

THE BAD BOY.

"You seem sort of broke up this morning," said the grocery man to the bad boy, as he came in and stood against the counter, under the kerosene lamp that was leaking on his hat. "And I knew you would be when I saw you going down the dark alley last night with that ragged girl that peddles apples. Oh, you are a sly one, and I have watched you, and I am satisfied you are on the wrong road. You better let up, young man, or your people will be ashamed of you. When a boy that belongs to the better class of society goes down a dark alley with a low girl."

"But, gol-darn it, she lived in the alley. If she hadn't lived in the alley I wouldn't have gone in there," said the boy, little nettled at the remarks of the grocery man, and trying to explain.

"Yes, that is all right," said the cheese fiend, winking at the carpenter, who was nailing a weather-strip on the door, and who looked as though he needed a weather-strip on the bottom of his pants, to bank up his low shoes. "Of course she lived there, and she inveigled you, a respectable boy, into her den, and you didn't have to have your coat-collar pulled off to get you to go. I am ashamed of you, to go off down a dark alley with a disreputable girl."

"There, hold on, condemn you," said the boy, as he grated his teeth and picked up a stick of stove wood and drew it on the grocery man, his face pale as a ghost, while the carpenter stopped work to look on. "You say a word against that poor girl, and down comes your grocery. She is a Christian, that girl is, though she don't put on airs and go to church with silk dresses and rich duds. But she prays, by jingo, better than any of 'em. There aint none of these prayer sharps that get up and talk big words, that can make me cry, but that little girl made me cry last night as though I had broke a pair of skates. You see her father is a drunkard, and he takes half she makes peddling apples, to buy gin, and her grandmother has got the consumption, and that takes the other half to support her. I knew that girl when I went to school, and yesterday she came to me crying, and said she was going to ask a favor of me 'cause I had a heart in me. I don't know how she found it out, but anyway she said she had known it for years. It seems her drunken father had taken all her money, and had gone on an awful bum, and she didn't have any to buy some of those cough-sirup lozenges for her grandma, and the old lady was chokin up pretty rough, and she wanted me to lend her a dollar till she could realize on the apples she was going to get trusted for. Probably you noticed I haven't got any watch this morning. I have got my chain, with a bunch of keys on it in my pocket, but nobody will know I haven't got any watch unless they ask me what time it is, and then I will tell them it has run down, and I guess it has, 'cause pawnbrokers never wind up watches. Well, sir, I got \$4 on my watch, and I went and bought apples for her and medicine for her grandma, and then I went down home with her. You are right about the alley being pretty rough, but when I went in the little room, where the old lady was on a bed, and heard her let off one of those regular hark-from-the-tombs coughs, that sounded away down cellar, where it is damp and moldy, I tell you it made me feel serious. And when that ragged little girl got down on her knees and prayed, there in the dirt, and asked God to bless the friend that had risen up and lifted such a load off the sufferer, do you know, I felt as though I had swallowed a piece of turnip or something hard, and couldn't get it up or down, and the tears come to my eyes just like when you peel onions. She didn't use any of this highfalutin language, such as the high-salaried preachers use, where you want a dictionary in your pew to find what the words mean. It was no full-dress formal prayer, like some of the ministers give us, when it seems as though they had just been given a letter of introduction to God, and wanted to show Him that He was in luck to get acquainted with so distinguished and educated a preacher. She didn't go on and advise God how to run things, like some of the preachers I have heard, and act as though if God didn't take their advice He would lose his situation and be mighty lucky if he got a job carrying around a collection plate. It wasn't that kind of a prayer. The little girl got right down on her knees, and said, 'Oh, Father in Heaven, just as though God was sitting right there in front of her on a three-legged stool, and she seemed so confident that the Heavenly Father heard her that I could almost see His hand on her head, petting the poor child. She didn't tell God anything about my pawing my watch and buying the apples, and she didn't mention my name at all, but I could imagine that even He who watches the sparrows full, was onto the bunch of keys in my vest-pocket, hatched to the watch-chain, bigger than a house. Say, do you know, some of these long prayers by the dress-parade preachers, who get a salary big enough to own a yacht, make me tired, and I want to go out in the woods and hear even a flock of blackbirds sing praises, in preference to listening to a long recital of what a lot of miserable sinners all the people are who are being prayed for, but I could have listened to that dirty, ragged girl pray for an hour, she was so natural and pitiful, and talked so God could understand it whether He had ever graduated at college or not. But she wasn't talking against time for wages, and she just seemed to have a little conversation with the good Lord just as a child would with its father, and then she got up and fired some medicine down her grandma, and made her a cup of tea on an oil stove and toasted a piece of bread and poached an egg while I sat there thinking. Do you know she broke me all up. If it wasn't for that old calico dress, and the shoes run over at the heel, and the moth-eaten stockings, I should have thought she was an angel, and, by gum, I will pawn everything I have got for her to get things for her grandma, but somebody else has got to chip in to buy gin for the old man. I can't run a hospital and a distillery both on one cheap

