ELIHU.

All her life long Sara Holmes had had a romance. It began and ended with these words: "When Elihu comes home." And though she was but nineteen years old at the time of which I write, it seems to her on the evening of that burning July day, as she sat there in her bed-room and looked out upon the moonlit fields, that she had been living one or two centuries in this world at the very least, and all the time dreaming golden dreams of Elihu, only to find them shivered into atoms at the last.

For Elihu had come. And the time and the manner of his coming were so unlooked for and so unexpected to her, as well as to everyone alse, that it was no wonder the girl sat there in the moonlight, saying to herself: "He is here, I need never watch or wait for him again. In the next chamber to mine he is sleepingthat is, if he can sleep. Poor Elihu!"

The earliest stories she could remember had been told to her by her mother about "Cousin Elihu," and the enormous fortune that he had made "down South," at a time when fortanes could yet be made in that unhappy land. She had heard fabulous tales of the place in which he lived, of the negro slaves who flew to do his biddings, of the beautiful carriages and horses that bore him from place to place, and of the jewels, the silks, satins and velvets that fortunate woman would possess who would one day become Elihu's bride.

Other girls had heard these stories also, and the belle of the school at Holemsdale often said when she was 16 she would "go traveling," and find her way "down South." and "set her cap" at Elihu Holmes. That the result would follow for which she looked, no girl among them all doubted, for even "the master's stern face softened and smiled upon Rosanna Meadows, when she shook back her golden curls, and lifted her large blue eyes, with a blush, to his.

Poor Rosanna! Serah leaned her cheek on her hand, and looked over the hill-top toward the village gravevard, where the village beauty was lying, with her blue eyes close, her galden ringlets smoothed back from her white brow, and her hands clasped in an unearthly quiet on her breast. Elihu had never known how her girlish fancy went out to-And now Elihu had come

As Sara Holmes grew up and developed from the tall, angular girl into the queenly and self possessed young woman, the thought would sometimes occur to her, as she stood before the mirror braiding her dark bair, "If he should come back, would he think me pretty, now that Rosasna is gone?" The broad, low brow the oval cheeks and dimpled chin answered her; the healthful color, the deep, dark eyes, the sudden, bright, bewildering smile, said "Yes." For hers was now a higher beauty than Rosanna's pink and white loveliness had ever been, and the treasures of hx mind and heart might well have won an older and wiser man to love her long before Elihu came home.

And now she drew a lang breath. and set herself to recall all the incidents of sudden and startling return.

Tea was over, the milk was strained, and they were all sitting on the front piazza, under the shade of the maple and the locusts, while her father red bits from the weekly village paper aloud. Her stepmother was knitting; her sister Grace was lining a hat, and her brother Ben was whittling out a toy boat from a bit of wood while she, Sara, sat beside him and held his tools as he needed them, and lost herself in a reverie about her hero in the South.

A carriage drove up the valley read and halted at their gate. The driver decended from his seat and beckoned to her father, who hurried down to the gate to meet him. After talking for some time together a small trunk was lifted down and left beside ed, with his own money and given a the gate. Then the carriage door was opened and a tall figure descended followed the father in a fit of boyish curiosity, galloped back with distended nervously, seeing his second wife's the world, I prayed that you might but they are evidently ignorant of the eyes, whispering loudly :

come! And he has lost every cent to dread. of his property down South! I heard the driver tell father so! And they denunciations; though Sara thought with any one else in a palace; for you living .- Paper World.

have sent him off up here alone, be- privately that it would have been need me, Elihu, and I-I have cause they thought he was going to more delicate bal she kept silence, thought and dreamed of you, and, I be sick; and there he is, you see, since, as the daughter of Mrs. Holmes really believe, loved you from the leaning on father and the driver, and by a former marriage, she could not he can't but just walk. Isn't it a be supposed to have any great interblamed shame of those Southerners!"

"Mercy!" exclaimed Ben's step- disposition of the homestead. mother, rising, as they all rose, when the tall, slender figure approached.

Sarah looked up, with her heart in her eyes, to greet her hero-no less a

looking man, with a fair complexion, large melancholy blue eyes, a long, straight nose, drooping eyebrows, eyelids and lips, and a firmly rounded chin, that somewhat counteracted that a mean and paltry spirit could of the rest of the face. His hair was turning gray, and the heavy, golden brown mustach had one or two threads of silver, but with that exception, he wore no look of age.

Elihu was well but plainly dressed in a traveling suit of gray. He moved his hat as he drew near the ladies, with a courteous grace; but he looked in vain for the warm welcome wistfully now and then, as if wonderfrom the second Mrs. Holmes and ing when he would be gone. daughter Grace, that he would have

though civilly; and Grace, angry with him, and with herself for the sudden collapsing of sundry ambitious hopes which she had never confied to any one except her mother, swept him her latest dancing school cortesy, and affected not to see the hand that he held out.

