SYNOPSIS.

Mrs. Keziah Coffin, supposed widow, is arranging to move from Trumet to Boston, following the death of her brother, for whom she had kept house. Kyan Pepper, widower, offers marriage, and is indignantly refused. Capt. Elkanah Danlels, leader of the Regular church offers Keziah a place as housekeeper for the new minister, and she decides to remain in Trumet.

CHAPTER III.

In Which Keziah Assumes a Guardian-

ship. Grace left the parsonage soon after the supposed tramp disclosed his identity. Her farewells were hurried and she firmly refused Mrs. Coffin's not too-insistent appeal to return to the house "up street" and have supper. She said she was glad to meet Mr. Ellery. The young minister affirmed his delight in meeting her.

"It's been something of a day for me," he said. "I am ahead of time and I've made a lot of trouble, I'm eager to come and see my new home the morning train. Then the stage broke down and I began to think I was stranded at Bayport. But this pened to pull up to watch us wrestwhen he found I was in a hurry to get to Trumet, offered to give me a lift. His name was-was Bird. No. that wasn't it, but it was something like Bird, or some kind of a bird."

"Bird?" repeated Keziah thought-"There's no Birds that I know of in Wellmouth. Hum! Hey? 'Twa'n't Sparrow, was it?"

"That was it- Sparrow."

tongue, didn't he?" "Why, yes; he did wear a beard. As for tongue-well, he was conversa-

tional, if that's what you mean." "That's what I mean. If you rode twelve mile with Emulous, you must have had an earache for the last six. Did he ask a question your personal affairs, here and there hat and valise in his hand. between times?'

Mr. Ellery laughed. "Yes, one or two, between times." he admitted.

"I shan't die of surprise. Did you

tell him who you was?'

"No-o, to be honest, I didn't. He was so very anxious to find out, that -well, I dodged. I think he believed I was going to visit Captain Daniels. the door. Still, some one may have seen me come here."

"No, no, they didn't. This fog is as thick as Injun-meal puddin'. Nobody saw you."

"Well." with some hesitation, "the young lady who was here with you-" "Oh, Grace Van Horne! She's all right. She won't tell. She ain't that kind."

"Van Horne? That doesn't sound

like a New England name." "'Tisn't. Her folks come from Jersey somewheres. But she was adopted by old Cap'n Hammond, who keeps the tavern down on the bay shore by the packet wharf, and she's lived in Trumet since she was six years old. Her father was Teunis Van Horne. and he was mate on Cap'n Eben's coastin' schooner and was drowned off Hatteras. Eben was saved just by the skin of his teeth and got a broken hip and religion while it happened. His hip's better except that he's some lame; but his religion's been more and more feverish ever since. He's one of the head Come-Outers, and built their chapel with his own money. You mustn't think I'm speakin' lightly of religion, nor of Cap'n Eben, either. He's a dear good soul as ever was, but he is the narrowest kind of Come-Outer. His creed is just about as wide as the chapel door, and that's as narrow as the way leadin' to salvation; it is the way, too, so the Come-Outers think."

"What are Come-Outers? Some new sect?"

of Come-Outers? Cat's foot! Well, had the position. you'll hear of 'em often enough from now on. They're folks who used to left because the services was too the family's social position that they worldly, with organs and choir singin', and the road to paradise too easy. No need for me to tell you any more. You'll learn."

Mr. Ellery was interested. He had been in Trumet but once before, on the occasion when he preached his trial sermon, and of that memorable visit remembered little except the sermon itself, the pews filled with capinspiring personality of Captain El. name." kanah Daniels, who had been his host. To a young man, the ink upon his di- found time to coach her employer and ploma from the theological school still companion in Trumet ways, and parfresh, a trial sermon is a weighty matiticularly in the ways which Trumet most through clinched teeth, and had self as feeling the need of exercise returned to his room in the Boston He thought he should take a walk. boarding house with the conviction that it was an utter failure. Captain | ber station opposite him at the break-Elkanah and the gracious Miss Anna- fast table, "if I was you I wouldn't supposed to recognize these-er-

bel, his daughter, had been kind enough to express gratification, and think would happen? Mornin's are no Then, to his amazement, the spair. call had come. Of casual conversation at the church and about the Daniels' table he could recall nothing. So

was surprised. "Er-this Miss Van Horne?" asked, "Is she a-Come-Outer?"

