THE TWO ANCHORS.

BY RICHARD H. STODDARD.

It was a gallant sailor man
Had just come home from sea,
And as I passed him in the town
He sang "Ahoy!" to me.
I stopped, and saw I knew the man—
Had known him from a boy;
And so I answered, sailor-like,
"Avast!" to his "Ahoy!"
I made a song for him one day—
His ship was then in sight—
"The little anchor on the left,
The great one on the right."

I gave his hand a hearty grip.
"So you are back again?
They say you have been pirating
Upon the Spanish main;
Or was it some rich Indiaman
You robbed of all her pearls?
Of course you have been breaking hearts
Of poor Kanaka girls!"
"Wherever I have been," he said,
"I kept my ship in sight—
'The little anchor on the left,
The great one on the right!'"

"I heard last night that you were in;
I walked the wharves to-day,
But saw no ship that looked like yours,
Where does the good ship lay?
I want to go on board of her."
"And so you shall," said he;
"But there are many things to do
When one comes home from sea.
You know the song you made for me?
I sing it morn and night—
'The little anchor on the left,
The great one on the right!'"

"But how's your wife and little one?"
"Come home with me," he said,
"Go on, go on; I follow you."
I followed where he led.
He had a pleasant little house;
The door was open wide,
And at the door the dearest face—
A dearer one inside!
He hugged his wife and child: he sang—
His spirits were so light—
The little anchor on the left,
The great one on the right!"

'Twas supper time, and we sat down—
The sailor's wife and child;
And he and I: he looked at them,
And looked at me, and smiled.
"I think of this when I am tossed
Upon the stormy foam;
And though a thousand leagues away,
Am anchored here at home."
Then, giving each a kiss, he said,
"I see in dreams at night
This little anchor on my left,
This great one on my right!"

CROSSES.

CHAPTER I.

"I say, Billy, wot's a cross?"

They were two little boot-blacks standing before a window, gazing in at the large display of illuminated texts. One was sadly deformed, and both looked ragged and destitute; but their faces were very bright, for they were evidently enjoying a treat.

"A cross, Johnny; why, a cross is almost anything that goes across somethin' else, like this," said Billy, forming one with his fingers. "One stick, or whatsomever it may be made of, p'ints up'ards and the other p'ints ahead—that's wot a cross is, Johnny."

"Yes, I know'd that afore, Billy; but wot does crosses mean, and wots they for?"

"Dunno, Johnny. They puts 'em on top o' churches to make 'em look sort o' neat like, I s'pose."

"Mebbe they tells which way the wind blows," said Johnny.

"No, they al'ays p'ints the same way," said Billy, confidently. "Crosses must mean somethin' good, or nice, though, I reckon, 'cause they're al'ays fixed off sort o' fine, with flowers and such; and then peoples *wears* crosses, too. Haint you seed 'em, Johnny, with 'em on?"

"Oh, yes," replied Johnny, brightening, "they're takin' up the cross, Billy, just wot this says fur 'em to do; but somehow," more slowly, "there must be more'n that to it; why *do* they wear 'em, and wot's they for?"

"They aint for to eat, at any rate," said Billy, turning away, and I'm powerful hungry. Come, we'll go git some grub, Johnny; pick up your traps and hurry up, or they'll charge you for rent, if the perlice don't git hold o' you and arrest you for stairin' in there so crazy like."

They both laughed and walked away, through a number of streets, until they came to a little bakery, where they invested a few pennies in rolls, and had a "bit fit for a king," as Johnny remarked, and then they started off to their lodging place, which was a miserable, old, dirty attic, where all sorts of folks crowded in for the night, too poor to afford anything better.

Billy and Johnny huddled up together in their corner, and were soon unconscious of their unpleasant surroundings. Beautiful dreams sometimes floated to them on the impure air, and instead of making them discontented and miserable, rested their little spirits, and added much happiness to their very few joys. Did the dreams come by chance to them, or was their slumber brightened by the loving smile of a Heavenly Father, shining down upon them through the darkness. Who can tell?

