

the pay-roll could be lessened by one, and the question with Mr. Welles was, "which one?"

It must lie between Frank Lockwood and Dan Barton—"Big Dan," as he was commonly called. These men had been given employment on the same day, so the period of service was equal.

Frank was popular with his fellow workmen, and even the superintendent had a feeling of preference for the quick, light-hearted young fellow, whom he had often seen on holidays, walking with his blue-eyed wife and babies.

Dan was dark-browed, slow of speech, and uncommunicative—sullen, some of the miners believed. But he was almost a Hercules, perfectly steady, and industrious. Perhaps the best interests of the mine demanded his retention.

It was Saturday evening and wages were due. As the young manager mentally settled the question, his office-door opened and Dan entered. He received his money quietly, and said, as he turned away:

"I'll be there, Monday morning."

"Wait, a moment, please," said the superintendent. "We'll have to take off a man, Dan—times are bad, you know."

"And I'm to go, Sir?"

"Not if you choose to stay. It is between you and Lockwood—as the latest employees. You are stronger, and I suppose that settles it."

Dan hesitated, and then spoke steadily:

"If it's the same to you and you'll keep Lockwood, I'll go."

"Can you get work elsewhere?"

"I don't know; if worse comes to worst, one can starve better than five."

So Dan passed into the night, alone, but following. One whose footsteps lead onward and upward toward the Kingdom of Light.—M. L. Burdick, in the Young Churchman.

WHAT A FREIGHT MASTER DID.

An engine bumped against some empty cars in the early dawn of a winter morning. A boy who had been asleep in one of them was thrown, dazed and bewildered, against the door, which he had pulled to when he crawled into the car the night before.

Just then a brakeman thrust his head into the car, and reached for his jacket, which he supposed was hanging where he had left it. He was somewhat surprised to find a boy on it, and took it from him without ceremony.

"Now get out of here!" he said, thrusting the boy from the door. "If I catch you in one of these cars again, I'll give you to the policeman!"

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"What's he been up to, Bill?" said a man who was putting freight into the next car.
"Up to my coat," he said, giving it a vigorous shake as he walked off.
The boy looked dirty and dejected, as he limped along by the side of the

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track. The man who had spoken called after him:

"Hello, there! Do you want a job?"

The boy turned back quickly.
"If you'll help me load these firkins, I'll pay you for it; but you'll have to work spry."

The prospect of a little money brightened the boy, and he set to work in earnest, though he was stiff and cramped and hungry.

"Do you live around here?"

The boy shook his head.
"In case we should want to hire a boy about your size, can you give me any recommendations as to your character?"

The boy's face flushed, but he made no answer. The man watched him narrowly, and when the car was loaded, handed him twenty-five cents.

"We're short of hands in the freight room. Do you think you'd like the job?"

"Yes, I would like it."

The boy's face was almost painful in its eagerness, as he followed the man into the freight room.

"Now," said the freight man, seating himself on a box, "we'll have a bit of a talk before we get to business! I don't know anything about you except that you are cold and hungry; you've got into some scrape, for if you hadn't you wouldn't be loafing about stations and sleeping in freight cars. I'm not going to ask you whether you have done anything wrong, but I'm going in and ask whether you've got a mother."

"No, she's dead."

"Got any father, or folks that belong to you?"

"I've got an uncle and some cousins."

"Well, now, if you had a mother, I'd send you to her in no time, for there is nothing that a mother won't forgive; but uncles and cousins are different. If I recommend you at the office, they'll take you, but mind, if I do it, I'm going to watch you as a cat does a mouse. You'll have to spend the evenings and Sundays with me. I went wrong myself when I was no older than you are," lowering his voice. "And if it hadn't been for my mother—well, that was a long time ago. You've got switched upon the wrong track, I am sure, and as you haven't got any mother to help you get into the right one, God helping me, I'll do it, if you'll let me. Preaching isn't in my line, but just there's one thing you don't want to forget, and that is the good Father is giving you a chance now to get where you can do right and feel right. Are you going to take it?"

The boy answered faintly that he would try. He was taken into the freight yard, and was put under his new friend's eye constantly, and it was not long before the man had

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soon won his confidence that he told him his story.

There was trouble and dishonesty connected with it, but for two years the lad proved himself faithful and trustworthy in his new occupation. He was then advanced to a more responsible position, but there was something almost pathetic in his devotion to him who had befriended him, and in his respect for the religion he professed.

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