

with regard to the future, and for the present the wages the boy earned weekly purchased his food and clothing.

For the food was plain, and poor as to quality, and as to quantity, Ben had not the amount of nourishment a growing child required ; often he rose from the table at meal times only half satisfied, yet unwilling to ask for more.

Sometimes he would look longingly at the loaf on the table, and John Bell, seeing the look, would cut him another piece of bread, and tell him at the same time that if he himself ate as greedily as Ben did they would both soon be " in th' Union."

The poor boy, who was not greedy, but was painfully sensitive, would make some stammering apology, and resolve to eat less for the future.

Then, Ben's clothing certainly could not have been very costly, a common suit for week days, and a better one for Sundays, and these of the cheapest and plainest material.

And those who knew how neatly and carefully the boy had been dressed during his mother's lifetime, made remarks about his present appearance which were anything but complimentary to John Bell.

But Bell had decidedly too good an opinion of himself to trouble greatly about the opinion of others.

He visited no one, and no one visited him ; a more unsociable man could scarcely be found.

He allowed Ben to go to church, though he boasted