

# OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

fore closing time, Butler requested

Teddy to bring him a number of

price lists from the private office

The boy, always accommodating,

did so without delay. He was some-

what surprised, however, by the sin-

ister smile with which they were re-

ceived. A few moments afterwards.

act of closing, the clerks were start-

led by a peremptory order from the

head partner to appear forthwith in

his office. He was pale and much

disturbed, and, after steadily regard-

ing the clerks for a few moments

asked in a husky voice which of their

"I was in the office, Mr. Walin-

"Did you observe anything un-

"No. sir: I came in a hurry to get

took them from the safe, and went

right out, as I had several things

lists at this hour?" asked Mr. Wain-

'I don't know, sir; he seemed in

store as soon as I had given them

tell such a falsehood! I never ask-

want with price lists? And, more-

was putting things to rights in the rear of the building."

tonished boy, "how can you make

such a statement? Did none of you

hear him." asked he of the other

clerks, "tell me to get him a few

None of them had. Teddy now re-

called that Butler had spoken in a

observed whether he left the store,

I observed that Teddy was scarce

ly a moment ir the office; he merely

vent in and came out immediately.

been tampered with, that I have been robbed" asked Mr. Wain-

wright, sternly.
"Good God!" murmured 'Teddy,

looks betray you," said Mr. Wain-

wright, severely.
"Why, Mr. Wainwright! you can-

'I cannot efford to make suppris

every one of the employees must be

searched before leaving the build-

Teddy brightened. Thanks he to

God, then they can t suspect me any

Several were searched, but nothing was found. Teddy's turn came no-

thing was found on him; he was 1a-

diant, all would soon be cleared up

There was a small box in the press

ends. Its contents were emptied on

the counter, and with them a roll

would have fallem on the foor had

whispered reproachfully.

"O, Mr. Crosbyl I never did it;

"Teddy is this the way you re

"O, sir, God knows I never touch

ed the money. O. believe me,

God knows I never did it."

ed Mr. Wainwright, sternly.

Teddy staggered, and

The

tions, I must have certainty.

ing," said Mr. Wainwright.

persons and belongings of each

"Young man, I am afraid

Do you know that the safe

interposed the bookkesper

low tone; furthermore, no one

or was engaged in the rear.

copies of price lists?"

urning ghastly pale.

not mean that I---"

vas found.

of bills.

'Why, Mr. Butler," said the as-

"Teddy Finnigan, how dare you

hurry to have them, and left

ed you for price lists. What

over, I did not leave the store,

"What did Butler want with price

ago,

number had entered the office.

wright, about half an hour

usual, anything out of order?'

to attend to before closing."

right, frowning.

to him."

some price lists for Mr. Butler.

answered Teddy promptly.

Butler left hurriedly.

SAINT ANTHONY'S AID .- "Ah, | about it with a will. Shortly bemother darling, but I'm going to make the lady of you in a bit. It's a silk dress I'll be gettin' you,

"Now, Teddy darling, don't be talkin' foolish; an old body like me in a silk dress, indeed."

Why, mother, you're as fit for silks and satins as anyone I know, and if I get to be assistant book-

"Acushla! don't be mountin' too high; it's dangerous altogether."

'But, mother, hasn't Mr. Crosby as good as promised me the job, and won't I be making the piles of money, and won't I spend it on you, mother dear, on you that saved the bite from your own mouth for me. And I'll have a servant-maid for you. You have slaved and toiled

"God bless the dear, kind heart of the boy, but it'd be a sore day when his own mother would be after letting strangers do for him. Teddy, darling, leave everything in the hands of the Lord, and we'll be satisfied with whatever he does."

"Sure, mother, sure; but now I must be off. Take care of yourself and I'll be back this evening with the grand news." He kissed his mother affectionately-his little mother, wasn't she his all-and started, whistling a lively tune, down the street to his place of business.

Mrs. Finnigan stood at the door of their neat but humble cottage and looked after her boy with an expression of fondest affection. Wasn't he the lithe, active figure, the very picture of his dear father, resting under the sod these twelve long years-so brave, so true and handsome was her Dinnie, the finest gossoon in all the country side. Yes, God in His wisdom, and goodness too, surely, had taken away the husband she loved so devotedly, but He had left her the darling boy, the sunshine of her life, and for that she thanked Him daily. No race more thankful, more resigned, more trusting in the dispensation of Providence than the sons and daughters of Erin

At last Teddy disappeared around the corner; she closed the door, with a fervent prayer for the boy. Teddy was, indeed, a good son, a bright, industrious lad, just the character to make his mark in our own dear country, which recognizes no to success, but well directed and persevering effort. He had obtained about a year ago, a position as clerk in a large mercantile concern. His erful and obliging disposition, his industry and tact for business had won for him the confidence of his employers and the friendship of the numerous employees of the establish-

