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Edward's Temptation.

BY HIRATO ALGER, JR.

It was six o'clock in the afternoon. At this time the great wholesale warehouse of Messrs. Hubbard & Son was just closing, unless the pressure of business compelled the partners to keep open until later.

The duty of closing usually devolved upon Edward Jones, a boy of fourteen, who had lately been engaged to perform a few slight duties for which he received the sum of fifty dollars annually. He was the "boy," but if he behaved himself so as to win the approbation of his employers his chance of promotion was good.

Yet there were some things that rendered this small salary a hard trial to him—circumstances with which his employers were unacquainted. His mother was a widow. The sudden death of Mr. Jones had thrown the entire family upon their own resources, and these were indeed but slender.

There was an older sister who assisted her mother to sew, and this with Edward's salary constituted the entire income of the family. Yet by means of untiring industry, they had continued thus far to live, using strict economy of course.

Yet they had wanted none of the absolute necessities of life. But Mary Jones—Edward's sister—grew sick. She had taken a severe cold which terminated in a fever. This not only cut off the income arising from her own labor, but also prevented her mother from accomplishing as much as she would otherwise have been able to do.

On the morning of the day on which our story commences, Mary had expressed a longing for an orange. In her fever it would have been most grateful to her.

It is hard indeed when we are obliged to deny to those we love that which would be a refreshment and a benefit to them.

Mrs. Jones felt this, and so did Edward.

"I only wish I could buy you one, Mary," said Edward, just as he set out for the store. "Next year I shall receive a larger salary, and then we shan't have to pinch so much."

"Never mind, Edward," said Mrs. Jones, smiling faintly. "I ought not to have asked for it, knowing how hard you and mother find it getting along without me."

"Don't trouble yourself about that, Mary," said Mrs. Jones, soothingly, though her heart sank within her at the thought of her empty larder. "Only get well, and we shall get along well enough afterwards."

It was with the memory of this scene that Edward went to the store in the morning.

All around him were boxes of rich goods representing thousands of dollars in money.

"Oh!" thought he, "if only I had the value of one of these boxes, how much good it would do poor Mary!" and Edward sighed.

The long day wore away at last, and Edward was then about to close the warehouse. But as he was passing the desk of his employer, his attention was drawn to a bit of paper lying on the floor beneath. He picked it up, and to his great joy he found it to be a ten dollar bill.

The first thought that flashed upon him was "How much good will this do Mary. I can buy her the oranges she wants, and she shall have some every day, and perhaps she would like a chicken."

But a moment later his countenance fell.

"It isn't mine," he sighed. "It must be Mr. Hubbard's. This is his desk, and he must have dropped it."

"Still," urged the tempter, "he will never know it. And after all, what are ten dollars to him? He is worth a hundred thousand."

Still Edward was not satisfied. Whether Mr. Hubbard could spare it or not was not the question. It was rightfully his and must be given back to him.

"I'll go to his house and give it to him this very night," said Edward. "Otherwise I might be tempted to keep it."

He determined to go to Mr. Hubbard's before he went home. The sight of his sick sister might perhaps weaken his resolution, and this must never be. He must preserve his integrity at all hazards.

He knew where Mr. Hubbard lived. It was a large, fine-looking house, on a fashionable street. He had passed it several times and wondered whether a man must not feel happy who was able to live in such style.

Without unnecessary delay, therefore, he went to the house, ascended the steps, rang the bell.

A man servant came to the door. "Well?" he said.

"Is Mr. Hubbard at home?" "Yes, but he has only just come in, and I don't think he can see you," was the rather supercilious reply.

"I am in his employ," said Edward quietly, "and I have just come from the store. I think he will see me if you mention this to him."

"Very well, you can come in," Edward was left standing in the hall while Mr. Hubbard was sought by the servant.

"Well?" he said inquiringly, "has anything happened?" "No, sir," said Edward, "but I picked up this bill near your desk, and suppose you set have dropped it. I thought I had better bring it here directly."

"You have done well," said Mr. Hubbard, "and I shall remember it. Honesty is a very valuable quality in a boy just commencing a business career. Hereafter I shall have perfect confidence in your honesty."

Edward was gratified by this assurance, but as the door closed behind him, and he walked out into the street, the thought of his sick sister at home again intruded upon him, and he thought regretfully how much good could have been done with ten dollars. Not that he had been honest. There was a satisfaction in doing right, but I think my readers will understand the feelings without any explanation.

Mrs. Jones brought some toast to her daughter's bedside, but Mary motioned it away. "I thank you for taking the trouble to make it mother," she said, "but I don't think I could possibly eat it."

"Is there anything you could relish, Mary?" "No," said she, hesitatingly, "nothing that we can get."

Mrs. Jones sighed—a sigh which Edward echoed. It was with a heavy heart that Edward started for the warehouse the next morning. He had never felt the craving for wealth which now took possession of him.

He set about his duties as usual. About two hours after he had arrived at the warehouse Mr. Hubbard entered. He did not at first appear to notice Edward, but in about half an hour summoned him to the office, which was partitioned off from the remainder of the spacious rooms in which goods were stored.

He smiled pleasantly as Edward entered his presence.

"Tell me frankly," he said, "did you not feel an impulse to keep the bill which you found last night?"

