

THE LIFE BOAT:

A Juvenile Temperance Magazine

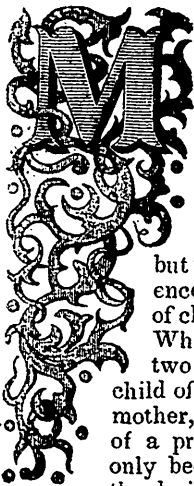
VOL. V.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1856.

No. 12.

THE TWO CLERKS,

AND THEIR CHOICES.



R. JOHN SOMERS was a merchant, doing business in a thriving country village. He had two clerks in his employ, both of them faithful and industrious, but with some difference in minor points of character. Peter White was twenty-two years of age, the child of a now widowed mother, and in his choice of a profession he had only been governed by the desire to yield to his mother and self the surest means of honest support. Walter Sturgis was of the same age, and equally as honest, but he paid more attention to the outward appearance of things than did his companion. For instance, it galled him to be obliged to put on his frock and over-alls, and help pack up pork, potatoes, and so on; while Peter cared not what he did, so long as

his master required it, and it was honest.

One day Mr. Somers called the two young men into his counting-room and closed the door after them. His countenance looked troubled, and it was some moments before he spoke.

"Boys," he said at length, "I have been doing a very foolish thing. I have lent my name to those I thought my friends, and they have ruined me. I gave them accommodation notes, and they promised solemnly that these notes should not pass from their hands save to such men as I might accept. Of course I took their notes in exchange. They have now failed and cleared out, and have left my paper in the market to the amount of seven thousand dollars. I may rise again, but I must give up my business. Everything in the store is attached, and I am utterly powerless to do business now. I have looked over your accounts, and I find that I owe you about a hundred dollars each. Now I have just one hundred dollars in money, and the small piece of land on the