

Our Young Folks.

WON'T AND SHAN'T.

Won't and Shan't were two little brothers,
 Angry, and sullen, and gruff.
 Try and Will are dear little sisters,
 One can scarcely love them enough.

Shan't and Won't looked down at their noses,
 Their faces are dismal to see.
 Try and Will are brighter than roses
 In June, and as blithe as a bee.

Won't and Shan't are backward and stupid,
 Little indeed did they know.
 Try and Will learn something new daily,
 And seldom are heedless and slow.

Shan't and Won't came to terrible trouble,
 Their story is awful to tell.
 Try and Will are in the schoolroom,
 Learning to read and to spell.

Written for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

JOHN DAWSON.

CHAPTER VI.

JOHN ENTERS UPON HIS DUTIES.

Monday morning arrived, and John entered upon the duties of his office. He applied himself with diligence to whatever he had to do, was obedient to all Mr. Sinclair's commands, and was quick upon all messages that were entrusted to him. He kept both his eyes and his ears open, and did not make a too free use of his tongue. Mr. Sinclair seemed to take little or no notice of him; at least John imagined so. But employers observe more than most boys give them credit for. If boys are always out of the way when they are wanted, and as much time is wasted in looking for them as would take to perform the duty for which they are needed, a mental note is taken: "This boy is more trouble than he's worth." John contrived to be near at hand when wanted, and thus was ready to render help when his help was needed. And though Mr. Sinclair appeared to take no notice of John, he had made many mental notes. "John is a good and attentive lad; I thought I was not far wrong in my estimate of him." John expected praise which was not given; he looked for what he had no right to expect. When we do right and are attentive to the interests of our employers, we are not doing anything beyond our simple duty; and if we are only doing our duty, why should we look for praise. Some boys grow disheartened, unless they are being constantly noticed and commended for what they do. Not so, John. He many times said to his parents, "If Mr. Sinclair would only tell me he was pleased with me, I should feel better satisfied, but he never says anything, good or bad."

"Well, my son," his father would say, "do your duty, and if no complaints are made, conclude your service is satisfactory, for if it was not so, Mr. Sinclair I think, would soon let you know."

John, though somewhat discouraged, was not dismayed; these doubts of his were rather helps to increased diligence, than obstacles to exertion. "I'll do my best," he resolved, "and if I fail to please the fault shall not be mine." And thus he toiled from week to week, from month to month. Tom Sinclair paid daily visits to his father's warehouse. Sometimes, when it suited him, he would render a little help, but his visits by degrees grew fewer and fewer. He was too much of a gentleman for work. At times his father would set him to perform some duty, but Tom, having noticed John Dawson's diligence (unlike his father), was not slow in acknowledging it. "John," he got into the way of saying, "work doesn't like me, and I've no love for it; the governor has set me to do this, come and do it for me." On several occasions he did so, and almost got himself into trouble for his pains, through neglecting his own work; but experience taught him wisdom, and when Master Tom gave his commands, or made his requests, Master John would say,

"When I've done my own work, if I've time, then I don't mind helping you; but I must discharge my own duty first." Tom's work was many times thus left undone, to the great annoyance of his father. Thus time rolled on; Tom growing in idleness, John growing in diligence and goodness.

CHAPTER VII.

WELL MERITED REPROOF.

"I wonder what that son of Mr. Sinclair wants in this street so much," said Mr. Dawson to his wife: "I see him hanging about nearly every day. It is a pity his time was not better occupied." Katie, hearing what her father said, remarked: "John told me the other day that he feared Tom would grow into a worthless fellow: that he was more harm than good at the warehouse, and that his idle habits and love of pleasure would prove his ruin, unless he altered."

"John ought not to speak so of his employer's son," said Mrs. Dawson. "Yes, but mamma, I know Tom Sinclair is fond of going to the hotel to play billiards, and he likes wine and smokes cigars; and that he dislikes work, John cannot be far wrong in his opinion."

"I don't say John's opinion may be wrong. John can think what he likes, but it is not always right to say what we think," said Mr. Dawson. "But let us prepare for dinner."

