

gln to slacken speed, but knew that the distance was too short to permit it to come to a standstill before reaching her.

She grew dizzy and sick! Then there flashed before her vision a glimpse of a small figure in mottled coat and trousers. It was the "shocking little beggar!" He dashed toward her, and with one almost rude jerk, had the unfortunate boot unfastened from top to toe, brought her to her feet, and thrust her out of reach of the approaching car.

"Well done!" shouted a gentleman from the platform.

When the car passed on, there set the little boot, upright and quite unharmed, but looking much out of its sphere out in the middle of the street. Tommy ran to recover it, and put it on its little owner's foot with such chivalrous gentleness that that small individual wondered how "such a nice boy could be so dreadfully shabby."

The boot restored, she ran on, forgetting in her fright to thank the boy. She thought of it, however, as she entered the next car, but there was a sharp pain in her ankle, and she dared not return. By the time Madge left the car, the "skipping" had simmered into the most painful presence of a walk. Mrs. Howe saw her little daughter limping up the steps, and met her at the door.

"What has happened, Madge, dear?" she asked.

But for answer the child threw herself into her mother's arms and wept violently. Not that she was so much hurt, as that the sight of that dear face made her realize more fully how narrowly she had escaped.

When Mrs. Howe unfastened the boot, she found a much swollen ankle. She wrapped it in a towel wet in very hot water, and telephoned for the doctor. Then the whole story came out. On hearing of his daughter's timely rescue, tears came to Mr. Howe's eyes as he exclaimed:

"Why, Madge, my child, I was on the platform myself, and saw the whole affair; but I had no idea that the little girl was my own."

"No, papa, it's no wonder you didn't recognise me. You see, I had on my new cloak and hat, and I'm afraid, perhaps, I was

thinking too much about how they looked (for you know they are very, very pretty); and I'm sure I was a little vain about the walking boots; and they got me into trouble. But I will never be so unkind as to call anyone names. I think that poor little boy heard what I said, and then---helped me as if---as if---I were his friend."

"Well, Madge, your father will see that that little lad doesn't appear at his post in such a plight hereafter," and fondly kissing her, the father abruptly left the house.

It was late when Mr. Howe reached the corner where the accident had occurred, but Tommy was still there, calling out plaintively, "Shine, mister? Have a shine;" his voice betraying the utter faithlessness of the appeal, as by twos and threes the men surged on, giving no heed.

"I'm your man, my lad!" said Mr. Howe, extending a shoe somewhat the worse for recent contact with the elements.

Tommy looked up in blank amazement, then fell to putting a "shine" on the shoe that did no small credit to his profession.

When he had finished, Mr. Howe said, "Now, my lad, if business isn't too pressing, we will cross over to the coffee-house and get a lunch, as I have something to say to you."

Tommy opened his eyes very wide at this, and asked, "You're not a policeman, are you? I haven't done anything, have I?"

"Afraid you have, my boy. Didn't you snatch a little girl almost from beneath the wheels of a car this afternoon? That little girl was my daughter. Now will you come with me? You see, I have neither a star nor a billy," answered the gentleman, with a twinkle in his eye.

Tommy complied gracefully, and the lunch-room proved amply satisfactory. It was observed that he abandoned the "boot-blackening profession," and became cash boy in Mr. Howe's store.

Little Bessie was placed in care of a kind lady, at whose cottage Tommy also found a pleasant home.

And Madge---after having made due apology for her unkind words, and expressing her unbounded thanks for Tommy's timely assistance---set about becoming a more generally considerate little maiden, and many hearts were made glad thereby.---Northern Christian Advocate.