

THE HISTORIES OF TWO BOYS.

Emerson prefaced his essay on "Compensation" with the remark that he had always wanted to write upon that subject. There is a true story on compensation from the salary point of view that I have always wanted to write, and now I am going to do it. The two young men to whom the story refers were schoolboys friends of mine. I know the facts in the case of each and can tell the story with exactitude.

These two boys may be called Smith and Brown. They were graduated in the same year from the same high school. They had been chums, more or less, for years, and decided to start in the turmoil of life in the same business house, if possible. Positions were secured in the largest drygoods store in Boston. More than that, both young men were assigned to work as tyro salesmen behind the lace counter.

"This isn't much of a place," remarked Brown dubiously. "It is not a bad place," returned Smith, consolingly, "and we're getting five dollars a week to start with. Not very bad pay for boys!"

"There were long hours to be served and the work was hard. There were many impatient customers to be waited upon. As both boys lived some twenty minutes' walk from the store they walked home together in the evening.

"Pretty slow life, this," grumbled Brown. "Think of the pay we're getting."

"It's not bad for youngsters," rejoined Smith. "It might be worse."

Neither boy had any living expense to pay, save for noonday luncheon and laundry. Smith brought his luncheon; Brown didn't. Smith began a bank account. Brown went to dances as often as he could afford the money. He soon found other pastimes, of evenings, that absorbed all his money and what he could borrow from his father. Naturally the two boys began to drift apart, except for that little evening walk home. Brown began to grumble at what he termed the slowness of promotion.

"It will come all right," returned Smith, "if we work for it."

At the end of the first year Brown observed:—

"I guess you're right. My pay has been raised a dollar a week. A fine return for hard work, isn't it? Did you get a raise?"

"Yes; I've been raised to seven."

Brown whistled his amazement, looked very thoughtful, for a few moments, and then blurted out:—

"That's a sample of favoritism that goes on in the business world. Whom did you get on the right side of?"

"I don't know," answered Smith and he told the truth.

"I'm going to find out about this," grumbled the other boy, and he did. It was the department manager who supplied the information. While both boys had done everything of a routine nature that was required of them, it had been noted that Smith was always more anxious to please customers in all ways possible to a salesman.

But the matter rankled in Brown's mind. He was brooding over the thing one day when a woman customer approached the lace counter and inquired for a certain make of lace.

"Sorry; haven't got it," said Brown briefly. In a second Smith was at his side, whispering:—

"Jack, you'll find it on the third lowest shelf down."

Turning, Brown went to the shelf, indicated, found the goods, produced them and made a sale. As soon as the customer departed, the manager, who had been looking on, stepped up and asked:—

"Brown, why don't you learn to know your goods?"

"I can't remember everything, sir."

"Smith seems to be able to do so," said the department manager, as he moved away.

That remark about knowing one's goods struck deep in the mind of the listening Smith. He had already a very good knowledge of the laces that he had to sell, but he went to the department manager and said:—

"I would like your permission to cut a small sample from every one of those laces in the department."

"What do you want of them?"

"I want to take the samples home and study them evenings. I want, if possible, to become so familiar with every make and pattern of lace that I could tell it by touch in the dark."

"Take the samples," was the brief reply.

After a few weeks of patient evening study, aided by the use of a

microscope, Smith discovered that he knew three times as much about laces as he had ever expected to know. Out of his savings he bought a powerful hand magnifying glass, that he carried daily with him to the store. By degrees he was able to demonstrate to customers the relative values of the different laces. The department manager looked on approvingly and added all the information in his power.

At the end of the second year Brown's salary remained at six dollars. Smith's pay had been increased to ten.

"Favoritism!" snapped Brown. "I wonder, Fred, why the manager cannot see anything in me. I work as hard as you do."

"Not in the evenings," was the quiet answer. "I spend most of my evenings time studying the laces. Why don't you do the same? You're a good fellow, and willing. Come up to the house with me to-night, and after supper I'll show you some of the things I've been studying."

"Can't do it," negatived Brown, "got an engagement."

There was an evening high school course in chemistry. Deciding that he knew as much as he was able to learn about the fibres of every kind of lace sold in the store, Smith decided to take up chemistry in the hope that he could learn something more about laces. The course was an elementary one, but he applied himself with so much diligence that the professor soon began to take an especial interest in him. Then the young man explained what he wanted most to learn.

"Stop a few minutes every evening after the class is dismissed," advised the professor. "Bring samples of your laces with you, and I'll see what help I can give you."

All through the winter Smith toiled away at chemistry. He learned how to make tests of lace fibres that were impossible with the microscope alone. One day a lot of samples of laces came from abroad. Some of these the young man, after using his glass, considered spurious. He took them home that evening and applied the chemical tests. The next morning he reported to the department manager, a successor to the one under whom he had first served, that the samples were of spurious goods.

"Why don't you mind your own business?" was the irritable retort; "these samples are all right."

But Smith, saying nothing, went to the superintendent and made a statement of what he had discovered. "How on earth do you know this?" demanded the young man's superior.

"Professor Boeckmann has been instructing me in chemical tests of thread fibres for several months."

"I'll think this matter over," said the superintendent briefly. He did, even to the extent of communicating with the professor. The result was that the new department manager was dismissed and Smith, after some urging, took his place, at a comparatively low beginning salary of thirty dollars a week. Brown, who was now receiving eight dollars a week, had begun to feel a positive dislike for his more successful friend.

