

would! I have seen many a boy waste as much time at a street corner night after night as would have enabled him to become in time a learned man. Many a youth finds fault with his surroundings because he has not had the opportunities of others, all he can do is to slave at his daily work, and—play billiards. Ah! there it is, you cannot waste time and have it. And oh, what time girls spend over worthless stories! It is pitiful. Character is a strange mosaic, made up of little bits of this and that, at first sight altogether worthless, but if the will to do is there, it may be made into a thing of beauty and worth.

A BOY WHO RECOMMENDED HIMSELF.

John Brent was trimming his hedge, and the snip, snip of his shears was a pleasing sound to him. In the centre of a wide, smoothly-kept lawn, stood his residence, a handsome, massive, modern structure, which had cost him not less than \$50,000.

"A close, stingy old fellow, I'll warrant!" some boy is ready to say.

No, he wasn't. He trimmed his own hedge for recreation, as he was a man of sedentary habits. His shabby clothes were his working clothes, while those which he wore on other occasions were both neat and expensive; indeed, he was very

particular even about what are known as the minor appointments of dress.

Instead of being stingy, he was exceedingly liberal. He was always contributing to benevolent enterprises and helping deserving people, often when they had not asked his help.

Just beyond his hedge was the public sidewalk, and two boys stopped opposite to where he was at work.

"Hello, Fred! That's really a very handsome tennis rack," one of them said. "You paid about a dollar for it, didn't you?"

"Only seventy-five cents, Charlie," was the reply.

"Your old one is in prime order yet! what will you take for it?"

"I sold it to Willie Robins for a for a quarter," replied Fred.

"Well now, that was silly!" declared Charlie. "I'd have given you fifty cents for it."

"You are too late," replied Fred. "I have promised it to Willie."

"Oh, you only promised it to him, eh? And he simply promised to pay for it, I suppose? I'll give you fifty cents cash for it."

"I can't do it, Charlie."

"You can, if you want to. Twenty-five cents more isn't to be sneezed at."

"Of course not," admitted Fred, "and I'd like to have it, only promised it to Willie."

"But you are not bound to keep your promise. You are at liberty

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to take more for it. Tell him that I offered you as much again, and that will settle it."

"No Charlie," gravely replied the other boy, "that will not settle it, neither with Willie nor with me. I cannot disappoint him. A bargain is a bargain. The racket is his, even if it hasn't been delivered."

"Oh let him have it!" retorted Charlie angrily. "Fred Fenton, I



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