

The Battle of Life.

Go forth to the battle of life, my boy— Go while it is called to-day: For the years go out and the years come in...

And the troops march steadily on, my boy, To the army gone before; You may hear the sound of their falling feet...

There is a place for you in the ranks, my boy, And duty, too, assigned;

Step into the front with a cheerful face; Be quick, or another may take your place, And you may be left behind.

There is a work to be done by the way, my boy, That you never can tread again— Work for the loaves, the lowest men— Work for the plow, plane, spindle, and pen...

Will lure you to deadly sin. Then put on the armor of God, my boy, In the beautiful days of youth; Put on the helmet and breast-plate and shield...

And go to the battle of life, my boy, With the peace of the Gospel shod, And before high heaven do the best you can...

For the reward and the good of man, For the kingdom and crown of God. —Selected.

The Doctor's Horse.

BY SYDNEY DAYRE.

"Listen, boys. There's an Indian encampment down by the lake."

"You don't say."

"Yes most all the Indians that are left in the state. It's one of their big powwows, or something."

"Chiefs and feathers and war-paint, hey?"

"Yes, and tepees and canoes and squaws and papooses—regular out-and-out wild life."

"I'd give a good deal to see 'em."

"So would I."

"Couldn't we manage it?"

"Not unless Dr. Gardner gives us a holiday."

"He'll never do that so soon after the opening of school. It would be no use to ask him."

"Then, suppose we go without asking."

"And get suspended for it."

"No, we'll manage better than that. Why couldn't we make a dash over there one of these bright moonlight nights."

"How?"

"O, on horseback."

"But, I don't believe we'd see much of the war-paint and feathers in the night."

"No, but Indians are very early risers. We'd plan to ride leisurely the eight miles over there not to tire our horses, get there in the early morning, take a peep at them, and be back by the time folks are stirring."

"You might do that," said Harvey, "if you were a boarder at Dr. Gardner's Academy, the other three speakers being day scholars from the neighboring village, 'but I don't see how I could make one of you."

"You must, Harve," insisted his schoolmates, with whom he was a great favorite.

"Are you going to keep it a secret from everybody?" asked Harvey.

"Of course," said Ned Granger. "That makes half the fun, to have a secret frolic. You can borrow your father's horse without leave, can't you, Harve?"

"O, I suppose so. If it all comes to that, it won't be so very dreadful."

"And I'll lend you one of our two horses," said Ned. "Harve, you can borrow the Doctor's nag."

"What—Strut? O, I couldn't do that," said Harvey. "The Doctor would never forgive me if he found it out."

"You must. What's the harm? It has so little to do it'll be a kind of exercise to give him a little exercise. We intend to be found out."

"I'd think the caper had enough, Harve, taking it on his 'fine horse.' Pahaw, Harve, it would be the best thing in the world to keep it to ourselves. Just about twelve o'clock you could let yourself out of the house and it would be no trick at all to get Strut saddled and out."

"Anything about the place will be asleep at that hour. Lead Strut through the grass till you get well out of the house, then jump on his back and along to the corners, where we'll be waiting for you. Come, now, it's only chance we'll have of seeing him."

Harvey felt a good many misgivings as he regarded the proposed night frolic. But it was the kind of an

escapade which appeals most strongly to a boy's nature—just the kind of adventure, with just the spice of badness to give it a keen relish. Before separating, all the details of the plan had been arranged, and on the night following, at the hour appointed, Harvey softly felt his way through the dark halls of the dormitory, and soon without difficulty found himself under the streaming rays of the full moon.

There was something exhilarating in thus stepping so entirely out from under the ordinary restraint into the perfect freedom belonging with such an unusual proceeding at such an unusual hour. But as he stole across the garden, then through a little lane which led to the outhouses, the quiet beauty of the night seemed to appeal to something in his nature which lay higher than a love of fun and adventure.