Elihu colored slightly and turned fixed with a gaze of tender pity upon his refined and melancholy face.

"You have a face that I ought to know," he said to her, gently. "You are your mother's child, dear Sarah! I hoped she would be here to meet me when I came home at last!"

Sara's heart was already fuil, and this reference to her dead mother caused her tears to overflow.

"Dear cousin Elihu," said she, taking his hand in both hers, "my mother remembered and loved you to the last day of her life. She would have been glad indeed to see you here once more. I am glad, too.

All my life long I have looked for-

ward to your coming." "But you did not expect to see me return so poor," said Elihu, sighing. "Poor or rich, it matters little," replied Sarah, fervently. "You are here, at home once more, and that is enough to make us all rejoice."

"Aye," said Elihu, looking from her beaming countenance to the cold faces of the rest. "I should have been glad to bring gold enough to make me welcome. But what has happened, has happened, and I do not wish to com plain, Cousin Joshua, for my cousin's sake, and for the sake of the old times when you and I were boys together. I suppose you will let me stay at the old homestead for a few days.

"Eh?" Oh! To be sure! Stay and welcome, cousin Elihu," stammered the farmer, who feeling the eyes of his wife and daughterSara fixed upon him, was like a man between two

So it was settled, and Sara flew about like a good fairy to prepare supper for the wanderer and afterward to set in order his room and bed. At 9 o'clock he retired, and then the storm burst fourth.

The second Mrs. Holmes inquired shrilly if their house was to be turned into a poor farm," and make the abiding-place of every shiftless creature who had wasted his substance in riotous living among those negroes"only to come at the last, without a penny in his pocket, to be supported by those who had the misfortune to be related to him in a very distant

Mr. Holmes said meekly that it wasn't likely Elihu would want to stay long and that he had once redeemed the farm, which was heavily mortgagdeed of the place to his first wife, he didn't very well see how he could re, the farm-gate, from the moment when into necessaries through daily use. and directly after, Ben, who had fuse him a shelter there if he claimed I knew that your fortune was gone, it. For a time at least," he added, and that you were ill and alone in res, whispering loudly:

black eyebrows knitting themselves love me. I don't care where our tendency of the times. In nearly mother—girls! Cousin Elihu has together in a way that he had learned home is, or what it is, so that we every industry besides paper manu-

est, pecuniary or otherwise, in the

As for Bon, like most boys of thirteen, he was on the side of right against might, and he did not scruple to say that for his part, he hoped hero to her for the pitiful history of Cousin Elihu would stay there forloss and ruin that she had just heard. ever, and that he was sure, if he had She saw a tall, upright, elegant- redeemed the farm, that he had a perfest right to do so. His sister Sarah could have kissed him for the answer, but she kept silence.

The days went on. By every art and contradicted the listless sadness invent, Mrs. Holmes the second showed plainly to Elihu how unwelcome he was beneath her rooftree. As for Grace, she simply ignored him. As for Mr. Holmes, though he would have been both greatful and kind, he was so tamed and worried by nightly curtain lectures, hours long, that he Elihu! Your mother loved him deardared not show the ruined man any attention, and only looked at him

Elihu's plate, knife and fork were received from his own cousin had she placed upon the table at every meal, it is true. He fared as the rest fared. Mrs. Holmes bowed to him coldly, and his room and bed were the best first-class hotel, and breakfasted in a in the house.

But this was Sara's doing. To her and to Ben he owed each moment of happiness that he enjoyed in the old house. The sister and her young brother were always glad to be with him, but the other inmates of the house looked over and around him, and even when he ate of their bread to Sarah, whose large dark eyes were and drank of their cup, seemed as if case watch. they knew him not.

Sara's proud spirit blazed up for his sake at a thousand petty insults and affronts each day. She wondered privately to herself, and aloud to Ben how Cousin Elihu, with the memory of his past wealth and grandeur fresh in his mind, could endure it. Nor was she surprised when, one pleasant evening, just four weeks after his arrival, Elihu told her that he must go

"I cannot blame you. They have treated you shamefully!" she said. while her heart sank down, down in her breast, like a stone sinking into the depths of the lake on whose bank they sat. "But where will you go, cousin Elihu? What will you do? you were ill when you came here, and, thanks to their unkindness, you are not well and strong enough yet to care for yourself. Oh, it is a shame, a shame!" she broke out again. "And if you had come rich, as they expected, every one of them would have been at your feet !"

Cousin Elihu smiled the smile that always brightened his melancholy face, till, in her eyes, it was the noblest, handsomest face on earth.

