

which, the young woman abruptly turned into the residence of an acquaintance to make an afternoon call, leaving the young man rather more disconcerted than he would have liked to admit to any of his acquaintances.

He retraced his steps, moodily muttering to himself, and apparently without knowing in what direction he was walking, he found himself opposite the shop of the shoemaker, who had been the indirect cause of his quarrel with his sweetheart.

"Confound that fellow!" muttered Bartram, "he's in my way wherever I move. I've heard too much of him in the streets and the courts and everywhere else that I've been obliged to go. I wish I could understand the fascination that fellow exerts over a number of people so much better than himself. Hang it! I am going to find out. He is a fool, if ever there was one, and I am not. If I can't get at the secret of it, it will be the first time that I have ever been beaten in examining and cross-examining such a common specimen of humanity."

Thus speaking, the lawyer crossed the street and entered the shop, but, to his disgust, found both the cobbler's sons there with their father. The boys, with a curiosity common to all young people, and particularly intense among the classes who have nothing particular to think of, stared at him so fixedly that he finally arose abruptly and departed without saying a word. The boys went out soon after and Billy remarked to Tom, as the two sauntered homeward: "Tom, what do you s'pose is the reason that fellow comes in to see dad so much?"

"Gettin' a pair o' shoes made, I s'pose," said Tom, sulkily, for he had just failed in the attempt to extract a quarter of a dollar from his father.

"The shoes that dad was makin' for him," said Billy, "was done two or three weeks ago, 'cause I took 'em to his office myself. But he comes to the shop over and over again, 'cause I've seen him there, and whenever he comes he manages to get to talkin' with dad about religion. He always begins it, too, 'cause dad never says nothin' about it unless the lawyer starts it first."

"Well," said Tom, "seems to me that if he wants to know anythin' on that subject he should go to some of the preachers, that ought to know a good deal more about it than dad does."

"Well," said Billy, "what I was meanin' is, some folks seem to know a good deal about things without bein' learned that other folks will give their whole time to, an' don't know very much about. Every place that I go to somebody says somethin' to me about dad an' religion. Say, Tom, do you know dad's mighty different to what he used to be before he got took up?"

"Of course I do. He's always wantin' folks to work, and always findin' fault with everythin' that we do that ain't right. He didn't used to pay no attention to nothin'. We could do anythin' we wanted to, an' here I am, a good deal bigger, and just about as good as a man, an' he pays more attention to me than he ever did, and fusses at me as if I was a little bit of a kid. An' I don't like it either."