East Oregonian

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

AN OLD PROVERB

"Fred" said Mr Price as he came into the sitting room one evening and found his son reading in the twilight "I have something today that will please you"

"What was it?" asked Fred closing the book and looking up eagerly His father's air of satisfaction roused his curiosity

"Uncle Asa came into my office today and he told me that he had fully made up his mind to take you or Henry into business with him in June, so do your best to graduate with honor dear boy"

"But he may take Henry his chances are equal to mine"

"I don't think so In my opinion you are Uncle Asa's choice and it depends on yourself whether you get the place or not"

"I shall try hard for it Yes, I do think Uncle Asa is rather partial to me He is always cordial when he meets me"

"He spoke of you in the highest terms today Your fortune is made if he takes you into business with him Be careful what you do and say in his presence"

"I'll make extra efforts to please him I wonder if Henry knows anything about it? I'll ask him to morrow"

Old Asa Maynard was Mrs Price's uncle and he stood in the same relation to Henry Hardy's mother for the two women were sisters He was the richest man in South Auburn and owned one of the largest wholesale hardware houses in the west but in social circles he and Jerry Hardy's relations were quite unlike Henry had always been afraid of offending him though he knew they had little to expect from a man of such wealth having distinctly given them all to understand that he should leave his fortune to found a hospital for aged and infirm men

The day following his confidential disclosure to Mr Price the old merchant was walking briskly along one of the principal streets of the town when chancing to glance up he saw Fred and Henry at a book store window A generous impulse seized him and going up to the boys he said kindly

"Let me treat each of you to a book Come in and select what suits you best Henry you may have the first choice"

Henry quickly put his hand on a book of adventures

"I've wanted this so long" he said

Mr Maynard's countenance fell Like a great many old people he entertained very severe ideas about story books but he made no remark and the boy put the book under his arm

Fred had not been unobservant of the change in Mr Maynard's face and he saw a chance of winning additional favor for himself at the cost of a trifling sacrifice

"I will take this book of travels uncle It looks as if it might prove interesting" said he

"I commend your choice" said Mr Maynard in a well pleased tone "I am sorry Henry's taste does not run in the same direction A youth should ever be striving after self government"

"I get all I want of history at school said Henry When I have a chance to read at home I want something a little more lively than descriptions of foreign countries ancient palaces and tombs of great men"

"Each to his taste of course," said Mr Maynard a little testily "but in my opinion profit should always come before pleasure"

"I hope I have not offended you, uncle" Henry said

"Not at all" said the old man as he walked away well pleased at the test he had made

"Fred shall certainly have a place in my store in June" he thought "He has a long head that is clear"

Meanwhile Fred and Henry were looking over their books

"You know very well you don't care for travels You just wanted to please Uncle Asa" Henry said

"Well, it's very natural I should, and perhaps you've lost more than you imagine by choosing that book

"At least I was honest in my choice said Henry and you know the old proverb Honesty is the best policy"

"There is such a thing as being too honest and you'll find that it doesn't always pay to stick too closely to the old proverb"

"Perhaps so but it is too late to mend matters now I'll read my book and then lend it to you, said Henry as he walked away

A week later Mr Maynard met Fred one day on his way to school

"Have you read your book my lad?" he asked pleasantly laying his hand affectionately on Fred's shoulder

For one instant Fred hesitated Then he looked up boldly into the keen gray eyes and answered in the affirmative

"Was it interesting?"

"Yes sir It is the best of the kind I ever read I could hardly lay it down until I had finished it

"It ought to have been bound better It was a cheap book but I'll get you a better one my boy I like to encourage a taste for solid reading

"I shall be glad to read anything of the kind you may give me sir

"You shall have all your mind can digest" said Mr Maynard as he went on his way

Opposite the residence of Mr Price he paused and reflected a moment It occurred to him that it would be only kind for him to go in and tell his niece that his decision had been made, and that his choice had fallen on Fred Why keep them all in suspense until June? So reasoning he pushed the gate open and walked thoughtfully up the path to the house

The servant who answered his ring told him that Mrs Price had gone out for a moment and asked him to wait

"I'll wait ten minutes, no longer" said he as he stepped into the library

Mr Price was fond of reading and the room was lined with bookcases In one of these Mr Maynard saw the volume of travels he had presented to Fred

"I'll see what it was that proved so interesting to the lad," he muttered as he drew the book out He opened it and began to turn over the leaves then he suddenly started back as if he had received a blow "Impossible" he muttered as he sank down in a chair completely overcome "There must be some mistake"

