

Children's Department.

DICK AND HIS FRIENDS.

(Written for 'The Church Guardian')

(CONTINUED.)

Dick worked faithfully till he had finished hoeing the potatoes, and then sat down to rest himself in the shade of a large old beech tree which grew in the park, but spread its broad branches over the low wall round the widow's garden, and made one lovely, cool spot, where poor Willie had contrived, when he felt a little stronger than usual, to make a sort of rustic seat. It was getting on towards noon, and Dick thought of his visit to his father's grave about the same hour. Many, many times, had he thought of it, but now, as he sat resting in the mid-day stillness he seemed to feel again the touch upon his shoulder, and to meet the kind, pitying eyes that had looked down at the poor solitary "factory boy," the grief-stricken orphan.

The little Bible which Mr. Selkirk had given him was in the pocket of his jacket, which he had laid upon the seat. He drew it out now very reverently—he turned it over and over, and read the name and address written upon the blank leaf. This little book Mr. Selkirk had told him was God's Holy Word; in it he was to find all about that Father in Heaven who watches over all His children, and without whose knowledge even a sparrow does not fall to the ground. It was He who had brought him here to this kind woman, who had given him food and shelter, and who, he felt sure, would try to help him on. She and her boy knew this great Father in Heaven—had not Willie heard them ask Him to bless the food He gave them? Willie could only read a little, but he set his whole mind and heart to make out some of those passages, marked by his friend, for such the clergyman had been, and which Dick had promised to read.

There was a tiny crimson marker where Dick opened first, and on the page he saw marked with a red line these words: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoso believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God so loved the world—Dick read letter by letter, word by word, and though he was but an ignorant child, who, but for that first loving teaching yesterday, had scarce ever heard His Maker's name uttered—dreadful to say—except coupled with an oath, yet his heart was stirred by a new, sweet feeling, half gladness, half awe.

Truly, a God of Love—a Father of the fatherless, He had sent His servant to the lonely child, a minister of mercy, who had sown the seed in the ground softened by sorrow. That first day of Dick's orphan life, by God's grace, was to decide his future. Henceforward, though sinning and suffering like the rest of us, Dick always connected goodness and purity with brightness and happiness.

He was so deeply engaged in pouring over that passage in the Bible that he did not hear a step upon the path. A pretty, pleasant-looking lady, who had come out of the cottage, stood beside him for a moment or two before he was conscious that anyone was near him. Then he looked up surprised. Miss Montford had been to see "her boy," Willie, and, having heard from Mrs. Burton about the stranger, had come to judge for herself before she gave any advice respecting him. Dick was not shy, he had been too much among crowds all his life; but he felt all at once that this lady was not like anyone he had known. She was most like Mr. Selkirk, he thought, though, indeed, there was little outward resemblance between them. What they had in common was the look of kindness and goodness—that look which the servants of our Blessed Lord, whether old or young, rich or poor, carry on their faces.

(To be continued.)

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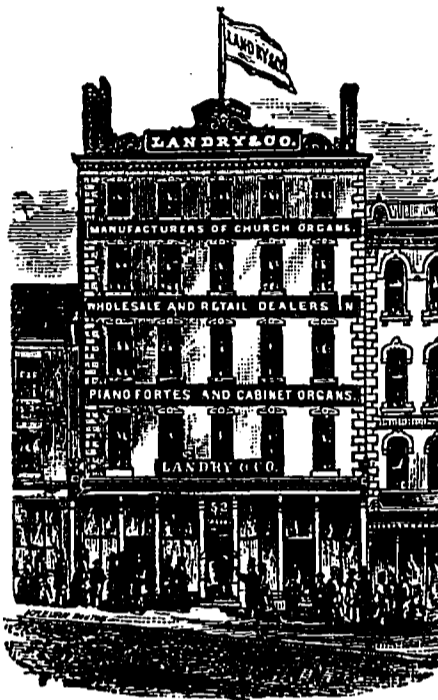
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9-1f



TENDERS FOR STEEL RAILS.

TENDERS addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Railways and Canals will be received at the Canadian Emigration Office, 31 Queen Victoria street, E. C., London, England, until JULY 15th, next, for Steel Rails and Fastenings, to be delivered at MONTREAL, as follows:

- 5,000 tons by October 1st, 1879.
- 5,000 tons by June 1st, 1880.
- 5,000 tons by October 1st, 1880.

Specifications, Conditions, Forms of Tender, and all other information will be furnished on application at this office, or at the Canadian Emigration Office, 31 Queen Victoria Street, E. C., London, England.

By order, F. BRAUN, Secretary. Department of Railways and Canals, OTTAWA, 13th June, 1879. 11-3ms

PACIFIC RAILWAY TENDERS.

TENDERS for the construction of about one hundred miles of Railway, West of Red River, in the Province of Manitoba, will be received by the undersigned until noon on Friday, 1st August next.

The Railway will commence at Winnipeg, and run North-westerly to connect with the main line in the neighborhood of the 4th base line, and thence Westerly between Prairie la Portage and Lake Manitoba.

Tenders must be on the printed form, which, with all other information, may be had at the Pacific Railway Engineer's Offices, in Ottawa and Winnipeg.

F. BRAUN, Secretary. Department of Railways and Canals, OTTAWA, 16th June, 1879. 11-5f