

The Free Press Short Story

Midshipman Bumpus' Efficiency

BY WILLIAM O. STEVENS

"I'VE WON IT, Mother!"

The round face of William Bumpus, Jr., was fairly dawning as he shouted the good news from the gate of the paragonage. Of course Mother ran out and hugged him, and his father, following close, patted him again and again, saying, "Good boy, Billy; proud of you, son!"

All and three laughed and capered about on the front porch till Billy remembered that the neighbors might be looking on and hurried indoors. He was short and roly-poly, like his name, a mean girl said once, and what his looks lacked in dignity Billy felt he must make up by his conduct.

It was the appointment to the Naval Academy, which had just been awarded to Billy after a competitive examination. "Hoory, hoory!" shouted Billy, hopping around the parlor now that no one could see. "I never was so happy!"

"What did Commander Murdoch say when he told you that you had won?" asked Mother. Billy's spirits calmed down. "Why, he was kind of funny, Mother. He said I had won on the merits of my paper, but he was afraid I wouldn't like it or make a success of it."

"What on earth!" began Mother, highly indignant. "He said I came from a long line of teachers and preachers, and what they wanted at Annapolis was not bookworms but efficient, practical men. I guess he thought I wasn't practical." Billy looked grieved.

"There is something in what Mr. Murdoch said," observed the elder Bumpus mildly. "You've dealt a good deal among books, and you are rather absent-minded; but if your heart is in it and you are determined to make a success of it, you can do it, William."

"Of course he can do it!" cried Mother with another hug. "That man Murdoch is just angry because an appointment to a midshipman's family means nothing to him politically." And Billy agreed heartily with his mother.

Surely there was no question about Billy's heart being in it. When he went to Annapolis and gazed on the huge granite buildings, the white ships and the august officers the letter he wrote home fairly bubbled over.

But it was a very different boy that walked dolefully across the grounds behind Baneroff Hall one Sunday afternoon late in October. It was Midshipman Bumpus in all the glory of his dress uniform with his eighteen brass buttons in front, but he was looking for a quiet place where he could wallow in misery untroubled. He finally picked out a place on the sea wall and sat down to think things over.

"Fact is, everything has gone wrong since I entered," said Billy half aloud. Before the end of the first two weeks he had been christened "Blunderbum Bumpus" and when he recalled the blunders he had made to earn that title he turned hot and cold. Somehow he had been so easily fooled by the tricks of upper-classes, he had so often been absent-minded at the wrong time; and it seemed as if the harder he tried the worse he did, because he got so easily rattled. He had, with the best intentions, made every blunder possible, at least that's what the cadet officers told him, and yesterday came the climax.

He was section-leader, coming from an English recitation, marching beside his section with a Webster's Dictionary under his arm. Just at the corner of the walk along the Superintendent's stately rear admiral in epaulettes and cocked hat, with a group of visiting officers from the French squadron. As Billy passed, he felt that for the dignity of the school he must try to look as military and as little boyish as possible; so he stiffened backward and looked frowning ahead. Just as he was getting ready to salute, the head caught in one of the red brick at the edge of the walk, his dictionary was jolted out from his arm and in clattering for it he bumped one of his sections. The next instant he was sprawling at the feet of the Superintendent.

Those minutes that followed were too horrible to think of again. Billy wondered that a fellow can go through an experience like that and not die on the spot. Thus came the interview with the Commandant an hour after when Billy stood in trembling silence before the old seadog whose keen eyes and bristling moustache radiated no tenderness upon the luckless boy.

After telling him in quarter-deck terms how he had publicly disgraced the school, the mariner concluded: "Efficiency is the naval officer's ideal, and nothing can be further from it than your lubberty conduct. I am glad to see that you stand well in your studies and have few demerits, but those virtues don't make the naval man. Now, Mr. Bumpus, if you can't do better than you have been doing, you'll never get a sailing grade in efficiency, and you will do the service and the country a favor by getting out."