watch, but I am going to work for the humane society next week, and that girl can have all the money I make as long as the old lady's cough hangs on. Say, do you think there is any bathroom in heaven where they can take such a dirty girl as that and make an angel of her that will pass in a crowd? Take the dirt out from under her finger nails, and soap her hands in hot water, and put cold cream on them, and let her sleep a few nights with rubber gloves on, and I suppose they could make her pass as an angel. Well, I have got to go down to the Humane society office. I was in a street-car the other night and the car was full, and got off the track, and the mules couldn't pull it. All the men sat there and wouldn't get out. They read papers, and acted mad, while the driver pounded the mules. I was on the back step, and I yelled, 'The members of the Humane society are requested to get out of the car and help push.' You ought to have seen 'em. They all looked at each other, and then got out, and some of them looked ashamed, but they helped the mules. The boss of the Humane society heard of it, and he said he would give me a job watching for butchers who maul cattle. I guess I can work my way up so I will finally hold the proud position of looking after lame horses that draw swill wagons. Well, I must go and send our doctor down the alley, to sound the old lady's cough, and have him charge it to me."

As the boy went out the grocery man told the carpenter that boy had a heart in him as big as a barrel, but you had to watch the raisin box, all the same, when he was around.—*Peck's Sun.*

Finding a Hidden Fortune.

"I have been sent for very often in my time," said an elderly detective, "to search for money concealed by eccentric people. There was more of this hiding away of cash forty years ago than there is now, owing, probably, to the doubtful character of some of the old savings banks.

"Some fifteen years ago I went up to a farm house in Orange county, at the request of the heirs, to look for money. The deceased had had no striking characteristics for my purpose, and after trying several lines of search for three days, I grew doubtful. His riding saddle had been ripped open, his bootees knocked off for diamonds, his shoes split up and his upholstery pulled to pieces. Bricks had been taken out, the hearth torn up, and the wainscoting pulled down. Even the back-boards of picture frames had been taken out, and the boys had dug around the roots of every tree in the orchard, but still no money had been found. The reward was too large to be lost, but I was nearly at my wits' end. Finally the thought came like a flash: 'Where was the old gentleman in the habit of sitting?' I asked. 'Oh, he almost always sat by that window,' said the brother; 'but we've pulled everything to pieces around there.' 'Sit down just as he did.' The man sat down. 'In which direction was he most apt to look?' 'Nowhere in particular, out of the window generally.' 'Toward the barn?' 'No, this way.' I followed the look; it was in the line of an old, used-up pump. 'Which way did he walk when he went out to the field?' 'Over to the pump, and then made a bee line for the pond.' These answers had a certain significance. Men like to have the place of concealment in sight, and it is well-known that they will often walk over money they have buried to see that the sod is undisturbed. I had the pump taken up and excavations made—no money. The pump was replaced. I entered the room once more and stood by the window. Suddenly I saw a faint, but peculiar-looking mark on the sill; it was a surveyor's point. I 'lined' it up to the pump, measured out to the exact center of the line, and the digging began. A two-inch steam pipe was struck at a depth of four feet. The end was plugged; I took home a \$500 bill that night."—*New York Sun.*

The Chinese "Ten" Nasal and Guttural. One peculiarity of the Chinese language, which does not occur in any other that I am acquainted with, is the effect of the different tones employed. Two words may be Romanized or spelled according to our sounds in exactly the same way, but a high nasal in one case and deep guttural in the other gives a totally different meaning. This is a difficulty that is hard to overcome. A clergyman of my acquaintance, delivering his first Chinese sermon, was very much annoyed at a blunder he made in the word heaven, ten, which, without the use of the nasal, denotes field. He spoke to them at length of the lives Christians should lead, and informed them as a reward for this proper conduct they would go to "ten" when they died.

