

THE MINISTERS' SABBATH NIGHT.

Rest him, O Father: Thou didst send him forth
With great and gracious messages of love;
But Thy ambassadors were weary now,
Worn with the weight of his holy embassy.
Now care for him as Thou hast cared for us
In sending him, and cause him to lie down
In Thy Father's arms, by Thy Father's grace.
Let Thy hand be upon his head,
And hush his spirit in Thy Father's arms.
And underneath the Everlasting arms
Be his in full support. So let him rest,
Hushed like a little child, without one care,
And so give Thy beloved sleep to-night.

Rest him, dear Master. He hath journeyed for us
The while of joy, and we have been refreshed.
Now fill his chalice, give him sweet new draughts
Of life and love, with Thine own hand; be Thou
His minister to-night, draw very near
To all Thy tending and all Thy power.
O speak to him: Thou knowest how to speak.
A word in season to Thy weary ones.
And he is weary now: Thou lovest him—
Let Thy disciples hear Thy voice,
And, hushed, gain new strength to love and shine.

Rest him, O loving Spirit! Let Thy calm
Fall on his soul to-night. O holy Dove,
Spread Thy bright wings about him; let him rest
Beneath its shadow: let him know afresh
The infinite love which Thy Father sends—
"O Comforter!" As gentle winds will stay
The strong vibrations of a jarring chord,
So lay Thy hand upon his heart, and still
Each overstraining chord, each pulsing pain;
Then, in the stillness, breathe upon the strings,
And let Thy holy music overflow.

With nothing power his listening, resting soul.
—FRANCIS RUSSELL HAYWARD.

BERT TOWNSEND'S CAREER.

Bert Townsend was the only son of his mother and she was a widow. All Mrs. Townsend's thoughts and hopes centered in her handsome boy, and she all but fell down and worshipped her tall, manly-looking son. From earliest childhood, Bert had been accustomed to hearing his bright sayings repeated and his praise sung, until a certain amount of adulation had become a necessary part of the boy's existence. He was amiable, but weak. He wanted to please his mother, whom he really loved, but he wished at the same time to carry out his own plans and to follow the bent of his own sweet will.

"Didn't I see your boy Bert smoking a cigarette the other day?" mildly inquired a kind but meddling neighbor of Mrs. Townsend.

"Oh, no, indeed!" cried Mrs. Townsend, in horrified tones. "Bert has never learned to smoke; I trust he never will. His poor dear father was bitterly opposed to the use of tobacco. You must have seen some one else."

The neighbor knew perfectly well that she had seen Bert in the act of smoking, but finding the fond mother thus firmly intrenched in her good opinion of her darling boy, she was discreetly silent.

"How long has Bert Townsend smoked?" asked the inquisitive Mrs. Amaden of her own promising young hopeful.

"Let me see," said Jack, meditatively; "it must be six or seven years. I know I was only ten years old when three or four of us smokers first got together and tried the weed, and I remember," continued Jack, with a smile, "how mad father was when he found it out, and what a whaling I got. It was rather rough treatment, for the horrid stuff made me desperately sick. I haven't tried it since, but Bert is quite a smoker."

"His mother doesn't know it," said Mrs. Amaden.

"Of course not," said Jack; "Bert is one of that kind. He does lots of things his mother doesn't know—things she wouldn't like one of these days to do as he pleases, and he says there's no use stirring her up and making her feel bad. He thinks it's all right. He's awful sweet and good to his mother when he's at home, and I suppose he thinks that makes up for what he does outside. His mother thinks he's the pink of perfection. You couldn't make her believe he could do anything wrong."

"It's a wicked shame in Bert to deceive his mother," said Mrs. Amaden.

"The boy would get into a pretty tall row who charged Bert with deceiving his mother. He poses as a high-toned, forward young man, and expects his conduct as a mere matter of policy. He likes to have affairs nice and smooth, and he doesn't want to give his mother, so he just keeps shady about certain acts of his. He doesn't do anything dreadful bad, you know."

