

after him, and the end of the entry was darker than that little room.

The next night he said a little prayer and then he walked down the entry to the darkest end, and stayed out there and said it two or three times, and that gave him the braveness to go into the little room, and he picked up the box of cherries and brought them out, and he did it pretty spry too. This is the little prayer: "Dear Jesus, please don't let me be afraid to go into the darkest room, Amen." After that he said it when he was afraid to go through the parlour, over at his house, and it made him feel the braveness, until he liked to go through any dark place without saying the prayer. So he and Aunt Bessie were going over to tea one dark night and he asked his Aunt to go through the light room where the lamp was burning, and he would go through the darkest room, and she would meet him in the hall, and it seemed very long because little Wag-tongue got there first and waited in the vestibule that the stars made light until his Aunt Bessie came, and in the starlight crossed the road and ate their supper.

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"OUR ELDER BROTHER."

On a winter night, I was standing on the corner of Summer and Washington Streets, Boston, waiting for a car. It had been, and was still, very rainy, wet, and generally uncomfortable for all who had to be out of doors. Suddenly I heard a feeble voice behind me cry the evening papers for sale.

I turned to look, and there, in the dark recess of a doorway, were two little forms, shrinking and shivering in the cold and wet. One was a boy about four or five years of age, I suppose; and the other one, who proved to be the former's brother, was about seven or eight, I should think.

I noticed this poor little fellow, the elder one, crying bitterly. His eyes were red, and his wizened face and cheeks were wet with many tears. I think I never saw such a woe-begone, distressed, and frightened look in a child's face before. They were both poorly clad, and evidently the children of poor and severe parents.

I asked the elder one what he was crying for. He said that his little brother had dropped the papers in the flooded street, and that now they were no good; he had them stuffed into his pocket, as he showed me, and the poor little waif looked as if all hope and life had forever flown from the horizon of his existence.

Poor little fellow! I shall never forget those wet and tearful eyes, with their agonized and pleading and despairing look! And then his little brother told the secret in these words: "When we go home, he'll get a licking!" "Why?" I said. "If you dropped the papers, you will be the one to get the whipping." But he replied: "He'll get the licking. He has offered to take it for me." Yes! Here was a case of the elder brother willingly taking the punish-

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ment of the guilty, though himself innocent!

After a little talk, I found that the wet papers would occasion a loss of "ten cents!" I found a ten-cent piece in my pocket and gave it to the elder brother.

Oh! how that poor little faded face brightened up! And right away I thought of the words of our Lord: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

Then I asked who it was that died on the cruel Cross to save us. And he answered: "Our Lord." Then I said: "I give you these ten cents in His name; and you will try to love Him, won't you?" Bright and cheerful came now the quick response: "Yes, sir!"

I bought a paper from the younger one, and then took a passing car for home; and while riding, I was deeply moved, even to tears, myself, thinking of these poor little waif newsboys, and of that forlorn elder brother who was dreading the whipping that awaited him when he got home that cold, wet, and stormy night, and it all made me think of "Jesus," our Elder Brother, "Who Himself also suffered for our sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God."—S. Blogden.

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