

to drop themselves down to the ground, without being seen or heard.

It was some time after the appointed hour, and when they arrived at the rendezvous, they found all the party awaiting them. A great fire was blazing on the bank, near by, and a good supply of potatoes to roast, and sundry other eatables, were placed in safety for the time when they should be needed.

The night was clear and beautiful; the ice smooth, and the boys, except those from Mr. Parker's, were in good spirits, and enjoyed their sport thoroughly.

They formed themselves into two parties, to try which could make the greatest distance in skating straight ahead; and then, they had a certain distance marked out to try the swiftest skater. In all these trials, Charley Green came off first.

At length they separated; one or two went to replenish the fire and look after the potatoes, while the others ran races, or cut fanciful figures in the ice.

Suddenly, a scream was heard from the farther end of the pond. Charley and his dog, just at this moment, came up with three boys who were skating leisurely toward the fire. "Did you hear that?" he cried.

"Yes, indeed," exclaimed one and all, starting off at the top of their speed toward the place. Charley's dog Dash was far ahead. The instant the scream was heard, he sprang off, and when they reached the spot he was already in the water.

"What shall we do?" cried two or three voices.

"Dash will bring him up, and perhaps I can help him," said Charley.

"Take hold of my feet and hold me fast," he said, and threw himself on the ice, so that, as the dog brought the boy to the surface, he was able to seize him, and with the help of Dash, drag him out.

It was Bob White who was thus saved from a watery grave; he was carried quickly to the fire, and wrapped in the boys' overcoats till he became warm.

Charley wished to carry him directly home, but James, Dan, and even Bob objected to that. "It would never do to let Mr. Parker know where they had been," they said.

"Oh, Jim, I am so sorry," exclaimed Charley, when he heard it; "I wish you had not come without his leave."

"We shouldn't have come at all, then," said Dan.

"Better not come at all, I should say," said Charley; "here is Bob wet through, and you are afraid to take him home, where he will be cared for, because that will show that you have been doing wrong."

"It may give Bob a fever, to keep him in his wet clothes so long," said Tom.

"Boys, I don't believe this would have happened if we had all been doing right to-night. It isn't safe for truants to go on a pleasure party," said Charley, boldly.

"That's as much as to say we bring ill luck, and you wish us away; don't ask us for our company next time," said Dan, moodily, preparing to go.

"No, it means next time we'll all ask leave," replied Charles, pleasantly.

The good supper was scarcely tasted, for Bob and the two boys had to hasten home.

Dan did all he could to make Bob comfortable; and when he saw him sound asleep, he hoped that the next morning all would be as well as usual.

In the morning the boys were up and ready when the prayer-bell rang. Bob, even though tired and aching in every limb, was in his place. Just after the bell rang for school, Mr. Parker entered the room, and looking sternly round upon the boys, said—

"I have heard a strange story since breakfast; it is said that Parker's boys were out skating last night, and one of them fell in, and came near being drowned. Now I can hardly believe this, for I requested you particularly not to speak of going on the ice till next week. If there are any boys here who have been skating, I wish they would rise."

Not a boy rose.

"I give you one more opportunity to acknowledge your fault, boys," said Mr. Parker, kindly. "If any one has anything to tell in regard to this matter, let him come to my desk."

No one moved.

"Another question: have any boys, not my boarders, been skating?"

Willie, Charley, and Tom rose instantly.

"Charley, can you tell me who formed your party last night?" asked Mr. Parker.

"I would rather not, sir; I do not think it would be fair and honorable," said Charles.

Tom and Dan breathed freely after this answer; they were sure they should not betray themselves.

A moment after, Mr. Parker called Bob White and Samuel Davis to his desk. Bob's heart was in his mouth, and he went tremblingly up, for he was already sick from the last night's exposure.

Samuel answered frankly that he knew nothing of the skating; he was sound asleep at eight o'clock, and when he awoke in the morning, his brother was sleeping beside him; but Bob was confused and frightened; his head ached dreadfully, and though he began by boldly denying everything, he soon burst into a sort of spasmodic-crying, and acknowledged all. He was plainly too ill to be punished, but was speedily put to bed, where for many long weeks he lay suffering the effects of his disobedience.—James and Dan were expelled from the school, for Mr. Parker's rule was to keep no boy who could not be taught to obey.

#### A THRILLING SCENE.

The Rev. Frederick Buel, agent of the American Bible Society in California, in a communication to the Bible Board in New York, gives an interesting account of the upsetting of a stage in the mountains of Downieville. Mr. Buel says:—

"I started for Nevada by stage, leaving Downieville about two o'clock in the morning. Shortly after leaving the latter place the road ascends Goodyear's Hill, being cut out of the side of the declivity and winding around the recesses and projections of the mountain going about seven miles to gain two. A great portion of the way the side of the mountain is precipitous, and the road a thousand feet above the creek below. Nearly two miles from the foot of the mountain I was startled from a doze by an outcry, 'We are going over,' and I awoke to a consciousness that the stage was upsetting. Three times we went over and over down the mountain side. During the first upset I felt some suspense, hoping that might be the end; but when the stage turned the second time, knowing the road we were on, I concluded that the end of our overturnings would be in eternity and I committed myself into the hands of the Lord. After several successive bounds, however, the stage rested, and wondering to find my limbs whole, I scrambled out as quickly as