getting sicker every minute. The telegram was addressed to his mother, and

Can any one come? I am sick.

As soon as the message left his hand he commenced to wonder who of the family could come, or if any one would. His mother couldn't. His father was away from home. Sam had gone on a hunting expedition. His sisters would be of no help to him in that place, and the prospect was not bright for any assistance from home. He groaned and he cried. There was no one there to chide him, and he could not help it any way. He watched the shadow creep around in the window until he knew that noon had come, and felt the day was interminable. He refused the dinner that was brought to him. After a while the doctor came. He gave Benny another bitter dose, but it had an opiate in it, and after a little he slept heavily, and did not heed the lengthening shadows or the oncoming twilight.

Benny's mother received the telegram, and read it through eyes dim with tears of sympathy. She handed it to Sam, who read it with a smile. Looking at his

watch, he said: "I have just an hour to get the buggy and drive to the station. Will you pack some things in the valise?"

'The valise is already packed," his

mother said. "Then will you go with me to the station and bring back the buggy?"

Yes; and I will be ready by the time you drive around to the gate.

The great gong at the tavern down on the corner was ringing out its harsh summons to supper when Benny awoke and turned over in bed, sighing heavily and

saying to himself, though he spoke aloud:
"Oh, my head!" and tried to find an
easy place for it, the meanwhile never once opening his eyes. No light was burning, but the reflection of the street-lamp made

light enough.
"Sleep, Benny?" said a well-known
voice, and the same instant a warm hand pressed his forehead tenderly.

"Oh, Sam!" cried Benny, and then sobbed in silence and in joy. Sam stroked his head tenderly, and waited for him to 1277

speak.
"How did you get here so soon?"

"Mother had everything ready, and when your message came I hopped on the next train, and here I am !"

After watching and nursing Benny for ten days, the fever had subsided, so it was thought safe to take him home.

That upper room never seemed fairer to his eyes than when he was helped into the easy chair at the front window. The bed was so white, clean and inviting; the books and papers on the table were his favorites; the pictures on the wall were those he liked best, and he knew it had all been done for his coming.

By-and-by his mother said:

"What can I get for your supper,

Benny?

"Don't ask me, mother. Anything you get will be good."

"But what would you like best?" "Now, mother, don't tease me. You know my failing. I should like a nice spring chicken fried, but that is beyond all

reason, and this the first of November!
Spring chickens are old hens now."

"I have one for you," his mother answered. "As soon as I heard you were sick, I knew you would want that the first thing when you came home, so I searched all over the country until I found a woman who had raised a brood of fall chickens, and she let me have a couple, and one is now on the stove frying for you !"

"You are the dearest mother!" ex-

claimed Benny, ardently.

While she was downstairs busily preparing Benny's supper with her own hands, he was going over his experiences of the past few weeks and praising the love and care of his mother, who had so arranged that his requests, though unseasonable and unreasonable, should be granted as soon as made. And thus his prayer was really answered before it was uttered.—Michigan Christian Advocate.

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