Three months went by. Smith drew forty-five dollars a week, while his erstwhile friend had gone up to ten. The buyer for the lace department, who had grown old and wished to retire, was about to make his last trip to Ireland and France for laces. He requested that Smith should go with him.

"You always have been lucky," growled Brown, when he heard the news. "You're off for a fine trip abroad, with all expenses paid, and I suppose you are going to have your salary raised?"

"Pitch in and study, Jack," whispered Smith. "I've three days yet before I sail. Come around and I'll get you started."

"Sorry, but I can't, old fellow. I've got engagements for every night this week."

Two months later Smith returned to the store, strolled through it and went up to the lace counter. Brown stood there, looking most disconsolate. His face brightened, up, however, as he saw his friend approaching.

"Fred," he whispered, excitedly, "I guess you can do me a big favor. I've been discharged. The fellow they put in your place told me I'm through Saturday. Said a man who had been here so long and who was only worth ten dollars a week wasn't worth keeping. I suppose though, — seriously, — you've had another rise of pay?"

"Yes," Mr. Stallman, the foreign

lace buyer, has retired, and I've been put in his place. I'm to begin with four thousand a year and travelling expenses."

Brown threw up his hands in a gesture that expressed a variety of emotions.

"Favoritism!" he muttered, scowling at the ceiling. —H. Irving Hancock, in Success.

THE PARENT AND EDUCATION

On a recent Sunday evening, in St. Peter's Church, Rev. Vincent Wilson gave the first of a series of sermons on Education. Taking for his subject "The Parent and Education" he said:

"Now there are three parties who, according to sound teaching, have really rights and duties in regard to education. The parent, the Church, and the State. Treat them in this order and of the Parent to-night."

The first and supreme place is held by the parent. Curious, that in the discussion so little is heard of the parent. Plenty about the State, the taxpayer, the ratepayer, the people, local authority, but scarcely a word about the parent. Yet no other stands in a like position. It is the right and duty of the Parent to provide, direct and control education. This right belongs to the parent and to the parent alone. To no other, neither Church nor State. Anyone attempting to come between the parent and child and take its education out of his hand is an interloper and usurper, and none can do so without violation of the primary right of the parent. Even the Church does not dare assume an office and duty which God and Nature have invested in the parent. The Church and State stand on either side to see that the parent does his duty. Each may help, and under certain circumstances must help, but help only, and not supercede or displace the parent. Each has certain rights, each may advise, each may insist that the child be so and so to such a degree educated as is essential for the well-being of Church and State, but what they have a right to secure and desire to secure, must be secured through the parent, not by pushing aside the parent and taking his place. This may be done only when shown in each case that it can be done no otherwise.

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To the parent, and to the parent alone, belongs the right of education in the fullest sense and complete; and this not only while children are infants or very young, but through the whole course of education till complete, and the children have reached the status of men and women with rights of their own. As a sound writer of some note on political science declares, "the proper relation of parent and child requires that the parent should have over the child full power of control and correction up to a certain age, and full freedom in the choice of education. Whatever authority father and mother requires in order to fulfill these duties is their own by a right which no civil law can take away; for no civil law can take away their responsibility nor exempt them from duties which are the ground of their authority." No! as none can deprive them of their right, so none can relieve parents of their obligations and responsibilities and if the parent himself should be guilty of the injustice and sin of surrendering his right, yet can he never rid himself of the responsibility or escape the reckoning. Oh, parents, how exalted is your position in your country, in your Church. What a sacred charge you have in your keeping. How awful the authority invested in you, not by the Church, not by men, not by the State, but directly by God himself. He has associated you with Himself in the work of creation when He brings into the world map created to His own image and likeness. He shares with you His own parental authority. He allows you to be called by the very name of Father, by which He teaches us to call upon Himself, because there is no other that can so well express His goodness, tenderness and providential care. To you He has committed the care and guardianship of His dearest creatures. Consequently He has invested you with authority and entitled you to honor like upon His own. You are headed round about by a divinity such as does not encompass any king. God has secured to you authority, honor and obedience by one of those Ten Commandments which from Sinai He thundered forth to all the earth.

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To the parent, and to the parent alone, belongs the right of education in the fullest sense and complete; and this not only while children are infants or very young, but through the whole course of education till complete, and the children have reached the status of men and women with rights of their own. As a sound writer of some note on political science declares, "the proper relation of parent and child requires that the parent should have over the child full power of control and correction up to a certain age, and full freedom in the choice of education. Whatever authority father and mother requires in order to fulfill these duties is their own by a right which no civil law can take away; for no civil law can take away their responsibility nor exempt them from duties which are the ground of their authority." No! as none can deprive them of their right, so none can relieve parents of their obligations and responsibilities and if the parent himself should be guilty of the injustice and sin of surrendering his right, yet can he never rid himself of the responsibility or escape the reckoning. Oh, parents, how exalted is your position in your country, in your Church. What a sacred charge you have in your keeping. How awful the authority invested in you, not by the Church, not by men, not by the State, but directly by God himself. He has associated you with Himself in the work of creation when He brings into the world map created to His own image and likeness. He shares with you His own parental authority. He allows you to be called by the very name of Father, by which He teaches us to call upon Himself, because there is no other that can so well express His goodness, tenderness and providential care. To you He has committed the care and guardianship of His dearest creatures. Consequently He has invested you with authority and entitled you to honor like upon His own. You are headed round about by a divinity such as does not encompass any king. God has secured to you authority, honor and obedience by one of those Ten Commandments which from Sinai He thundered forth to all the earth.

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