

Frank Preston's Boys.

"Oh, boys! hoy! we shall have a time—a glorious time to-morrow!" called out the loud, joyous tones of Frank Preston, as he tied his woolen tippet round his neck, and drew his fur cap down over his ears; and then he plunged with a shout out of the door of the little red school house into the snow—the snow that had banked itself up against the country fences, and piled itself on the roofs of the old farm-houses; and wrapped its smooth, thick folds over the fields and country roads, till they all lay with a dazzling whiteness under the low, gray clouds, from which the flakes were pouring down still and rapid!

It was nearly an hour after school-time; but the boys of the first spelling class had remained behind to mature their plans for the next day's sleigh-ride as it was Friday night, and on Saturday afternoon all the members of this class, boys and girls included, were to have a sleigh ride to the ruins of the "Old Fort," which was situated about five miles from Foxen, the village where Frank resided.

Of course this was a very important event, and the boys who had projected the matter were duly impressed with a sense of their great responsibility, as all sorts of disasters, wagon and bone dislocations, and fatal terminations had been predicted by the older people concerning this sleigh-ride.

But Frank Preston cared about as much for these lugubrious prophecies as boys usually do. He had been the suggester, and indeed, the moving spirit of the whole matter, as he usually was in all parties, escapades, fishings, nuttings, and berryings, which kept the boys of Foxen school district in a state of excitement from the commencement to the close of the term.

He was an only child, and had just reached his twelfth year, a fact of which he was sufficiently proud; he was an eager, bright, fun-loving, mischief-brewing boy, who always managed to know his lessons, and maintain a respectable position in his class, though his grandmother declared, "she couldn't tell, for the life of her, when that boy studied any, for he was always at play."

There were to be four sleighs, each of which was intended to hold five children. Frank Preston was to lead the cortege in his father's newly painted vehicle; and as he prided himself more on his horsemanship than he did on his scholarship, you may be certain this day was to be a triumph for him.

"Now, boys, before we start for home let's give three cheers for to-morrow's sleigh-ride," cried Frank, pulling down the tippet from his mouth.

"Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!" the shouts of those twelve boys rolled over to the echoes among the distant snow-covered hills, and scattered away into the wood hollows, and off to the green, and startled the parson in his study, as he was writing the "lastly" to next Sunday's sermon, and the deacon who was just unyoking his oxen at the great barn door.

"There are four sleighs, and five are going in every sleigh, Aunt Mercy—Isn't it lucky it cleared off so fine?" said Frank the next morning, as he stood at the window, and tapped on the panes with his fingers, and looked off on the level fields which lay under the bright sun in their casing of pearls.

"Yes, Frank, you ought to be very thankful for this beautiful day," said Aunt Mercy, as she mended a small rent in Frank's overcoat." But I thought you said there was just a score and one in your class, and you know that twenty makes a score."

"Well, so there is Aunty; but we shan't ask Esther Dean to go with us; you see, all the girls feel above her; she dresses so poorly, and lives in that old tumble-down house on the hill."

"Then, you know her father went to prison last year for stealing a horse, and the town had to help them get through the winter; and all the girls say now they won't have anything to do with her!"

"And do you, too, say this, Frank?" asked his aunt, looking up at the boy, with mournful earnestness; "because the others are so wicked as to despise this poor, helpless little girl, will you do it?"

And now, let me pause here a moment, little children, to ask if you have ever read in your Testaments that "God is no respecter of persons?"

And, reading this, do you understand, believe, and live it? For if you do, it will make you a better man or woman. And if you ever should be tempted to treat with contempt or neglect another little child, because of its miserable father or mother, remember God does not blame it for these things, and that in the Judgment, to which we must all go, the child that wore the poorest dress here, may were the brightest crown there.

"I can't help it Aunty," said Frank, turning uneasily on one foot, "the girls won't associate with Esther Dean, and of course that makes the boys dislike her; and I can't undertake to push her through."

Aunt Mercy did not answer, because some one called her from the room at that moment. But Frank stood by the window and hummed a tune, and seemed lost in thought, till his mother summoned him to dinner.

