

HOW A POOR BOY BECAME A RICH MERCHANT.

"WHEN I was six years old," says a well-known merchant, "my father died, leaving nothing to my mother but the charge of myself and two young sisters. After selling the greater part of the household furniture she owned, she took two small rooms in W. street, and there, by her needle, contrived in some way—how I cannot conceive, when I recollect the bare pittance for which she worked—to support us in comfort. Frequently, however, I remember that our supper consisted simply of a slice of bread, seasoned by hunger, and rendered inviting by the neat manner in which our repast was served, our table always being spread with a cloth, which, like my good mother's heart, seemed ever to preserve a snow-white purity."

Wiping his eyes, the merchant continued:

"Speaking of those days reminds me of the time when we sat down to the table one evening, and my mother had asked the blessing of our heavenly Father on her little defenseless ones in tones of tender pathos that I remember yet, she divided the remnant of her only loaf into three pieces, placing one in each of our plates, but preserving none for herself. I stole around to her, and was about to tell her that I was not hungry, when a flood of tears burst from her eyes, and she clasped me to her bosom. Our meal was left untouched; we sat up late that night, and what we said I cannot tell. I know that my mother talked with me more as a companion than a child. When we knelt down to pray, I consecrated myself to be the Lord's and to serve my mother."

"But," said he, "this is not telling you how neatness made my fortune. It was some time after this that my mother found an advertisement in the newspaper for an errand-boy in a commission house in B. street. Without being necessitated to wait to have my clothes mended, for my mother always kept them in perfect order, and although on minute inspection they bore traces of more than one patch, yet on the whole they had a very respectable air. Without waiting to arrange my hair, or clean my shoes, for I was obliged to observe from my earliest youth the most perfect neatness in every respect, my mother sent me to see if I could obtain the situation. With a light step I started, for I had long wished my mother to allow me to do something to assist her."

"My heart beat fast, I assure you, as I turned out of W. into B. street, and made my way along to the number my mother had given me. I summoned all the courage I could muster, and stepped briskly into the store, and found my way into the counting-room, and made known the object of my calling. The merchant smiled, and told me there was another boy who had come in a little before me whom he thought he should engage. However, he asked me some questions, and then went out and conversed with the other boy, who stood in the back part of the office. The result was that the lad who first applied was dismissed, and I entered the merchant's employment, first as an errand boy, then as a clerk, afterward as his partner, until his death, when he left me the whole of his business, stock, etc. After I had been in his service some years, he told me the reason he chose me in preference to the other boy was because of the general neatness of my person, while in reference to the other lad he noticed that he neglected to be tidy. To this simple circumstance has probably been owing the greater part of my success in business."

A LITTLE girl who had been asked to assist in giving some tracts in the back street where she lived, was asked in anger by one who met her:

"How dare you give these away to people?"

She only said softly, "How dare I meet Jesus if I don't do something for him?"



For the Sunday-School Advocate.

THE NOBLE SLAVE-BOY.

A BRIGHT little boy stood on a block to be sold, just as if he were a sheep, or a cow, or a pig, or a piece of goods. That is the way they have done in the Southern states for many years, but we hope the time will soon come when they will do it no more. Well, this little slave-boy was a child of God. He loved the Lord, and the Lord loved him and dwelt in his heart. That must have been a great comfort to him when he was about to be sold away from all his friends. Soon a man came along who wanted to buy a boy, and he called out to him, "Will you always tell the truth and be a good boy if I buy you?"

The boy drew up his little form, and calmly looking down, he simply replied: "I will always tell the truth whether you buy me or not."

That poor forlorn slave-boy had a soul far purer in the sight of God than that of the proud slave-dealer who wished to buy him.

THE HUMMING-TOP.

A HUMMING-TOP lay with its string,
A silent, dull, and useless thing,
Till it was set a spinning;
Then quite upright it wheeled around,
And filled the air with merry sound,
As if to sing beginning.

MORAL.

'Tis when we're active we are gay,
We hum a song, and spin away!

AGE AND TRADES OF ANIMALS.

