when I could help it by ringing or

"Come here, please Dick," called a voice from the doorstep of one of the handsomest houses on the avenue. "You are the very boy I want to drive a pony to the country and back. It is out to the Darlington Boulevard. Would you like to go?"

"Why, yes, ma'am," quickly answered Dick. "I have an errand out there, and was just dreading the walk."

"Then I am glad you may ride. I was wondering if I could trust one of those boys to be kind to Pet, when I overheard about the sparrow. That made me willing to trust you."

#### REAL FRIENDS.

"You'll catch it, when your mother sees you," said Joe to Charlie, as the latter picked himself slowly from the ground and ruefully eyed a jagged hole in his new trousers and the mud that was literally plastered over his clothes. But Charlie answered: "Humph, you don't know my mother."

"I'll bet she'll give you a regular scolding," replied Joe.

"My mother never scolds," said Charlie. "She'll say, "Well, I guess you've had a tumble; did you hurt yourself, dear?"

Joe looked in open-mouthed amazement at his friend, and said, slowly, "Do you mean that she'll really think about you first, before she talks about the mud and the hole?" To which Charlie rather indignantly replied: "Of course, I do. My mother knows I wouldn't tear my clothes and roll in the mud on purpose. You want to remember that my mother and I are more than just related to each other—we're real friends."

How many boys can say that? If yours cannot, be sure there is a grave mistake somewhere. It is true that a mother must guide, control, advise, or command, as the occasion requires; but to degenerate into either a servant or an officer is to abuse God-given opportunities.

A problem worthy of the careful, prayerful study of every mother is, How can I be "real friends" with my boy?

Would you like to know how one mother did? She believed that there is no need of a boy's being rude, boisterous, or mean, and finding excuse in the oft-repeated phrase, "That's the boy of it." Therefore in that home the boys received habitual courtesy from their mother; not a servile attention, but graceful, dignified politeness, that by its own heartiness won a response in kind. Did a boy friend come to the door, he was genially welcomed, and made to feel so much at home that he was glad to come again. Sometimes her own boys grew tired of being quiet, and the mother would suggest that they run out and ask three or four other boys in for some fun. This did not mean a

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