

blue eyes, which looked out wistfully from their long lashes. The tattered garments that covered his boyish form, were not sufficient to protect him from the icy blast, which beat pitilessly down upon him.

All day he had wandered through the streets of the great metropolis, seeking employment. He was accustomed to run messages, shovel snow, or do any odd job by which he could earn a few cents. To-day no one seemed to require his services ; he had only received ten cents, which he held in one of his small benumbed hands. Though almost famished, he would not spend a cent on bread ; he was keeping it to pay the rent.

Although so young, Paul was the sole support of an aged Aunt with whom he lived, in the cellar of a dilapidated tenement house, in one of the poorest quarters of the city. It was hardly fit for human habitation, yet the proprietor was exact about having his rent in due season.

" I will let it to ye very cheap ", he said to Paul, in a tone of great condescension ; " because I know ye're poor. Ye ken hev it fur three dollars a month ; but ef ye don't hand in the cash regular, ye'll hev to get right out ; d'ye see ? "

Paul saw ; and every day brought him ten cents. No matter how cold and hungry he was, he always thought of the rent first.

Poor boy, his brave heart was sinking fast. What was he to do ?

Many times that day he raised his heart in prayer :

" O Jesus, Mary ! help me. I do not mind being cold and hungry, but poor Auntie. Ah ! what will become of her, if I do not soon take her something to eat ? "

This thought urged him to make another attempt. A richly dressed lady was coming out of a fashionable store and was about to step into her handsome carriage. He went forward.

" Please, give me a few cents ; my poor Aunt is lying sick at home and has had nothing to eat since morning. The house is damp and cold and we have no fire, she has been watching for me all day, and I cannot bear to go home without bringing her something. "

He could say no more. Two big tears dropped from his beautiful eyes and his words died away in a sob. But