

reached him, panting and out of breath, and thrust the purse into the astonished stranger's hands, finding just voice enough to say: "I saw you drop it." The kind-hearted gentleman was not only very glad to get back his property, but he was touched at the honesty of the small boy at his side.

He held out his hand kindly to Jack. Jack put his little hand timidly into it and looked up into the genial countenance above him with a smile on his chubby face, which won the heart of the gentleman immediately. "Well, my boy," he said, "I am very much obliged to you. And now what can I do for you?"

"Nothing, sir," said Jack, timidly.

"Nothing?" repeated the gentleman. "Is there nothing, then, that you would like? Speak quick, for I am in a hurry."

Jack's thoughts instantly returned to the picture he had left at home, and, with a tremendous effort, that he would never have made for himself, he said, "If you please, sir, I should like a sled." The gentleman smiled and said, in a reassuring tone: "That's right. I like a frank boy. Follow me, my lad."

Jack found it rather hard for his short, fat legs to keep up with the long, limber ones of his companion; but he had not far to go, for they soon halted before a hardware store, and, as the polite clerk opened the door to admit them, the gentleman once more turned and addressed the little boy. "What kind of a sled shall it be?" said he. "If you please, sir, a double-ripper," said Jack with another effort. The clerks and the gentleman indulged in a slight laugh at Jack's expense; but he forgot all about that when one of the clerks exclaimed: "We have just what you want. It was brought here to be sold this morning." And he immediately produced the longest jolliest "double-ripper" that ever gladdened the eyes of a boy.

It was soon bought and paid for, and Jack left the store, tugging behind him the precious sled, rope having been also supplied. The clerk offered to send it home for him; but "No, it might get lost," said Jack. I will take it myself."

When once more on the pavement, the stranger informed Jack that he must leave him. And Jack, forgetting his usual timidity, grasped his hand, and

said, while tears of joy swam in his big eyes: "Oh! sir, I thank you."

"Not at all, my fine fellow; not at all. It is I who thank you. Only a small part of the money in that purse was paid for your sled." And then he walked hastily down the street, and left behind him the happiest boy in all the world, I know.

Jack fairly flew home (in spite of his heavy load), and rushed into the house to find Jim. That young gentleman, having recovered his spirits for the time, but still scowling whenever he glanced at the window and saw the newly-fallen snow, was hard at work over his Algebra.

"Jim! Jim! Please look at what I have got. It is a present from me to you, Jim," Jim looked, he jumped, he rubbed his eyes, he fairly yelled; "My stars! A 'double-ripper.'"

Then followed the whole story, with mother and Susie and poor abused kitty as extra listeners; and little Jack was the centre of a very happy and excited group until all was told.

Jim was very much overcome when he thought of his little brother's rare unselfishness in offering to him his own beautiful gift, and at first refused to take it. Then, when Jack insisted, he said: "We will share it together." But this did not satisfy Jacky, and at length Jim was forced to accept the sled as a present from his dear brother Jack.

How the boys enjoyed the sled that winter! It beat every sled on the race-course and every boy in town was happy to have a ride on it. Jack says he has had many happy times in his life; but he never expects to enjoy a day more than he did the one in which the kind gentleman presented him with "*Jim's Double-Ripper*."—*Independent*.

P. S.—We delay our issue a day or two, in order to stitch up with this number the account of the installation service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Mr. Bray. Our readers will peruse it with much interest, and with many ardent wishes that all old Zion's most sanguine expectations respecting their new pastor may be fully realized.—*E. C. I.*