

Children's Department.

A Street Incident.

A reporter called to a little bootblack near the City Hall to give him a shine the other day. The little fellow came rather slowly for one of that lively guild, and planted his box down under the reporter's foot. Before he could get his brushes out, another larger boy ran up, and calmly pushing the one aside, said:

"Here, you go sit down, Jimmy."

The reporter at once became indignant at what he took to be a piece of bullying, and told the new-comer to clear out.

"Oh, dat's all right, boss," was the reply; "I'm only goin' to do it fur him. You see he's been sick in the hospital for mor'n a month, and can't do much work yet, so us boys all turn in and give him a lift when we can."

"Is that so, Jimmy?" asked the reporter, turning to the small boy.

"Yes, sir," wearily replied the boy; and as he looked up, the pallid, pinched face could be discerned, even through the grime that covered it. "He does it fur me, if you'll let him."

"Certainly; go a head." And as the bootblack plied the brush, the reporter plied him with questions.

"You say all the boys help him in this way?"

"Yes, sir; when they ain't got no job themselves, and Jimmy gets one, they turns in and help him, 'cause he ain't very strong yet, ye see."

"What percentage do you charge him on a job?"

"Hey?" queried the outhster. "I don't know what you mean."

"I mean, what part of the money do you give Jimmy, and how much do you keep of it?"

"I don't keep none. I ain't no such sneak as that."

"So you give all to him, do you?"

"Yes, I do. All the boys give what they gets on his job. I'd like to catch any feller sneaking it on a sick boy—I would."

The shine being completed, the reporter handed the urchin a quarter, saying: "I guess you're a pretty good fellow, so you keep 10 cents and give the rest to Jimmy, there."

"Can't do it, sir; it's his customer. Here, Jim!"

He threw him the coin, and was off like a shot after a customer himself, a veritable rough diamond. In this big city there are many such lads, with warm and generous hearts under their ragged coats.—N. Y. Commercial-Advertiser.

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