February 20, 1902]

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CANADIAN CHURCHMAN.

THE BOYLESS TOWN.

A cross old woman of long ago Declared that she hated noise: "The town would be so pleasant, you know.

If only there were no boys." She scolded and fretted about it till Her eyes grew as heavy as lead, And then, of a sudden, the town grew still,

For all the boys had fled. And all through the long and dusty street There wasn't a boy in view; The baseball lot, where they used to meet Was a sight to make one blue: The grass was growing on every base, And the paths that the runners made,

For there wasn't a soul in all the place, Who knew how the game was played.

The cherries rotted, and went to waste-

There was no one to climb the trees; And nobody had a single taste, Save only the birds and bees.

There wasn't a messenger boy, not one, To speed as such messengers can; If people wanted their errands done, They sent for a messenger man.

There was little, I ween, of frolic and noise.

There was less of cheer and mirth; The sad old town, since it lacked its boys,

Was the dreariest place on earth. The poor old woman began to weep.

Then woke with a sudden scream; "Dear me!' she cried; "I have been asleep:

And, oh, what a horrid dream!"

HOW ERNEST STOOD BY THE FIRM.

There was trouble brewing for the firm of Goodwin & Company. Several people suspected this fact, and a few knew it. For weeks Ernest had felt something unusual in the atmosphere. The head of the firm came down to the office early and stayed late. The threads of gray sprinkled his dark hair



more and more thickly. His eyes had the strained, weary look of one who cannot sleep. From the book-keeper down to the office boy, everyone connected with the establishment suspected that all was not well with the business.

Then one day something happened which transferred Ernest from the list of those who suspected to the ranks of those who knew. It was : sultry, spring day, and a threatening storm had brought the darkness on early. The stenographers had finished their day's work and had been dismissed. The book-keeper had lingered half an hour after their departure, and then he, too, had left. Ernest sat in a poorly lighted corner of the outer office, stamping a basket of circulars which he meant to mail before going home.



Goodwin who was doing most of the talking. Now and then there came an interruption in highpitched, querulous tones.

Ernest felt that the interview in the private office was an important one. For more than two hours Mr. Goodwin had been closeted with old Mr. Hallowell, whom he had known from boyhood and who was one of the capitalists of In Mr. Goodwin's private office the city. "I don't suppose a thousthere was a steady murmur of and dollars is any bigger to him voices. Ernest could not catch than a cent is to me," thought the the words, but he knew it was Mr. office boy, as he went on stamping I'll think it over!" Mr. Hallowell

tion of the Canadian public over fifty years, and the verdict today by the users of the Williams Pianos is

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that interminable pile of circulars. "If Mr. Goodwin needs a little money, I should think he'd be glad to help him out. Rich folks are queer, seems to me."

All at once the door opened and the two men stepped from the brightly lighted inner office to the comparative obscurity of the other. Both seemed somewhat excited. "Well, I'll think it over.

TIGHT BINDING

KELL **Massey - Hall** Sat., Feb. 22nd. Afternoon at 2.30 "Women in Love & Humour" **Evening at 8.15** "Peculiar People I Have Met"

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125

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was exclaiming. "And I cannot say any more to-night.'

"I'm not urging you to take any risks, Mr. Hallowell," said Mr. Goodwin's deep voice. "With a little more capital to help me carry the thing through, the profits are certain."

"Oh, ves, I know!" grumbled "I've heard that the old man. sort of talk before. I'll think it over and you be sure to let me