

and something to eat, and please do it quick, for we are cold and hungry.

"Nobody knows I am writing to you. I thought you might send us something for a surprise. HANS BRAHM.

"P.S.—My hands are so cold I can't write very well."

Katrina's eyes filled with tears as she came to the end. She sat for some time with the letter in her hand; as she folded it, she resolved to do something to make the little boy happy. She said: "Whatever his parents may be, this child-faith must not be destroyed." That evening, after dinner, she told several of her friends about the matter, and they were eager to help her to make up a box.

It was ready in a few days. There were some flannels for the mother and little Hans, comfortable clothes for the father, and toys enough to make the boy believe that the Christ-child did not live in Germany only. At the very top lay a crisp ten-dollar bill. As soon as the box left the house, Katrina wrote a letter to Hans. She told him that his letter had been received, and that Jesus had sent one of His servants on earth to help him, and that a nice box was on its way out West.

Not long after there came a letter of warm thanks from the father. He explained how they had been in the country but a few months, and had not yet found work.

As the weeks went by, another and another letter came, telling of fairer prospects and brighter days. One thing they assured Katrina—"that they could never forget her kind letter and generous help in their time of saddest need."

WINNING A GOOD NAME.

"Charlie Leslie," called out a farmer to a boy who was passing, "we are short of hands to-day. Couldn't you give us a turn at these pears? They must be off to market by tomorrow morning. If you will help me this afternoon, I'll pay you well."

"Not I," said Charley; "I'm off on a fishing excursion. Can't leave my business to attend to other people's;" and with a laugh he walked on.

"That's what boys are good for now-a-days," growled the farmer. "These pears might rot on the trees for all the help I could get from them. Time was when neighbours, men and boys both, were obliging to each other, and would help in a pinch, and take no pay but 'thank ye.' Lads now-a-days are above work, if they haven't a whole jacket to their backs."

"Could I help you, Mr. Watson," said a pleasant voice, as Fred Stacey appeared around the clump of lilac-bushes which had hid him from view. He had heard the conversation with Charley; and, as he was an obliging boy, he was sorry to see the farmer's fruit waste for want of hands to gather it. "I have nothing particular to do this afternoon, and would as lief work for you a while as not."

"Might know it was you, Fred," said the farmer, well pleased. "I don't believe there's another boy about, who would offer his services."

The matter was soon arranged, and Fred pulled off his jacket and went to work with a will, picking and assorting the fruit very carefully, to the great admiration of Mr. Watson.

"If that boy had to work for a living, I would engage him quick enough," he thought. "But he'll make his way in any business. One so obliging will make a host of friends, who will be always willing to lend a helping hand."

Fred would take no pay from the farmer, who he well knew was working hard to pay off his mortgage. But he did accept a basket of pears for his mother, as they were very excellent ones, and the farmer insisted so warmly on his taking them.

Ever after that Fred was sure of a good friend in farmer Watson, and one who was always ready to speak a word for him whenever his name was mentioned. Oh, if boys knew what golden capital this "good name" is, they would work hard to get it. Well did the wisest man say, "It is rather to be chosen than great riches." It has helped many a man to acquire riches. It is of great importance to a boy what the men of his place say of him. Never fancy they do not know you do—that they have no interest in what you do. Every business man sees and estimates the boys that pass before him at pretty nearly their own worth. Every man with sons of his own takes an interest in other men's sons. There is nothing like obliging ways to make friends of people, and to lead them to speak well of you. That will be a stepping-stone to your success in life.

A SQUIRREL STORY.

A pretty red squirrel lived in an old hollow oak. His door was a round hole where the bark had broken away so far from the ground that nothing could get at him. The sun shone in every morning, so he could see the piles of nuts packed nicely in the corners, near his bed of soft leaves. He ought to have been contented and happy, but he was not.

"Why," said he, springing from tree to tree on his way home, "should I work to gather food, when I might live in the farmer's barn? There is plenty of corn, and often something fresh to be had. And I am quite tired of these dry things."

He took out the nuts with which he had filled his cheek-pouches, and put them carefully away, for he was a neat housekeeper and kept his stores in good order.

"It is so small," he continued, shaking out his bushy tail as large as possible; "and I can have a whole barn to myself."

So he went to the barn. But he soon found it was not built for squirrels.

"O," said the farmer who saw him sitting on a high beam, "so you are the fellow that nibbles my corn." And he went and fixed a box with a sweet apple in it.

"O," said the squirrel when he found the box with the sweet apple in it, "the family are very polite."

He tasted it slowly. How delicious it was! Again he tasted, when bang! something fell, and he was a prisoner, for the box was a trap. It was much smaller than the oak tree, but very soon he was taken out and put into a cage. He could run miles on a wheel that turned over and over, but he could not run away from the cage. The farmer's little daughter was very kind to him, and he grew so tame after a time that she opened the door and let him frisk about the room.

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