

despise Tom. Harry Barnes was a general favorite, owing to his high spirits and activity, but Tom sometimes found himself doubting whether his companion was always quite upright and honest in his dealings. However, he was far too timid to hint at such a thing, or, indeed, even to encourage the idea in his own mind; but, none the less, he was occasionally startled by Harry's utterance of an untruth when it served his purpose. Living in the same house, the boys were necessarily much together, and they continued good friends in spite of the difference of their characters, and Tom's occasional doubts of his companion's integrity. Harry hated books, and therefore had no wish to join Tom in his attendance at the school, and thus several hours of every evening he passed away from him, engaged in pursuits more suited to his taste.

Tom had been in the office about six months when he was surprised by a summons to Mr. Miller's private room, a part of the establishment which he had never seen.

On entering the small room, he found only his master and Harry there.

"Tom," he said, laying down his pen, and addressing him, "I have sent for you to express my approval of your conduct during the six months you have been with me. I have watched you, and I have found my confidence in you justified. I sent for you, therefore, to tell you that it is my intention to promote you to a higher place. It has always been my rule hitherto that every lad who entered my office should rise step by step, but in your case I am willing to make an exception. My junior clerk is leaving me, and as I understand that you write a good hand, and can keep accounts, I offer you the post, what say you?"

Tom tried to stammer out words of thanks, but was too much surprised to say much. Mr. Miller continued, "It is a great step for a boy like you, and a responsible one. Here at this desk is your post, and you must be here every day punctually at eight. Your predecessor lived here, but you had better continue where you are; and as you will receive much higher wages, of course you will offer to pay more money to Mrs. Barnes."

"Yes, sir," said Tom.

"That will do, then; remember, I still give the same advice, 'Be honest,' and remember that God sees you."

Tom made his bow, and left the room. He could hardly believe his good fortune, and he stood for a moment in the passage wondering why he should be so fortunate, and as he thought, he remembered what his mother had said on her deathbed, "God will take care of the orphan." How truly she had so said! And with the thought came the prayer that the Father who had guided him hitherto, would continue to watch over and help him. With a light and thankful heart he returned to his duties.

When six o'clock struck, Harry issued from the private room, and Tom hastened to meet him. To his surprise, Harry began, before they were out of hearing of the men, "So that's the meaning of all your learning, is it?—to step over the heads of your betters; but I'm not going to be under a *crossing-sweeper's* orders."

"Oh, Harry," cried Tom, "what have I done?"

"Done! oh nothing; only taken the place which I ought to have had."

"But, indeed, Harry," answered Tom, eagerly, "I never tried to get over you, I never thought of such a thing."

"Oh no, of course not; don't tell me. Keep your place and much good may it do you." And Harry strode off, leaving Tom alone, and feeling very sad. On his arrival at the cottage, he found that Harry had got home before him, and told his aunt the news. Although she spoke a few words of congratulation, he soon perceived that she too was annoyed at what she fancied a slight on her nephew. Tom's first hour of success was not therefore perfectly happy.

Six months have passed, and they have greatly improved our young friend's appearance. He has become a stout lad, his face expresses great intelligence and good temper, and all traces of his early troubles have now disappeared. Harry and he never became again such friendly companions as they had been when their positions were reversed. He hated to appear even to act in accordance with the wishes of Tom the "clerk," and he nursed his jealousy until it grew into a motive powerful enough to have frightened himself, had he examined his own principles of conduct. This, however, he had never been accustomed to do, and as months passed and he obtained no promotion, he determined to leave Mr. Miller, and

seek a better place elsewhere. He accordingly informed his master of his intention, and he, who still kept his interest in Harry in spite of his unfitness, as he believed, for business, remonstrated with him, but to no purpose. Finding all his expostulations unheeded, he exerted his influence to obtain a situation for him elsewhere, and succeeded in placing him with an old friend of his own, where he received wages equal to Tom's, although he did not occupy so good a position. Tom was sincerely pleased to hear of Harry's good fortune, and hoped that they might again become friends. In this, however, he was disappointed. Harry shunned his society in every possible way. Occasionally his business obliged them to meet in Mr. Miller's office, but he never went if he could in any avoid it. Tom, on the other hand, sought by every means in his power to conciliate him, not only on account of the discomfort of living at enmity with him, but upon principle. The good seed so early planted by his mother now bore abundant fruit. *He was a sincere Christian*, and, knowing he must try to be *Christ-like*, he prayed to be enabled, not only to bear Harry's contempt with patience, but to return good for evil.

(To be continued.)

A Fatal Mistake.

would be not to take Dr. R. V. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" if you are bilious, suffering from impure blood, or fearing consumption (scrofulous diseases of the lungs). Sold by all druggists.

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Of youth and home, and that sweet time
When first I heard their soothing Chime."

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THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS

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