

young people who applied to be his servant were given to meddle unnecessarily with things around them, or to peep into cupboards and drawers, he might be aware of it, and he took care that the lads, who were then at Elm Tree Hall, should be shown into this room one after another.

At first Joe Turner was sent into the room, and told that he would have to wait a little; so Joe sat down on a chair near the door. For some time he was very quiet, and looked about him, but there seemed to be so many curious things in the room that, at last, he got up to peep at them.

On the table was placed a dish cover, and Joe wanted sadly to know what was under it, but he felt afraid of lifting it up. Bad habits are strong things, and as Joe was of a curious disposition he could not withstand the temptation of taking one peep; so he lifted up the cover.

This turned out to be a sad affair; for under the dish cover was a heap of very light feathers; part of the feathers, drawn up by the current of air, flew about the room, and Joe, in his fright, putting down the cover hastily puffed the rest of them off the table.

What was to be done? Joe began to pick up the feathers, one by one; but the old gentleman, who was in an adjoining room, hearing a scuffle, and guessing the cause of it, entered the room to the consternation of Joe Turner, who was very soon dismissed as a lad not likely to suit the situation.

When the room was once more arranged, Tom Hawker was placed there until such time as he should be sent for; no sooner was he left to himself, than his attention was attracted by a plate of fine ripe cherries, now Tom was uncommonly fond of cherries, and he thought that it would be impossible to miss one cherry among so many. He looked and longed, and longed and looked for some time, and just as he had got off his seat to take one, he heard, as he thought, a foot coming to the door; but no, it was a false alarm. Taking fresh courage, he went cautiously and took a very fine cherry, for he was determined to take but one, and put it in his mouth. It was excellent, and then he persuaded himself that he ran no great risk in taking another; this he did, and hastily popped it in his mouth.

Now the old gentleman had placed a few artificial cherries at the top of the others filled with cayenne pepper, one of these Tom had unfortunately taken, and no sooner did he put it in his mouth than he began to sputter in such an outrageous manner, that the old gentleman knew very well what was the matter. Tom Hawker was sent about his business without delay, with his mouth almost as hot as if he had put a burning coal in it.

Bill Parkes was next introduced into the room, and left to himself, but he had not been there two minutes, before he began to move from one place to another. He was

of a bold, resolute temper, but not overburdened with principle; for if he could have opened every cupboard, closet, and drawer in the house, without being found out, he would have done it directly. Having looked round the room, he noticed a drawer to the table, and made up his mind to peep therein, but no sooner did he lay hold of the drawer knob than he set a large bell ringing which was concealed under the table. The old gentleman immediately answered the summons, and entered the room. Bill Parkes was so startled by the sudden ringing of the bell, that all his impudence could not support him; he looked as though any one might knock him down with a feather. The old gentleman asked him if he had rung the bell because he wanted any thing? Bill stuttered and stammered, but all to no purpose, for it did not prevent his being ordered off the premises.

Sam Tonks was then shown into the room, by an old servant, and, being of a cautious disposition, touched nothing, but only looked at the things about him. At last he saw that a closet door was a little open, and thinking it would be impossible for any one to know that he had opened it a little more, he very cautiously opened it an inch further, looking down at the bottom of the door that it might not catch against any thing and make a noise. Now had he looked at the top, instead of the bottom, it might have been better for him, for to the top of the door was fastened a plug which filled up the hole of a small barrel of shot. Sam ventured to open the door another inch, and then another, till the plug being pulled out of the barrel, the leaden shot began to pour out at a strange rate; at the bottom of the closet was placed a tin pan, and the shot falling upon this pan made such a clatter that Sam Tonks was half frightened out of his senses.

The old gentleman soon came into the room to inquire what was the matter, and there he found Sam Tonks nearly as pale as a sheet. Sam had opened one door, the old gentleman soon opened another, bidding him walk out of it, and never again to show his face at Elm Tree Hall.

It now came to the turn of Ned Roberts to be put into the room, and as it was in a distant part of the house, he knew nothing of what had happened to the other lads.

On the table stood a small round box with a screw top to it, and Ned, thinking that it contained something curious, could not be easy without unscrawing the top, but no sooner did he do this, than out bounced an artificial snake, full a yard long, and fell upon his arm. Ned started back and uttered a scream, which brought the old gentleman to his elbow. There stood Ned with the bottom of the box in one hand, the top in the other, and the snake on the ground. "Come, come," said the old gentleman, handing him out of the room, "one snake is quite enough to have in the house at a

time, therefore the sooner you are gone the better;" with that he dismissed him without waiting a moment for his reply.

Harry Ball next entered the room, and, being left alone, soon began to amuse himself in looking at the curiosities around him. Ball was not only curious and prying, but downright dishonest, and observing that the key was left in the drawer of a bookcase he stepped on tiptoe in that direction, but the moment he touched the key he fell flat on the floor. The key had a wire fastened to it which communicated with an electrifying machine, and Harry received such a shock as he was not likely to forget. No sooner did he sufficiently recover himself to walk, than he was told to walk off the premises, and leave other people to lock and unlock their own drawers.

The last boy was John Grove, and though he was left in the room full twenty minutes, he never during that time stirred from his chair. John had eyes in his head as well as the rest of them, but he had more integrity in his heart, neither the dish cover, the cherries, the drawer knob, the closet door, the round box, nor the key, tempted him to rise from his seat, and the consequence was that, in half an hour after, he was engaged in the service of the old gentleman at Elm Tree Hall.

John Grove followed his good old Master to his grave, and received a legacy of fifty pounds for his upright conduct in his service. Read this, ye busy, meddling, peeping, pilfering young people, and imitate the example of John Grove.

BEAUTIFUL TRAIT IN A YOUNG GIRL.

Sometime after the horrible massacre which signalized the commencement of the French revolution, the contagious example propagated murder and destruction, even in the new world. One cannot remember it without shuddering with horror, that, in order to put to death more quickly a multitude of men and women at once and without trial, they collected them in groups, then fired upon them several cannons loaded with cannon shot.

An honest Creole of St. Domingo, who had committed no other crime than that of preserving the heritage of his fathers, and of being rich, was in consequence inscribed upon the list of proscription: the wretches who decorated themselves with the name of patriots, in imbruing their hands in the blood of the most innocent citizens, denounced him as an enemy to the public welfare, and he was condemned to perish together with a number of the unfortunates.

Happily for this old colonist, he was a father, and a father, above all, of a little daughter, full of courage, tenderness and energy. When he was dragged from the bosom of his family, his child resolutely followed him, and resolved to share his destinies, however dreadful they might be.