

The Children's Page

BILL KELLY'S ILL LUCK. (Written for the Catholic Register by Peter J. Doherty.)

"How long have you had that boy of yours, Whits?" asked a friend of the senior partner of Whits, Stanford & Co., as the two enjoyed the fumes of a Havana in the private office.

"Four years," replied Mr. Whits. "He came to us when a lad of about thirteen."

"He is a very clever lad, I think," said the friend. "I would like to have him in my office. Would you let him go, Whits?"

"Would I let him go?" said Mr. Whits, with a smile. "The matter is in his own hands. He is doing well here, and I don't think he would care to leave us."

"He would be a very useful addition to my staff," said the other man. "I need a smart boy very much."

"Well, you may ask him," said Whits, "and if he wishes to go to you, I will not stop him, though I would hate to lose him. I tell you, Sims, that boy is worth his weight in gold. You will walk far before you meet his equal. But, if he wishes to go to you, I will not, as I said before, prevent him."

"Then," said Sims, "you don't mind if I offer the lad a place in my office?"

"I don't. But, by the way, I thought you had a clever boy in your office. What became of him? Did he leave you?"

"You mean Ned, do you?" said Sims, with a touch of sorrow in his tone. "Well, yes, he was a pretty clever boy, but he took ill and died a few months ago. If I still had poor Ned, I would not need another boy, for, like your lad, he was worth his weight in gold. Why are good, honest boys so hard to find?"

"I don't know or what is really to blame, but I know that the graduates of our public schools, with their long-winded diplomas and their medals, seldom know enough to write a simple letter. You have often noticed this yourself, Sims, haven't you?"

best wishes of all, to enter upon his new duties at the Sims' Clothing Co.

Bill Kelly took up his new duties with a light heart and happy in the contemplation of future promotion and more money. He was quickly climbing the ladder of success, not simply rung by rung, but by two or three rungs at a bound.

Application for entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency for the district in which the land is situated. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at any Agency, on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

The homesteader is required to perform the homestead duties under one of the following plans: (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. Joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.

(3) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

(4) The term "vicinity" in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line, exclusive of the width of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(5) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention. Six months' notice in writing must be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior. N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

Walter, hidden in the darkness of a gateway, heard all they had to say. "Ah," he said to himself, "so you will ruin poor Bill because you are jealous of him? Well, my two friends, this chicken will keep an eye on both of you to-night. I will follow where you will lead."

Walter, true to his word, followed the two rogues that night, and he heard all they said and he saw all they did, though they were not in the least aware of it.

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circumstances are against poor Bill. He is the only one who has a key for the manager's office, and he knew the money was left there. Again, two boys of the office here say they saw Bill coming out of the building last night. Bill says he was not here. I hope the poor boy may be able to clear himself.

"I know something about that money. I was here last night," said Walter, quietly. "For a few moments the bookkeeper seemed stunned by the boy's words. However, recovering himself, he said quickly: 'Eh? What? Is Bill Kelly innocent? Speak, boy! Tell all you know!'"

"I will," said Walter. "Please come with me to Mr. Sims' office." In a few minutes the bookkeeper and Walter were in the manager's office, face to face with Bill Kelly and his two false accusers.

One of the accusers was giving the manager his version of the story; and, while the bookkeeper went over to Bill's side, Walter by degrees and unnoticed, moved nearer and nearer to the speaker. Just as our young hero reached his side, the lying rascal said: "And we saw Kelly shove the money into his pocket, lock the drawer quickly and run off."

"This was too much for Walter's patience. 'You pale-faced hypocrite!' he yelled, as his eyes flashed fire, and he struck the rogue a stinging blow between the two eyes. The bookkeeper rushed forward, and, catching hold of Walter, brought him over to the manager's desk. Mr. Sims stood up with an angry look. 'Explain your conduct, my lad,' he said. 'Why do you act in such a way in my office?'"

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longer," said Bill, "were it not for your kindness and your cleverness, I will never forget you for it, Walter." "Hush, Bill," returned Walter, with a laugh. "That's old woman talk, and this chicken never liked old woman talk." One trial of Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator will convince you that it has no equal as a worm medicine. Buy a bottle and see if it does not please you.

When the end of the month came, Bill Kelly left his old place, with the

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