Preparations for dinner were progressing, when a knock at the door announced the arrival of the Misses Sinclair, who were ushered into the parlour. They had called to invite Katie to take tea with them that afternoon, as their parents would be from home. Katie, as usual, was allowed to accept the invitation; and, as usual, was subjected to gloomy, brooding thoughts and jealous feelings at the more fortunate circumstances of her two companions. Mrs. Dawson noticed the great change in her daughter's disposition and manners after the Misses Sinclair had left, and took the opportunity, after dinner was over and they were alone in the house, of conversing with her on the subjects of envy and contentment.

"Katie, dear," she commenced, "I have several times noticed how unhappy you become immediately after you have had a visit from the Misses Sinclair. Will you tell me what is the cause of this?" Katie remained silent, but her mother noticed a slight blush pass over her face, and proceeded to say: "I hope it does not arise from feelings of envy because they are better off in this world's goods than we are; if such is the case, I should be very much pained, for it would amount to saying you are dissatisfied with your parents and with your home."

Katie made no reply, but her deeply crimsoned face spoke in plainer tones than oral utterance.

"Katie," said Mrs. Dawson, "I fear I'm right; your confusion tells me clearly that I am. My child, I trust you will give yourself no rest until you put such feelings from you; envy is destructive to happiness and peace of mind, and is a sin which affords no possible pleasure; it does not detract from the happiness of those we envy, and only makes those who exercise it miserable; it is a sin against which we should ever be on our guard, and is offensive in the sight of God and man. Katie learn to be contented with your lot, for contentment is only another name for happiness, and there is no experience so serene as that which is the portion of those who can say with St. Paul, 'I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content.'"

Mrs. Dawson being a wise woman, here let the conversation drop. She knew a few words fitly spoken were more powerful than a long and wearisome lecture, but like a truly Christian parent, did not neglect to ask God's blessing on her daughter, and to turn her thoughts from evil.

Katie's afternoon duties were over, she prepared for going to Irwell Villa to see her friends, the Misses Sinclair. She had hardly got out of sight of her home, when she was met by Master Tom, who volunteered to escort her to their house.

"How is it, Mr. Tom," said Katie, "you can spare the time in the middle of the afternoon to leave the warehouse? My brother always says he is busiest from four to five o'clock, as all letters and invoices must be got ready for the mail."

"Your brother," said Tom, "seems desperately fond of work; he sticks at it like a leech, and is never tired. For my part, I soon get tired."

"Is tired a proper word, Mr. Tom," asked Katie.

Tom looked at Katie a very significant look and said, "Why what word should I use?"

"It is not for me to say," replied Katie, "but those who are not fond of work generally like pleasure."

"Yes," said Tom, "it's because I like pleasure better than work that I am here now. Your brother likes work better than pleasure, so I have left him to have his fill of it."

"So, then I am to understand that your going home along with me means that you are causing my brother to do your work," said Katie.

"No, not exactly, for I never do much work, and none when the governor is away," replied Tom.

"That is a confession of idleness that I would scarcely have expected you to make; but not only are you idle, you seem to me to hold your parents in great disrespect, for I presume you mean your father when you speak of the governor being away. I have always been taught it was the duty of children to honour their parents."

This sort of conversation was not at all palatable to Tom; he longed for an excuse to get away.

"Do you still like wine and smoke cigars, Mr. Tom?" asked Katie.

"Rather," was Tom's reply.

"And I suppose you think it reflects credit upon you to like wine and dislike work, and to hold cigars and pleasure in higher esteem than duty and perseverance."

Tom had had enough, and so he said, "I must leave you Miss Katie; it just occurs to me I have an appointment. But I thought," said Katie, "you had come to escort me to your house and your work is not yet half done."

"Good-bye, Miss Dawson," and off he went, whither was best known to Tom himself. True, he did not appear at home as long as Katie remained there, and no sentinel kept guard in the neighbourhood of Katie's house after this date. What motive prompted Tom in this self-imposed duty, I will not say; but truly thankful Katie felt that she had spoken so plainly, and had stood up like a true little woman on behalf of her brother.

(To be continued.)

KEEP A CLEAN MOUTH.

A distinguished author says, "I resolved when I was a child, never to use a word which I could not pronounce before my mother." He kept his resolution, and became a pure-minded, noble, honoured gentleman. His rule and example are worthy of imitation.

