

He knows his danger and his power. It takes a strong boy to say "No" when he is tempted to do what he would like to do but should not; to stand firm and still when provoked and taunted; to hold himself in hand when passions become wild horses and try to run away. Such a boy is bigger than Napoleon or Grant.

He that ruleth himself is greater than he that taketh a city. Who is the strong girl? She who believes in that kind of a boy.—Pluck.

Why he Failed

A boy returned from school one day with a report that his scholarship had fallen below the usual average. And this conversation took place:

"Son," said his father, "you've fallen behind this month, haven't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"How did that happen?"

"Don't know, sir."

The father knew if the son did not. He had observed a number of dime novels scattered about the house, but had not thought it worth while to say anything until a fitting opportunity should offer itself. A basket of apples stood upon the floor, and he said:

"Empty out those apples, and take the basket and bring it to me half full of chips." Suspecting nothing, the son obeyed.

"And now," he continued, "put those apples back into the basket." When half the apples were replaced, the boy said:

"Father, they roll off. I can't put any more in."

"Put them in, I tell you."

"But, father, I can't put them in."

"Put them in? No, of course you can't put them in. You said you didn't know why you fell behind at school, and I will tell you why. Your mind is like that basket. It will not hold more than so much. And here you've been the past month filling it up with chip dirt—dime novels."

The boy turned on his heel, whistled, and said: "Why! I see the point."

Not a dime novel has been seen in the house from that day to this.—Cut Gems.

The Daring Froggy

Once upon a time,
On the border of a brook,
A wicked little froggy,
Who had never read a book—
Who had never read a story
Or a funny little rhyme, but had not
Had a tragic and sad ending
Once upon a time.

This little froggy, said to say,
Was very fond of flies,
And thought, on this unucky day,
That he had found a prize,
"Up, up I go," said froggy,
"I can climb as well as hop;
I only hope he'll stay right there
Until I reach the top."

"I wish this wouldn't bend so much,"
Said Froggy, going higher;
"I wish that flies would shut their eyes
And come out a little higher.
But he is such a good one.
And he looks so very fine
I think that I must have him,
For it's time for me to dine."

So up he went, regardless
Of the danger he was in;
He saw a duck below him;
But he didn't care a pin.
"Till suddenly, behind his back,
The weed began to crack;
And all he heard was just one word.
And that one word was "quack."

—St. Nicholas.

The Bishop's Trunk

The Bishop of Oxford originated this very ingenious riddle:
I have a trunk (body).
It has two lids (eye-lids).
And two caps (knee-caps).
Two musical instruments (vocal chords).

Two established measures (feet).
A great number of articles we cannot do without (nails).

I always have about two good fish (soles).
A great number of small shellfish (muscles).

Two lofty trees (palms).
Some fine flowers (tulips).
Two playful domestic animals (calves).
A great number of small wild animals (hares).

A great number of whips without handles (lashes).
Some weapons of warfare (arms).

A number of weathercocks (vanes).
A political meeting on the verge of decision (eyes and noses).

Two students (pupils).
A number of Spanish grandees (tendons).

A big wooden box (chest).
Two fine buildings (temples).
Product of camphor trees (gums).

A piece of English money (crown).
An article used by artists (palette).
A boat used in racing (scull).

A means of crossing a river (bridge of nose).
A pair of blades without handles (scapulars).

"Twelfth letter of the alphabet finished with bows (L-bows).
Instruments used in church music (organs).

Towzer and Willie

My neighbor keeps a noble Newfoundland dog in his yard, to guard his shop by night. Not long since I was passing his shop about mid-day, when he came out with Towzer at his heels, and a pall in his hand. He told Towzer to take the pall, and carry it to the house, a few yards across the way. The dog did not wince over the command, nor hang the tail, and refuse to go; no, not he. He obeyed at once, took the pall in his mouth, and away he went to the house. I watched him, to see how well he fulfilled his master's orders. The door was closed, so he sat down on the step and waited a welcome. Five minutes passed, and no one opened the door; yet the dog was patient and faithful. Five minutes more passed, and just as I was about to leave he was seen from the window, and admitted with his charge. "Faithful dog!" thought I, "never to refuse obedience, or wait for the second bidding!"

Then I thought of little Willie S., who said to his mother in my presence, "No, I can't do it; let Ned go, he's not doing anything." "Willie!" exclaimed his mother, in a commanding tone, "go and bring that wood immediately; don't let me have to tell you again." The little fellow was mending his cart, but he dropped his hammer, now that he saw there was no escape, and started. "I always have the wood to bring," he muttered, as he left the room. He obeyed very reluctantly. He went putting and murmuring after the wood, and when he returned he threw it into the box with a violence that threatened to break it to pieces. His mother looked ashamed and heart-sick. I pitied her from the depths of my soul. Think of it. Her son was less obedient than the dog; for the dog went cheerfully, wagging his bushy tail, and lifting his head, as if to say, "I obey."

Boys, never let it be said of any of you, "Towzer is more obedient than Willie."

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