

The same traits of character which distinguished him while at school, have been distinctly marked since he has been in the active scenes of life. Within the last eight or nine years he has been many times to Europe; and in the course of the past year, as first mate of a ship, he made a voyage to Canton in China. On the return of the ship, the captain, owing to ill health, remained at home. When the ship was ready for her second voyage, EDWARD became master of her, and he is now on his way to Canton. He is still a young man about 21 years of age—yet he has the confidence of his employers, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Now, my young readers, you have before you the history of two individuals who pursued different courses while at school; and who, when they became men, were found to be essentially the same as when they were boys. The first was idle, vicious, and unworthy the confidence of any one; and when he came to the years of manhood, he was still the same idle and vicious GEORGE GRAY. He had few friends either as a boy or man; and his end was such as every person would wish to avoid—EDWARD HINTON, you have seen, was an honorable, trustworthy boy; and is now a man whom others delight to honor. If you are idle at school, remember GEORGE GRAY and his fatal end. If you would be virtuous and useful in life, like EDWARD HINTON, be kind, industrious, and trusty while young.

#### AN AMERICAN FOREST ON FIRE. BY AUDUBON,

"I recollect that once when in the State of Maine, I passed such a night as I have described. Next morning the face of nature was obscured, by the heavy rains that fell in torrents, and my generous host begged me to remain in such pressing terms, that I was well content to accept his offer. Breakfast over, the business of the day commenced: the spinning wheels went round, and the boys employed themselves, one in searching for knowledge, another in attempting to solve some ticklish arithmetical problem. In a corner lay the dogs dreaming of plunder, while close to the ashes stood grimalkin seriously purring in concert with the wheels. The hunter and I having seated ourselves each on a stool, while the matron looked after her domestic arrangements, I requested him to give me an account of the events resulting from those fires which he had witnessed. Willingly he at once went on nearly as follows:—

"About twenty-five years ago, the larch or hackmatack trees were nearly all killed by insects. This took place in what hereabouts is called the "black soft growth" land, that is the spruce, pine and all other firs. The destruction of the trees was effected by the insects cutting the leaves, and you must

know that although other trees are not killed by the loss of their leaves, evergreens always are. Some few years after this destruction of the larch, the same insects attacked the spruces, pines and other firs, in such a manner, that before half a dozen years were over, they began to fall, and, tumbling in all directions, they covered the whole country with matted masses. You may suppose that, when partially dried or seasoned, they would prove capital fuel, as well as supplies for the devouring flames which accidentally or perhaps by intention, afterwards raged over the country, and continued burning at intervals for years, in many places stopping all communication by the roads, the resinous nature of the firs being of course best fitted to insure and keep up the burning of the deep beds of dry leaves of the other trees.

I dare say that what I have told you brings sad recollections to the minds of my wife and eldest daughter, who, with myself, had to fly from our home at the time of the great fires.

I felt so interested in his relation of the causes of the burnings, that I asked him to describe to me the particulars of his misfortunes at the time.

It is a difficult thing, sir, to describe, but I will do my best to make your time pass pleasantly. We were sound asleep, one night, in a cabin, about a hundred miles from this, when about two hours before day the snorting of the horses and the lowing of the cattle, which I had ranged in the woods, suddenly awakened us. I took my rifle, and went to the door to see what beast had caused the hubbub, when I was struck by the glare of light reflected on all the trees before me, as far as I could see through the woods. My horses were leaping about, snorting loudly and the cattle ran among them, with their tails raised straight over their backs. On going to the back of the house, I plainly heard the crackling made by the burning brushwood, and saw the flame-coming towards us in a far extended line. I ran to the house, told my wife to dress herself and the child as quickly as possible, and take the little money we had, while I managed to catch and saddle the two best horses. All this was done in a very short time for I guessed that every moment was precious to us.

We then mounted, and made off from the fire. My wife, who is an excellent rider, stuck close to me; my daughter, who was then a small child, I took in one arm. When making off, as I said, I looked back and saw that the frightful blaze was close upon us, and had already laid hold of the house. By good luck, there was a horn attached to my hunting clothes, and I blew it, to bring after us, if possible, the remainder of my live stock, as well as the dogs. The cattle followed for a while, but before an hour had elapsed, they all ran, as if mad, through the woods, and that, sir, was the last of them.

My dogs too, though at all other times extremely fractable, ran after the deer that in bodies sprung before us, as if fully aware of the death that was so rapidly approaching.

We heard blasts from the horns of our neighbours as we proceeded, and knew that they were in the same predicament. Intent on striving to the utmost to preserve our lives, I thought of a large lake, some miles off, which might possibly check the flames; and urging my wife to whip up her horse, we set off at full speed, making the best way we could over the fallen trees and the brush heaps, which lay like so many articles placed on purpose to keep up the terrific fires that advanced with a broad front upon us.

By this time we could feel the heat, and we were afraid that our horses would drop every instant. A singular wind of breeze was passing over our heads, and the glare of the atmosphere shone over the day-light. I was sensible of a slight faintness, and my wife looked pale. The heat had produced such a flush in the child's face, that when she looked towards either of us, our grief and perplexity were greatly increased. Ten miles you know, are soon gone over on swift horses; but, notwithstanding this, when we reached the borders of the lake, our hearts failed us. The heat of the smoke was insufferable, and sheets of blazing fire flew over us in a manner beyond belief. We reached the shores, however, coasted the lake for a while, and got round to the lee side. There we gave up our horses which we never saw again. Down among the rushes we plunged, by the edge of the water, and laid ourselves flat, to wait the chance of escaping from being burnt or devoured. The water refreshed us, and we enjoyed the coolness.

On went the fire, rushing and crashing through the woods. Such a night may we never see again! The heavens themselves I thought were frightened, for all above us was a red glare, mixed with clouds of smoke rolling and sweeping away. Our bodies were cool enough, but our heads were scorching, and the child, who now seemed to understand the matter, cried so as nearly to break our hearts.

The day passed on, and we became hungry. Many wild beasts came plunging into the water beside us, and others swam across to our side, and stood still. Although faint and weary, I managed to shoot a porcupine, and we all tasted its flesh. The night passed I cannot tell you how. Smouldering fires covered the ground, and the trees stood like pillars of fire, or fell across each other. The stifling and sickening smoke still rushed over us, and the burnt cinders and ashes fell thick about us. How we got through that night I really cannot tell, for about some of it I remember nothing.

Towards morning although the heat did not abate, the smoke became less, and blasts of fresh air sometimes made their way