Come, Tom, said the boy, bursting into the room about one o'clock, go and get the sleigh ready, and see that the mafalo skins and the blankets are in because father says it is piercing cold.

Yes you youngsters will have a sharp edge of it if you don't pack up warm, and the hired man as he went out

Then Frank stood still a few moments, lost in serious thought, and, at last he looked up, sudden and determined, saying, "I'll do it, any way, no matter what they say."

And two minutes later you might have seen him plowing his way thro' the meadows toward a very old brown house that stood under a low hill.

Half an hour later, Frank Preston returned, bringing with him a little shy looking girl, with very neatly braided hair, but wearing an old faded calico dress, a thin shawl, and a large much worn hood, which half concealed her, and was evidently intended for a much older person.

Aunt Mercy! Frank called loudly, and as she came to the stairs, he continued, "I've been over, and brought Esther Dean to go with us. Won't you let her wear Jane's cloak and bonnet, and one of her dresses, too? (Jane was Frank's little sister, who had laid for a year in the grave-yard.) They'll just about fit her, only you must make haste, or we shan't be ready in time—There! I declare, comes the first load for he heard the ringing of bells, and the shout of voices at the front door. But there were tears in Aunt Mercy's eyes as she called the little girl upstairs, and there were tears there again when she was pinning Esther's dress she turned round suddenly, with a new, bright light breaking up into her pale face, and blue eyes, saying: To think I'm going on the sleigh ride after all. I didn't s'pose they'd invite me, and I cried all this morning about it.

Aunt Mercy had just tied on the little girl's hood, when they heard Frank shouting for her down stairs, and looking out of the window, the lady saw all the sleighs gathered at the front door, with their burden of young, joyous, eager life.

She saw Frank hand little Esther in, and give her the seat next to himself, which Julia Morton, the squire's daughter, fully expected to occupy, and she saw the look of wonder on the girl's face, and that they leaned forward and whispered to each other; but she knew Esther was safe under Frank's protection, for he was a brave, courageous boy, and a great favorite with the whole school.

Then there was a sudden cracking of whips, and the happy company of laughing-faced boys and girls started off, with a shout that seemed as if it must ring from one end of Foxen to the other, and the sweet music of the sleighbells chimed in joyously with it as they glided away.

"Well, Frank, my boy, have you had a good time?" asked Aunt Mercy, as she drew off the mittens from his half-browned hands, while the sunset light lay like soft blushes on the snow.

Oh, capital, capital, Aunty. I tell you we all enjoyed that sleigh-ride, and I'm real glad I took Esther Dean along. She was as happy as a bird; and I really didn't know she had so much life in her. Then the girls treated her kindly, and you had better give her some of Jane's clothes, Aunty, so she look as well as the others.

Aunt Mercy bent down and kissed the boy's forehead, while her lips murmured, Verily I say unto you, you shall not lose your reward.

From Kansas.

The St. Louis Democrat has a letter from Lawrence of the 9th inst. The Gov. had vetoed the transfer of the capital to Minnesota, and given such reasons as would probably over-rule the measure. The bill providing for the Constitutional Convention, has passed both Houses and Minnesota had been fixed upon as the place of meeting.

The President's Kansas Message had been received, and produced the most intense excitement. Mr. Miles Moore of the Assembly, expressed in his place a regret that the Legislature could not pass a bill which would bring the President to justice. He thought that hanging him would only be a proper warning to future tyrants.

A bill had passed the House, 33 to 3; providing a suitable punishment for Calhoun and his accomplices, should they attempt to carry the Government into execution under the Lecompton swindle. It makes an official proclamation of the swindle called the Lecompton Constitution a felony, punishable with death, and the attempt of any Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Auditor or Treasurer of State, or member of the Legislature to give effect to that Constitutional Government, or to exercise authority under it, a felony punishable with death. There seemed to be no doubt that the bill would pass the Council. The message of the President gave edge to the action of the members on this subject, and it will be easy to see the necessity of enlarging the army by the light of this act.

Joint resolutions had also been passed protesting against the tyranny mediated by the President, and declaring the disgust of the people of Kansas with the attempt to fasten on them a Government which they loathe and utterly repudiate.

