

CHILDREN AND FORBID THEM NOT TO COME

PEACE ON EARTH

CANADA

GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

SUPPER · LITTLE

UNT · ME ·

# SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE

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## RONALD'S REASON.

THE boys stood round the master, eager with desire to save Ronald from disgrace.

"We teased him, sir," said Edward Thorold.

"We were all at him, sir," said Dick Mings.

"Any three of us," cried out a sharp little Irish lad called Paddy Blake, "any three of us will jump with joy to be flogged alive if you will let Ronald off this time, his first offense, sir, and here's my back, master, dear, ready and willing for a beating to begin with."

Of course, Paddy Blake's eloquence caused a laugh, but the master still looked stern.

"I hear," he said, "that this is not Ronald's only fault. You all accuse him of stinginess: you say he gives nothing, enjoys nothing, but hoards his money like a miser."

"Sir," said William Graves, "he says he has a reason for hoarding his money, and I could stake my life the reason is a good one."

"He is your friend, William," said the master, "so you are hardly a fair witness."

"Pardon, sir," said Graves, "I know him better than any of the other boys."

"Will he tell his reason?" said the master.

"I cannot, sir," answered Ronald.

"Then go to your room at once," said Mr. Downs, "and to-morrow I will decide."

A score of young eager voices asked for judgment at once or else a free pardon; but Mr. Downs was firm, and the school broke up for the night.

Early the next morning, before breakfast, Doctor Jay's buggy bowled up the drive.

Ronald was in his room, and if Philip had been there he would have seen the deep flush that crimsoned his cheeks; poor Phil had gone down with very red eyes, and in wonder how it was that Ronald could be in disgrace!

When breakfast was over Philip was sent for, and soon after Ronald was heard coming down

stairs, not with the slow foot of a culprit, but with the bound of a free boy.

There was something going on that the boys could not make out; the master sent for the usher, and the usher came back to the school-room, and told the boys to stand up as if for drill; then he placed the desk in a corner, and brought forward Mr. Downs's chair, and placed another chair by its side, and when this was done he again left the school-room.

Then in walked Mr. Downs and Doctor Jay, leading Philip by the hand—Philip erect as any other boy—his short leg made as long as the other,

or wished for; he has scraped, and hoarded, and grown cents into dollars; he has paid for what will, we are told, give his little friend ease of body and mind; and he has placed in Doctor Jay's hand a sum to meet all future charge and charges." Mr. Downs paused and then added, "The hardest part of this self-imposed duty arose out of the ill-treatment of this noble boy by his school-fellows."

"It was not meant, sir," said Ronald, "how could they know? They could not help thinking me mean."

"We thought," said one fellow, "he was hoarding for himself."

strapped up in some way that gave it strength; then came Ronald, looking very sheepish and rosy.

"You all know," said the master, "that Ronald, if he spent nothing on you, spent nothing on himself; if he denied you much, he denied himself more, and all for a reason—and now I will show you the reason.

"Our little friend Philip was lame, and our good doctor said the lameness could be cured, but the means of cure would be a great expense; an expense at first, and increased expense for some time, as these strengthening irons must, from time to time, be altered, and perhaps changed.

"Philip's father is dead, and his mother could not afford to incur this cost; dearly as she loved this child, he is but one of many for whom she is bound to provide.

"Was Philip to live out his life unlike other lads? Was he never to out-race the hill breeze? to cricket? to swim? Never to be able to rush to meet a friend? was the lame boy to become the lame man? No! please God, no! and who prevents it?"

He took Ronald's hand and placed him before him. "This boy prevents it."

The master laid his hand on Ronald's head, and O what a shout filled the school-room.

"There is the REASON why Ronald has firmly denied himself all things that he wanted

