

Young Folk.

"CUB"—A STORY FOR ELDER SISTERS.

BY MARIAN HARLAND.

(Continued)

Cub actually quivered in his ecstasy. He was afraid, for a second, lest he should break down and cry. His new friend devoted half of his afternoon holiday to teaching him the rudiments of balancing and guiding the two-wheeled throne, promising, at parting, to "give him a hail again soon."

In subsequent lessons and talks, the pupil received ideas that set his sluggish wits to work. His instructor was, fortunately, a clean-hearted, clean-tongued fellow, as wholesome and honest as he was wide-awake. He was sorry for the solitary boy, compassionate, without contempt, of his ignorance of ways and means of "getting on in the world."

"I darn't speak to my father about it!" said Cub, digging his heels into the gravelly earth. "And I'm sure Sadie would shut me right up if I were to mention such a thing. She's boss at home—Sadie is!"

When they next met he had stirring news. His father could not see that there was any impropriety in Cub's plan of earning money, but strongly insisted that Mr. Rhett should be consulted before it was spent for a bicycle or anything else. Moreover, Oliver Lyman (the new friend) hurried on to say, he knew a fellow who was going into a New York store where he could not use his bicycle, and was willing to sell it for thirty dollars.

"Good as new, for I examined it myself, and hardly scratched. The fellow has out-grown it, too (he's six feet one). He'll wait six months for the money, leaving her up in our garret not to be used until she's paid for. 'But you might treat yourself to a peep at her say once a week to keep up your spirits, you know. And there's a lady in our street who wants some wood sawed. I spoke to her this morning to save the job for a friend of mine. 'Cheer up, old fellow!' for Cub had sat down suddenly on the roadside, weak under the rush of hope and desire. 'You'll get her, as sure as a gun!'

By the next Saturday night Cub had sawed two cords of wood, and been paid a silver dollar for the job. He had worked faithfully, so nearly beyond his boyish strength that his sleep each night was like the torpor of exhaustion. "He just kicks off his shoes and steps out of his clothes, leaving them on the floor, and tumbles head first into bed like a dumb animal!" Sadie reported, indignantly, below stairs. "It was not ten minutes after he went up to-night before I stopped in at his room for the candle, and he was snoring shockingly. Boys are but one remove from the brute creation!"

"Seems to me I never saw another dollar as big as this," said Cub, turning it over in his palm, as the two boys sat together under the scrub-cedars.

"That's always the way with money you make yourself," rejoined his experienced companion, "I like to get mine in dollar lumps, so that I won't be tempted to spend it for nonsense."

"Spend it!" echoed Cub, horrified. "My only trouble is where to keep it."

"Lock it up in one of your bureau-drawers."

"I haven't a place I can turn a key upon. Sadie rummages in every hole and corner now and then and throws away lots of things I meant to keep."

After long consultation it was determined to make Mr. Lyman treasurer of the fund. Neither of the lads appreciated the pathetic significance of the relief and satisfaction with which the deposit was made by one who "darsn't" reveal the project to his own father. No stronger evidence could have been adduced of the indifference felt by the Rhett family as to the whereabouts and doings of this one of their number than the fact that nobody missed or questioned him respecting his long absences during that spring and summer. He would beg a slice of bread-and-butter from the cook on Saturday morning, and leave her to tell his mother that he was "going to spend the day out-of-doors a little way in the country." For weeks at a time he was up and out of the house by four o'clock in the morning, coming in through the kitchen in season to run up to his room and "wash-up" before the half-past seven o'clock breakfast, and no one was the wiser except Katy.

"Yes aint gittin' into bad company, be ye?" the latter asked him once, confidentially.

The boy laughed up at her with a pair of honest blue eyes that were seldom so merry.

(To be continued)

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