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The Indian's Gift.

Years ago when few white men had ventured into that wild region that has since become the Middle States, a New Englander, Jebual Marlowe, a little bolder than his neighbors, decided to find a home in that unknown region, and so he set out one spring with his face set towards the West. No word was heard from him until the following autumn, when he returned to the little settlement with the news that he had purchased a stretch of land from the Indians for almost nothing, and had built a small but comfortable sod cabin. He reported no trouble with the Indians, saying he had found them as a rule very friendly and ready to give him assistance.

So when the winter snows had melted from the New England hills and the weather was beginning to moderate a little, Jebual Marlowe removed with his wife, Martha, and Ida, their baby girl, from his old home in the little log cabin to the new sod house on the open prairies of Nebraska.

There were many hardships to be endured, of course, but a New England woman was not apt to shrink from them.

There was hard work to be done, for often during the summer, Jebual was unable to get necessary help from the Indians, and Martha was called upon for some of the lighter work in the fields in addition to her housework and the care of the baby. But she was young and strong and did not mind that.

The summer passed quickly and harvest came all too soon, for it caught part of the crop not yet ready to gather. They had reached their home late in the spring and consequently had been late getting the crop in. Still they thought that by economy they would have sufficient for their needs until spring.

But that winter was unusually hard and long. Day after day the snow fell and the winds blew until the little sod cabin was almost buried. The Marlowes did not suffer from the cold, but they began to fear lest their food would not last. They could not possibly get help from the Indians, as they were imprisoned by the snow, and even had they been able to communicate with the Indians still, though they did not themselves know it, they would have been unable to obtain aid from these savages because their former friendship