"I call it dreadful bad to practise deception. He's pretending to be what he is not. Give me an honest, straightforward fellow by far, rather than a whitened sepulchre, fair without and rotten within."

"Oh, you're away off, mother. Bert is very fair on the outside, and he isn't actually rotten within; he's only a little unmade at the heart."

"It's so funny," laughed Mrs. Townsend, in her winning way. "Mrs. Amaden actually thought she saw you smoking. Have you a double amount of your mother's? It's too bad if you are to be held responsible for the deeds of others."

"Mrs. Amaden is quite near-sighted, you know, mother," said Bert, carelessly; "perhaps she saw Paul Brooks, we are about of a height and Paul smokes, and the subject is dismissed."

"What did you think of the play?"

"Fine! It's all about the life of being immoral, but that criticism served the managers a good turn; it has given them full house. Lots of people have gone out of mere curiosity."

"Isn't there something wrong about the play?"

"Of course not, Mr. Over-Nice! I admit it's a trifle bold and free, and some features would trouble squeamish people, but 'evil to him who evil thinks,' I say. Go and see for yourself."

"No, thank you, I'm a wee bit squeamish myself, and I believe I've gotten over wanting to go."

"You're the biggest snail!" cried Bert, with an air of great disgust. "Keep on a few years longer, and you'll be good for nothing but to hang 'round your mother and sisters."

"If I keep pace with my mother and sisters I shall have plenty of manliness, never you fear," retorted Jack. "I don't care to bandy compliments, but I have been brought up to believe that manliness means loyalty to truth, and judged by this standard your Imperial Highness has precious little of the article to spare."

"Go to thunder with your confounded moralizing!" cried Bert, his patience thoroughly exhausted. "You'd better stop up for a preener and be done with it, with your everlasting twaddle."

"I never see Jack with you now-a-days," said Mrs. Townsend one evening. "Why doesn't he come here as he used to? I always liked Jack so much! He seems such a true, good fellow."

"Oh, he's good enough, little mother," said Bert, "but he's awfully threemane, and in popular parlance the relations between us are somewhat strained. I think he is a regular old fogey, and he knows it, and resents it."

"I am sorry," said Mrs. Townsend, simply. "You are so bright and quick yourself you expect everybody else to be the same. You ought to have charity for dull, slow people like Jack and me."

"The very qualities that have given him such a firm, rounded, manly character. He was once as bright as I am, but he's coming out far ahead of that aspiring young man."

"I'm not so sure of it. Townsend has a good position, and he'll be a rich man some day. He's as bright as I am, but he's coming out far ahead of that aspiring young man."

"Perhaps so, but how? Townsend is tricky and unscrupulous. Don't you remember how he used to cheat his mother? He keeps that up to this day. She thinks he's a saint, but he's consoling himself with his snare-manners. Ugh! He doesn't know how to spell the word 'honor,' but Amaden spells it and lives it!"

"You're cracked on Amaden!" Nothing succeeds like success, and Townsend stands for success after all, if you examine his bank account."

"He doesn't stand for success if you examine his character," was the retort. Bert Townsend was very well satisfied with his own worldly success thus far. Haunted by no lofty ideal, he considered himself a fairly good fellow, and never took the trouble to look down deep into his own heart to discover just what sort of a person he was. The fatal habit of concealment he slowly but surely had acquired, and he was now led a dual existence, and slid easily down from one phase of life to the other.

"Come, Bert, my love, it's time for church!" It was his mother's sweet voice as she paused at the door of his room one Sunday morning.

With a smothered "Thunder!" Bert thrust the French novel he was reading in a private drawer, but replied pleasantly. "All right, mother, I'll be down in a second. Everything's going wrong this morning, and I'm a trifle late."

"What a handsome fellow Bert is, and how kind and attentive he is to his mother. He's always at church, and how gracefully he recites Aunt Mary down the aisle," said an adoring cousin.

