

THE NIGHT OF PERIL.

A night of rain and tempest on the sea,
The dreary, storm-tossed Lake of Galilee—
A night of awful terror to the men
Who ne'er had feared the elements till then!
Though fishers they, who all their lives had seen
Such heavy fells, never such a gale
As that which rent and shrouded their shortened sail;
And they were tired with rowing through the night.

And vainly longing for the morning light;
And lonely, too, for at the close of day,
Their Lord had left them, and had gone to pray.
Now, pulling southward at his late command,
Full many a weary mile they from land
Though overcome by labour none could sleep,
For who could rest when spirits stalked the deep?
And they had seen a thing of doom!
A man, transfigured, walking on the sea,
While they were struggling in their jeopardy!
And such a spectre on the angry wave,
Made each heart quail, though all of them were brave.

But as despair rushed on them, came the cry,
Across the raging waters: "It is I,
Be not afraid!" and at the welcome word,
Each voice in earnest grateful praise was heard.
But Peter, doubting, answered him and said:
"Lord, by thy power can I walk on the tide!"
If so, but bid me come." Then Jesus spake:
"Yea, come," and straightway on the boisterous lake

Walked Peter forth. But when around him rose
The hissing, wind-lashed waves, like angry foes,
He was afraid, and sinking, called again:
"Oh, save me, Lord, I perish!" Jesus then
Stretched forth his hand and caught him, and
"Ave out," he said.
"Oh, thou of little faith, why didst thou doubt?"
Then to the raging waters: "Peace, be still!"
And they at once obeyed his sovereign will.
Then, as they knelt and worshipped, o'er the blue,
Calm waters rose the morning to their view.

—Charles Lee Barnes.

The Fireside.

PLODDING TOM.

"Tom Dunn, do you know your lesson?"
The question, uttered in an irritated tone, came
from a young man who had been reading a news-
paper, waiting the tardy boy of his class.
"N-no, sir; I don't believe I do, quite," was the
hesitating reply.

"Are you aware what time it is?"
"One o'clock, sir," said young Tom.
He knew that well enough. Had not his eyes
lingered on the early hands of the old moon-faced
clock, and thence come roving out through the win-
dow to where the fields were sleeping in the noon-
day haze? And then he was so hungry!

"Tom, come here. I can't understand what
makes you so stupid," said the master; and taking
the book he proceeded to hastily review point after
point.

"Do you understand this?" he asked, "and this,
and that?"
Tom's brow lightened. He was more pleased with
himself that the looks looked clever, and certain
doubts vanished, and his heart: "Oh, thank you,
sir," said the teacher smile.

"You're very slow, Dunn, very slow. I don't
think I ever saw a fellow just like you; but I guess
what you learn, you learn."

That was just it—what Tom Dunn knew, he
knew thoroughly.
"Well, if here isn't Tom, just as dinner is done!"
cried his sister Annie.

"And every bit of the pudding gone," said Oscar,
the next oldest brother. "I made sure you'd stay
all day."

"Poor boy!" sighed his mother; "he always
seems to be behind in everything. Ever since he
was a baby he has been slow."

Tom sat down, however, and ate the scraps con-
tentionally. It had always been his lot to eat scraps.
Nobody seemed to think that Tom would care.

"I don't know what we shall do with that boy,"
Mr. Dunn often said, when talking over the pros-
pects of their children. Charley inclines to the
law, and Oscar will be a doctor, but what ability
has Tom for anything? He is so slow and plod-
ding, so little ambitious, that an A is discouraged
when I think of his future."

"Poor Tom!" said Mrs. Dunn, half-sighing, half-
laughing; "he is the black sheep of the family.
When he was a little fellow, I used to be startled
by the owl-like wisdom of his face. I never thought
that that was dullness. He can't help it. His
motions are slow, his mind is slow, but I hope he
will make his way in the world."

Tom was the butt of all the family, but it did not
seem to anger him at all. He knew he was slow,
Charley could play brilliantly, sang a song with ex-
cellent effect, played any game well.

Oscar, his younger brother, was famous for his
compositions and his power of elocution. All the
rest excelled, outstripped him, and yet he plodded
on patiently.

"Going to the theatre to-night?" asked a well-
dressed young man of Tom, as they left a store to-
gether. This was four years later, and Tom was
one of the clerks in Tolman and Tolman's great es-
tablishment, and so slow and undemonstrative that
the other clerks were always chaffing him. He
thought for a moment, rattled some loose coins
that were in his pocket, and said:

"No."
"Have you ever been?" queried the other.
Tom looked at him in his usual deliberate way
and replied, "No."

"Then you don't know anything of life."
"Then I don't want to," responded Tom.
"By the way, where are you boarding?" asked
his friend pulling on a pair of very tight kid gloves.
Tom never wore gloves.