"Never mind them, Sara," said he; "you and Ben have been so good to me that I have scarcely noticed the rest. So good that __"

He paused and looked at her. "Sara, when I am gone, shall you

miss me?" The tears rose to her eyes-

"Oh, how can you ask? You know Elihu, that when you go I shall be miserable. I shall think of you among strangers, poor, perhaps ill, perhaps dying-'

She hid her face in her hands and sobbed aloud.

Elihu waited till her grief had exhausted itself, and then took her

"What you say is all very true, Sara. I am not fit to go out into the Taking the wages of fourteen workworld alone. Will you go with me? You have a good home here, I konw, but if I have you to work for I will soon give you a better one. And bybe my wife, Sara?"

emn fervor of a woman's love and devotion shining in her eyes.

let me care for you, I shall be the happiest creature on earth. From the moment when I saw you come in at that were once luxuries have grown share it together. I can be happier Grace upheld her mother in all her with you in a log-but than I could be ing people have become more worth

days when my mother first told me about you, when I was a baby at her knee,"

So they were betrothed, and after a brief storm at the farm-house, when her decision was first made known. Sara followed the fortunes of her lover to a distant city, where they were

Ben went with her as her protector and " best man." Her father kissed her and cried over her, as he bade her farewell, and put a pocketbook containing five hundred dollars into her hand as a wedding portion.

"I can't go with you to give you TOBACCOS,-All the new and desirable brands, away, my dear, and I can't let you be married here," said the poor man, "for I shall never hear the last of it, if I do; and I'm getting old now, and I want peace and quiet in my own house. But God bless you, Sara, and your husband that is to be. Poor ly, and I don't know a fault he has in the world, except that he is poor."

So strengthened by her father's approval and blessing, Sara approached the altar to consecrate her life to the hero of her dreams!

The ceremony over, they drove to a style that made Sara tremble for the future. and after breakfast Elihu laid a package before her, and a casket by the side of her plate.

"My first present to my wife," said he. "As for you Ben-"

A cry of delight form Ben made his sister turn around to look at him. The boy was glorying in gold hunting-

"Open your casket, love," said her husband, smiling.

She obeyed, and a river of delight seemed suddenly to flash upon her from the diamonds within. At the same moment her husband broke the seal of the package, and showed her a bank book inscribed with her name.

"Ten thousand dollars are deposited there, subject to your order," said Elihu, carelessly.

"Ten thousand dollars! and the watch! and the diamonds!" grasped Sara, turning pale. "What can it all CORN.-Serd Corn from Gen. Beaver's farm as other varieties of Seed Corn.

"I know," broke in Ben, with a joy. ous laugh. "Cousin Elihu has only been pretending to be poor all this time! Nicely sold all those people at the farm will be."

Sara turned to her husband. smiled and drew her closely to his breast. From that happy day not a wish of hers or Ben's has been upgratified. And all the romance of her life begun instead of ending (as she for a time supposed) "when Elihu came home."

Economy in Production. How great an economy can be de-

rived from other things than labor appears when we notice the relations of wages to total cost and of material to total cost. In Mr. Platner's estimate of the cost of paper in 1863 wages, cost of superintendence and management, and repairs are only 17 per cent. of the total cost of making the paper, while the cost of the materials that are directly used in the paperrags, sizing, etc., — is 641 per cent. of the total cost. The census of 1880 shows nearly the same percentage-17 per cent. for wages alone and 63 per cent. for materials. As an element in the cost of production, materials are four times more burdensome to the manufacturer than wages. If a manufacturer "can't compete," let him look to his materials, and not to his labor, for remedy. The increase in the rate of wages has been very marked in the thirty-three years from 1847 to 1880. men in 1847, we find that the aggregate is \$11.40 for a day. The same men, doing the same kind of work in 1880, earned \$23.58, an increase of 107 per cent. The highest mark was and-by Ben can come to us, and we reached in 1873, when fifteen certain will make a man of him. Will you workmen earned \$34.97, against \$11. 90 in 1847, an increase of 200 per cent. The statistics are profuse in She looked at him with all the sol- this country and in England, showing that the rate of wages is on the increase in the long run. Besides this, the comforts of the working classes "If you will take me, Elihu, and are gaining, they have more and better food, better houses, new convenience and more fuel, warmer clothing, and more luxuries, while those things Loud-mouthed fanatics are not wanting who talk in the gloomiest way about the condition of working people facture, if not every one, wages have increased, and the lives of the work-

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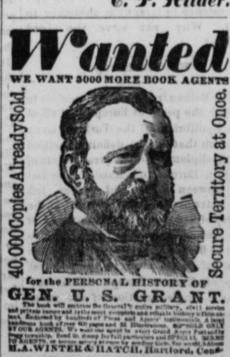
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