













THE IRON PORT.

ESCANABA, MICHIGAN.

HER VALENTINE.

Behind the curtain in the window's bay. There were the byacinths upon the sill.

A VALENTINE DONE IT.

"I hadn't never bughter been a lone woman; I wurn't cut out for one," remarked Miss Parminter.

"O, what is life without a heart? To be all our own for a part?"

"Now, Jane, the lace papers is all muddled up. Sure I live it's Mr. Eugene Brackett!"

"What's new in valentines?" asked the young gentleman presently, lounging toward Jane.

"Nothin' much," she answered, with a poor attempt at being unembarrassed.

"We thought you might have dropped in with some message from your father, about rent or suchin'."

"Nothin' much," she answered, with a poor attempt at being unembarrassed.

"How good you are!" exclaimed the dressmaker, looking up into his face with her large eyes.

her industry, thrift and a romantic longing for something more genial and more lovely than life had yet shown.

Brackets bent low over her slight, sleeping form, saw the grateful tears on her cheeks, pressed for an instant the thin fingers, pricked and hardened by the needle, then whispered softly:

"I'm sorry," she began to cry softly; "very sorry; but think of him beside Eugene!"

"I do, and he's a heap sight more manly-lookin'!" she said.

"I guess not," said Josiah, contemptuously, and loud enough for Jane to hear.

"Nothin' much, Fust off I thought it was some message from the old man about collectin' rent."

"How much?" asked Jane. "At least five hundred dollars."

"You suppose the old cat will give it back, do you?" repeated the lady so pleasantly designated.

"All right," answered Josiah, bowing to a superior judgment, yet looking puzzled; "but stockin' is very useful, and we all have to have 'em."

Eugene—I mean Mr. Brackett—will take care of it." "Eugene! Air you going to marry him?"

"Yes, that is, if—no, O Miss Parminter!"—and she looked a most pretty and girlish as she kneeled down and hid her face against the angular but sympathetic shoulder.

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buyin' till the last minute. Come, now, what do you want of me, Jane?"

"You don't say?" responded Miss Parminter, with her own dignified and scathing sarcasm.

"I do, and he's a heap sight more manly-lookin'!" she said.

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FOR YOUNG READERS.

"LITTLE COMFORT." I know a little girlie with her eyes so blue. And her hair so black and true.

RUE'S MISSIONARY EFFORT.

The long line of blue cheek aprons followed the other long line of small blue jackets through the wide hall.

Eugene stood silent and very white for a moment; then Jane rushed to him, threw her arms about his neck, and cried: "I don't believe it, I don't believe my poor Eugene."

"I know it," answered Jane—"I know it." "Well, as you're quite safe now, we'll talk about that money."

"Why didn't he begin with that? and then I'd have listened!" she thought, rather resentfully.

"I don't care so much about it for?" "How will he get those Bibles to the heathen?"

"I don't know. Why, yes, he'll send 'em through the post-office, of course. What do you care so much about it for?"

"That was what Rue did not mean to tell. She chose her prettiest Bible, spent the play-hours of two days in writing an epistle on the fly-leaves, and tied it up in a piece of brown paper."

"How do you do when you put anything into the post-office?" she demanded of Mrs. Jane Sullivan.

In the door, and there's an open place where you drop 'em right down," exclaimed Mary Jane, loudly.

"What is it?" asked his wife, presently, as she saw him silent and absorbed; and looking over his shoulder, she read the little letter with him.

"I haven't any money to give, 'cause I'm one of the little girls at the home. Some of them have relations to send them things sometimes, but I haven't. I have two Bibles; but I woidn't 'give 'em to any one but the heathen; 'cause my own mamma give 'em to me. If I give 'em to a heathen to eddify 'em up, I'll leave 'em to your own self, and I'll let you put 'em in a row all over you up to bed at night, and not have to be put in a row all the time."

"Poor little thing!" exclaimed the lady, half laughing, but with a sudden moisture in her brown eyes.

"I'm inclined to believe that letter was properly directed and has reached its rightful destination," he said, thoughtfully.

"Well?" questioned Mrs. Grey, with shining eyes, waiting for the conclusion of the matter.

"I guess," replied Rue, looking down at her dusty, ruffled attire and suddenly flinging her arms around Mrs. Grey's neck.

"But she has not learned yet that it was her own missionary effort that brought so great reward."

Mystery of Missing Men. One of the best men I ever knew here—a man of sixty-five years, who loved his home and family dearly, and who had no reason for eccentricity—