It was found that the lad was un nonly quick at figures; he wrote was neat and accurate well, and qualifications recommended him to the head bookkeeper, who, just at this time, was in need of an assistant. Teddy's delight at the prospect was unbounded. He would in which the boy kept odds just earn oceans of money now, and wouldn't he make his mother com fortable? He seemed to be walking on air all day long, his spirits were so buoyant, and every one, especially the head partner, was so good the bookkeeper not supported him.
"O, Teddy, how could you," h d kind to him. Was every kind? Well, no, it seems there must always be a rift in the lute to mar the harmony. There was Bytler, a mn-visaged, morose individual, who seemed, since the question of dy's promotion had been broachnceive a positive dislike to

Perhaps thought Teddy, the old fellow has his private griefs. So he spoke cheerily to him and tried to would not touch a copper belong,ng to another."
"Tell me, boy, what has bec him by many little acts of ess. Butler, however, was all of the notes-the gold," he demanded, curtly.
"What notes! What gold! Oh, sir, I never saw notes nor gold. I never touched the safe."

"Do you not see that your are convicted, boy? Why will you ob-stinately deny your guilt and make pardon impossible" "O, I am not, I am not a thief,"

"Indeed, Mr. Warnwright, I can't possibly see how the lad could have robbed the safe in so short a time Was it open?" asked the bookke "Yes, Mr. Maitland forgot to turn

the key. Teddy must have observe improved the opportunity.' "It looks bad," Crosby; "still I can't for the life of me see how he could be so quick s

"Guess he has practiced the trade a bit," sneered Mr. Butler.

"Do you persist in saying Butler sent you into the office," a gain demanded Mr. Wainwright. "Yes, sir, he really did. I didn'

much like to go, but-

"If you hadn't seen the "Mr. Butler, this is no time jesting; this is a very serious casea very painful occurrence. boy, what has become of the notes and rolls of bills, and perhaps can compromise matters; but the notes I must absolutely have.

"If I had them, Mr. Wainwright, how gladly would I restore them but I never, never saw them."

Mr. Wainwright looked distressed If the boy would only acknowledge his guilt.

"Upon my conscience, I don't be lieve he is the thief. A deeper knave has accomplished this villainy," said Crosby. "Well, I think your remarks are

insulting to us all, Mr. Crosby. The way to arrive at the truth. in my opinion, would be to call in the police." "I am averse to disgrading the

boy, if it can possibly be avoided. Ted'dy, make a clean breast of it; give back the notes and deeds, we'll compromise," said Mr. Wainwright, persuasively.

"I can't, I can't," sobbed Teddy. "Why can't you; you did not de stroy them, I hope, said Mr. Wainwright, much agitated.

"O, sir, I never saw them, I neve touched them," said Teddy, raising his frank blue eyes filled with tears to the stern face of his employer

"Think of your poor mother, Teddy," remarked Mr. Wainwright, im pressively.

"O, mother, mother," sobbed th boy in an agony of grief. "O, Mother of God, O, good St. Anthony, help me, or it will be the breaking of my poor mother's heart.

The lad's grief was evidently so sincere that the men all felt the deepest pity for him, Butler excepted, who growled under his breath 'Young idolater, calling on saints. Much good they'll do him.' "We must make an end of this, said Mr. Wainwright, moddily.

"I should say so," suggested But-"I am anxious to get home, and as I pass the station on my should send up the chief of way, I

police. "Well, just hold up, Butler." in Mr. Crosby, indignantly. of your own sons, and do not be so ready to blast the poor boy's char-Mr. Wainwright, the thing acter locks bad, very bad, and still I trink there must be some mistake. I really

can't see how the robbery could be accomplished in so short a time." "It is amazing," agreed Mr. Wainboy here under the charge of the the store sometimes to see Mr. ianitor instead of committing him o prison? To-morrow may throw light on this sad affair. Meantime a etective may be engaged to trace until this moment. My! but very repugnant to my feelings to thing was so awfully sudden."
expose the lad to the severity of the "Is that all you know," asked Mr. law. I think we might act

suggestion for the present." "But what shall we say to quiet isn't it?" isn't it?" isn't it?" isn't it?" mother's fears?" added Mr. Wainwright, who was a kind and more; I imagine we can do

generous man. The lonely widow's despair should she learn of her be-loved child's disgrace appealed powerfully to his sympathy. The ployees, gloomy and sympathetic Butler excepted, who seemed much the turn things had taken, left the building slowly.

Before leaving for the night. Mr. Crosby assured the boy that he believed him innocent, and that surely something must turn to prove it "Keep up your heart, Teddy, and since you Catholics believe so much in prayer, just do your level best at

Mrs. Finnigan was told that Teddy was engaged, for the night, head partner. It was with difficulty that she could be kept from taking him his supper, and spending an hour or two with him. She experinced a strange, uneasy feeling, for which she could not account, and a dread of coming evil which drove sleep from her pillow. The next day, the next, brought no extenuat ing circumstances to light. The lad ment, despite Mr. Wainwright's promise that the matter would be pass ed over in silence if he confessed fully and freely.