For several moments he sat thus in deep thought the volume resting on his knee Then rising he put it back with a sigh He then picked up his cane and left the house

"A most fortunate discovery" he muttered as he walked away "Poor lad"

When Mrs Price returned home a few minutes later she found the library unoccupied

"Uncle Asa is always impatient surely he could have waited a little longer" she said

He promised to wait ten minutes, but I'm sure he wasn't here more than five explained the servant

"I am very sorry that I missed him" said Mrs Price

She did not know what Fred had missed by that early call of Uncle Asa's

Fred wondered why he did not receive the promised books but concluded that his uncle had forgotten them He had greater cause for wonder when, after the June graduation he heard that his cousin Henry had been taken into his uncle's store

"I can't make it out," he said to his cousin "I was sure Uncle Asa intended to give me the place He always appeared to like me better than he did you"

"It was a great surprise to me I confess Henry said He seemed so vexed with me about that old book I chose you remember He hardly spoke to me the next time I met him but he is very pleasant to me now"

"I wish the matter could be explained I would like to understand it"

Fred understood it very soon One day in the beginning of July he received a summons to his uncle's office The interview did not last long but perhaps Fred suffered more during the ten minutes his uncle talked to him than he had in the whole of his life before

"It is only right you should know why I have left Mr Harry" said the old man "I intimated to your father that I would bless you The knowledge has been of permanent benefit to you and influence you for good in a similar case should one ever occur I gave you a book two months ago with which you seemed immensely pleased Meeting you on the street a week later I asked you if you had read it You said you had and praised it highly I was pleased with you and concluded that I had better settle at once the matter of your coming here after your graduation to learn my business I went to your father's house and your mother being out I spent a few minutes in the library There I saw the book I had given you Some impulse led me to open it Instead of finding the book roughly bound and clumsily printed and the leaves worn and cut As you understand I knew at once that you had not only been guilty of deceit, but of deliberate falsehood I went in my displeasure to one whom I almost trust and my trust in you was destroyed forever when I left your father's house that day

Fred tried to speak but there was a mist in his throat which prevented his doing so

"You may go now" said his uncle but remember my lad that in matter at what apparent cost it is always better to stick to the old proverb Honesty is the best policy

As Fred walked out of the office he felt the truth of his uncle's words Philadelphia Call

Can Physical Courage be Taught

The practical questions involved in this discussion are Can courage be taught and if so what are the best means of education? Numerous experiments have been attempted in this direction I knew the father of a large family of boys who became greatly distressed on account of the timidity shown by several of them and set about educating them up to a higher standard of courage after a method which he had practiced successfully with bomb animals He had found for instance that when a horse had shown great terror at sight of a railway train in motion the surest way to break him of it was to throw him down close to the track and confine him in that position till the train had thundered by After subjecting the animal to this mode of discipline two or three times its sense of fear was entirely overcome

He applied similar lessons to his boys If one was afraid to be alone in the dark the father made him wander repeatedly through attic rooms at midnight without a light If another had a dread of the water he compelled him to swim swift streams and dive off high landings The practice was disagreeably heroic for the boys but the father insisted that it finally drove all fear from the most timid of them He proceeded upon the theory that fear is fed by the imagination, and as soon as any one is convinced that the objects dreaded are harmless all fear of them will vanish He evidently believed, with Schiller, that the chief element in the sense of fear is the unknown —The Century

Meanest Thing in the World.

You want my opinion of what is the meanest thing in the world? said a veteran sport Well I'll tell you and it don't take long to decide it The meanest thing is a gambler, a professional gambler Not one of them has the hundredth part of honor of a rattlesnake and they know it and show it by skulking and avoiding the company of decent people "Are there no exceptions?" Just enough to prove the rule As with cut and out thieves there is what they call honor among themselves which after all said and done is often disregarded Self banished and outlawed with no hope of ever regaining a good name the professional preys without mercy or remorse on the innocent public whom he dignifies with the name of suckers Ishmaelites, whose hands are against all honest people and little respect have gamblers for a gentleman who relegates himself and treats them civilly What a legacy of shame and misery does a profesh leave to his children A gambler should not be allowed to marry New York Mail and Express

To Drive Away Musquitoes

To expel musquitoes take of gum camphor a piece about one third the size of a hen's egg and evaporate it by placing it in a tin vessel and holding it over a lamp, taking care that it does not ignite The smoke will soon fill the room and expel the musquitoes, and not one will be found in the room next morning even though the windows should be left open at night. —Boston Budget

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