

How one Little Boy Improved.

Jimmy was the stingiest boy you ever knew. He couldn't bear to give away a cent, nor a bite of apple, nor a crumb of candy. He couldn't bear to lend his sled or his hoop or his skates. All his friends were very sorry he was so stingy, and talked to him about it; but he couldn't see any reason why he should give away what he wanted himself.

"If I didn't want it," he would say, "p'r'aps I would give it away; but why should I give it away when I want it myself?"

"Because it is nice to be generous," said his mother, "and think about the happiness of other people. It makes you feel happier and better yourself. If you give your sled to little ragged Johnny, who never had one in his life, you will feel a thousand times better watching his enjoyment of it than if you had kept it yourself."

"Well," said Jimmy, "I'll try it." The sled went off. "How soon shall I feel better?" he asked by-and-bye. "I don't feel as well as when I had the sled. Are you sure I shall feel better?"

"Certainly," answered his mother, "but if you should keep on giving something away, you would feel better all the sooner."

Then he gave away his kite, and thought he did not feel quite as well as before. He gave away his silver piece he meant to spend for taffy. Then he said:

"I don't like this giving things; it doesn't agree with me. I don't feel any better. I like being stingy better."

Just then ragged Johnny came up the street dragging the sled, looking proud as a prince, and asking all the boys to take a slide with him. Jimmy began to smile as he watched him, and said:

"You might give Johnny my old overcoat; he's littler than I am, and he doesn't seem to have one. I think—I guess—I know I'm beginning to feel so much better. I'm glad I gave Johnny my sled, I'd give away something else." And Jimmy has been feeling better ever since.

The Street Arab's Trust.

The following pathetic story is told by John B. Gough:

A story is told of a street boy in London who had had both legs broken by a dray passing over them. He was laid away in one of the beds of a hospital to die, and another little creature of the same class was laid near by, picked up with famine fever. The latter was allowed to lie down by the side of the little crushed boy. He crept up to him, and said:

"Bobby, did you never hear about Jesus?"

"No; I never heard of him."

"Bobby, I went to mission school once, and they told us that Jesus would take you to heaven when you died, and you'd never hunger any more, and no more pain, if you axed Him."

"I couldn't ask such a great big gentleman as He to do anything for me. He wouldn't stop to speak to a boy like me."

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"But He'd do all that if you ask Him."

"How can I ask Him if I don't know where He lives, and how can I get there when both my legs are broken?"

"Bobby, they told me at the mission school as how Jesus passed by; teacher says as He goes round. How do you know but what He might come round to this hospital this very night? You'd know Him if you was to see him."

"But I can't keep my eyes open. My legs feel so awful bad. Doctor says I'll die."

"Bobby, hold up your hand, and He'll know what you want when He passes by."

They got the hand up; it dropped. They tried again; it slowly fell back. Three times he raised the little hand, only to let it fall. Busting into tears he said:

"I give it up."

"Bobby, lend me your hand," said the other little fellow; "put your

elbow on my pillow; I can do without it."

So one hand was propped up. And when they came in the morning the boy lay dead, his hand still propped up for Jesus. You may search the world, and you cannot find a grander illustration of simple trust than that of the little boy who had been to mission school but once.

The Shepherd Dog.

The shepherd dogs of Scotland are famous for their sagacity. It is said that one of them will do more than ten men could do in driving a large flock of sheep and keeping them in order. Indeed, the shepherds would find it a very difficult thing to discharge the duties expected from them if they were not assisted by these useful and faithful animals.

If a flock is passing near a field of grain, you will see the dog lead them carefully away from it. He keeps his eye on those who trespass, and overawes them by his bark and his quick movements. The obstinate he punishes without doing any serious harm.

Does it not seem as if reason were at work in his brain? If he had not learned to know the grain from the proper pasture of the flock, how could he know it was not to be eaten?

He seems to feel all the importance of his office, and to know the habits of the sheep even better than his master. If a lamb is too weak to follow the flock he will call the attention of his master to the fact, and then lead him to find it. Watchful and brave in his duties, he never neglects his work for play. He does not even allow sleep to prevent his taking a proper care of his charge.

Influence and Power.

A life devoted to doing business for God is the greatest power under heaven. I emphasize the word "power." We hear much of influence. It is not a New Testament word, and is used but once in the Old Testament, where "the sweet influences of the Pleiades" are mentioned. Job had to go a long way from home to bring it in, and it was cold before he got there. It is an icy word. "Power" throbs with the sympathy, the love, the energy of God's heart and hand. What we need is to be "endued with power." Influence, the manward side of us, should be consecrated to doing good; but more important than influence is "power," the Godward side. We need, first of all, to be in right relation with God, and then our influence will take care of itself. It has occurred to you, I am sure, that Jesus Christ was not a man of influence. He made himself of "no reputation;" but the power of God was upon him. The early disciples did not have enough influence to keep out of jail, but they had power to shake the jail doors open and walk out. Let us not despise the influence of money, mind, position, numbers; but all these together are not sufficient for the needs of the Church. The one great need is power from God. Link with that your money, your personality, and life will be a success for both worlds.

Watch and pray—by watching, we employ all our strength; by prayer we engage God's.—South.

Sympathy.—Thank God for sympathy; it has a wonderful power of turning keys in rusty locks.



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