Boys readily learn a class of low, vulgar words and expressions, which are never heard in respectable circles. The utmost care on the part of parents will scarcely prevent it. Of course we can not think of girls as being so much exposed to this peril. We cannot imagine a decent girl using words she would not utter before her father or mother.

Such vulgarity is thought by some boys to be "smart," the "next thing to swearing," and yet, "not so wicked;" but it is a habit which leads to profanity, and fills the mind with evil thoughts. It vulgarizes and degrades the soul, and prepares the way for many of the gross and fearful sins which now corrupt society.

Young readers! keep your mouths free from all impurity, and your "tongue from evil;" but in order to do this, ask Jesus to cleanse your heart, and keep it clean, for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."—The Christian.

Teacher and Scholar.

Nov. 1st, 1893. } THE GRACE OF LIBERALITY. { 11 Cor. VIII. 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich.—11 Cor. 8. 9.

This epistle was written not many months after the preceding. Paul had been in a state of unusual depression in the interval, partly by reason of persecution (1. 8), partly through anxiety about the effect of his epistle on the Corinthian Church (7. 5). His solicitude was relieved by Titus, who, though he had to tell him, that false teachers were increasing in boldness and making calumnious charges against himself, yet refreshed him by tidings of the tender, affectionate, penitent spirit, in which his former epistles had been received. The present epistle was called forth by that information. The care for the poor saints of the Church was welcomed as a constant charge by Paul. The Corinthians some time before had taken steps towards making contributions (9. 2). Paul now seconds Titus' work among them by further commending the matter.

I. Example of the Macedonian churches. In Macedonia Paul had founded churches at Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, of whose great liberality there are many notices (11. 9; Phil. 2. 25; 4. 15, 18). This Paul makes known to the Corinthians. His grace showed itself amidst experience of great tribulation, and notwithstanding deep poverty. The persecutions which befel the apostles in founding these churches seem to have been continued to the hands of believers (1. Thes. 1. 6; 2. 14). Macedonia had also been desolated by successive civil wars, and so oppressed by the Romans, that the people were in abject poverty. Notwithstanding, their joy in the divine mercy so rose above these things, as to produce a wealth of single-minded liberality, which by contrast made their poverty seem to abound. Not only up to, but beyond their power they gave (R.V.). Again, while Paul's mention of the earlier readiness of the Corinthians had aided in stirring them up (9. 2) the movement proceeded from themselves. They even begged as a favour, from the apostles, the privilege of participating in the contributions to the saints (R.V.). Moreover the secret of their liberality was the fact that it was founded on self-devotion. They surpassed the expectation of Paul, because by God's will, they made an entire dedication of themselves, first to the Lord, and then subordinatedly to the apostles.

II. Exhortation based on the example. Titus had already made a beginning in calling into exercise the grace of liberality among the Corinthians. The example of the Thessalonians stirred up Paul to urge the completion of this grace. It was necessary for the fullness of their Christian character. Paul joyfully recognizes their riches in other Christian gifts (1. Cor. 1. 5. 7). They were sustained by strong, active faith, enriched in declaring and apprehending Christian truth, vigorous in their spiritual life, and fervent in that love towards the apostle, which he so much cherished. To harmonize with these, he calls upon them to excel in this grace also. Again this will give proof of their sincerity. The zeal of the Macedonians had given occasion for making this trial. Paul is careful to state that he is laying no command on them. Love can be tested only by what it yields freely of itself. The strength and genuineness of an inward affection is best proved, not by the feelings experienced, but by what it makes us willing to do. Besides, Christ became poor for their sake. Rich in possessing glory with the Father, He showed His spontaneous grace in entering into such a state of humiliation (Phil. 2. 6), in order that believers might share the riches of His glory (1. Pet. 1. 4; John 17. 22; Rom. 8. 17). His act not only shows that self-sacrifice is the proper test of love, but should move us thereto, from gratitude for the great mercy which His example has brought us. Moreover, their own profit required this, out of self-consistency. They had been before the Macedonians in making a beginning, not simply in doing, but also in purposing the year before. It will be profitable not to leave the work unfinished, but complete it out of what they have. Add to this, what is required, is thoroughly reasonable; God regards the attitude of mind, and where there is a ready disposition, it finds acceptance according to the ability.