He was not a thief; he had not touched the safe, was his indignant declaration. The partners generally pitied the lad, and could not exhow the act could have so deftly and swiftly accomplished him. He was finally sent to jail to be the end of his beautiful day dream, all bright with the rosy tints of filial love and gratitude? Poor Mrs. Finnigan, her idolized branded a thief and confined to the common jail. It was more than sie could bear. A severe illness pros trated the hapless mother.

In the meantime Teddy wept and prayed. When did ever good St. Anthony go back on a fellow trusted him, as he did! Surely he never could! And wasn't it on him that the dear saint was to go back the first time for ages? The detective with all his cunning could detect nothing. The affair was shrouded in gloom and mystery, but still Teddy hoped and prayed with the fervor and constancy of his race. For when does a son of Erin sink into despair while God's blue heavens and bright sun, the harbinger of the Creator's love, smile above. The Irish heart hopes against hope; it has never yet, through centuries of woe earned to distrust the love of the gracious Father above. Nine days had passed, during which Teddy had made a fervent novena to his patron, St. Anthony. Were they only days? They seemed to be years to the mother, racked with pain. They were, indeed, long, long days to Teddy, but not all dark; sweet hope brightened them. Mr. Crosby called every day on his young favorite, and could not suspect guilt in one so frank and open as Teddy had always shown himself.

"Now, Teddy," he asked, at the close of the ninth day. "Can't you remember seeing any one on street as Butler passed out of store, a fact which he denies so obstinately)"

"No." answered Teddy, with puzzled expression, "I can't." denly a bright flush mantled his pale "Mr. Crosby, Mr. wright. "Could we not leave the have it! Jim Blake, who comes to ler, passed in a hurry, and Butler seemed to hand him something. How strange! Never came into my mmd the missing documents. Really it is head has been in a muddle. Every-

"That's all, but it's something,

thing with it. Keep up your heart, laddie," and he left hurriedly.
"How is poor Teddy getting on in there," asked Patsy R

d Patsy Rooney, one of "Plagued shame! I just his chums. snow Ted's all right." "I think so myself, Patsy, but you

know the law won't take thinking. It must have proofs.'

Well, plague take the old stupid What proofs does it want?' Patsy was very indignant at the accusation brought against decent Ted-"You see the money dy Finnigan. was found in his box. Some rascal stuffed it in there to get him trouble. It was a made up job," said Patsy, vehemently.

'No money was found on any one

"But couldn't the rogue have stepped out of the store and hid it some place?'

"He could, but it seems he didn't." "Well, I saw old vinegar-faced Buter dart around the corner and then dart in again, right before six, and that's when the rumpus started, isn't

"Did you see that, Patsy? Can you swear to it?"
"On the Bible—yes, sir; any time

you want." "Well, Patsy, be ready if I should

call upon you. I think this will help your young friend." Wainwright and the detective

were immediately informed. Patsy gave evidence on oath that Butler had left and returned to the store a fact which Butler had always stoutly denied. Blake was tracked and, turning state's evidence shield himself, revealed the plot. He delivered up the missing documents. Teddy's innocence was established clear as day. Butler, in the hope of obtaining a less rigorous sentence, confessed that he had placed the bank notes in the lad's box. A week had passed before these hap py results were reached, but Teddy never for a moment doubted good St. Anthony would help him. And the gentle son of blessed Father Francis did help, and, O, generously. Joy, the most potent nealer, soon restored the happy mother's health. Teddy became assist ant bookkeener, with a generous sal ary. He surrounded his devoted mother with every comfort, and even from time to time aided Butler's disressed family by a generous donation.

O, but you're the softy! Teddy Finnigan. It's never a copper I'd give them, if they were all starving,' protested faithful Patsy.

"Indeed, and it's just you that yould, Patsy," Teddy was wont to "Wasn't St. Anthony good answer. and should I not be so to others?'

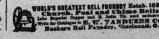
In course of time the bookkeeper became a partner in the concern, prosperous and honored merchant, out he never forgot the days of sorrow, when blessed St. Anthony provd his best friend, nor the poor the Lord, who are so dear to the heart of this sweet saint .- A Sister of St. Francis.

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pansion of the insurance ards never thought of days, when a fire or life prised about the only fo ance that the public kn anything about. Altho the actual risk involve sassination policy is ver one thinks of how few murdered in the course Russia and some other rates might be high for ance, although each ap to be judged on its m from considerations of ous to every one. In o man generally beloved, known to have few enem mium asked for protect of an applicant that wa in entanglements, politic wise. In that respect something approaching known as the 'moral ha also be taken into accou ating the cost of carrying While this insurance is this country, it is only ditions here are different lines without taking st obtaining abroad that v loping the business alo 'freak phases.'

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