Johnny's happiest dream, and the one that comforted him the most, was one in which he dreamed he was straight and elegant in form. That the little hump, the heavy ache upon his back, was all gone. "I was just like other boys," he would say to Billy, trying to straighten himself up, "and oh, I was so happy. Not a person noticed me on the street! think o' that, Billy, 'ceptin' as those as wanted their boots blacked; and oh, such a polish as I gave 'em! *Such* a polish!" And his little pale, sad face would light up—"It seemed as if I couldn't rub hard enough, I was so happy. Now and then, some o' them great and good-natured men 'ud say to me as I was shinin' 'em up, 'Why, boy, what's the matter with yer? Have ye been shinin' yer face this mornin'?' I told one on 'em I'd swapped a heap o' misery for a pile o' joy; and another one, that I reckoned my aches was passin' off in smiles, near as I could guess; but nobody knowed I was the little hunch-back, and when I woke up this mornin' I knowed it was all a dream of course; but it rested me *so much*, Billy, I feel most as if I didn't care." And then a little sigh escaped him. Billy, rough boy though he was, knew the sigh was the vapor escaping from the ache Johnny bore in his heart as well as on his back, and that Johnny, patient Johnny, *did* care ever so much.

"Never mind, never mind, Johnny," Billy would say, drawing his hand across his eyes at the same time, "I love you more with that 'ar than ef you war straighter nor I am. I shouldn't know you, Johnny; you'd be somebody else to me; but come, we'll lose our mornin's trade. Hurry up, boy; business is business;" and off they would start, stopping first at the little bakery.

CHAPTER II.

A year has passed away, and in a little attic room, Johnny, hunchback Johnny, lies dying. Not in the same crowded, dirty place we visited a year ago, for all is neat and clean, though extreme poverty is everywhere apparent. A poor widow had given Billy and Johnny shelter and food in return for the services which they rendered her. They ran on many errands for her, chopped her wood, built her fires, and shared with her the money that they earned at blacking boots.

And now Johnny lies there on his bed, ick unto death. For weeks he has en wasting away, and his little form ks smaller than ever, all but the p, which has never lessened except in his dreams. The little pale face isn't even sad now, but wears a glorious, bright expression. His large, dark eyes speak volumes as you look down into their depths; they speak to you of suffering one moment; but the next they flash out triumphantly; and as we bend to catch the words his lips endeavored to frame his little harsh voice seems to have grown melodious, as he whispers to himself, "Simply to Thy Cross I Cling."

Billy, grown taller and stouter, sits by him on the bed, looking down sorrowfully, tenderly, into the little sufferer's face.

"Billy," said Johnny, stroking Billy's coarse hand with his little frail fingers; "Billy," he repeated softly, stillcaressing the hand, "dear Billy," he whispered, as he put it to his little pale lips. "It's a way he has," Billy had said one day to a lady who called. "He seems to think so much o' me," said Billy, with emotion, "me as never done nothin' for him, poor little Johnny, 'cept a little turn now and then, when I *could* sarve him, and a rubbin' o' his back when it would get to achin' wusser'n usual. I'd a gi'n him money if I'd had it to give"—and then Johnny had interupted him with—"O, Billy, you can't buy love with money—not the love you give me. Youv'e loved me, Billy, when no one else would; youv'e even loved the hump on my back, and were al'ays kind o' tender to me, al'ays puttin' himself atween me and the stones that the boys as never knowed me would throw; why, ma'am," Johnny had said, turning over to look at the lady, "I'm no relation to him at all; he picked me up in the street one day, when some one in the crowd knocked me down; and he's been pickin' me up, and standin' up for me, and a lovin' me like, ever since.

"The Lord only knows what I'd a done without you," groaned Billy. "Johnny's been a bright spot, as it were, in my life. One of them mission ladies got him to go to Sunday-school, and he was so full of it, nothin' must do but I should go too. If Johnny ever had anything good in his life, he wanted I should share it with him. After he had been a few times he came a hobblin' up these steps as fast as he could, and rushed in here to me. I thought a door had been suddenly opened to let in the sunlight; but when I looked at Johnny's face it was so bright it would have frightened me, had he not looked so wonderful happy. I 'most thought it was an angel, though I didn't much know what them was then. 'Billy,' said he to me, 'Billy, I've found it all out! I know all about it! Oh, Billy, it's better'n dreams; I shan't mind it now; I'm so happy, Billy!'

