

The next hour was a trying one for the teacher. Tom was now "the sullen boy resisting authority." He did a minimum amount of work containing a maximum number of errors. Most of his time was spent wondering what the teacher would say to him, and what he would say in return. But neither by word nor look did the teacher treat him differently than at other times, and this he could not understand. It bothered him.

School was dismissed and the teacher and her problem were now face to face. Nothing was said at first, but she looked over him as he sat at his desk, with his head hanging down, a thunder cloud on his face, eyes that could not look you straight in the face, and lips that had grown to a continual pout. But this teacher was by no means shortsighted, and looking further than the outward appearance, saw the possibilities that the boy possessed, and as she looked at him, an inspiration seized her. "Tom," said she, "I have been thinking about you and have come to the conclusion that you don't think enough of yourself." Now this was the very opposite of what Tom expected. Several teachers had told him that he ought to think more of them, and not hurt their feelings, but this was the first time that a teacher had told him that he ought to think more of himself. "No" said the teacher as though to herself. "I am sure you don't think enough of yourself, and if you don't think much of yourself how can I think much of you? I want you to think so much of yourself that you will never do any work that is not your best. I want you to think so much of yourself that you will do nothing that is not manly to do. I want you so to act, and so to talk, as to show that you respect yourself, and then all others will respect you. My boy, try it, and see how it works. Think more of yourself." And Tom understood what she meant.

She dismissed him kindly, with a "good evening," and each went home. But Tom's better self had been found, the thought given him was working on his feelings with intense power, and before he had reached home, he was saying to himself. "I will think more of myself," and so he did. It was a hard struggle but with a teacher who understood him and was anxious to help him, he daily grew stronger. And as he began to respect himself, his head went up, his eyes became brighter, and the whole boy was changed so much that everybody in the district noticed the change. But no two were more happy over it than the teacher and Tom.

EDMUND G. TODD.

Longburn, Man.

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