

"Do it again, both together," said Reg, rather pleased than otherwise at the progress they were making, his opinion on packing evidently coinciding with Phil's; to wit, that good packing consisted in getting the things in tight.

They did it again, this time the cover came down but the hinges creaked warningly.

"There," said Phil with a sigh of relief as he stood up, "I guess that is pretty well fixed, I wont lock it, cos she," meaning his mother, "might want to see if its jest right."

He was contemplating his handiwork from the lounge where he had thrown himself after their efforts; Reg was still seated on the trunk contentedly, kicking his heels, when Mrs. Blair came in to complete her work.

"Why, what have you been doing," she exclaimed hastily, observing the disappearance of the clothing.

"Oh," replied Phil in a tone of intense satisfaction, "we've got our trunk all packed, ain't we Reg?" and he smiled calmly, inwardly conscious of having done something, at last, worthy of commendation.

"I should think we have," replied Reg, "spullen-did; and tight; why we almost busted the cover gettin' it down. Didnt it crack though, Gorry."

"Get up at once," she said sharply to Reg. He did so; looking surprised, not understanding why his mother should be cross.

Phil's faith in his abilities as a packer began to vanish; an idea that perhaps it wasn't all right forced itself upon his unwilling mind as his mother raised the cover, and lifting out the various articles discovered hats and handkerchiefs, coats and collars, socks and scarves "all put in," as he happily expressed it; this was bad enough, but as she reached the bottom, and found a pair of boots resting serenely on the bosom of a clean shirt, the soles and heels finely lithographed on the smooth surface, her annoyance culminated.

"It does seem almost useless to try to have your clothes nice," she said helplessly; "do go away, go now!" as Phil hesitated, "you are the most tiresome boy."

"Well, I guess we had a good lot in," he rejoined, looking exceedingly injured at his mother's lack of appreciation of his efforts; "if——"