The Fortunes of a Castaway

CHAPTER XII. JOE TAPSON, AND LAYS A TRAP FOR

JOE TAPSON, AND LAYS A TRAP FOR HIS TRAINER.

It was an amunched with a keen zest and munched with a keen zest all youth's happy carelessness of the marker was now gone, and he saw before him two persons who professed to be ready to befriend him. It was a new sensation, and his heart began to expand as his stomach filled.

"This is prime!" he said at last; "far better than preaching and tracts. I was alraid you were on that lay when you began."

gan."

He was forced at last to stop, when
Winnie was gazing at him expecting
every moment to see him burst before her

eyes.

"Oh, I'am sorry," he said, eyeing wistfully the hunk of the loaf and a sorap of cheese which he was forced to leave, "I can't eat any more; you're the good

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Wm. Bachus while drunk on Adelaide street, Toronto, on Tuesday night, was ap-proached by Constable Mitchell with the intention of arresting him, Bachus pulled out his revelver and threatened to shoot.

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Price 25 cents a bottle. deodwly

Ottawa is flooded with delegations asking the Government to retund bonuses paid to local railways now declared to be for the general good of the Dominion. One is expected from Oxford. A delegation from Owen Sound is asking that an increased appropriation be, made for the harbor of that place. A delegation comprising the Mayor of Belleville and others in that locality are asking a refund of the bonuses paid to the Grand Junction Railway. Another deputation from Hastings (County are on the same business.

It is a good rule to accept only such medicines as have after long years of trial proved worthy of confidence. This is a case where other people's experience may be of great service, and it has been the experience of thousands that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is the best cough medicine ever used.

"And you'll perhaps fall on me some day and batter in my head," said Elburn quietly."

"Not me—God forbid!" cried Joe, with great earnestness. "I'll stick up for you and fight for you as long as there's a breath in my body. S'elp me never, I will!" and he drew his finger across his throat, as much as to say that he hoped that might belout if he broke his word.

"Fight for yourself, boy," said the antiquary, with a sad smile, "You'll need all your strength for that," and then he produced and counted five shillings into Joe's dirty hand. "Now, there's your capital—all I can afford to give you to start with. Go and do your best with it. You'll very likely waste it, and then forget all I've said, or perhaps think me a great fool to trust you."

Joe's lip quivered, and he evidently could not trust himself to speak, but he glanced appealingly at Winnie and she instantly spoke for him.

"He'll promise it, dear Titus," she said with her own eyes filling in sympathy.

"I'll swear it!" said Joe, with great energy, drawing his ragged sleeve across his eyes, and evidently very much ashamed of his weakness. "Yes, even on a Bible, if, it's to please you."

"No, I'd rather not have that, or even your oath," said Elburn, "What's the Bible to you or you to it? But, look you, here's something you do understand," and he calmly removed the glass cover from the skull of his dead love, and lovingly took the white and ghastily object in his hands and kissed it. "Look, Joe, you're frightened for this, no doubt, because to you it puctures forth death. With me it's just the reverse. New, put your hand on that. It once held the soul of a tender woman—so pure and beautiful! and yet she fell. Ah! now I see there's true bravery in you, and I've hope for you in the battle that's to come," he admiringly exclaimed, as Joe, with a powerful effort, advanced his hand and placed it on the skull. "Now, I want no oaths, but if you like you can promise to make a struggle for an honest life."

"I promise—I swear it!" said Joe with great promptitude, a out his revolver and the statement of the constable with his weapon and escaped. He was afterwards arrested and on Wednesday morning sent to the Central Prison for five months.

like you can promise to make a struggle for an honest life."

"I promise—I swear it!" said Joe with great promptitude, and then Elburn reverently kissed the skull again and returned it to its stand beneath the glass over.

"Even in death she may be a blessing," he remarked, with all the harsh lines smoothed out of his face by love; and, then turning to Joe, he talked pleasantly to him of the past and the future. He asked if Joe's parents had been thieves too; but Joe knew little about that, though he rather thought, he said, that his mother had been a servant girl, serving in that city with some dector, whose name he had never heard.

