

the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt do no manner of work.' They are plain words, and there is no mistaking their meaning," said Benson quietly.

"And from this you argue," said Wilcox, "that I am to throw up Mr. Harcourt's order, affront him, and lose a first-rate customer! Thank you; I'm not such a fool."

"I am not arguing upon the point," returned Benson. "You asked me why I did not undertake Mr. Harcourt's order, and I have told you. I have no choice in the matter but to obey God; he that serves Him serves a good Master. He never forgets the payment; and if at times a man seems to wait for his wages, it is only that the money is being put out to better interest than we can get here. What is good for a man to have will be made up to him some time or other; as for what is not good for him to have, why he is better without it. There is no doubt about that."

But as Wilcox returned to his own shop, he had considerable doubts on the point. "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," was his maxim, and he could not see how a man could be ever better without getting a thing, as Benson said. He thought his neighbour a great fool, and himself a very clever man. The Sunday was spent in executing Mr. Harcourt's order. The harness was sent home on the Monday; the money promptly paid; and Wilcox congratulated himself on his good luck.

The "bits of luck," if he had only known it, are the baits the devil uses to encourage his dupes in evil-doing. The luck is often short lived, but even if it lasted to the end, it is a poor store against the great day of reckoning.

It was some weeks after—and they had been weeks of short work, and some trouble to Benson—that another carriage stopped at the door of his shop; a well-appointed dark-green brougham, drawn by a comfortable, sleek-looking horse, and driven by a coachman whose well-to-do appearance was quite in keeping with that of the equipage.

Whilst Benson was wondering who his visitor might be, the carriage-door opened quickly, and a fine soldierly-looking man got out, and walked into the shop with an air of decision, as if he were accustomed to give his orders and be promptly obeyed. Glancing round the shop with an eye bright with lurking humour, he took in its arrangements, and made his own estimate of the character of its possessor.

"So," he said, turning to Benson, "you are the impudent fellow who won't work on a Sunday!"

Fortunately for himself, Benson was a good physiognomist. Looking up at his visitor, he felt sure that however abrupt the words might sound, no offence was intended, and so, with a smile, he answered respectfully, "I do not work on Sundays, sir; but I hope it does not follow as a necessary consequence that I am wanting in respect to my employers."

"Yes, it does, man; at least my friend Harcourt says so. He gives you but a bad character."

"I am sorry for it, sir," began Benson, but his visitor cut him short.

"Actually refused his order, and told him you would not do his work! Do you not call that impertinence?"

"I had no choice, sir."

"Yes, you had. You were free to choose between serving God and pleasing man, and you made your choice; and it is because of that choice I am

here to-day. I am General Downing. I have been looking out for some time past for a man on whom I could fully rely to execute a large Government order. The moment I heard Mr. Harcourt's story of you, I made up my mind you should have the work, if you could take it; for I felt sure that the man who could serve God so fearlessly would be the man who would best do his duty by his neighbour."

And as the General proceeded to detail to Benson the nature of the order he proposed to give him, Benson saw in a moment that such a prospect of well-doing was opened up to him as he had never yet had since he went into business. Nor was he mistaken. That order laid the foundation of Benson's present prosperity. People envy him his good luck, but he knows better than to call his altered fortunes by that name; and as he looks on the future with consciousness that, if all goes well, provision is now made for his old age, he thankfully acknowledges from whose hand the blessing came, and that he has made experience for himself of the truth of the old proverb, "He that serves God serves a good Master."

The Storm.

The long summer day had been beautiful and bright, children played on the beach, people sauntered, when the tide was out, on the firm sand, which extended far beyond the pier, and no one who looked at the blue water in the distance, and the waves gently and quietly tumbling over each other, would have imagined that a few hours later they would be roaring, wind-tossed and angry, dashing themselves madly against the rocks, and engulfing all kinds of shipping—from the tiny fishing craft to the proud merchant vessel—within their stormy depths.

But it was so. Towards evening dark clouds began to gather, the wind rose, and the waves, disturbed at their play, roughly and angrily pursued each other, throwing up masses of snowy foam on their way to the shore. Crowds of anxious wives and mothers watched on the beach for the return of husbands and sons who had left them to go out in their boats to catch fish. But alas! the stormy wind blew the fishing-smacks hither and thither, and many of them were broken to pieces and sank. Floating amid the waves were pieces of wood, large masts, and bits of rope which had once belonged to boats or gallant ships.

A storm at sea is a terrible thing. Those who live ashore should think of and pray for those whose duty leads them over the stormy seas to work for and provide for the wants of dwellers at home. No one can realize so fully as those who have witnessed a storm at sea the beautiful story of the tempests on the Lake of Galilee, when Jesus soothed his frightened disciples, and calmed the raging waters with the words "Peace, be still!"

Motherly Care.

What a pleasant thing it is to observe the care which beast and bird have for their young. What would the weak little calf do without its mother? What would the helpless little lamb do without the loving ewe? How carefully the bird watches over its fledgelings, till they are able to fly from the nest. How watchful is the old hen over her little chicks, to keep them from straying or from harm.

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When they are tired or cold, she will sit for hours and patiently cover them under her warm wings. Little boy, little girl, what would you do without your mother? You are sometimes impatient of her restraint, but be sure that she knows best what is good for you, and she will not advise you wrong. You should take a wise lesson from the lambs and birds, and chicks, and always be ready to obey her and to trust her.

A Bird's Umbrella.

An umbrella to a nest was neatly improvised by a humming-bird just before a storm. With the first drops she took one of three large leaves and laid it over the nest. Then she brought a fine twig and pinned the leaf down over the side. After the storm she was seen to come back and unhook the leaf, when her nest was found perfectly dry.

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DIVIDEND NO. 69.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of 4 per cent. on the capital stock of the company has been declared for the current half year, payable on and after the first day of June next, at the office of the company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto.

The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to 31st May, inclusive.

Notice is also given that the general annual meeting of the company will be held at 2 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, June 5th, at the office of the company, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, the election of directors, etc.

By the order of the Board.

S. C. WOOD,

Managing Director.

Toronto, 19th April, 1894.

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