"At Glenn's, in Holbrook Street," said Tom.
"Oh, you're slow. Why, that's way down town."
"That's why I board there," said Tom.
"I only pay four dollars a week. Good evening."

"The meanest fellow I ever saw," muttered Dick
Dalton, as he plucked his fancy cane, as heavily as
his fragility would permit, the sidewalk.

Tom gained his boarding-house, a tall rusty-look-
ing tenement, in the fourth story of which was his
room. It was a very desolate-looking apartment,
for save in the coldest weather, Tom never had a fire.

There were three shelves full of excellent books,
and on a table at the side of the room stood some-
thing that looked like a wooden arm-chair. Bits
of pine, a few towels, and a paper filled with sawdust,
kept them company.

Of course Tom got but frugal meals in this place,
and a widow and her daughter kept the house, let-
ting nearly all the rooms to lodgers; but Tom's quiet
ways and pleasant face had won an entrance to their
hearts, and they took him to their table for a small
contribution.

Tom ran up stairs as he reached the house. He
never ran up stairs in any other place, but there
was an attraction there which was better than the
amenities to which his fellow-clerks devoted themselves.

No sooner had he seated himself at the table,
and taken up a screw, when some one knocked at
the door. At the low "Come in," his eldest
brother presented himself, dressed in the height of
fashion, handsome and even imposing in his appear-
ance.

"Well, Tom, so these are your lodgings, my
boy," said the young man. "Not much style, I
must say."

"Not much," said Tom, cheerfully. "Have you
just come from home?"

"Yes, and everything is going on about the same.

Father is mightily pleased that I have got my
single up."

"And are you prospering?" asked Tony, with a
sidelong glance upon the ivory cane, the kid gloves,
and the gold chain.

"Oh, so so. Of course it has taken a good deal
of money to furnish my office."

"I thought father advanced you five hundred
dollars," said Tom.

"So he did. The old gentleman was very good
to mortgage his property—for I suppose you are in-
formed of the fact—but things are so horribly ex-
pensive."

"What things?" asked Tom dully.

"Everything—all things. To get business now-
adays, a fellow must make a show."

"And so you smoke ten-cent cigars, give sup-
pers now and then, treat your companions, and fre-
quent the theatre," said Tom.

"Oh, hang it! Your blood's water, Tom; and
besides, your position is different from mine. Things
are expected from me. I must go into society. By-
and-by I shall get a case that will pay me richly
for all these sacrifices."

"Sacrifice!" repeated Tom, in a tone that made
Charley's blood move faster, so that he said to him-
self, with the addition of an oath—

"The same old slow boy, with no more brains
than an ox."

"You are still at the machine, I see," he said
aloud a moment after.

"Oh, yes; it costs next to nothing; and if it
never succeeds, it gives me something to think about."

"You don't say that you ever think," was the
sarcastic response.

"Well, now and then," was the slow rejoinder.

Charley rose, sauntered back forth for a few
minutes, and then stood still, his handsome face
reddening.

"I say, Tom, can you lend me ten dollars?
I'm absolutely out of cash."

"I never lend," said Tom.

Charley's breath grew short and quick. Some
insulting speech was on the end of his tongue, for
he felt both rage and contempt; but Tom, rising
quietly, went to a desk and lifted up the lid.

"If five dollars will do you any good, you are
welcome to them," he said. "They are all I have
by me."

"Tom, you're a good fellow," gasped Charley,
his tongue red hot with the words he had intended
to say.

Tom went once or twice to his brother's office,
and did not like it. "Why should the young
lawyer spend a hundred dollars in pictures?" he
asked himself indignantly; "and why does he keep
the company of such men as I have met there?"

One day Tom received a letter from his brother
Oscar:—

"DEAR OLD TOM,—I expect I shall have to leave
college. Things are going wrong at home. I don't
suppose any one has told you. They seem to think
you have all you can do to take care of yourself;
and so you have, I suppose. Charley has been an
awful weight upon father, and this year the crops
have all failed, and father is disabled from work
by rheumatism. I don't care much about my-
self; I only studied medicine to please father, and
should rather be almost anything else."

"I think I could write for the newspapers. Can't
you get me a place in some store? I and I could
write evenings, and live with you. Think it over,
for I am about sure father and mother are going to
lose all his property. Charley plays billiards, and I'm afraid,
cards. Write me as soon as you can what can be
done for me."

Tom wrote in less than a week. His employer
wanted an under salesman. Then he set himself to
look carefully into his father's affairs.

Everything was going to ruin. The farm was to
be sold; his father and mother were nearly heart-
broken, and no one thought for a moment of look-
ing to him.

But nevertheless he laid his plans. To pay the
mortgage was quite impossible, but he hired some
comfortable rooms in the old house where he stayed,
and what could be sold from the stock of the farm,
and the necessary furniture brought to town, and
installed his father and mother in a comfortable
home. Ten months passed. The old folks learned
to depend upon him, and his sister found a situa-
tion as a book-keeper.