"I though the boy was a little touched like, so I smoothed his hair and said, 'Yes, Johnny, you don't want to go to Sunday-school any more; they are too much for you; they tire you all out.' He says, 'Billy you are sleepin'! wake up; Billy, I'll tell you wot a cross is," and then it flashed on me what it all meant. 'Crosses p'int ahead and up'ard, as you said, Billy, but they *mean* somethin'—crosses mean somethin'. They ain't just to look pretty, and fix up with posies and gilt! They're *heavy*, crosses is, and we've all got 'em to carry. But crosses ain't never light, Billy; they've all got a heft to 'em, and we're to bear 'em, and carry 'em, 'cause Jesus wants us to. He carried His cross, Billy, and I've been shirkin' mine all my life. He never complained, and I've fretted so much at mine. But I shan't ag'in, Billy. It is better than those dreams I used to have. God *thought enough o' me to give me a cross to bear*, and I'm proud now, instead of being so ashamed, for God put it, there, Billy; it's just as he wanted it, or it wouldn't be there. God knows it's all right. I've only to carry it in this world; we are to have crowns in the next, if we're faithful. The next world is heaven,' said he. After that *I* took to goin' to Sunday-school, too, and we've been ever since until Johnny got sick. Indeed I *don't* know what I should have done without him, ma'am. He's a helped me along; he's sent his little prayers ahead o' me and all around me; he's comforted me when money was scarce. Oh, he's carried his cross bravely, ma'am, and helped me tug with mine besides."

* * *

But Johnny lies dying now, and Billy sits there alone with him looking down sorrowfully into his face.

"Billy," said Johnny, "it's a'most over. Bring me the little cross." And Billy brought it—a plain, poorly-proportioned little affair which Johnny had whittled out with his knife. "Oh, it's meant so much to me, Billy. I never could speak a hateful word when I thought of it, or felt it in my pocket. It's as ugly as this," said he, meaning his hump; but when I see God in it, it seems beautiful." His voice grew fainter. "Billy, I've tried to carry my cross, tried to lift it as high as He wanted, or I never could have carried this little wooden one in my pocket; 'twould have seemed sneaky like." He spoke with difficulty, slowly, falteringly. "Billy, He died on the cross—on—the—cross. If you are ever proud, be proud o' that. It's the cross that holds the gates o' heaven open for us, Billy—for me and you. 'Twon't matter about our bein' boot-blacks there; we shall git in, Billy—*not somehow or other, but straight through the gate.* Jesus—will—let—us—in. I'm—goin'—now—Billy — going — to — get — my—crown. Carry—your—cross — a — little—longer —Billy — Jesus — he-lp — y-ou— save—y-ou."

He's gone. No, hark! he's still whispering: "Billy — the — angels—are—getting—my—crown. It—was—right — under — my — cross — Billy — B-i-l-l-y"—and he bends over him; but Johnny never finished the sentence. His little aching body had found rest; his cross of suffering had been exchanged for a crown of glory.

The old widow enters and finds Billy swaying to and fro, and moaning to himself: "He's gone; he'll never love me any more;" and through her fast-falling tears, she says: "Such love as that boy's for you don't die with the body, depend upon it. He loves you yet—purer and stronger than ever." And who can gainsay it?

CARRIER PIGEONS.—It is stated that the New York *Sun* was the first newspaper to employ the aid of carrier-pigeons for the rapid transmission of news. Thirty years ago, before the electric telegraph had come into vogue, the *Sun* concern had a large pigeonry upon the roof of its building, just over its editorial rooms, where many carrier-pigeons of the best procurable breeds were maintained. In those days the public were often surprised by the appearance of important news, brought by the birds, in advance of the ordinary mails. The advent of the telegraph superseded the *Sun* pigeons, and the department was sold out.

A TROY workman lifted 600 pounds with his hands. It is said he can carry 1,000 on his shoulders.

On Dressing in Changeable Weather.

Many women commit the grave error of wearing the same unlined calico sleeves and the same quantity and quality of underclothing through summer's heat and winter's cold, in a climate varying from thirty degrees below to one hundred and twenty degrees above zero. Even those who wear sufficient clothing in cold weather often injure the health of themselves or children by the manner in which they dress in changeable weather. Many physicians recommend the wearing of flannel during the entire year; but during the hot season this is almost intolerable to some people. As the debilitating effects of great heat are almost as injurious as the derangements of the circulation caused by sudden changes of temperature, it would seem a wiser plan to modify the clothing according to the weather.

One should never change suddenly from very warm to very thin clothing in the spring, or *vice versa* in the autumn, but should keep a supply of garments varying in warmth, and make the change gradually. But when cool days come. do not be afraid to resume warm garments again for fear of catching cold when you again lay them off; you will be far more apt to take cold by going without them. And during the entire summer a light sacque and other extra garments should be kept convenient, so that they can be easily slipped off or on during the cool mornings, or at any change of weather.

