ONE OF THE NORTH MEN. [katharine melick.] For The Courier. IV.

It is said tbat Merry Eagland, the England of Arden and of Robin Hood and gay Queen Bees, never came back again, after the men of eropped heads and straight collars had followed Oliver Cromwell through her palacesand court yards. And certain it is that in our frontier poets and river statione, on the march between our two ocemne, thoee places where the circuit rider paseed, retained their toweh. Fierce and vehement, it might be, as the railinge of Elijah, tender and paesionate often as the heurt tooes of the Prophet of Love, alwaye with a mastery and an authority not oftion heard today, voices in our
dernees proclaimed their meseage.
What of these pioneers, of our social republics, the fathers of our religious democracy, the ehepherde of the souls of our patriarchal period? We know what they did, for their porks remain, a solid bulwark for the American Dreyfue and Stambuloff, a safeguard in the shelter of which the protected outcast becomes the privileged outlav--0 bountiful is the great brotherhood, 80 strong the kingdom of conncience founded by our grim forbears. A line of ofituary record, a note in the conference minutes of some more or less obscure denomination, a song that rises to the lipe and eyes when troubled times darken over,-these are the chronicles. What of the men?
The North Man who rode along the river in Hlinois and Wisconsin and Michigan, sixty yeara ago, and lived in hie own deepite, and in the deapite of Elisa Ann, hie wife, was eseentially a frontier preacher. When the aettlement grew cloeer, when the roade were $l_{\text {aid out, }}$ and the amoke of forest fires


#### Abstract

began to sweep away to the porth, James She recalled the names in the stories of Matthineon put together his Napoleon her aunt Margaret, and by and by she and his Bible, and Eliza Ann packed found the two members of a couplet


 paraphernalia. The twins, with Charles, nerves and filled her with contentparaphernalia. The twins, with Charles, solvee.
were the names; the first was Adeli
A great tide was setting toward a little twin that had been left to wail out farther river, and in one of the white its tirst faint cry; the first was a prettier bonneted wagons, like Rebeces among name to Eliza, and she felt a sense of her father Laban's goods, sat Elizs Ann reparation satiefied in the adjustment. Wha Adah and Zellah and Charies and But it needed a etifi Scotch person of John and James. James, senior, walked the last half century to rediecover the usually beside the caravan, with the implied arrogance which the Norman wind catching his grizzled temple locks bride asserted in her double name. and the round fringe of his beard. He Double names were superfluous in the had never enjoyed mount or gig of any eyes of the Reverend James Matthiseon. deecription since his last ride with Noah and Abraham had none. Neither Cromwell II., in Canada Weet. He did Miriam nor Judith nor Joel have walked by day, and was satisfied to let need for furbelows of nomenclature. another ride at night around the circle The Book was filled with names good of the camp. It was meet that others and holy. No Matthiason needed more. watch the slumbers of the Lord's An- And even the example of Eve and ointed. Moreover, he was made to feel many more Scriptural mothars were uneven more patriarchal before the pil- availing for Eliza. "Wivee, be obedigrimage ended by becoming the father ent to your husbands," ended the Bibof Dorcas, also.
Not that Eliza Ann was fond of Bib- few tears of weaknees and disappointlical appellations, or the seraglioe and ment, and felt her heart turn from concubines of Old Testament history. Adah and Zellah.
Eliza Ann was performing her duty an it was pointed out to her by Geneeis and by the Reverend Meanwhile the white tope of the movher children eeldom saw her smile, they and the eyes, weary of long rolling never heard her scold. The one differ- curves, saw the lines of prairie huddle ence she had, in the course of her life into whiter bluffs, and they knew that time, with James, senior, had been out of the muddy river lay before. the memory of her children. It concerned the naming of the twins.
When it was clear that both her firstborn should live, a graat pesce of first arhood ertered Fizs peace of woththe placid, painless moments that came -only after hours of pain, to the life of Eliza Matthiason-she threaded namee Logether-names of her stately Canadian Irish phint, and fine old Irish courteey.
drivieg, would atop by and by and climb out to looeen the bridles and let the horses drink. Then he would stoop down, drink long and deep, and hand in some floter heeds, along with the dipper of water "for mother."
This time she did not answer quickly to the chorus, "Do you know these kind, mother?"
She drank the water, with two tears in it, and long after the answer which they choked had become a twin lullaby for Charlea and James, she lay with cloeed eyes under the hot canvas folds, seeing the two beds of sweet williams in the old Canadian door yard. She aaw the oxen come up to the gate, with a great load of long, straight, resinous, fragrant tranks. The yoke creaked as the load halted, and the driver came around to the kitchen door to ask:
"Where's that turn-over, 'Liza Ann?" watching "'Liza Ann" more than the turn-over while he ate.
Patey Kane had slipped suddenly out ot Eliza Ann's life, on the day of Janet Matthiason's funeral, and his face returned now as part of a dim phantom of the dusty plain,-a mirage of cavernous forest and cool, dim snowe, set in Canadian winter air. The vision floated along in the dusty bows of the moving wagon, as it slid lower and lower and lower along the edge of the Miseouri. To the man who walked beside the wagon, the voice of his misainn was as atrong and unequivocal as when first he heard it from the lips of his dying mother. While the lips of his dying mother. While there were frontiers to
pace and perilous ways to tread, he felt his spirit thrill with the glow of battle. To the woman within, the helpmate of his perils but not of his conquests, the face of the west was vast and menacing, and her sole comfort the vision of the old home of the past.

B etter not be at all than not be noble