Mrs. Coffin nodded. "Yes," she said, "She's one. Couldn't be anything else and live with her Uncle Eben, as she calls him." "Has Captain Hammond no children

of his own?" he asked. Keziah's answer was short for her.

'Yes," she said. "One." "Ah! another daughter?"

"No, a son. Name's Nathaniel, and he's a sea captain. He's on his way expect him to make port most any afraid. But yesterday afternoon I time, I believe. Now, Mr. Ellery, I even touched by the frost; she greetwas ready and, to tell the truth, I was s'pose we've got to arrange for your ed the pair cordially, and begged them supper and stayin' overnight; and to "take off their things." and get at my work. So I started on with this house the way 'tis and all. I don't see-

"I guess," ruminatively, "that the best thing for you to do will be to go kind-hearted chap from Wellmouth-I to Cap'n Elkanah's. They'll be real believe that's where he lived-hap glad to see you, I know, and you'll be in time for supper, for Elkanah and ling with the smashed wheel, and Annabel have been to Denbro and ain't half as bad as you might think they'll be late home. They can keep you overnight, too, for it's a big house with lots of rooms. Then, after breakfast to-morrow you come right here. I'll have things somewhere near shipshape by then, I guess, though the a promise until I can really get at it. and I'll have to take each other on Your trunk'll be here on the coach. "Good land! Emulous Sparrow in the afternoon. Get on your hat thing that I'm goin' wrong in, I wish Run considerable to whiskers and and coat and I'll go with you to El- you'd tell me. And I'll do the same

thrusting himself upon the hospitality they're very bad I give you my word of the Daniels' home, but Keziah as- they ain't true. And, to be real frank, sured him that his unexpected coming I'll probably hear some about you, would cause no trouble. So he en which I'll take for what they're worth tered the now dark study and came and considerin' who said 'em. That's out wearing his coat and carrying his a good, wholesome agreement, I think,

"I'm sure I'm ever so much obliged to you," he said. "And, as we are go that he thought well of it. He began not ask a single question as to where ing to be more or less together-or at least I guess as much from what blunt common sense, was likely to be

Keziah stopped short on her way to

"Well, I declare!" she exclaimed, "If you dropped in so ahead of time and in such a irregular sort of way, that I never once thought of introducin' anybody; and I'm sure Grace didn't. I'm Keziah Coffin, and Cap'n Elkanah and I signed articles, so to speak, this mornin', and I'm goin' to keep house for you.

She explained the reason for upset-



"There's Your Chart."

ting the former arrangement by "Sakes alive! Haven't you heard which Lurania Phelps was to have

At the Daniels' door Keziah turned | beled dangerous." her new charge over to Matilda Snow, in Trumet in those days, even among

the well to do. "Good night," said the young man. extending his hand. "Good night, Miss -or is it Mrs .- Coffin ?"

"Mrs. Good night." here to live. Guess he didn't amount tains and their familles, and the awe to much; she never mentions his

Keziah, in the midst of her labors

"Well," said his housekeeper from

take too long a one. You'd between be class distinctions? But you're not se back here by ten, anyhow. Where riously advising me to treat a rich

was you thinkin' of goin'?" Mr. Ellery had no particular destination in mind. He would like to see something of the village and, perhaps, few of his parishioners, he might why, there's your chart." make a few calls. Keziah shook her head.

"Gracious goodness!" she exclaimed. "I wouldn't advise you to do that, be back by supper time." You ain't been here long enough to make forenoon calls. If you should catch some of the women in this town with aprons and calico on, they'd never forgive you in this world. Wait till afternoon; they'll be expectin' you then and they'll be rigged out in their best bibs and tuckers. S'pose you found Annabel Daniels with her hair petite." done up in curl papers; what do you Mr. Langley never made calls in the forenoon-and he'd been here thirtyodd years."

"All right, you know best. Much tion in town and that made up of ply take my walk and leave the calls seceders from his own church. He until later."

> begin callin' on you by that time." opened the door to admit Miss Pepper

It was dinner time before the catechizers departed. The catechized came to the table with an impaired appetite. He looked troubled.

"Don't let it worry you, Mr. Ellery," observed Keziah calmly. "I think can satisfy you. Honest and true, I' The minister looked more troubled than before; also surprised.

