



ILLUSTRATED BY W. C. TANNER

PRUDENCE OF THE PARSONAGE by ETHEL HUESTON

CHAPTER I. Introducing Her.

None but the residents consider Mount Mark, Iowa, much of a town, and the very most patriotic of them all has no word of praise for the ugly little red C. B. & Q. railway station.



"Run, Father, Run!" of this conversation. He was not a handsome man. His hair was gray at the temples, his face was earnest, only saved from severity by the little clusters of lines at his eyes and mouth which proclaimed that he laughed often and with relish.

Father did run, but Prudence, fleet-footed, outdistanced him and clambered on board, panting. When she rejoined her father her face was flushed. "Oh, father," she said quite snappily, "isn't that just like me?"

But—well, when I found this grand, old, rambling barn, I was so thankful I couldn't resist praying about it. "But a barn!" ejaculated the perplexed "member." "Do you call that a blessing?"



In the Barn of All Places.

clothes, and lingered, in silent questioning, on Prudence's dress. It was a very peculiar color. In fact, it was no color at all—no named color. Prudence's eyes had followed Mrs. Adams' glance, and she spoke frankly.

"They are coming!" they trooped to Miss Alice's window with a speed that would have done credit to the parsonage girls themselves.

amazed, and quite proud. Connie was an honor to the parsonage—but they were concerned lest they themselves should not do quite so well when their days came.

CHAPTER II. The Rest of the Family.

It was Saturday morning when the four young parsonage girls arrived in Mount Mark. The elderly Misses Avery, next door, looked out of their windows, pending their appearance on Main street, with interest and concern.

But without wasting much time on this gruesome thought, they hurried to a window commanding the best view of the parsonage, and raised it.

"Do you like sweet corn, Mr. Morgan?" This was entirely out of the line of their conversation, and for a moment he faltered. "Sweet corn?" he repeated.