Keitt says if he was struck he was unconscious of it.

It is understood he was studying astronomy at the time, and counting the stars that studded the firmament—several of which were of the first magnitude, immediately after Groom's fist was introduced under his ear.

Ex-Governor Grimes was elected U. S. Senator from Iowa, on the 25th ult., by 21 majority.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an order, to me issued, from the Court of Common Pleas of Noble County, I will expose to public sale at the Court House door in Albion, on Saturday the 27th day of February, A. D. 1858, between the hours of ten o'clock A. M. and four o'clock P. M., the rents and profits of the following real estate, for a term of years not to exceed seven, but if it fails to bring the debt, interest, costs and accruing costs, then it will be offered in fee simple, to-wit:—Lot number [15] five, and Lot number [16] six, in Block number [11] one, in Miller's Addition to the town of Albion, in Noble County, Indiana. Taken as the property of Fredia Ellis and Amelia Ellis, to satisfy a mortgage in favor of Adrian B. Miller.

Jan. 27, 1857. D. S. SIMONS Sheriff. A. D. HOSTETTER, Deputy. 1-3w.

200 SACKS of Dairy and Table Sal of superior quality, for sale by O. ARNOLD & CO.

Sign of the Padlock.

O. P. MORGAN, Successor to H. Durrie,

No. 81 Columbia St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

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HARDWARE!

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Mechanics' Tools of every Variety.

COOKING, BOX AND PARLOR

STOVES,

tin plate, Sheet Iron and Copper.

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Jan. 26, 1857.

Elkhart High School.

THE Fall Term of this Institution will commence August 17th, 1857, and continue eleven weeks. With a full corps of competent Assistants, the principal hopes to render this School worthy the most liberal patronage.

All bills will be presented for prompt payment at the middle of the term.

RATES OF TUITION.

Primary Department, \$2.00 Common English Branches, 3.00 Higher, 4.00 Latin and Greek, 5.00 Drawing—Extra, 3.00 Music on Piano Fort, Melodian, Guit. or Organ, 10.00 B. S. MC LAFFERTY, Principal, n2tf.

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CREATE inducements for Clubs. Messrs. G. G. Putnam & Co., having now published the first volume of the Illustrated Edition of Irving's Life of Washington, being the complete life of Washington before the Revolution, are ready to furnish the same to subscribers free of postage on the receipt of \$3.50. Single numbers sent post paid, to any part of the Union on receipt of 25 cts.

The following inducements are offered to clubs desiring to subscribe to this magnificent and national publication. Any person remitting four subscriptions for the first volume comprising 14 numbers will be entitled to five complete sets, delivered free of postage.

Clubs of six, remitting \$21 dollars will be entitled to two extra copies of the volume or an extra copy of any other of Putnam & Co's publications of an equal value. Clubs of twelve remitting \$42, will be entitled to four copies extra, or an extra copy and a complete set of Addison's works in six volumes, delivered free of postage. The same premiums will be given for a like number of subscriptions to the succeeding volumes. Each number of the Illustrated Washington will contain one and every other number two first class Steel Engravings or Maps. In addition to the Steel Engravings, the work contains numerous elegant Wood engravings, illustrative of historical subjects.

CAUTION.—Persons subscribing for the life of Washington should be particular to obtain the only work which must forever remain the standard authority. Irving's life of Washington bears the imprint of G. G. Putnam & Co., the only publishers of Irving's Works.

Every American should put this work side by side with his Bible on his book-shelf. Let your children read it, and learn by the example of the Great Washington, the lessons of patriotism, moral courage, perseverance under difficulties, which the history of his life affords. We know of no American work which we had rather own than this; it is worth a thousand of the trashy publications which the press is daily sending forth.—(Scientific American.)

Country paper copying the above advertisement twice will receive a complete set of Putnam's Story Library.

G. P. PUTNAM & CO., No. 321 Broadway, New York.

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F. T. WAYNE, Proprietor.

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RAILROAD CARS, MACHINERY,

Agricultural Implements and castings.

of every description.

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