

THE WORST BOY IN TOWN.

the animal and vegetable kingdoms, with the result that he realized that if the splendid hereditary tendencies of the tree could not prevent its bareness and its running to superfluous wood, there could be no hope of an untrained boy, even if he was a scion of the Wittingham stock. This idea took such entire possession of the doctor that he went into the house and burned his manuscript as far as completed, and all the notes beside.

According to Jack, who professes to be an infallible authority on the subject, nice little Mattie Barker grows nicer every day, and she has promised to change her name in the course of time, and her parents have endorsed her decision, for though Jack is not yet of age, steady boys who are also bright, and have learned a business which is not akin either to gambling or theft, are not

numerous enough to be despised. And Jack has a whole portfolio of cottage plans, all of his own designing, over which he and Mattie spend long and industrious evenings, and Jack has taken a solemn vow that when the proper plan is decided upon, and the building begins, Nuderkopf Trinkelspiel shall be the sole hod-carrier, and shall be paid the highest market rates for his services.

Being practically a successful man, Jack is the receptacle for the confidences of hosts of old playmates, who feel that their good qualities are not appreciated by a world which is quick to complain of the occasional irregularities, but he has sent many of these youths sadly away by remarking :

'It doesn't matter how many good qualities are inside of a fellow, if only his bad ones make themselves lively on the surface.'

FINIS.