

was stingy, and surely it would be wrong, and very mean, to take them without leave from a man who would give them to us if we should ask him.

"Yes," the rest said, "but who is going to ask him? It is more than a mile down to his house, and nobody will go that far to ask for chestnuts."

"I will go," said James, "if you will all promise to stay here till I come back; or if you are in such a hurry to get the nuts, just look out for me, and when I come out of the lane down there at the foot of the hill, if I swing my cap you may start, and I will come on and get as many as I want."

"Agreed! agreed!" they all cried, and away went James on the full run down hill. He was not long on the way; he did not let the grass grow under his feet; and it was not more than twenty minutes before he made his appearance, swinging his hat with all his might. The boys set up a shout that he might have heard, and were just starting off for the woods, when one of them said he thought it too bad to leave Jimmy to come on alone, when he had taken so much trouble for them. This was received with general applause, and we all ran down to meet him, and when we met him his face was beaming with smiles, and he said the old farmer told 'im we might get as many as we liked, only we must not break our necks. This we had no notion of doing, and after we had picked as many as we could well carry home, we left, and tired with our afternoon's work, trudged back to school.

As we were walking homeward with a less excitement than when we came up, one of the boys said the chestnuts were very heavy.

"But they are not so heavy,"

said James Simpson, "as they would have been if we had hooked them."

"Right for you, and you are always right, or about right," the other answered; and by common consent it was agreed, that in all future expeditions, we would respect the rights of property, and never enter even the woods of a man to get his fruit without first gaining his permission.

Now this incident was a very simple one, but it had a very strong and lasting effect upon the whole school. Not one of those boys but thought more of James Simpson than they did before, and all of them felt that the way to be happy, and take real comfort in the pursuit of pleasure, was to do right.

But James and the rest of us,—except one bright fellow, the merriest of the chestnut party, who died in the South, where he went as a clerk, when he was sixteen years old,—with this exception, (and I drop a tear as I write,) we all grew up to be men. James went into business, and the same strict regard for the rights of others has marked him all the way through life, and gained for him the confidence of the whole community. He gave his time to his employers with the most scrupulous integrity, for he said to himself, and sometimes he ventured to make the remark to those who were with him in the store, it was quite as wrong to take an employer's *time* as it was to take his money.

This was being faithful in that which was the least; and a lad who would not cheat an employer out of a minute of time, would not be likely to neglect his interests or waste his money. This was observed, and it laid the foundation for that great success in business, and that eminent reputation for