"Tony Sigers knows all about that," and Joe; "but he's so savage that I never de to ask him much about it." squestioning Joe he also learned that he arrangement had been that Joe should lip a piece of white paper under the door when all was ready some time after midnight, and that then his trainer would appear to complete the work. All this Joe revealed readily, but he was careful to add the question—

"But you'll not betray him, will you?"

revealed resulty, see the question—
"But you'll not betray him, will you?"
"I will not, I promise you," was the simple assurance given in reply, and so the matter was settled.
"You can go now," said Elburn, when he had made sure that Joe knew where to find a lodging for the night; "but I want to put something under your care, just to

find a lodging for the night; "but I want to put something under your care, just to see if I can trust you in future. You will go with this little girl as far as her home in the Causewayside, and see that no one molests her on the way, will you?"

"Oh yes, sir!" and all Joe's heart was in his face as he blurted out the words.
They bade the antiquary good night, and left the shop together, Elburn gazing after them from the shop door in his dreamy fashion, as if already lost in speculation as to the future that might await the odd pair. When quite beyond the reach of Elburn's eyes Winnie timidly offered her hand to her escort with the words "You may take my hand, I'm not afraid of you." The boy took the white hand in his dirty

The boy took the white hand in hisdirty one, and clasped it firmly and gratefully, but no word came from his lips. The warm soft fingers laying so trustfully within his own thrilled him with an indescribable pleasure and he looked into the sweet, bright face by his side much as a frail man might look into that of a guardian angel, leading him safely through an evil country. Winnie had all the speaking to herself. Joe's mind was upset, and his feelings were all astray. He seemed half-stupified, and half expected every moment to wake up and find it all a dream. Winnie told him her name, and he thought it very pretty, and did not wonder at her never feeling inclined to be a thief with such a name. As for "Joe," he thought it had a real smack of the prison in it, and hoped it would not land him there some day with a life sentence. But Winnie, when he told her that it was but short for Joseph, told him some wonderful and encouraging stories of others of the same name who had become great and good. She had read about them, and was willing to lend him the books if he doubted what she said. Joe refused the books, saying truly that they were of no use to him as he could not read; whereupon Winnie offered to teach him, but Joe, with a flush, said he could never think of being taught by a girl, and declared his in-Winnie offered to teach him, but see, when a flush, said he could never think of being taught by a girl, and declared his intention of learning some day without such assistance. When they reached Winnie's stair she took both his hands in her own,

stair she took both his hands in her own, and said brightly—
"Don't forget your promise," and then shook his hands, and was gone.

Joe stood for a moment or two staring vacantly at the spot where she had disappeared. He was thinking, and the strange feelings throbbing through him were gradually shaping themselves into a clear resolve.

resolve.

"She was so sweet and kind—she pleaded for me and saved me from him. If I break my promise may I drop dead on the spot," he slowly articulated, and he took off his ragged cap as he spoke as if in reverence of the spot where Winnie had stood. "My! I sn't she a little snge!? I wish some un would only push agin her or annoy her so that I could fight for her. I do indeed. I'd like to see them inst try it." just try it."
Then Joe slowly replaced his cap and disappeared into the night, with a new eginning slowly to picture itself before

At Heather's Steve and Tinware Depot.

schemes. He watted quietly till the night policeman had tried the shop doer and passed on his way, and then he slipped a bit of white paper under the door, turned the key in the lock, and waited until twelve should strike. A step came at last, the handle of the door was tried and turned, and the next moment the door was opened from without, and a burly, rough-clad man stood within in the darkness. Elburn closed and locked the door, and placed his back against it, while he turned back the slide of a dark lantern which he had in readiness under his coat and dashed it full in the face of the big housebreaker. The man started back in amazement, and put his hand to his back to bring out a life-preserver, but then he saw that the antiquary held in his right hand a pistol, which he placed cocked and ready with its cold muzzle pressing hard against the temple of the surprised thief. "Hands down, Tony Sigers!" he cried, with startling energy; "hands down, or I shoot. There, that's better; now march into the back room. I don't mean to give you up to the police if you only show your self tractable and obedient."

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