"Humph!" said one old man on the front seat, "we can do that any day."—*Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Policeman and "Cops."

Somebody wanted to know how policemen ever came to be called "cops." The term originated in New York, and was first given to the police force under Mayor Fernando Wood, from the copper badges which they wore. It was not long before the dictionary of thieves' slang was enriched by a new word, "coppers." Sir Robert Peel was an English magnate who gave considerable official attention to the reconstruction of the London police force, and hence the terms "bobbies" and "peelers," the last of which was transplanted in American soil.—*Boston Globe.*

Hot Ice.

"Marvelous hot ice!" Did Shakespeare, in these words, anticipate the earthquake of Java? In the midst of the molten lava and carried along by the current was a solid and enormous bed of ice emitted from one of the craters. This bed of ice was surrounded by a thick envelope of sand and scoria, which are such non-conductors of heat that a red-hot stream of lava running over it will not melt snow. It is supposed that this ice had formed the crust of some vast subterranean lake.—*Detroit Free Press.*

GRAIN-GROWING COUNTRIES.

Interesting Report by the United States Consul at Copenhagen.

The Grain-Producing and Grain-Consuming Countries of the World.

Henry B. Snyder, United States Consul at Copenhagen, has submitted to the Department of State at Washington, a very interesting report on the grain-producing and grain-consuming countries. He says that by dividing these countries under the category of grain-exporting and grain-importing places, and putting them in their order according to the relative extent of their supplies for export, or again for the magnitude of their requirements, he obtains the two following lists: First, as grain-exporting lands—The United States, Russia, Austria-Hungary, the Danubian Provinces, British East Indies, Denmark, Algiers, Australia, Egypt, Spain, Canada, Chili and Sweden. As grain-importing lands—Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Greece.

On the list of grain-exporting lands the United States stands first, and Russia second. Not so many years have elapsed since Russia occupied this position, and, in 1877, these two countries were about on an equal footing, but in the later years the United States has largely surpassed Russia. These large supplies from the United States had great influence upon the European grain markets, and the severe crisis, which the farming interests in so many parts of Europe are now passing through, is doubtless due to this severe competition. Many writers on this side of the water seem to be of the opinion that the virgin soils of the Western States will shortly be exhausted, and that with a largely increasing population in the States, and with a call for use of artificial manures on the soil, the export surplus will be diminished and the cost of production so much augmented that European farmers will no longer have to contend against this formidable competition. These views, in his opinion, will be realized. This is said in our Western States an enormous area of fertile virgin soil ready to be brought under the plow by annually-increasing immigration, and it is more likely that the culminating point may only be looked for in a very remote future.

The constantly-increasing competition of the United States, combined with the political disturbances in the Balkan peninsula, and the bad harvests of 1879 and 1880, have conducted in a great measure to lessen the influence of Russian supplies on the world's grain markets.

Austria-Hungary is likewise mainly an agricultural land, and, with its fertile soil and not overdone population, will doubtless for a long time be able to rank among the grain-exporting countries.

Until a few years back attention in the British East Indian territory was mostly concentrated on the production of rice, other cereals being cultivated to a very slight extent; but since 1871 the cultivation and export of wheat, which is largely raised in the English provinces, has been strongly directed to the furtherance of all possible means, through an improved transport system, either of canal or railways, to an increased cultivation of wheat, so that eventually India may be in a position to compete with the United States on the European grain markets.

The grain production of Australia does not appear to have made such progress as was expected. Wheat alone, she is a surprising source of grain for export. There are exports to England, which in 1880 received about 1,000,000 quarters, the largest quantity yet received.