Age of Animals.—A bear rarely exceeds twenty years; a dog lives twenty; a wolf twenty; a fox fourteen or sixteen; lions are long-lived—Pompey lived to the age of seventy. The average age of cats is fifteen years; a squirrel and hare seven or eight years; rabbits seven. Elephants have been known to live to the great age of four hundred years. When Alexander the Great had conquered Porus, king of India, he took a great elephant which had fought very valiantly for the king, named him Ajax, and dedicated him to the sun, and then let him go with this inscription, "Alexander, the Son of Jupiter, hath dedicated Ajax to the Sun." This elephant was found with this inscription three hundred and fifty years afterward. Pigs have lived to the age of thirty years; the rhinoceros to twenty. A horse has been known to live to the age of sixty-two, but averages twenty-five to thirty. Camels sometimes live to the age of one hundred. Cows

live about fifteen years. Sheep seldom exceed the age of ten. Cuvier considers it probable that whales sometimes live one thousand years. The dolphin and porpoise attain the age of thirty. An eagle died at Vienna at the age of one hundred and four years. Ravens frequently reach the age of one hundred. Swans have been known to live three hundred years. A tortoise lived to the age of one hundred and seven.

Trades of Animals.—Bees are geometricians; their cells are so constructed as, with the least quantity of materials, to have the largest-sized spaces and least possible loss of interstice. The mole is a meteorologist. The bird called the nine-killer is an arithmetician; as also the crow, the wild turkey, and some other birds. The torpedo, the ray, and the electric eel are electricians. The saw-fly is a carpenter; some spiders are masons; whole tribes of birds are musicians. The nautilus is a sailor; he raises and lowers his sails, casts and weighs anchor, and performs other nautical acts. The beaver is an architect, builder, and wood-cutter; he cuts down trees, and erects houses and dams. The marmot is a civil engineer; he not only builds houses, but constructs aqueducts and

drains to keep them dry. The white ants maintain a regular army of soldiers. Wasps are paper manufacturers. Caterpillars are silk spinners. The squirrel is a ferryman; with a chip or a piece of bark for a boat, and his tail for a sail, he crosses a stream. The ants have regular day laborers. Dogs, wolves, jackals, and many others are hunters. The black bear and the heron are fishermen.

GRATITUDE.

A POOR Protestant congregation in Lyons was trying to build a small house for their public worship. An old soldier brought all his three months' earnings. "Can you spare so much?" asked the minister.

"My Saviour spared not himself," he answered, tears of gratitude and love trickling down his cheeks, "but freely gave his life for me; surely I can spare one quarter of a year's earnings to extend his kingdom on earth."

Is not that a motive to open the heart?

TRIALS are laid on the Christian in order to keep down the risings of pride and the love of the world. They sweeten the prospect of that state which is exempt from sorrow and all its causes.

THE CANADA SUNDAY-SCHOOL ADVOCATE,

TORONTO, C. W.

THE CANADA SUNDAY-SCHOOL ADVOCATE is published, on the Second and Fourth Saturday of each month, by ANSON GREEN, Wesleyan Book-Room, Toronto.

TERMS.

For 1 copy and under 5, to one address,	45 cents per vol.
" 5 copies	" 10, " " 40 " "
" 10 "	" 20, " " 80 " "
" 20 "	" 30, " " 90 " "
" 30 "	" 40, " " 120 " "
" 40 "	" 50, " " 150 " "
" 50 "	" 75, " " 225 " "
" 75 "	" 100, " " 300 " "
" 100 "	" 200, " " 600 " "
" 200 "	and upward, " " 25 " "

Subscriptions to be paid invariably in advance. The year begins with October, from which time all subscriptions must date.

All packages are sent to the address of some individual or school. In such cases names are not written upon the several papers. Persons subscribing should therefore make arrangements for the proper distribution of the papers on the arrival of the package.

The postage is prepaid at the office of publication and included in the above terms.

All communications to be addressed to REV. DR. GREEN, Wesleyan Book-Room, Toronto.