

thing and earn money for Grandad. He has been so very good to me, and now he is getting older, and I am big and strong, I ought to be working for him. He always tells me to have a bit more patience, and puts me in mind how my mother said I must be guided by him. What can I do?"

"Well, I declare! Dick said all that to you, did he? He's a truth-telling lad, anyway, so no doubt that's true; and we all know the old man is just wrapped up in him. He thinks there never was another lad so sharp as Dick, though I think you an' me could each show one that would teach Master Holgate a thing or two, though maybe not in the way of book-learning."

"There's a deal in making lads understand in good time what they've got to do," said the matron appealed to. "I made mine go a bit short at meal-times, every now and then, when they were quite little, so as they might be on the look-out to pick up odd coppers for errands and such, when they had a chance. Nothing sharpens a lad up like feeling hungry now and again."

"I could never ha' done that," said the gentle-spoken woman, who had, as the others expressed it, "stuck up for Dick Holgate." "I could take the last bit from my lips and go hungry myself, sooner than one of my children should go short of a good meal."

"Aye, you are a bit soft, like Owd Roger is with Dick," was the reply, accompanied by a chorus of laughter.

"I'm not ashamed of being like Owd Roger. I'd sooner be soft than hard, any day," said the other; and taking up her pails, which had been resting on the ground during the talk, she went indoors to prepare the family dinner.

The others took a few more minutes to discuss Roger and his boy. They agreed that the old man was killing himself to keep the pair of them and that Dick might be "quite my gentleman."

Who else in Glinderses troubled to get up on a Sunday morning and tidy up before dinner-time? Who else troubled whether their big lads went to school or church on Sunday? It was good to get the little ones out of the way, for they were only in everybody's road, meddling and hinder-

ing, whilst the best dinner of the week was being cooked. The working boys wanted a bit of holiday, and the elder girls were handy at home; but sunshine or rain, Roger and Dick went off together as the bells began to ring.

They agreed that there was a deal in habit; that when you'd been brought up to anything you'd miss it if you gave up.

They wondered how long those threadbare garments would hang on Old Roger's back, or whether he would astonish Glinderses by coming out in new ones. They allowed that in spite of his poor clothing Roger always looked respectable, and that he was wonderful particular about cleanliness. In fact, they lauded a great many excellences in their old neighbour which they never dreamed of imitating, and, with one consent, praised him as a real good man, without asking themselves what made the difference between him and themselves.

Little did the dwellers in Glinderses guess that Roger looked forward with deep longing for the dawn of each Sunday. Not merely because on that day he was not compelled to rise in the small hours, and trudge wearily, first to market, and then, with his laden barrow, from street to street and from door to door.

He tried to put all the toils and cares of the business week out of his mind, as much as the barrow and basket were out of sight, on Sundays.

As a boy, Roger had received most of his "teaching" at the Sunday Schools belonging to the oldest of the city churches. Now, at threescore years old, he was wont to speak to Dick of the old school and those who taught in it, with equal reverence and affection.

"The Sunday School was the only place for such as me in those days," he would say. "The teachers were the best of friends to us. If I've any good in me now, Dick, I have to thank my old teacher for sowing the seed of it, and to praise God for makin' me willin' to take it in, and givin' it increase as the years rolled on."

"I got a bit, a very little bit, of day schoolin' after that, and learned to write a bit, so as I hadn't to ask anybody else to put what I wanted on paper. I did a few sums, too, and I found out I could reckon pretty well