Egypt, which in remote ages was the most important of agricultural lands, has still her natural resources; but the disastrous tax system prevents all developments of agriculture, which is mainly of wheat, and scarcely exceeds 500,000 quarters.

GRAIN-IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

Turning next to the list of grain-importing lands, it will be seen that Great Britain stands prominently forward in the first rank at a increase year by year, and due to three causes, namely: The large annual increase of population, that more bread is now consumed by the people than formerly, and, lastly, that wheat cultivation, owing to unremunerative prices, is yearly reduced, the wheat lands being either sown with other cereals or else turned into pasture land. Even with the most favored harvests, the English are compelled to import more than a month's supply, and the remainder has to be looked for in importation; but still with these large imports, the price of wheat is now less than when England depended mainly upon her home supplies in former times, and England is probably less exposed at the present day to danger of suffering from dearth than in the days of its home supplies.

In France, although the yield of crops has increased during the last fifty years, still it is only in exceptionally good harvest years that the home supply is sufficient for its own requirements, and during the last three unusually severe seasons, heavy importation has been required. These imports are chiefly obtained from Russia and the United States.

In Germany, where agriculture may be considered as of a high standard, even this country is unable to support its population with breadstuffs from its own supplies. These supplies were in the first instance entirely obtained from Russia, but now they are likewise received from Hungary.

THE COLORED MAN'S RIGHTS.

A Southern Railroad to Run Separate Cars for Negroes.

Senator Brown, as President of the State road of Georgia, and head of the new Georgia railroad syndicate, says an Atlanta dispatch, announces that his policy, under the altered condition of things made by the civil rights bill, will be to take more care that ever that colored people shall have all the rights of white people.

He says that colored people will not be permitted to go into an old car intended for white ladies nor to invade upon white people who do not desire their society, but that comfortable cars will be arranged on the Western and Atlantic for both races, where they can travel comfortably and safely. Conductors on his trains, under his orders, will no more permit white people to intrude upon colored than they will permit colored to intrude upon white people. He says that colored people will pay the same price as white shall have as comfortable accommodations, but they must take it in different cars. Senator Brown said a little common sense, with a desire to do what is just in the premises, would regulate the whole matter to the satisfaction of both races, and, so far as his road was concerned, it was his determination to see that justice was done to all.

PERSONAL.

THE Russian Grand Duke Alexis will pass the winter in Paris.

THE Emperor of Austria weighs 143 pounds, with his wife, tips the scales at 164.

MISS CORA BENNISON, the Quincy (Ill.) female lawyer, is making a tour around the world.

HOWELL'S, the novelist, parts his hair in the middle, and shrinks from mingling with the human race.

EX-GOV. KEMPER, of Virginia, says he has been and is for justice to the negro, but he never saw the day when he would knowingly clothe him with authority over the schools of the white race.

JOHN CARLING was fixing a freight-car of the New Jersey Central road, at Philadelphia, when the train started ahead, and the car wheels run over his breast, leaving the marks of the iron on his skin. He was not seriously injured, except that there is nothing the matter with Mr. Carling, as he is attending to business as usual.

A STATUS to the inventor of the manufacture of soda is about to be erected at Issoudun, his native place. When this great chemist was alive the world refused him a breakfast; now that he is dead, why, a monument, of course.

THE very latest fashion in dinner-plates is square in shape, beautifully hand painted.

HATTON'S REPORT.

A Year's Operations of the General Postoffice.

Annual Report of the First Assistant Postmaster General.

The annual report of Frank Hatton, First Assistant Postmaster General, has been laid before the Postmaster General. The reporter says: The average amount of work performed in each division of the office exceeded that of any previous year, and the bureau has, so far as the appropriation would permit, endeavored to meet the necessities. It is believed that in no preceding year have fewer complaints been made concerning incompetency or dishonesty of Postmasters or delay or confusion in the delivery or dispatch of mail matter in the different postoffices. The whole number of postoffices on June 30, 1883, was 47,863, an increase of 3,023 during the year, and by sections, the increase in the New England States was 38, Middle States 223, Southern States and Indian Territory 725, States and Territories West and Northwest 580, and the Pacific slope 68. Pennsylvania had the largest number of postoffices—3,716. New York followed with 3,082, and Ohio third, with 2,620. The number of money-order offices is 5,857, an increase of 421.

