

## SANCTUM SKETCHES.

No. I.

AN APPRENTICE WANTED.



"WILLIAM," said the editor to the foreman in a coldly resolute voice, "I guess we shall take on a new apprentice. That other boy has had the *entree* about this establishment until it has become too much for his impressionable nature, and we must promote him.

"Six months ago, William, as you may remember, our present boy was admitted on probation at one dollar a week and the Christmas carrier perquisites. I have some reason for believing that he has counted the time himself, for

only yesterday, as he swept out the sanctum, he mildly recalled to me that I had promised him a half-dollar raise at the dawn of the second six months; and as I regarded him with a benign and fatherly expression, but in silence, he proceeded to intimate that he had in contemplation an engagement as freight conductor for a grocery and provision house, and it would be necessary for me to avert the catastrophe of his loss by prompt measures in the line of promise indicated. Briefly the conversation was this:

"Say, didn't you say you'd gimme one-fifty when I'd put in m' first six?"

"Perfect repose on my part.

"Yes, y' did, an' y' know y' did, darn well!"

"Sublime quiescence so far as I was concerned.

"N' if y' ain't agoin' to gimme th' raise, I'm agoin' t' quit, an' take a job drivin' Sugarson's grocery wagon."

"Still I maintained a profound and beautiful dumbness.

"Bin dev'lin' long 'nuff, ennyhow, an' I want to get a hack at the case and job work, too."

"Not wishing to enter into any painful controversy with the boy, I waited until he had fully explained the situation from his standpoint, and then I spoke to him in slow and measured tones. 'James, I have been occupied lately in studying both your hereditary and acquired characteristics. The result has not been a disappointment to my pre-conceived notions of apprentice printer boys. But it is not in the most eminent degree creditable to yourself.

"The boy manifested such deep attention to what I was observing that I could see the chew secreted in his left cheek.

"James, I have noticed that in inherited attributes your career bade fair to bring you into prominence as a prize fighter, a professional politician or a cab driver.

"The interest of the lad grew so keen that he upset the spittoon with his broom.

"You should be devoutly thankful, James, that I have been the means of rescuing you from such a life and calling you into a higher sphere of action.

"The way James was devouring the title page of that novel that came by mail for review last week, made me feel certain he was listening closely.

"Many of the first men of the land, my lad, have graduated from the printing office!

"The boy's emotion was so great as I said this that he carelessly pocketed a bunch of matches lying on my desk.

"Since your bright presence first dawned here you have been treated with princely indulgence. William,

the foreman, has let you imitate his language on heated occasions as though you yourself were the coiner of the words. I have never enquired of you as to who stole my tobacco regularly; who got away with the story-paper exchanges before I had read them; who devoured large pieces of new roller composition; who threw pi into the cellar; who lit the fire with job ink and kindling formed of packing boxes belonging next door; who spent his day in my chair, in my sanctum, smoking my office pipe, while I was away fishing; who emptied slush water into our neighbor's rain barrel; who told the apprentice in the other office that our circulation was decreasing and that I owed two years' rent and never paid my hands in anything but store orders.

"By this time James was so intently engrossed with my address that he picked up his broom and watering can, and enquired in muffled tones, 'Goin' to gimme a raise?'

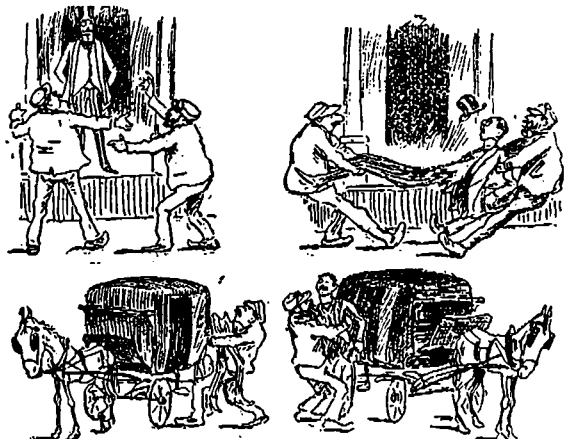
"The complete and assured victory I saw I had won over that boy absolutely surprised me. I unhesitatingly agreed to increase his salary from next week, and added that I would expect him to set not less than a column a day. I think we can safely do it, William, and hire a fresh boy. This week I obtained four new subscribers, two of whom paid cash; Holler, the auctioneer, has agreed to give us all his sale bills in consideration of twenty-five per cent. commission; there's a bankrupt store opening up in the village next week; it's about time another Government advt. loomed up on our horizon, and I am thinking of getting up a register for the Budger House; that'll bring in a few dollars."

Then the editor sat down and wrote the following advertisement:—

## APPRENTICE WANTED.

Wanted, at once, at this office, an intelligent, well educated, willing youth, to learn the art of printing. To one boasting the requisite qualifications a good chance will be given. It is unnecessary to add that, as in the case of all our apprentices, his moral as well as material welfare will be carefully looked after, and he will constantly be surrounded by the best influences calculated to bring to the fore his higher instincts and most useful capacities. Apply, stating references, etc., to

THE EDITOR OF THIS PAPER.



## MONTREAL PROBABILITIES.

Manner in which the guest of the Windsor will go for a drive in the near future if something isn't done to abate the rivalry of the cabmen now raging round the door of that hostelry.