



## OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

**TEDDY'S DREAM.**—Teddy's real name was Edward Jeremiah O'Rourke. But who ever heard of an Edward Jeremiah being captain of a football team? Teddy's mother, cousins, and aunts called him Ned; his father and teacher called him Edward; but on the field the boys shouted: "Go it, Ted!" and he went.

Early in life Ted had developed a strong propensity for what is called in New York "playing hockey" in Massachusetts "bunkin'" and in Rhode Island "runnin' away." In his case, this meant that he spent every pleasant afternoon in spring at Scott's Pond, watching the floating island and frightening the fish, instead of being at school.

But "a change came o'er the spirit of his dream" when, on returning to the classroom one bright September morning, he found himself promoted. The cause of the promotion never reached his ears, but I'll tell you, in confidence.

The Sister who taught the sixth grade said he could no longer fit in her desks, so up he went.

Suddenly it dawned on him that he might as well begin to study now as at any other time, so he set to work with a will. In vain did his old companions tell of the "high time" they were going to have in Chestnut Grove, and press him to join them. Ted treated them to his best-natured grin, and said he guessed he'd go to school—for a change. He became a great help to the teacher, in a quiet way; not that he ever carried a tale or sought to gain favor at the expense of others, but when Sister Mary Grace said, "Edward, I wish you would get Thomas Crewby to stop smoking," he made it a rule that the boys on his team should not smoke.

Still more important rules were those stating that no boy should remain from Confession longer than a month, and profanity was to be punished by a fine. Ted knew how to get at his "men," as he called them, better than any teacher, just as an old smuggler makes the best custom house officer.

So he toiled in school and out of it, faithfully and earnestly, for a year, and after the closing exercises he had the satisfaction of reading the following item in the Pawtucket "Times":

"Master Edward Jeremiah O'Rourke has attained the highest scholarship average in St. Patrick's School, Valley Falls."

His father felt justly proud of him, and presented him with a handsome gold watch that had to be taken out many times a day and displayed to the admiring eyes of all the boys.

Only Ted and his teacher realized how hard he had worked to attain first rank and to skip from the seventh grade to the ninth. Not that he found it difficult to learn, for he was wonderfully bright, but it took some moral courage to keep his eyes directed toward the map of Africa when Joseph Hope slipped under his very nose a boat made of stiff white paper, on which an old composition, subject, "Coal," was inscribed and whispered:

"I'll bet an apple you can't make one like it."

It required all his grit to gravel-study a list of irregular verbs when John McVay, whose little nose pointed heavenward, like an inverted interrogation point, tossed his auburn locks, and with mischief in his bright blue eyes, asked him to guess why a red head in a classroom was like the Statue of Liberty. But Ted stuck to his work, and came out ahead.

One particular Saturday the "S. P. S." football team won a great victory over the Clark street boys, and rejoicing was the order of the day. On his way home, Ted met Willie Higgins, a poor, lame boy, who seldom came to school because he suffered so intensely at times that his crutches were useless, and he was confined to a bed of pain.

Ted greeted him kindly, at the same time noticing that the lad's eyes were red and swollen.

"What's up, Higgins?" he exclaimed. "Has Ned Leary been trying any more of his funny tricks on you? If he has—" and Ted displayed a pair of good, strong fists and struck an attitude very unlike the one the boys assumed in the classroom at prayer time.

"No, no, Ted," answered Willie, "but I have to go to the hospital, and I know I'll be there for weeks. I had to go before and I remember how dreary and lonely it is. Why, you wake up in the night and don't even know the time, nor how many hours you have to lie awake before daylight comes." And poor Willie's eyes again filled with the tears he was too proud to let fall.

"What time are you going?" said Ted.

"Monday morning on the eight-nineteen train."

"Cheer up, old man," said Ted, shaking his hand, "you'll have the whole S. P. S. down at the depot to give you a send-off, and you may be sure some of us will get into the hospital, at Christmas, to see you."

Ted went off whistling "The Farmer Boy," to conquer the lump that kept coming up in his throat. Softly his Guardian Angel whispered to him:

"Why not give Willie your watch? Its cheerful ticking at night will tell him that the boys remember him, and to suffer is little compared with the agony of suffering alone."

Ted took the watch out and looked at it. It was just three o'clock, the hour they said on school days the aspiration for the dying. He said it, and looked again at the case. How beautiful it was! He recalled his father's words on giving it to him: "May all your minutes be golden ones, my boy." Self whispered: "You ought not to give away his gift."

"Well," said Ted to himself, "I'll think about it."

