

HOW TO PAY DEBTS.



IVEN a small amount of money in constant circulation may cancel many obligations, or serve to give honest employment to willing workmen. What helps one man is likely to help another; and he who pays his debts does more towards liquidating the debts of other men than he will be likely to imagine. The following incident, founded on a real occurrence, illustrates our meaning:

A owed fifteen dollars to B.

B owed twenty dollars to C.

C owed fifteen dollars to D.

D owed thirty dollars to E.

E owed twelve dollars and fifty cents to F.

F owed ten dollars to A.

All of the persons that these initials represent were seated at the same table.

A, having a five dollar note, handed it to B, remarking that it paid five dollars of the fifteen dollars he owed B.

B passed the note to C, with the remark that it paid five dollars of the twenty dollars which he owed.

C passed it to D, and paid with it five dollars of the fifteen dollars he owed D.

I handed it to E, in part payment of the thirty dollars he owed him.

E gave it to F, to apply on account of the twelve dollars and fifty cents due him.

F passed it back to A, saying: "This pays half of the amount I owe you."

A again passed it to B, saying: "I now only owe you five dollars."

B passed it again to C, with the remark, "This reduces my indebtedness to you to ten dollars."

C again paid it to D, reducing his indebtedness to five dollars.

D paid it over to E, saying: "I now owe you twenty dollars."

E handed it again to F, saying: "This reduces my indebtedness to you to two dollars and fifty cents."

Again F handed the note to A, saying: "Now I don't owe you anything."

A passed it immediately to B, thus cancelling the balance of his indebtedness-

B handed it to C, reducing his indebtedness to five dollars.

C cancelled the balance of his debt to D by handing the note to him.

D paid it again to E, saying: "I now owe you fifteen dollars."

Then E remarked to F: "If you will give me two dollars and fifty cents this will settle my indebtedness to you."

F took two dollars and fifty cents from his pocket, handed it to E, and returned the five-dollar note to his pocket; and thus the spell was broken, the single five-dollar note having paid eighty-two dollars and fifty cents, and cancelled A's debt to B, C's debt to D, E's debt to F, F's debt to A, and, at the same time, having reduced B's debt to C from twenty dollars to five dollars, and D's debt to E from thirty dollars to fifteen dollars.—*Sel.*

A STORY OF TWO WORDS.

"Oh, if I were lucky enough to call this estate mine, I should be a happy fellow," said a young man.

"And then?" said a friend.

"Why, then, I'd pull down the old house and build a palace, have lots of prime fellows about me, keep the best wines, and the finest horses and dogs in the country."

"And then?"

"Then I'd hunt, and ride, and smoke, and drink, and dance, and keep open house, and enjoy life gloriously."

"And then?"

"Why, then, I suppose, like other people, I should grow old and not care so much for these things."

"And then?"

"Why, then, I suppose, in the course of nature, I should leave all these pleasant things - and - well - yes - die!"

"And then?"

"O bother your 'thens!' I must be off."

Many years after, the friend was accosted with: "God bless you! I owe my happiness to you!"

"How?"

"By two words spoken in season long ago: 'And then!'"—*The Quiver.*