"I hope you won't be offended with me, Mr. Hubbard," said Edward, "if I say that I did."

"Tell me all about it," said Mr. Hubbard with interest. "What was it that withheld you? I should never have known it."

"I know that," said Edward.

"Then what withheld you from taking it?"

"First I will tell you what tempted me," said Edward. "My mother and sister are obliged to depend upon sewing for a living, and we lived but poorly at best. But a fortnight since Mary became sick, and since then we have had a time. Mary's appetite is poor, and she does not relish food, but we are able to get her nothing better. When I picked up that bill I could buy with it for her."

"And yet you did not take it?"

"No, sir, it would have been wrong, and I could not have looked you in the face after it."

Edward spoke in a tone of modest confidence.

Mr. Hubbard went to the desk and wrote a check.

"How much do I pay you now?" he asked.

"Fifty dollars a year," said Edward.

"Henceforth your duties will be increased, and I will pay you two hundred. Will that please you?"

"Two hundred dollars a year?" exclaimed Edward, his eyes sparkling with delight.

"Yes, and at the end of the year that will be increased, if, as I have no doubt, you continue to merit my confidence."

"Oh, sir, how can I thank you?" said Edward, full of gratitude.

"By preserving your integrity. As I presume you are in present need of money, I will pay you one quarter in advance. Here is a check for fifty dollars, which you can get cashed at the bank. And, by the way, you may have the rest of the day to yourself."

Edward flew to the bank, and with his sudden riches hastened to the market, where he purchased a supply of provisions, such as he knew would be welcome at home, and the made haste home to announce his good fortune.

A gentleman on walking out on Sunday evening met a young girl whose parents lived near his house. "Where are you going, Jenny?" said he. "Looking for a son-in-law for my mother, sir," was the smart reply.

A weight seemed to fall off the hearts of mother and daughter as they heard his hurried story, and Mrs. Jones thanked God for bestowing upon her son those good principles which had brought them this great relief.

And Mr. Hubbard slept none the worse that night that at a slight pecuniary sacrifice he had done a kind act, confirmed a boy in his integrity, and gladdened a struggling family. If there were more employers as considerate as he, there would be fewer dishonest clerks.

KILLED IN A CHURCH.

The Panic at a Revival Meeting in Lynchburg. A list of the Dead.

LYNCHBURG, Va., Oct. 17th.

The following are the particulars of the church panic last night: A great crowd had assembled in the colored Baptist Church on Court street to witness a marriage ceremony, the contracting parties being Jack Averett and May Rives. The ceremony had been performed and the bridal party had left the church when the services of a revival meeting, which has been going on for some time were resumed. The mourners were at the altar, and the pastor was exhorting when an alarm, caused, it is said, by the falling of some plastering, was raised that the house was falling. Instantly the congregation, which was dense, was thrown into a panic and the most frightful scenes ensued.

There was a general rush to the doors and windows. The audience-room being in the second story those who first reached the head of the stairs were so pressed on by the panic stricken crowd that they were thrown down, and those who followed shared the same fate, until they were piled up almost to the head of the stairs one upon another. Upon this mass of humanity the throng that followed trod, men and women rushing over it careless of everything so they made their escape. The consequences were terrible. Many were either trampled or smothered to death or badly wounded. Some who were near the bottom say they had to bear a weight which every moment seemed as though it would squeeze the life out of them. Many, seeing the obstruction in the stairway, jumped from the second and even the third-story windows, by which it is supposed many of the casualties were caused. The fire bell was sounded and was responded to by the firemen and a great crowd of citizens, and measures for the relief of the sufferers were at once commenced.

The dead and wounded were got out and laid in the church-yard and street. Most of the doctors of the city were promptly on the ground and did what they could for the unfortunate.

The following is a list of the killed: Maria Wilson, Maria Ransom, Millie Ward, Mary Henry, Virginia Robinson, Emma Brown, Arena Cox, Mildred Barksdale, and Adeline Burke. About thirty were severely wounded and some will die.

Pascal Horton died this morning. Many others more or less wounded were taken off or were able to leave unaided immediately after the accident; hence the actual number of the wounded cannot be ascertained.

SWINDLED OUT OF \$800.

A German Farmer was taken in by Confidence Men.

Special Dispatch to Times-Tribune.

HARRISBURG, Oct. 17th.

A German farmer from Minnesota, who was on his way to Europe, with his family, was swindled on a Pennsylvania Railroad train, between this city and Millifin, out of eight hundred dollars. A confidence man learned that he had with him the partial proceeds of the sale of a farm, and helped by a confederate, fleeced the German. The confidence man was approached by his accomplice, who claimed to be an express agent, and informed that if he did not fork over eight hundred dollars for goods carried he would detain the car alleged to contain them in this city. The person addressed said he had nothing but drafts and turning to the farmer asked him for the loan of the amount, proffering drafts represented to be worth fifteen hundred dollars as security. The German fell into the trap, and soon after the bogus express agent disappeared from the train with the money. At Marysville the other confidence man jumped off the train while it was moving thirty miles an hour and sustained serious injuries and he is now in the Harrisburg Hospital. On his person were found only two dollars in good money and seven cents in imitation of twenty-dollar gold pieces.

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