

She need not have been anxious. Bert had had an object lesson which went far in confirming the impression which her words had made. When the boys had separated, he walked along slowly reflecting upon what he had seen and upon what Miss Lizzie had said.

"I'll try it," he said to himself. "And I'll keep on trying, too, if she does make fun of me at first."

His opportunity came at once. As he turned down the street upon which was his own home, he saw his sister just ahead of him, carrying a bundle which seemed difficult for her to manage. He nerved himself as if for a plunge in cold water, so unaccustomed was he to offering little courtesies to his sister.

"Let me take that, May," he said, trying to speak as naturally as Frank would have done under the same circumstances.

"Oh, I wish you would!" May responded, eagerly enough. "It isn't heavy, but I can't manage it, somehow, it's so awkward."

It was not so very hard after all, Bert reflected, and the first effort gave him courage to keep on trying even after he had made some trials which did not turn out quite so well. He had chanced upon a time when his sister had felt the need of his help, but his later efforts were sometimes curtly rejected, and sometimes even ridiculed.

"Getting good, aren't you?" May said laughingly, one evening, when her brother offered her a small attention which she did not care to accept. It was a kind of speech quite too frequent between the brother and sister, and it was what Bert had had in his mind when he spoke of their kind of "give and take" to Miss Lizzie.

To May's surprise, Bert did not answer her angrily. It was one of the things which he had nerved himself to endure.

"I am glad you think there is an improvement," was his grave answer. "It was badly needed, I'm sure. Then you really don't care to have me go up street for you?"

"It isn't necessary, thank you, Bert," she was surprised into answering. But after that, she was silent.

Do what she would, the memory of his answer stayed with her. She was forced to admit that her manner to her brother needed "improvement" also. Little by little, she brought herself to respond cordially to her brother's efforts to please her, and her first shy attempt to oblige him gave her such a pleasure that she was glad to repeat it.

"Bert is such a model brother." Miss Lizzie was near enough to hear the remark addressed to May, at a gathering where all the young people were assembled, one day several months later.

"Isn't he!" May's exclamation was a happy recognition of her brother's excellencies. "I don't believe many girls are so fortunate as I in their brothers. Bert is the dearest fellow in the world."

And Miss Lizzie smiled quietly, rejoicing over what Bert and May had both won.

NO WASTE IN SERVING CHRIST.

It is to be remembered that nations do not tabulate the loss of life when they enter upon a war of conquest, and until the first

note of complaint has been heard from the men and women in the mission field we must be dumb and silent. Nothing is wasted that is poured at the feet of Christ. Think deeply and you will find the cross of Christ everywhere. The old commonplace, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," is true, and we may expect that China is about to have a new Pentecost, the harvest of a glorious result from the great trials through which missionary effort has passed in that country. But you cannot convince the cold business man outside of this coming. It is our to hope right on.

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