

"He goes right on just the same; if he is a faithful soldier he will not desert his post," explained Mr. Merrill.

"I s'pose it wouldn't be brave to stop before the other sentinel came?" asked Philip after a pause.

"No," returned the father, who by that time was thinking of something else.

The next day at noon, Mrs. Merrill said, "I wonder where Philip is? I thought he was playing in the yard, but when I went out to call him he wasn't there. It is snowing hard, and I wish he'd come home."

"He'll turn up soon, hungry as a little bear," answered Mr. Merrill. But an hour passed and Philip did not come, and his father, who began to share Mrs. Merrill's anxiety, started out in search. The storm had developed into a blizzard, and he fought his way through it to the houses of Philip's various playmates, but none of them knew anything about the child. As he was returning in the hope that the child had come home during his absence, he met George Lewis.

"Can't you find Phillip?" said George, sympathetically, and then with a sudden thought he added, "Have you been to the snow fort at the school-house?"

"Snow fort?" repeated Mr. Merrill, reminded of Philip's questions. "Let's go there at once."

Wearily trudging back and forth, painfully struggling against wind and snow, they found the small sentinel.

"I didn't stop till you came," he murmured. "I was a brave soldier." The toy gun dropped from his numb fingers and he sank unconscious in the snow at his father's feet.

His father gathered him into his arms and carried him home, where all night long George and Tim, who humbly came to be of any assistance possible, heard his baby voice crying between croupy gasps for breath: "I was a brave soldier, papa—I didn't desert the post."

In the early morning, when the little fellow was pronounced by the doc-

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tor out of danger, Tim and George, with hearts too full for words, looked at each other with swimming eyes.  
As they left the house, George said, "It seems to me I couldn't have stood it if that brave little chap hadn't got-

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ten better. I guess it's a lesson for us, Tim."  
"It surely is," answered Tim in a choking voice.—"Southern Churchman."