He felt that, however daring and dashing it might be, there was still a touch of trickery in this thing in which he had embarked. Something a little sneaky in creeping in the dark like a thief through the house of Dr. Gardner, who, always trusting his boys to conduct themselves openly and fairly as gentlemen do, placed very few restraints in their way. And as he drew near the stable he felt an increasing reluctance about taking the Doctor's valuable horse without leave.

But he had promised the boys and could not, so he persuaded himself, draw back. With a cautious step he felt his way into the stable, and was soon in Strut's stall, speaking softly as he patted the beautiful animal.

"I know where to find the saddle," he said, stepping past the stall to a little harness room. The saddle was soon found, the bridle not so easily, and as he felt among harness which hung upon various pegs he heard a light uneasy whinny from Strut and became aware of footsteps and low voices outside the stable.

Who could it be? Some one who had seen and followed him? With a quick impulse he drew back to the farthest corner of the little room, hoping to escape detection. But in the next moment he changed his mind as to who the unexpected visitors might be. Strut moved and stamped with a growing restlessness which would not have been caused by the approach of friends.

Steadily steps entered the stable. A gleam of light shone through a crack in the wall near which Harvey was hiding and he peeped through it.

No familiar faces were there looking for a runaway boy. Harvey's heart sank with dismay as the light of a dark lantern held in a hand of one of the two men who had come into the stable threw a chance beam into their two evil faces. He gave a little start, making a slight noise.

Instantly a pair of shining revolvers were leveled in his direction.

"What was that?" said a low voice.

"Can't be anyone about this time of night," was the reply.

"Rats, most likely."

"But it's no harm to take a look."

Harvey noiselessly shrank behind a bunch of harness as the dark faces came towards him. The light of the lantern slowly moved through the small room, but thanks to the dirt-bedded glass through which it shone, the cruel eyes failed to perceive that it was tenanted by a trembling boy. They turned again to the stable, slipped a rope halter over Strut's neck and led him out, Harvey helplessly looking on.

What should he do? It was very evident that the men would have little scruples about effectually silencing any voice which might arise to give the alarm. He could only keep quiet and wait until it was safe for him to emerge from his hiding-place. He did so a quarter of an hour later when the sound of the foot-steps had died away, his heart still throbbing with the terror which even a brave boy may feel when made a possible target for a bullet.

And what should he do now? Give the alarm, notifying Dr. Gardner that his horse had been stolen? If the officers of justice were promptly put on the track of the robbers it might soon be recovered.

And then as he walked quickly toward the house a cold chill struck to the boy's heart. How could he tell of what had occurred without accounting for his presence at the scene of the robbery? How could he make up his mind to confess that he was engaged in proving himself unworthy of the trust reposed in him by the indulgent Doctor? He fully realized that it would be the only straightforward thing to do. But he could not endure the thought of so humiliating himself.

"In the morning the Doctor will be lively enough about having Strut hunted up," he said to himself, as he crept back to his bed with a heart heavy with the feeling, but half acknowledged to himself, that in keeping silence he was conniving with theft.

Hugh did not appear at school in the morning. The other boys were late and when they came did not bear the look of boys who had just returned from a successful frolic.

"Why didn't you come?" asked Ned Granger at the first opportunity of a quiet word with Harvey.

Harvey had decided to keep concealed the fact that he had left his room during the night.

"What kind of a time did you have?" he asked by way of evading the question.

"O, no kind of a time at all, said Ned with a look of great disgust. 'The moon went down before we got there and it was as dark as Egypt. Hugh said he knew a short cut through some woods, and we got lost and stumbled about—got scratched and bumped, lost our lunch and had a poor time generally. When it got light we found the place, but it was only a few miserable Indians that had come there to fish. Chiefs and warpaint! Why, they dressed and looked just about like anybody else, except for being dirtier. And when we were coming home we were riding fast and Hugh's horse stumbled and pitched him over his head. He won't be in school for a week. You're lucky in not going. But why didn't you, anyhow?'"

"Changed my mind," said Harvey, turning away sick at heart, wondering in the midst of the stir over the disappearance of the horse how it would all end, whether it would ever die out and allow him to forget the whole miserable business. If at first he felt like a thief, he felt like a liar when the Doctor asked the assembled school if any among them had seen any suspicious characters about, or knew anything which could throw any light on the affair.

