

HOW NELLIE BROWN BECAME A PRINTER.

"I'm in a pretty scrape now," said Harry Brown, throwing himself on to a lounge in his sister's parlor. "What is it?" asked Nellie, quietly, looking up from her book. "Why, Smith says he must leave me, and will go to-morrow; and how I can ever manage to be editor, type-setter and 'devil,' I can't imagine, though I feel able to play the part of the latter individual well enough," and he sprang up and paced the room.

Now as much interested as her brother in getting it all right. She did look rather odd in that office, dressed in a gay, fashionable street suit, suitable for promenading Broadway, from the jaunty hat, with its white ostrich feathers shading her golden hair, to her delicate French boots. But she applied herself seriously to her work. She was quick, and handy, and before night, Harry was obliged to confess that she would soon go ahead of him in type-setting.

It is unnecessary to give a history of every day's proceedings, when every day was like its predecessor. Every morning, Nell came to the office, and every day, from breakfast, at seven, till dark, she persevered in her work. She soon learned to "set type," to "distribute," to "empty the stick," and to "correct proof." She would sit perched on the tall stool before the case till her back ached, then she would stand on a low stool till her feet ached, and so by changing the place of the ache she managed to get through the day, and every day for two months. After tea, she went to her room, and wrote articles for the paper, looked over exchanges, and made selections, till late at night.

The papers came out regularly, and became more spicy and interesting. Exchanges began to quote from the Express. Hard work though it was, there was a fascination about it, and Nell began to taste the pleasures of a busy life, and find the reward of labor. She had never been so happy in her life. Toward Spring, one of the editors of a St. Paul daily paper, travelling through the country on business, was obliged to stay all night in B—, and calling to mind the improved appearance of the Express, he thought he would call on the editor.

The door was pointed out to him by a boy, and he went in. It was an unusual scene for a printing office that met his eye as he entered the room. Harry was—as usual—on his knees, persuing the fire to burn, while Nell sat on a stool by the stove, both feet on the hearth, reading aloud a contribution she had just composed. It was from the poetical genius of the village, who happened to be the wife of the minister, and it would not do to consign her to the waste bin.

"Oh! who is that I am here!" "Oh! who is he, that art thou?" Nell was giving it with oratorical flourishes and tragic tones, and ended the couplet with a ringing laugh, in which Harry joined, in the pauses between blowing the fire and poking it with sticks.

"Is this the office of the Express?" he asked. "Yes, it is," answered Harry. "Are you the editor?" went on the stranger. "Well, yes—sometimes," said Harry, demurely. "Just now I'm the 'devil,' in a few moments I shall be 'composer,' and my editorial hours are few, but they do come once in a while."

"I am glad to make your acquaintance," said the stranger, advancing and offering his hand. "I'm Mr. Harte, of the St. Paul Times." Harry grasped his hand warmly, and to their utter amazement, they received their papers as usual.

Law Notices, etc.

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