That night he was kept busy with school work. Some problems in the application of square root required figures to be drawn; a composition on a "Journey to Africa" caused him to refer to his geography and books of travel. Then he took up his language tablet. He was not in love with this study, but determined to succeed.

He carefully wrote out: "It don't seem possible that our country is so young!" This sentence is incorrect, because—

Suddenly the sand man threw some grains into his eyes; he put his head down on the table, and in two minutes was fast asleep. It seemed to him that he was kneeling in the church at Benediction. Looking up, the golden Monstrance appeared like the case of his watch. At the end of each ray an hour shone gleaming with brilliant jewels, and instead of the "O Salutaris," the choir sang: "Inasmuch as you did it to one of these, my little ones, you did it to me."

Here Ted awoke with a start. "We mustn't believe in dreams," he said, "but I guess I'll ask father if I may give my watch to poor Willie Higgins."

Monday morning, fair and early, the boys gave Willie his send-off. How the lonely boy brightened up under all their kindness! How he hugged the beautiful gold watch that was to keep him company and tell of loving hearts waiting to welcome him home again!

On Christmas morning Ted's father presented him with a far more valuable watch.

We do not believe in dreams, either, dear reader, but we know that God rewards pure and generous hearts for their love and loyalty.

Years after, the case of the second watch was melted with others to form a golden Monstrance. Our Ted has sought and found "the pearl beyond all price," a religious vocation, and his Guardian Angel protects it by a beautiful setting of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. — Mary Ellis; prize story from St. Patrick's School, Valley Falls, Rhode Island. From "The Sunday Companion."

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**A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY.** Division No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Annie Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording-secretary, Miss Rose Ward; financial-secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 68 Anderson street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Birmingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

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**ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY** organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. E. Strubbe, O.S.S.R.; President, M. Casey; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Secretary, W. Whitty.

**ST. ANTHONY'S COURT, O. O. F.** meets on the second and fourth Friday of every month in their hall, corner Selwyn and Notre Dame streets. A. T. O'Connell, O. R., T. W. Kane, secretary.

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**C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.**—Organized, 18th November, 1878.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F. J. Curran, B.C.L.; President, Fred. J. Sears; Recording Secretary, J. J. Costigan; Financial Secretary, Robt. Warren; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, Jr.; Medical Adviser, Dr. H. J. Harrison, E. J. O'Connell and G. H. Merrill.

**SILEN**

Young men were at a...  
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this regrettable scarcity...  
few eligible bachelors fu...  
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comforts than the rarer a...  
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farm, which was extensive...  
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tin's father was hotel pr...  
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son of the leading merchan...  
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course in the metropolite...  
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and was president of the...  
ragh Literary Society. He...  
sical, had unquestionable...  
visions as a singer, and talke...  
in what was considered a...  
Dublin accent. The latter...  
plishment he hoped to disp...  
the best advantage at the...  
ing lecture and concert, to...  
in the Town Hall, in aid of...  
charity, during the week on...  
our story opens. As presie...  
the Literary Society, unde...  
auspices the entertainment...  
ing held, the pleasing duty...  
ducing the distinguished lect...  
been deputed to Mr. Hammo...  
many were the fluent rehear...  
which he treated the unre...  
walls of his private room du...  
wakeful nights preceding the...  
He trusted to turn the occa...  
the best account. Miss Cur...  
to be among the crowd, and...  
determined on making a...  
proposal to that young lady...  
as convenient, he thought it...  
nient to approach the criti...  
tion after creating a good...  
sion. There was one thing...  
slightly jarred on his anticip...  
His declared rival had been...  
ed a part in the night's proce...  
having been persuaded to pr...  
vocate of thanks to the guest...  
evening. It was his first app...  
on a public platform, and...  
Hammond wickedly trusted t...  
that his debut would be a fa...  
After a good deal of elabora...  
parations the festive night...  
The hall, which had been d...  
ed by skillful hands, was tra...  
ed into a thing of beauty, th...  
discolored beams overhead...  
garlanded so profusely as to...  
almost artistic, while the sta...  
a confusion of pottery and do...  
There was a drop-scene, e...  
in haste by a local artist...  
added considerably to the eff...  
though there was a generous...  
guard for anything like pers...  
the coloring in the landscap...  
bright and cheerful.

Before the appointed hour a...  
the body of the hall was cr...  
and the reserved seats towar...  
front were filling up rapidly...  
whom the local papers afte...  
described as "the elite of the...  
ity." The green-room, a lit...  
partment equivalent to the...  
had been made sacred to the...  
for the completion of details...  
section with the concert, b...