"Why, Mrs. Coffin!" he cried. "Could you hear-

"Man alive! I'm not worried. Why should you be? We were talkin' about cleanin'il have to be mainly a lick and trust just now-or I was. Well, you trust for a while, until we see whether I s'pose, and that'll be through early we're goin' to suit. If you see anyby you, if that's agreeable. You'll hear The young man demurred a little at a lot of things said about me, but if

to realize that this woman, with her be had been.

his part. The first Sunday came and with it she criticised some of its details.

The service began at eleven o'clock. Outside the spring breeze stirred the budding silver-leafs, the distant breakers grumbled, the crows in the pines we know," observed Miss Annabel. near Captain Eben Hammond's tavern | "Mr. Langley, our former pastor, was cawed ribald answers to the screaming gulls perched along the top of the old-fashioned and his tastes were breakwater. And seated on one of queer, especially in art. Have you the hard benches of the little Come noticed that 'fruit piece' in the dining Outer chapel, Grace Van Horne heard room? Isn't it too ridiculous?" her "Uncle Eben," who, as usual, was conducting the meeting, speak of shows, are gathered elsewhere in this ings. community to hear a hired priest

cism meant everything to him; there a perfect delight." fore he preached for dear life.

The sermon was a success. On Monday afternoon the minister called it, "with the safe ports marked keeper?" and the shoals and risky places la-

"You see," she said, "Trumet ain't go to our church, the Regular, but the hired girl. It was an indication of a course you can navigate with your gled Annabel. "She was born here in eyes shut. We divide ourselves into kept "hired help." This was unusual about four sets-aristocrats, poor re- ford when she was young and grew up lations, town folks, and scum. The there. Her maiden name was Hall, aristocrats are the big bugs like Cap'n but while she was away she married Elkanah and the other well-off sea a man named Ansel Coffin. They captains affoat and ashore. They didn't live together very long and most all go to the Regular church weren't happy, I guess. I don't know and the parish committee is steered whose fault it was, nobody knows "She's a widow," explained Matilda by 'em. The poor relations are mainly much of anything about it, for that's "Husband died 'fore she come back widows and such, whose husbands the one thing she won't talk about. died or were lost at sea. Most of Anyhow, the Coffin man was lost at them are Regulars. The town folks sen, and after a while she came back are those that stay ashore and keep to keep house for her brother Solostore or run salt works or somethin'. mon. She's an awful odd stick, but And the scum work around on odd she's a good cook, I believe; though jobs or go fishin'. So, if you really I'm afraid you won't get the meals want to be safe, you must call on the people such as ourselves, who've been ter, and the preaching of it weightier expected its clergymen to travel. On aristocrats first, after that on the poor so much in the city, are used to." still. He had rehearsed it over and the morning following his first night relations, and so on down. You won't Ellery thought of the meals at his over in private, had delivered it al- in the parsonage, he expressed him- be bothered with scum much; they're city boarding house and shuddered mainly Come-Outers."

and looked it over.

"Hum!" he said musingly. "Am I kanah cleared his throat.

man differently from a poor one?"

"Not openly different-no. But if you want to steer a perfectly safe course, one that'll keep the deep water if she could give him the names of a under your keel the whole voyage,

Mr. Ellery promptly tore the "chart" into small pieces. "I'm going out," he said. "I shall

Mrs. Coffin eved him grimly

you?" she asked. "Yes, I am." Her grimness disappeared and she

smiled. you," she said. "Bring back a good ap-

As a matter of fact, the minister's calls were in the nature of a compro- branches of industry. Building and their praise alone saved him from de- time for ministers' calls. Even old mise, although an unintentional one. allied lines, for example, have been He dropped in on Zebedee Mayo, own- generally active, and the unusual er of the big house on the slope of the hill. Captain Zeb took him up into already large traffic of the railroads, what he called his "cupoler," the ob- whose gross earnings during four there was another religious organiza- obliged for the advice. Then I'll sim- servatory on the top of the house, and weeks of January incrased 13.9 per showed him Trumet spread out like a cent." Ellery decided that he should map. "I'd be back by ten, though. Folks'll like Captain Zeb, although it was evident that the old whaler had decided When, promptly at ten o'clock, the opinions of his own which he did not minister returned from his walk, he hesitate to express. He judged that found Mrs. Rogers waiting in the sit- the Mayos were of the so-called aristing room. It is a prime qualification tocracy, but undoubtedly unique speciof an alert reporter to be first on the mens. He visited four more house scene of sensation. Didama was sel- holds that afternoon. The last call dom beaten. Mr. Ellery's catechism was at Mrs. Thankful Payne's, and began. Before it was over Keziah while there, listening to the wonderful "poem," he saw Miss Van Horne pass and her brother. "Kyan" was nervous the window. He came home to a Cape and embarrassed in the housekeeper's Cod supper of scalloped clams, hot presence. Lavinia was a glacier, mov- biscuits, and baked Indian pudding,

