

"There need be no anxiety on her part, for she would know nothing of the fancied danger until it was over," urged Dan.

"A promise is a promise, and I shall keep it, especially when made to mother. Years ago, a young brother to whom she was devotedly attached, lost his life while skating on this very river, and she has had a peculiar dread of such accidents ever since. Last winter, just after some of the boys came near being drowned, I promised her that I would not go upon the ice without her sanction, and should I do it now, she could never again be quite sure that I would keep my promise; and so many an anxious hour it would give her. I am quite certain that I would have no trouble in gaining her permission, could I see her and explain in whose care we were going, but as it is I would much rather miss the afternoon's pleasure than give her an hour's uneasiness."

"You are right, Jack. I am glad to see you stand up so unflinchingly for your mother. She is the best friend you have, and deserves such a son," said the teacher, taking both of Jack's hands in his own. "I am ashamed that I uttered one discouraging word. Go home now, and tell your mother that if the skating continues fine, you are invited to meet the boys down at the mill on Saturday afternoon; and you may add, by way of encouragement, that your teacher will be there in charge of the party."

"Thank you," said Jack, as he started off in an opposite direction to the one taken by Mr. Laird and the boys.

"It is very inconvenient to have a touchy conscience, sometimes," remarked Joe, looking after the retreating figure. "Jack is a queer fellow, I tell you."

"It is a pity there were not more queer fellows like him," answered the teacher, thoughtfully. "A boy who is so anxious about his mother's comfort, and who keeps his promises in such good faith, is the boy who is wanted, and who will be heard of in the future."

HAD READ ABOUT IT

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MILTON'S MULBERRY TREE.

In the gardens of Christ College, Cambridge, England, stands a venerable mulberry tree, which,

tradition says, was planted by Milton during the time when he was a student at the university. This would be between the years 1624 and 1632, for the following copy from the Latin of his entry of admission, accurately fixes the former date, and his admission to the degree of M.A., to which he proceeded in the latter year, ended his intimate connection with the university: "John Milton, native of London, son of John Milton, was initiated in the elements of letters under Mr. Gill, Master of St. Paul's School; was admitted a lesser pensioner February 12th, 1624, under Mr. Chappell, and paid entrance fee 10s." He was then sixteen years and two months old. The tree so intimately associated with his name is now much decayed, but in order to preserve it as much as possible from the ravages of time, many of the branches have been covered with sheet lead, and are further supported by stout wooden props, while the trunk has been buried in a mound of earth. The luxuriance of the foliage and the crop of fruit which it annually bears are proof of its vitality, but to insure against accidents and perpetuate the tree, an offshoot has been planted near by. In the event of a bough breaking and falling it is divided with even justice among the Fellows of the college, and many pieces are thus preserved as mementoes of the poet. It was during his residence at Cambridge that he composed his ode, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity." "Lycidas," too, is intimately connected with Milton's life at the university, since it was written in memory of Edward King, his college friend and contemporary, with whom he doubtless shared the same rooms. In those days students did not, as now, occupy separate apartments, as witness the original statutes of the college: "In which chambers our wish is that the Fellows sleep two and two, but the scholars four and four . . ." in consequence of which a much closer intimacy was formed among them than is

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now possible. Dr. Johnson relates that Milton was flogged at Cambridge, but the fact is doubtful, though there is reason to suppose that he had differences with the authorities in the early part of his college career, since he was transferred from his original tutor. The tree is still pointed out to visitors, and was until recent years especially marked by a bough of mistletoe growing upon it.

The best medicine you can take is that which builds a solid foundation for health in pure, rich blood—Hood's Sarsaparilla.

—It is easier to maintain what shall look like faith and dependence in the sun than in the shade, but real faith and dependence are better grown in the shade than in the sun.

—Wouldn't it be better to let everyone take his share of the work and do it, without caring about being praised while he is alive and remembered when he is dead? Let a man do his work as well as he can, and have done with it.

—The Christ who prayed on earth teaches us to pray; and the Christ who intercedes in heaven helps us to pray, and presents our poor cries, acceptable through His sacrifice, and fragrant with the incense from His own golden censer.

—Prayers need not be fine. I believe God abhors fine prayers. If a person asks charity of you in elegant sentences, he is not likely to get it.

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DIVIDEND NO. 38.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of seven per cent. per annum has this day been declared on the paid-up capital stock of the company for the half-year ending 30th June, 1898, and that the same will be payable at the office of the company, No. 78 Church St., Toronto, on and after 2nd July prox.

The Transfer Books will be closed from 16th to 30th June inst., both days inclusive. By order of the Board. JAMES MASON, Manager. Toronto, June 9th, 1898.



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