Warm clothing should not usually be exchanged for that which is not so warm earlier in the day than the middle of the forenoon; because the system does not attain its greatest vigor until that time, and also because the mornings are cooler and damper than any other part of the day. Some people think the only proper time for changes is upon rising in the morning, and so—because the previous day was pleasant—they leave of warm garments and shiver through a cool, damp spring morning rather than resume them.

But little children are the greatest sufferers from the careless manner in which they are dressed. The mistake usually made is in putting too much clothing on their bodies, while their arms and lower limbs are left too thinly dressed; thus driving the blood to the internal organs, not only producing many colds, but frequently that dreaded disease, summer complaint. Some mothers go to the other extreme and dress their children too warmly for comfort during the hot weather. Never let children pull off warm woolen stockings and go barefoot in the early spring; substitute cotton stockings for awhile until settled warm weather comes. Even in midsummer they should resume shoes and stockings whenever it is cool and damp.

During the hot days a calico slip and a pair of thin drawers are sufficient clothing for a child; but an extra apron, skirt, and shoes and stockings should always be at hand to slip on when needed. And do not neglect to put them on, busy mother, because you, who are hard at work, do not feel the chill of the morning and evening air, or of the cool, rainy day. And do not allow your child to suffer by neglecting to take them off when it grows hot. Trouble? Yes, but not so much as to have sick children.

Cotton skirts and stockings are generally sufficient, but on unusually cool days woolen ones should be substituted for them.

Children's skirts and drawers should button on to waists or shoulder straps, so that they can be taken off without unfastening the outside dress.—*Hearth and Home.*

Naming the Baby.

A paying hoax was played a few days since, says a Clarksville correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, upon the family relatives of one of our young married men who had the good fortune, or bad fortune (whichever way the reader construes it), of having an addition to the family in the shape of a boy weighing nine pounds avoirdupois. A friend of the parents directed a postal card to each one of the uncles and aunts of the little chap, bearing upon its back this line:

"G—— has a new baby at his house named after you."

In a few days letters of congratulation began to pour in. A gentleman, one of its uncles, sent by express a beautiful silver cup, accompanied by these words: "I thank you for the honor that my finances will not permit me to accept very often from my numerous relatives." Another, writing from Paducah, feels "highly gratified that you should name your boy after me; and if it bears in reality my name, and is not named just forty-five years after me, you can draw upon me for his first boots, and I will honor the draft." He "smelt a mice." An aunt to the infant, writing from Hopkinsville, Ky., says: "You know not how gratified I am that you have named your little girl after me. I am not well now, but as soon as I am able to venture out upon the streets I shall acknowledge the honor in a more becoming manner." An uncle at Erin, Tenn., writes: "Kiss the baby for me. I do not know how to thank you. As soon as I can find time to dig seven pounds of ginseng I will send my little namesake a present." And thus they continue to come from all sections, as the family are quite numerous. The baby is as yet unnamed; and if it receives the name of each one who has sent a present, there is a slim show for its future existence.

GETTING EVEN WITH A RAILROAD.—The Lawrence (Mass.) *Sentinel* says that a number of months since a Haverhill man desired some accommodation of the Boston and Maine road, but was refused. This action so provoked him that he determined to get square by some means, and at length, noticing that there was no draw in the railroad bridge near the city, he determined to put the company to the expense of building one. So he commenced building a schooner of about 200 tons at a point above the bridge, and now, as it is nearly ready to launch, he will soon load it with legitimate freight, sail down to the bridge, and demand passage, which the railroad people must grant him, whether or no.

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EVERY READER of this paper can receive, *free*, a copy of the best *Agricultural* and *Family* newspaper in this country by addressing Moore's Rural New-Yorker, 78 Duane-st., New York.

A NEW LEAD.—How many times does 50 go into 250,000? It goes 5,000 times. Well, that is a good per cent. Will the best "lead" ever struck pay as much? Certainly not. But there are strong probabilities that an investment of fifty dollars made in the last Grand Gift Concert, in aid of the Public Library of Kentucky, will pay that per cent. to somebody. We have only to wait till the 30th of November for the result.

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RYE	88 @	90
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CORN—No. 2	73 @	73½
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LARD	11½ @	12

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LARD	12 @	12½
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OATS	49 @	51

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