from Surinam to New York now. They ing majestically and freezing as it and Keziah greeted him with a cheery moved. Keziah, however, was not smile which made him feel that it was

> Captain Elkanah Daniels and His Daughter Made Their First Formal

is summary disposal of the for both of us. What do you think?" "chart" had evidently raised him in 1/2c; No. 2 red, in export elevator, John Ellery said, with emphasis his housekeeper's estimation. She did \$1.021/2 @ 1.031/2.

Next day he had a taste of Truyou say-would you mind if I suggest a pilot worth having in the difficult met's real aristocracy, the genuine ara mutual introduction. I'm John El- waters which he must navigate as ticle. Captain Elkanah Daniels and lery; you know that already. And skipper of the Regular church in Tru- his daughter made their first formal met. Also, he began to realize that, cail. The captain was majestic in as such a skipper, he was most in high hat, fur-collared cape, tailed coat, experienced. And Captain Daniels and carrying a gold-headed cane. Miss had spoken highly-condescendingly Annabel wore her newest gown and that ain't the very worst! Fact is, but highly-of his housekeeper's quali- bonnet and rustled as she walked. fications and personality. So the They entered the sitting room and the agreement was ratified, with relief on lady glanced superciliously about the apartment,

"Hum-ha!" barked Captain Elkathe first sermon. He read that sermon nah, "Ahem! Mr. Ellery, I trust to Keziah on Saturday evening and you're being made comfortable. The ard white, 38@3814; No. 3 white, 37@ she approved of it as a whole, though parish committee are-bum-abanxious that you should be. Yes?" The minister said that he was very

comfortable indeed. "It isn't what you've been used to, 55@65. a sweet old gentleman, but he was

Then she changed the subject to church and parish affairs. They spoke them who, in purple and fine lines, of the sewing circle and the reading with organs and trumpets and vain society and the Friday-evening meet-

"The Come-Outers are so vexed with make a mock of the gospel!" (A-men!) us," tittered Miss Annabel, "that they But John Ellery, the "hired priest," won't even hold prayer meetings on knew nothing of this. He did know, the same night as ours. They have However, that he was the center of theirs on Thursday nights and it's interest for his own congregation, the as good as a play to hear them shout people among whom he had been and sing and carry on. You'll enjoy Western middlings, \$24@24.50; city called to labor. Their praise or criti- the Come-Outers, Mr. Ellery. They're

> And as they rose to go Captain Elkanah asked:

"Is there anything you'd like done made a few cails. Kezlah made out about the parsonage, Mr. Ellery? If a short list for him to follow, a "sort so, it shall be done immejitly. How of chart of the main channel," she are you satisfied with your house-

"Very well, indeed, Captain Dan-

iels," was the prompt reply. "She's a character, isn't she?" gig-Trumet, but went away to New Bed-

He was an orphan and had boarded Ellery took the list from her hand for years. Incidentally, he had worked his way through college. Captain El-

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

COMMERCIAL

Weekly Review of Trade and Market Reports.

Dun's Review says:

"No important change has taken place in the business situation during "Goin' to run it blindfolded, are the past week. The leading industries and trades are still prosperous, and the undercurrent of conservatism that exists in some quarters has not retarded to any measurable extent the steady "I'll have your supper ready for broadening of industrial and mercantile activity. The open winter, while somewhat unfavorable to retail trade, has afforded a stimulus to various weather has added materially to the

Bradstreets' says: "Trade is expanding, visiting buyers are increasing their purchases as the season progresses and in consequence February opens auspiciously. Spring shipments are going forward in volume, retail dealers continue to press jobbers for goods, colder weather has imparted zest to final distribution, industrial operations are as active as heretofore, winter wheat is in good shape, money is in active demand, and, save in a few lines, merchants display no particular apprehension over prospective tariff changes."