"Yes, Bert is quite a pattern," said girl-cousin number two.

"Bert's a great fraud," declared their rollicking brother; "but as long as you know about boys, I should think one might see through Bert with half an eye."

"You shan't talk so about Bert," said Edith Townsend; "it's his family disgrace, and you know you do it out of pure jealousy."

Will Townsend called upon his cousin Bert that Sunday afternoon, and found him lying upon the rug in his own room reading his trashy novel with a face that was a picture of gloom.

"Aunt Mary is down-stairs reading her Bible with a face of angelic sweetness," said Will, "and her darling son is up stairs reading—let me see, what?"

"You have been reading the same old book for weeks, and you know as well as we what it has occasioned our loss of confidence in you. It is useless to rehearse the evidence against you; our decision is irrevocable. We hope this result of your conduct will be a lesson which you will use to some purpose."

Bert blustered and raved, declared himself abused and slandered, and the unhappy victim of an atrocious conspiracy, but in his heart of hearts he knew that he had met his just desert.

It would be a comfort to add that Bert now looked down into the depths of his soul and loathed the image which he saw there; that he confessed everything to his mother, and determined with God's help henceforth to lead a true and noble life. He did nothing of the kind. He was a sneak clear to the close of this first chapter in his career.

"Mother," he said, "I own I have been imprudent, but I haven't meant the least harm. I have been perfectly open and straightforward, but the truth has been exaggerated, and lies have been told by the whole world; and then followed such an account of the free use of other people's money, and his relations with Lou Harrington as it best pleased his righteous soul to tell. As his mother only heard his version of the affair, she believed his story, and grieved deeply that her precious boy should meet with such unjust and unkind treatment."

"It's a pity Bert Townsend has lost his position! Clever young fellow as he is he'll not get another such place in a hurry. Scarcely more than on the threshold of business life, he'll find a tarnished reputation rather miserable freight with which to start afresh. Too bad! too bad!" cried Jack Amaden, mournfully, when he hears of Bert's misfortune. And many sincere friends of Bert Townsend echoed this and lamented.—*Examiner.*

Something to Take Hold Of.

"It's such a bother!" and Jack Belton tossed his Sunday-school quarterly across the room and stood drumming discontentedly upon the window-pane.

"Well, my son, had you learned your lesson last Sunday you would not have to stop for it now, and it grieves me to have you show so little respect and love for God's Word."

"Oh, I suppose it's all good enough to read and for business to preach about, but what's the use of my learning it?"

"In the first place, my dear boy, God gave it to us because He loved us and knew how much we should need such a guide and help and comfort all our lives; and if we made better use of it we could not go wrong so many times, while we could never be utterly discouraged with God's promises to lean upon. Again, there is no surer way of crowding out the wrong thoughts and feelings that are constantly coming to us than by filling our minds and hearts with better things; and what better can be found than God's own sacred truths? Now, if you will apply yourself, it will not take you fifteen minutes to learn these verses, and I suppose that you may expect Will along to stop for you at any moment."

Already half ashamed of his obstinacy, Jack's mother's last remark hastened Jack's decision, and he went earnestly to work.

As a result, his verses were soon perfectly learned, and he had scarcely finished reciting them to his mother when his friend's warning whistle was heard as he approached the house.

A day in the woods with their guns, how eagerly the boys had been looking forward to it. "Don't let's stop to fire a shot," said Jack, "until we get to the cabin. Old Steve'll tell us the best way to go, and perhaps he'll go with us."

"That's so; he knows all the ins and outs of hunting around here; but that reminds me that it is a long time since he has been in town."

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Express for Halifax, 7.30 a. m.

Express for Pictou, 7.45 a. m.

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Express from Boston, 6.30 a. m.

Express from Pictou, 7.00 a. m.

Express from Halifax, 7.30 a. m.

Express from Pictou, 7.45 a. m.

Express from Halifax and Pictou, 8.00 a. m.

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