The removals and suspensions during the year were 319 less than for the year before, and an increase of 100 in the number of improvements in character and habit of the persons now serving the public as Postmasters. During the year 10,705 letters were written to Postmasters and to private individuals involving decisions under the postal regulations and laws, and \$2,000 was collected from publishers of second-class matter for the violation of the law inclosing third-class matter in second-class publications. Publishers of legitimate newspapers are specially interested in sustaining the department in its efforts to maintain the integrity of the publications designed primarily for advertising purposes or for free circulation, or for circulation at nominal rates. The enforcement of that law will enable legitimate publications (favored by statute as an instrument of popular education) to sustain themselves by securing such local advertising support as would naturally come to them. The adjustment of salaries of Presidential Postmasters is not far enough advanced to satisfy the statements that the result will be satisfactory, and for the first time in the history of the department the salaries of Presidential Postmasters will be equalized and placed upon a basis of the gross receipts of their offices.

Beyond the benefits of the free-delivery service as at present restricted is a class of towns in densely-populated portions of the country which it is believed could be served by carriers with benefit to the people and economy to the department. These are towns within short distances of one another which have largely restricted the distribution of the post office. The law which requires a carrier to deliver to a post office in a town in which there is no post office, and to charge for the delivery, is believed to be a serious hindrance to the extension of the free-delivery service, taking into consideration the fact that local correspondence increases in proportion to the facilities offered, it should be extended and liberal appropriations made to bring it up to the highest practicable standard in cities where it is now in operation. This service meets the general demands of business and social life, but fails to meet the dispatches required in the delivery of letters of exceptional importance. Under the present system letters received after the carriers go out upon their trips, whatever their intermediate stops in the course of the day, and the next day, when the delivery closes for the day, they must lie over till next morning, and this delay frequently fails to meet the object of the communication. Out of this want of more speedy delivery, have grown up in several large cities private enterprises, which are now conducted in competition with this service and are diverting the legitimate revenues of the department thousands of dollars yearly.

The patronage bestowed upon them evinces a great desire for more speedy delivery. To meet this want it is suggested that a special stamp be provided, which, when affixed to a letter, whether local or otherwise, shall entitle the letter to immediate delivery up to 10 o'clock p. m. To provide for their delivery it is suggested that boys be employed, and required to procure receipts from the party addressed, or some authorized person.

In view of the excess of the receipts of postage on local matter alone over the cost of its delivery, \$1,000,000, it is suggested that when a carrier arrives with the postage on local letters at offices where the carrier's system is in operation can be reduced from 2 cents to 1 cent. Such a reduction will surely result in a very large increase in local business.

WORK AND WAGES.

The Senate Labor Committee Among the New Englanders.

[Boston Telegram.]

Samuel D. Warren, a prominent and extensive paper-maker, testified before the Senate Labor committee to-day, and showed an excellent condition of things among their laborers in Maine. E. L. Davenport, a compositor, thought grinding superintendents the greatest evil, and that employed children should be protected. M. H. Enwright, a grocer, thought the Government should regulate the standard of wages, as manufacturers goods are protected while labor is not.

Dr. T. W. Stow, of Fall River, said operatives there were physically dwarfed and mentally wrecked by long hours, over-work, and starvation wages. The tenements are poor, ventilation bad, and facilities despicable. He favored the breaking up of land, money and transportation monopolies. Those who are employed in Fall River laborers are obliged to die and get their driftwood to eke out a living. Senator Blair said his story was too accurately true. There were several other less important witnesses.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

A CALIFORNIA farmer has raised three watermelons weighing 104, ninety-eight and eighty-four pounds.

A LARGE cougar killed and partially devoured a 2-year-old bull belonging to Charles King, of Whatcom, Washington Territory, recently.

ROOSEVELT street, New York,