

ONE THING AT A TIME.

"Early in life," relates a gentleman who has now spent many decades in the service of God and his fellow-man, "I learned from a very simple incident a wholesale lesson, and one which has since been of incalculable benefit to me.

"When I was between twelve and fourteen years old my father broke up a new field on his farm, and planted it with potatoes, and when the plants were two or three inches high he sent me to hoe it. The ground of that piece was hard to till, it was matted with grass roots and sprinkled with stones. I hoed the first row, and then stopped to take a general look at the task before me. Grass as high as the potatoes was everywhere, and looking at the whole from any point, it appeared to be a solid mass. I had the work to do all alone and as I stood staring at the broad stretch of weedy soil, I felt a good mind not to try to do anything further than with it.

"Just that minute I happened to look down at the hill nearest my feet. The grass didn't seem quite as thick there, and I said to myself 'I can hoe this one well enough.'

"When it was done another thought came to help me: I shan't have to hoe but one hill at a time, at any rate.

"And so I went to the next, and next. But there I stopped again and looked over the field. That gave me another thought, too. I could hoe every hill as I came to it; it was only looking away off to all the hills that made the whole seem impossible.

"I won't look at it!" I said; and I pulled my hat over my eyes so I could see nothing but the spot where my hoe had to dig.

"In course of time, I had gone over the whole field, looking only at the hill in hand, and my work was done.

"I learned a lesson tugging away at those grass roots which I never forgot. It was to look right at the one thing to be done now, and not hinder or discourage myself by looking off at the things I haven't come to. I've been working ever since that summer at the hill nearest my feet, and I have

always found it the easiest way to get a hard task accomplished, as it is the true way to prepare a field for the harvest."

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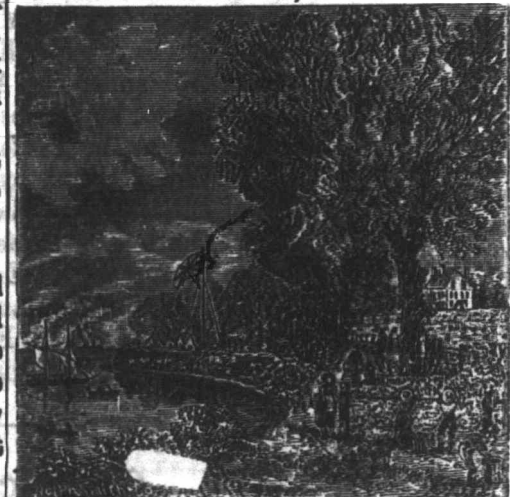
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"He is the dearest little chap I've ever seen," said Mrs. Ray, who kept the Sailors' Boarding-house. "As quiet and mannerly as a grown man, while most of the other boys keeps up such a fussing that I'm clear worn out."

Jack, the little sailor, had been staying for a short time at her house before sailing on his second long voyage.

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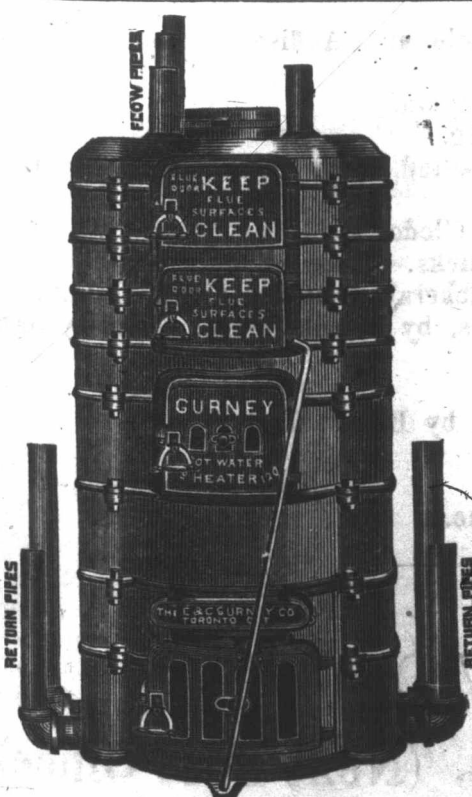
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"Ah," said she, as she lifted the cover of the trunk, "is this yours?" She held up a Bible in her hand.

"Yes, ma'am," said Jack; "my mother gave it to me, and I promised to read it. She said it would always tell me the right thing to do."

"H'm," said Mrs. Ray; "was it this that taught you to bear it when Jim Pond abused you and tried to quarrel with you?"

"Yes, ma'am; it tells me that a soft answer turns away wrath."

Mrs. Ray silently went on with her packing. She had thought little of the Bible, and knew as little of what it contained. But the thoughtful face, good manners, and kindly disposition of the little sailor had drawn her attention.

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