One day a gentleman called upon Tom, and was
invited into his room. "You've been at work five
years on this machine, you say?" remarked the
gentleman when he had examined it.

The speaker was a business man, whose favor
was almost equal to fortune.

"Yes, sir," said Tom, quietly, "I was always a
plodder."

"Well, you've plodded to some purpose," was
the answer. "I am very sure there's money enough
in it to make you a rich man."

Tom grew very red, and the room seemed to go
round for a moment.

"Thank you," he made reply, "I should like
to be rich for the sake of others."

And so, eventually, Plodding Tom won the race,
and became the practical, efficient, prosperous man
of the family. —Companion.

THE BRITISH QUEEN.

The powers, prerogatives and privileges of the Queen
of Great Britain are not generally very well understood
in this country. The following from *Harper's Magazine*
will throw some light upon the subject.

The Queen alone can create a Peer, Baronet, or
Knight, and confer privileges upon private persons.
She alone can erect corporations and raise and re-
gulate fleets and armies, though under such restric-
tions relating to the appropriation and expenditure
of money as to make it impossible for her to exercise
her power to the detriment of English liberty.

She is the head of the Church; she convenes and
dissolves all ecclesiastical synods and convocations,
and nominates to vacant Bishops and other
Church offices. She sends Ambassadors to foreign
States, receives Ambassadors at home, makes treat-
ies and alliances, and declares war and peace,
though her power in these respects also is in a
large degree limited by the power in Parliament to
consent or reject such laws as may be necessary to
make it effective.

Previous to the revolution of 1688 the Govern-
ment of England was mainly carried on by virtue
of what is called the Royal prerogative—that is,
by the King in person, with the advice of Ministers
appointed by himself, who were only responsible to
their sovereign for their management of public
affairs. One of the results, however, of that resolu-
tion was the transfer of the power of the State from
the Crown to the House of Commons. In-
stead of a government by prerogative, there was
then established a government by Parliament, from
which all laws must emanate, requiring only the
approval of the Crown as a condition of their as-
sent. As is well known, the Queen appoints her
own advisers, irrespective of the wishes or
approval of Parliament, and though popularly the
Ministry is supposed to possess the whole executive
power, no important measure is presented by them
to the consideration of Parliament without her
sanction and approval. It is not, however, essen-
tial that all facts and measures should be presented
to Parliament through the channel of the Ministry,
and Parliament may originate and pass acts at its
pleasure, subject to the constitutional right of the
Queen to nullify them by her veto.

The Queen can convene Parliament and termi-
nate its sessions at will. There have been but two
instances in which the Lords and Commons have
met by their own authority—namely: Previously
to the restoration of Charles II., and at the resolu-
tion in 1688, under Anne, when there should be
no Parliament in being at the time of the demise of
the Crown, then the last preceding Parliament shall
immediately convene and sit at Westminster, as if
the said Parliament had never been dissolved. Such
a Parliament, however, by a statute in the reign
of George III., can only continue in exist-

ence for six months, if not sooner dissolved. This,
then, is the power of the Queen. She may, with
the advice of her Ministers alone, assemble,
prorogue and dissolve Parliament, declare war,
confirm or disavow the acts of Colonial Legislatures,
give effect to treaties, extend the term of patents,
grant charters of incorporation to companies or
municipal bodies, create ecclesiastical districts, re-
gulate the Board of Admiralty, and make appoint-
ments to office in the various departments of State,
create new offices, and define the qualifications of
persons to fill the same, and declare periods at
which certain acts of Parliament, the operation of
which has been left to the Queen and Council, shall
be enforced.

With regard to the expenditure of money, it is
expressly provided in the act of settlement, to the
reference has been made, that money levied for
the use of the Crown without grant of Parlia-
ment is illegal. Thus the Crown is entirely depen-
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when raised. The Crown, sitting with the advice
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Crown. On the other hand, no person can lend
money to the Crown, or to any department of
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money transactions between the Bank of England
and the Treasury are expressly forbidden. The
Commons, of course, have the power of withholding
supplies, but only once (in 1784) since the revolu-
tion of 1688 has this power been exercised.

With regard to the expenditure of money, it is
expressly provided in the act of settlement, to the
reference has been made, that money levied for
the use of the Crown without grant of Parlia-
ment is illegal. Thus the Crown is entirely depen-
dent, in its direct control over all supplies
when raised. The Crown, sitting with the advice
of its responsible Ministers, is charged with man-
agement of all the revenues of the country, and
with all payments for the public service. It makes
known to the House of Commons, by its annual bud-
get, its necessities, and the House grants such acts or
supplies as these necessities may require. The
Crown demands money, the Commons grant, and
the Lords assent, and no money can be voted by
Parliament for any purpose whatever except at the
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