「 -1
$=\sqrt{\sigma O C H}$ TOO LOUD p was house-cleaning time, and the
aden clock, whose place was in the
fing.-room, found itself on the library
mble. face to face with the black mar-
ble clock that belonged in the parlor. not readily be seen. However, both
boys were down at once on their hands
and knees, hunting eagerly for ts and knees, hun
Once more the sound of wheels met heir ears, azd, just'as Sam sprang to open it, Ben's hand turned over some "Why, where in the world did you come from?" asked the wooden clock, in a harsb, loud voice. "I never
heard you tick or strike. Have you been in the house long?" one, in low tones.
"Fifteen years!" repeatel the wood der. "That's a long time. I've only been bere three. And did you never been bere three. y
talk louder than you do now?"
"Never," said the marble clock.

And don't you ever strike !" "Oftener than you do; for I tell the
half hours, as well as the hours. Listen, I'm gong to strike twelve in a moment." And at the end of the mo-
ment rang out a sweet tinkling sound, like the ch ming of owee silver bells.
" Ho ! ha!", laughed the wood clock rudely. "D y you call that strik. ing? Just hear me!" and it struck
the mid-day hour with such a brazen clang that the bronze lions on each side
of the marble clock started and put of the marble clock start
their paws over their ears.
their paws over their ears.
"There, what do you think of that ?" it said, as the last stroke died away.
A nd my ticking can be heard all A nd my ticking can be heard all over
the bouse. How much more valuable I must be than you are." mistake," said the marble elock quirt. y. "You are mueb too loud. I am worth, at least, twenty of you."
$\qquad$ one, so indignantly that its tongue-in
other words, its pendulum-nearly fell other
off.
" $Y$ ing upon a sudden impulse, he popped it into his pocket, saying to himself, Sam n sedn't know, and then to-morrow 1 can buy that whistle I've been wanting so long." The carriage passed on its way, but the coachman gave the
boys notbing, and Sam relurned to the search.
"You've not found it, have you?"
said he, as Ben still feigned to said he, as
the money.
"No, I'm afraid it's no use looking any more," replied Ben ; "it's rather
cold ; shall we $\mathrm{z}^{\circ}$ ". "All right," said Sam. "We'll
come down early in the morning, and come down early in the morning, and
look for it." So off went the brothers to their home.
Poor Ben crept into bed without
saying his prayers that saying his prayers that night. Some-
how he did not feel as if he could pray, with that penny and the lie he had told about it burning tis con-
science. Neither could be sleep. The money was under his pillow, and he felt as if it were getting botter and hotter till it scorched his cheek. Restlessly
he tossed about, till at morning he fell in last, toward dreamful slumber.
But even in his dreams the penny
seemed to scorch him. seemed to scorch him. Now he was
raciug, as if for life, down a snowy raciug, as if for life, down a snow
road, and a great big penav, like a dagger, behind him. At another time
he thought he was struggling in a river, with ice over his head, and
penny bung around his Every body in the village of Heppinglet agreed that dut was very kind of
Squire Meadows during the winter monrhs, when the road was bad, to
allow the bighway travellers to acruss his grounds, on his ows private
roud, and out into the public thorough. are again on the other side. This De; ly a good mile and a balf, for otherwise he would have had to go all
round the park, which he was row per.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


| lingering in hope of some more for a peuny, as the drivers of ket carts hald not hitherto pro generous. |
| :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

over a snowy stanp," and said, " Ben,
do you bear any thing ?"
B th boys listened, and in a moment quick trot of a horse driven by a gen.
tleman, who flung a copper to the
as he went by.
The snow was deep, and the penny fell with some force, and sank into it
so that in the waning twilight it could

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peuny bung around bis neck, dragging
him down, down to the him down, down to the buttom.
At last he woke, the horrors of his
dreams still upon him. He could bear dreams still upon him. He could bea
the stiug of conscieace no longer the sting of cunscieace no longer.
"S am,", said he, "I want to tell you something. I did find that penny
after all, and here it is, and I'm so unhappy, I don't know what to do" arms around bis brother, and tried to comfort hum; but, seeing that nothing
made him feel much better, he whispered at last, "Come, Ben; let's kneel
down bere, and tell God and Mother Suys that's the only way to get
right again." So thyy knelt down to gether by Sam's bed, and Ben sobbed out a confession of his sin, and prayed to their beds, and fell asleep.


We are glad to tell you that Ben did
not lose his tender conscience as he grew older, nor c id he ever forget the
misery of what he called the " red-hot penny night."-M. E. R. in The Child's
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