. I don't think he could have been in a very sperritual frame of mind, for he told

I played dead to save my life. But the

Corporal's a gouer,-took prisoner with

me to mind my bisiness, but I don't lay it up agin him, and when them two tall lantern-jawed sons of Balam grabbed him as he was tryin' to skedaddle with the blood spirtin' from his neck, pitched inter 'em, and give 'em hale columby for a spell, till they knocked me flat, and I made bleeve dead as I was tellin' you. Don't feel bad, Miss Graam. Trust luck and keep your powder dry, and mabby he'll come back

#### "Yours to command,

"BILL BAKER. "Tell the old woman I'm well, but

pretty well tuckered out." "God soften the hearts of his captors God keep him in safety!" Annie whis-pered, and then, as Mrs. Carleton came in, she passed the note to her, and tried to comfort the poor mother, who, in Rose's absence, leaned on her

as on a daughter. Annie seemed very near the sorrowing weman, who wept bitterly for her poor boy, and in the first hours of her sorrow she spoke out what was in her mind.

"I believe Jimmie loved you, Annie, and that makes you very dear to me We can mourn for him together, and. Annie, you will pray for him night and day, that God will bring him back to

Annie could only reply by pressing the hand which sought hers, for her heart was too full to speak. Had Jimmie been dead, she would scarcely have mourned for him more deeply than she did now. The country was already rife with sufferings endured by our prisoners, and death itself seemed almost preferable to months and vears of privations and pain in the Southern prisons. "Sent to Richmond, and

from there farther South, probably to

Georgia." This was all the intelligence they could procure from him, until spring, when there came news direct that he was at Salisbury, and there for a time the curtain dropped, leaving his fate shrouded in darkness, while in his Northern home tears were shed like rain, and prayers went up to heaven from the quivering lips of a mother, who was just learning to pray as she ought, and into Annie Graham's heart there gradually crept a wish that the poor, weary prisoner might know how much and how kindly she thought of him, feeling at times half sorry that she had not given him some little hope as a solace for the weary hours of his prison life.

#### CHAPTER XXV.

Rose Mather had brought her hus band home as soon as it was safe to move him, and with the good nursing of Mrs. Carleton and Annie he grew strong enough to rejoin his regiment in May, and the last which Rose heard from him directly was a few words hastilly written and sent off to Washington as he said:
"Poor Will, he would have been so just as the Army of the Potomac was moving on Gettysburg. Then came the terrible battle when the summer air was full of smoke, and dust, and flying splinters, with clouds of torn-up earth which blinded the horror-stricken men, who vainly sought for shelter behind the trees and the headstones of the graveyard, where the dead must almost them as wail after wail of human anguish, mingled with the awful shricks of dying horses, went up to the blackened heavens and then died away in silence. Where the battle was

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To be Continued.

As far as comfort goes there isn't any difference between marrying for money without love and marrying for love without money.

The inner world is more my own, as it were than the outer. So intimate it is, so private. One might live altogether in a lit is so dreamy, so indeterminate.—Novalis.

led, and when the fight had ceased he lay upon his face, uncons less rain beating upon his head, or the two savage-looking Texans bending over him, and turning him to the light. Among the list of killed, The Rockname of William Mather, while in another column, designated by long lines of black, was a eulogy upon the de cessed, who was known to have fought so bravely. Then every blind of the Mather mansion was closed, and knots of crepe streamed from the door-knob, and the villagers missed the roll of the corriage wheels which were wont to carry so much comfort and sunshine the hearts of the poor soldiers; and the little airy, dancing creature, whose bright smile and rare beauty had done quite as good service as her generous gifts, lay in her darkened room, never weeping, never speaking, except to moan so piteously, "Oh. Will, my darling, my

They could not comfort her, for sh did not seem to hear, or at least to understand one word they said, and the soft, dark eyes had in them a wild, scared look, which troubled the watchers at her side, and made them tremble for her safety.

The knots of crepe were taken from the doors, and the blinds were opened at last, and the light of heaven lit up the dreary house; but there came no change to poor little Rose, whose white face grew so thin that Tom, when in September he came home to see her would scarcely have known the little sister, of whose beauty he had been so proud. As if the sight of him in his uniform had brought back the horror of the past, she uttered a piercing in her pillows; then, with a sudder movement lifted her bead, and shed ding back her tangled curls from her pale forehead, she stretched her arms toward him and whispered:

"Take me, Tom; hold me as you used to do; let me be a little girl again in the old home in Boston, for

And Tom took her in his strong brotherly arms, and laid her head against his breast, and caressed and oothed her tumbled hair, and petted and loved her just as he did when she was a little child, with no shadow around her like that which enfolded her now. And then he spoke of Will, and the dark eyes fastened eagerly upen his as he told her how the very night before the battle, Will knelt down with him and prayed that whether he lived or died, all might be well with him.

"And Rose," he continued, "he bade me tell you, in case he was killed, that all was well, as you must think of him as in heaven, not far, as some suppose, but near to you, with you, he said, and you must meet him there. You must bear bravely what God chooses to send; not give up like this when there is so much to be done. Will my darling little sister heed what poor said? Will she try to rally and be a brave woman?

"Yes, Tom, I'll try," came gaspingly from the white lips, and Rose's voice was broken with sobs, as the first tears she had shed since she heard the fatal news ran in torrents down her

Tom only staved a week, but them a world of good, and Annie felt she had never known one-half how noble a man he was until she saw how tender he was with Rose, and how kind to his mother, whose heart was aching to its very core for her youngest son. He had been removed from Salisbury to Andersonville when they last heard from him, and was dead, perhaps, by this time. Poor Jimmie! The year he had asked Tom to wait would be up before very long, but Tom would keep faith with him. Annie was sacred to Jimmie's memory, and once, when talking with her of the captive, he alluded to what would probably be when Jimmie came home again. And Annie did not turn from him now, as she would once have done had such a thing been suggested.

"God only knows how I might feel," she said, and by the look in her blue eyes, and the tone of her voice, Tom knew there was no hope for him.

With many kisses and loving words of sympathy, he bade his sister goodthen in the hall stood a moment while his mother whispered something to him which made him start and turn pale

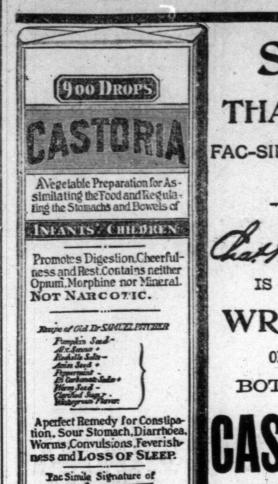
Then, as if the news had brought Rose nearer to him, and made her more the object of his special care, he went back to her a second time, and wound his arms about her lovingly, as he said, "Poor little wounded dove! God's promises are for the widow and fatherless have heard the fierce commotion around and He will care for you"; and Rose guessed to what he referred, but there was no answering joy upon her face, and her hands were pressed upon her heart as she watched him from the window, going from her just as Will bad gone, and whispered to herself. "It would have been too much happiness if Will had lived; but now I cannot be glad."

#### CHAPTER XXVI.

With a howl of despair Mrs. Baker name rushing into the kitchen of the Mather mansion one morning in November, startling Annie with her vehe mence, as she thrust into her hand s dirty, half-worn envelope, which she said was from Bill, who had been miseing since August, and who, it now appeared, was at Andersonville.

"Might better be dead," his mother soid, and then she explained that the letter she brought Annie had come in one to herself received that morning

#### To be Continued.



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