Wholesale Markets

NEW YORK. - Wheat - Spot irregular; No. 2 red, \$1.081/2 elevator and \$1.10 f o b affoat nominal; No. 1 Northern Duluth, \$1.011/2 f o b afloat. Corn-Spot firm; export, 58c f o b, afloat.

Butter - Creamery, extras, 37@ 3714; thirds, 27@29; seconds, 30@32; held seconds 281/2@30; thirds, 27@ 28: packing stock held, 20@211/2. Cheese-State, whole milk, held white, average fancy, 16 1/2 @17; State, whole milk, winter, average run,

Eggs-Refrigerator firsts, 20; seconds, 18@191/2; State, Pennsylvania and nearby selected whites, defective in size or color 25@29. Live Poultry-Western Chickens,

15: fowls, 161/2; turkeys, 19. Dressed -Firm; fresh-killed Western chickens. 12@20: fowls, 13@17: turkeys, 14@24.

PHILADELPHIA-Wheat advanced

Dressed Poultry-Scarce, firmer; roasting chickens, choice, 18@20. Potatoes—Dull weaker; Pennsylvania, choice, per bushel, 70@72; New York, do, 60@63; New York, fair to good, per bushel, 55@58; Jersey prime. good, per bushel, 55@58; Jersey prime, per basket, 35@45.

BALTIMORE.-Wheat-Final prices were: Spot and February, \$1.071/4; March, \$1.08%. Corn-Spot and February, 55% @

56: March, 56. Settling price for contract, new, 55.

Oats-No. 2 white, 39@39%; stand-3714; No. 4 white, 35. Rye-No. 2 rye, Western, domestic,

70@72: do. No. 3, 63@64; do. No. 4, 60@61; bag lots nearby as to quality,

Hay - No. 1 timothy, \$18.50@19; standard timothy, \$17.50@18; No. 2 timothy, \$17@17.50; No. 3 timothy, \$14 @16; light clover, mixed, \$16@16.50; No. 1 clover, mixed, \$15@15.50; No. 2 clover, mixed, \$12.50@13.50; heavy mixed, \$13.50@14.50; No. 1 clover. clover, \$13@13.50; No. 2 elover, \$11@ 12.50: no grade, \$8@12: sample grade, \$8@11.

Straw-No. 1 straight rye, \$17.50@ 18; do, No. 2, \$16.50@17; No. 1 tangled rye, \$12.50@13; do, No. 2, \$11@12; No. 1 wheat \$8@9; do. No. 2, \$8@8.50; No. 1 oat, \$9@10; do, No. 2, \$8@8.50.

Mill Feed-Spring bran, \$23.50@24; flour to white middlings, \$26@28; mills' middlings, \$24@24.50; city mills, bran, \$24.50@25; city mills, white middlings, \$30@31.

Butter-Creamery, fancy, per pound, 36@361/2; do, choice, per pound, 34@ 35; do, good, per pound, \$32@33; do, prints, per pound, 36@38; do, blocks, per pound 35@37; ladles, per pound, 22@24; Maryland and Pennsylvania rolls, per pound, 20@22; Ohio rolls, per pound, 19@21; West Virginia rolls, per pound, 19@21; storepacked, per pound, 18@19; Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania dairy prints, per pound, 19@21; process buffer, per pound, 25 @27.

Eggs-Nearby firsts loss off, par dozen, 24: Western firsts, loss off, per dozen, 24; West Virginia firsts, loss off, per dozen, 23@24; Southern firsts, loss off, per dozen, 22@23.

Live Poultry-Chickens, old hens, per pound, 16; old roosters 10; young. 18@19, do, rough and staggy, 16@ 17. Ducks, White Pekins, 18; Muscovy, 16@17; puddle, 16@17. Geese, nearby, 14@/15; Western and Southern 11@12; Kent Island, 16@17. Turkeys. choice hens, 23; young gobbiers, 21 old, 18@19; rough and poor, 10@12 Pigeons, young, per pair, 25; old, per pair, 24. Guinea fowl, old, each, 25; young, 11/2 pounds and over, 50; do,

smaller, 30. Dressed Poultry-Turkeys, choice per pound, 23@24; fair to good, per pound, 21@22; old, per pound, 20 ATTORNETS.

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