

"Blessed are the Peacemakers."

I was sitting, book in hand, behind the blinds of an open window in my parlor one day in early summer, when I observed a little fellow coming up the street, whose appearance greatly interested me.

An expression of intense satisfaction rested on the boy's face and lighted up his brown eyes. Just as he was about to pass my window, and I was beginning to regret losing sight of him the gutter hugely swollen by a recent shower, caught his eye, and he stooped over it to launch his tiny boat.

It may not be amiss to remark here that this little incident occurred in the city of Albany, where one is accustomed to see the water rushing rapidly through streets and gutters during a heavy shower.

I was presently startled by a noisy splash, and exclamation of surprise, and a loud, rude laugh. The latter proceeded from a rough looking boy standing near with a stone in his hand, evidently prepared to fire a second shot into the little craft already fatally disabled.

Her young commander was standing on his feet in the water trying to save the vessel, now a mere wreck, fast drifting out to sea. Not a word had escaped his lips after the first exclamation. Indeed the whole affair had occupied less time than the telling of it.

He succeeded after wetting both feet and being well bespattered with mud, in rescuing his boat; quickly tore off the ragged sails; dropped the wet flag (which he would not abandon) with the naked hull, into his clothes, and proceeded to wipe his clothes with his pocket handkerchief.

The rough lad looked amazed at this quiet way of taking an affront, and paused a moment as if considering whether or not it proceeded from "cowardice." That was the very query in my own mind, but the whole appearance of the boy refuted the suspicion.

For my own part I felt sure that he, of the green satchel, was actuated by some grand motive; and I burned with curiosity to know what it was. I surprised him just then by throwing open the blinds, congratulating him on having avoided a quarrel, and expressing regret at the loss of his boat.

He replied that it was mostly his own fault, the spoiling of his boat; because Archie North, had advised him not to try her on the way home from school, but the place was such a famous one, it tempted him.

"Well, my little friend," said I, "it is some consolation that you didn't lose your temper as well as your boat. How came you to control it so well?"

"Oh, I was very angry, ma'am," he said, "and I'm not over it yet. She was a capital sailor, and I built her all myself (only Archie helped me rig her) I'd like to flog that fellow yet, but I won't. I'll go show her to Archie."

"Archie seems to be great friend of yours," I replied, "but you have not told me how you managed to keep your temper, nor why you are so careful to do it? Stay a little, can't you, and tell me all about it?"

"Oh, there isn't much to tell, ma'am I am qualifying, as the boys call it, to

become a member of the Juvenile Peace Society we have in our school. But I could never do it if Archie North didn't give me so much help about it."

"But who is he? and how can he help in such a case as this?" I asked.

"Well, ma'am, Archie is one of our big boys. He is the help and comfort of the whole school, and everybody loves him. He knows the trouble I have with my passionate temper, and reminds me of our Savior's example; and how, when I am a man, it will mortify me if I have such poor control of myself. He's a real friend, I can tell you," said he with animation.

"How about the 'Society,' was that Archie's work too?"

"Yes, ma'am, it was. Before he came to our school—I was a little fellow then—there was always quarrelling going on, and the boys disliked the teachers. Archie got up this society with three or four boys, and it grew till it has taken in a good many of the boys and all of the teachers, and even the principal himself (just think of that, ma'am), and it isn't like the same school at all that it used to

"That is splendid, indeed!" said I; "But tell me, please, about the rules of admission. I suppose, they are pretty strict."

"Yes, indeed," said he; "we must stand on trial a month, and if we fail, take another; and so on, until we can 'keep peace' with all the world; or we can't be members of that society. I have failed, and had to begin over again, several times," he added; "but Archie thinks I'll stand this time."

"One question more," said I; "and thank you, for answering so many. Has your 'Peace Society' any badge or sign by which any one may recognize its members?"

"Yes ma'am, it has both. Archie says the badge is silence, and that when two boys are disputing the one who yields first and most pleasantly gives the sign."

"Happy, excellent Archie!" I exclaimed to myself as the boy turned away. "Blessed," indeed, thrice "blessed are the peacemakers."—Intelligencer.

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