A thousand times he wished with all his heart that he had gone straight to Dr. Gardner.

"But I never could now, he groaned to himself. 'What would he say to me, that would let his horse be stolen without saying a word?'"

Two weeks passed and nothing was heard of the horse. The thieves must have made good use of their several hours of darkness to get well beyond reach of the strong arm of the law. Harvey spent the time in feverish suspense, at one moment almost arriving at the determination to ease his conscience of its intolerable load, no matter what the consequences might be, the next feeling bitterly that it was becoming more and more impossible to make confession.

He came upon the playground one morning to find quite an excitement prevailing among the boys.

"He's just the kind of a fellow you might fancy would do such a thing," said one.

"I'm glad he's been caught at it," came from another.

"What is it?" asked Harvey.

"Conrad Voight has been arrested for stealing Strut."

Conrad Voight had been employed for a short time as stable boy by Doctor Gardner. The boys had disliked him for his surly, disobliging disposition, and were now quite prepared to believe him guilty of the crime of which he was suspected.

"You remember he left the day before the horse was stolen," said a son of the Doctor to Harvey. "He was seen hanging about here that night, and with his knowledge of the place could easily have taken Strut away."

"It's all up with me now," said Harvey, when he found himself alone with the unpleasant companionship of his own thoughts. "There's no help for it. I must tell the whole story, and it will tell a great deal worse than it would have told at first."

When he appeared in court to testify that neither of the men whose faces he had clearly seen bore any resemblance to that of Conrad Voight, his face tingled with mortification at the laughter excited by his account of his hiding in the harness-room. Few who heard it were inclined to regard it as anything more than a harmless boyish frolic. But Harvey fully realized that it sounded badly for a boy who had any regard for his own honor and dignity.

Don't be so down in the mouth about it, Harve," said Ned to him after the trial.

"I've got enough to make me down," said Harvey, ruefully.

"Why, the Doctor hasn't punished you. There wasn't anything to punish. You didn't do a thing except walk to his barn at midnight."

"Yes, just like a sneak or a thief," said Harvey bitterly.

"But folks thought it only a good joke. Nobody thinks anything of such little capers."

"Yes they do," said Harvey. "If you had seen Doctor Gardner look at me as I told that pitiful story you'd think something of it if it had been you. He might have talked more than I read in his eyes. They said he had

trusted me and believed me a gentleman, and that he never could trust me or respect me again. I would give all I own to get back his good opinion."

"Did my eyes say all that?"

It was a kindly voice which spoke as Doctor Gardner, who had been, unobserved by the boys, slowly coming near them as they talked, paused before them.

"Never is a long day," he said, holding out his hand to Harvey, as Ned quietly moved away. "It is too much to say that one so young as you cannot redeem himself in the eyes of any who judges fairly. God forgives and forgets, shall any of his creatures do less? Do not be discouraged. The best promise you could give of future amendment is your full consciousness of your fault, and your sincere repentance and desire for better things."

YOUNG PEOPLES ASTIME

Edited by C. E. BLACK, — ST. JOHN, N. B.

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No. 153.—(1) Velocipede. (2) Missionary.

—The Mystery, No. 29—

No. 166.—Pi.

Rowry ish eh dimvel folife.

No. 167.—A DIAMOND.

1, a consonant. 2, a hurt. 3, to hasten. 4, to attempt. 5, a consonant.

"GYP."

No. 168.—HALF SQUARE.

1, a rascal. 2, horn of the new moon. 3, a reptile. 4, abbreviation of an English title. 5, a letter.

"GYP."

No. 169.—SQUARE WORD.

1, a vehicle. 2, an ill. 3, not manly. 4, to be prolific.

"GYP."

No. 170.—DIAMOND.

1, a letter. 2, a stream of light. 3, beasts of burden. 4, ornaments. 5, in want. 6, to be sick. 7, a letter.

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That little word make, Only three letters take, And a hundred in one you'll not guess it.

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