

David knew Solomon's reign would be a peaceful one, for God had assured him of that through the prophet Nathan. Solomon would have no occasion for the display of physical strength, yet David bade him "Be strong, therefore, and show thyself a man." He meant be strong to resist temptation and to hold fast to that which is good, and show your manliness by being honest and pure-hearted and truthful and gentle.

David was not above acknowledging when he was in the wrong, and he was never ashamed to admit and to show before all that he preferred God's approval to man's.

This is what David's manliness teaches us. Now take Peter, the big, loving, impulsive apostle. Peter was brave and warlike; he knew how to use his sword, but long before he died he learned that true manliness lay in other ways than mere physical strength. Listen to his definition of manliness.

"Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous; not rendering evil for evil; or railing for railing; but contrariwise, blessing."

Next take the man for whom we all have so keen an admiration and respect—Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul had not Peter's physical strength, but he was a thoroughly manly man. If you read the Book of Acts you will learn of some of the hairbreadth adventures he went through, the hardships he endured, and the persecution he submitted to, all in a brave, steadfast fashion that every manly boy must admire.

And what does Paul tell us? "Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." And thus come nearer to "the measure of the fulness of Christ."

One more example of manliness, children, the only perfect one the world has ever known—Jesus Christ, the Lord.

You remember the obedient boyhood of our dear Saviour; His patience, gentleness and love; His truthfulness and purity; His kind consideration for every one and his wonderful courage. Think of all this, then of the torture of the death upon the cross, after all that had gone before it, and you will begin to realize the high quality of the manliness which Jesus displayed all through His life, and in His death.

"Dear boys, you could never think of our Lord as being rough or unkind or hurting anyone's feelings, or soiling His lips with profane words—could you? And his manliness is the highest kind of manliness, so take Him for your pattern, and show yourselves men in the truest sense of the word by striving to follow the example He has left you."

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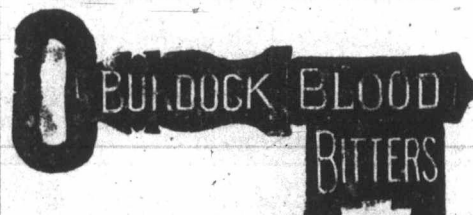
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ing to follow the example He has left you.

Flip.

"Stand, Flip! stand, sir! Now listen to what I say. This is the second time you have put your nose in my lunch-basket and eaten up my buttered roll."

Here Flip came down on all-fours, wagging his bushy tail, evidently well satisfied with his moral character.

"Stand, Flip! stand this minute, sir! I'm not done scolding you, by any means. The next time you do me such a mean trick I'll tie you up and thrash you well! Do you hear, doggie? Well sir."

Down came Flip again, as well pleased with himself as before.

Just then Henry heard unexpected footsteps on the other side of the hill-lock, and sprang to his feet; presently brother Jo's broad back was seen coming, and Henry and Flip were soon at his side.

That evening, before the lamps were lighted, as the family gathered in the twilight, Henry was startled to hear the familiar sound,—

"Stand, Flip! stand, sir, and listen to what I say." It was brother Jo, sitting over at the west window, and Flip could be seen outlined against the evening sky, standing obediently on his hind legs.

"Is it you, Flip," said brother Jo, "that uses my pen and gets it inky halfway up the handle? Is it you that tears up the day's paper into kite-tails? that turns down the corners of my books, and makes greasy finger-marks on them? Do you leave my door open, and drop crumbs on the floor and eat up the apples off the table? Somebody does these things, Flip, and if you can find out who it is, let me know, and when your master ties you up for a thrashing, I'll thrash the fellow that gives me so much trouble."

Flip, turned loose, flew over to Henry. "Flip's found him for you, brother Jo," said the little boy, laughing, but with a red face which the dusk hid; "if Flip needs one thrashing, it looks as though I needed six."

"Maybe that will teach the little master to be easy on other people's failings when he stops and counts up his own," said brother Jo, kindly.

Maybe it did.—Sunbeam.

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