"Aye, aye, sir," murmured Billy and was waved from the room. It was only yesterday that all this happened but to the boy sitting on the sea wall it seemed as if he had lived ten years since then. And now, he was debating with himself whether he should resign. Evidently Commander Murdoch was right and why should he stay if he

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

THE HIGH YOUNG RULER (REPRESENTING A LIFE OF SACRIFICIAL SERVICE).

Golden Text.—And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me.—Luke 9: 23.

Lesson Text.—Mark 10: 17-27. Study also Luke 18: 15-30. Time.—March, A. D. 30. Place.—Perea.

Exposition.—I. The Eternal Quest, 17-20. Matthew's version of this incident is the Scripture chosen for Lesson IX (April 27), and is dealt with under the subject-heading "Giving Up All for the Kingdom." It is not necessary to deal fully with this lesson a second time, but the following thoughts may be added: This story is dealt with no less than three times in the New Testament. Matthew, Mark and Luke were all inspired by the Holy Spirit, to place it on record for our edification and learning.

Doubtless, there is a wise purpose in this threefold repetition of the same simple facts; doubtless, too, it is intended that the lesson the passages convey, deserve and should receive particular notice from those naming the name of our common Lord, in all ages of the Christian Church. In the opening words of his narrative, Matthew says, "One came unto him (Jesus)" (Ch. 19: 16). But Mark says, "There came one RUNNING and KNEELING to him and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do, that I may inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Came "running" and "kneeling" to Him, while the scribes and Pharisees despised and hated Him! Yet all the time, this man who appeared to be in such haste to learn the great secret, was profoundly ignorant of his own heart. He hears Jesus recite the commandments which make up a man's duty to his fellow and instantly declares—"All these have I observed from my youth" (v. 19). But of the searching nature of the moral law, of the inner meaning of the commandments as they relate to thoughts and motives, he knows nothing. The spiritual blindness exhibited by this young man by no means began or ended with HIM. There are myriads living, to-day, many of them professing Christians, who have little or no notion of their own sinfulness in the sight of God. They have never sinned, or sinned, or committed adultery, or borne false witness, and so argue that they are surely not in much danger of missing heaven. The result is that they are wrapped in a cloak of self-righteousness, and, like the Church of Laodicea, they are "rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing" (Rev. 3: 17). Let us ask for the Holy Spirit's assistance to show us our own hearts.

II. The Compassion of Jesus, 21. There is a sentence in Mark's version of this incident not to be found in either Matthew's or Luke's: "Jesus beholding him, loved him" (v. 21). But the Lord did not love him for his self-righteousness nor for his ignorance. Perhaps it was pity the Master felt for him. He saw his earnestness, his understanding, his faith in the things of the spirit. No doubt but that Jesus looked with compassion and deep concern on this man's soul. And He still regards and would gather to His bosom the ignorant self-righteous the faithless and impatient, if they were only willing to be gathered (Matt. 23: 37). If men are lost, certainly it is not because Jesus does not love them, and is not ready to save. His own solemn words unravel the mystery: "Men loved darkness rather than light." . . . "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life" (John 3: 19; 5: 40).

III. Turning Away from Life, 23. Yet with all his professed desire after eternal life, this man loved money better than his soul. "I went away grieved" (v. 23), but he WENT, to return no more. Let us guard against the love of money. It is a snare to those of stunted means—as it is to those who are rich and well-to-do. It is not, however, having money as trusting in it and letting it HAVE US, which ruins the soul. The highest wisdom in these things is to be of one mind with Paul when he said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4: 11).

To have the children sound and healthy is the first care of a mother. They cannot be healthy if troubled with worms. Use Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator.

since they had managed to save most of the furniture, as well? That darky woman only knew that there had been a baby there. Well? "I guess I've blundered again," said Billy miserably. "I—I think I'd better resign, sir."

"Nonsense," laughed the mariner, and he laid a hand on the boy's shoulder. "My boy the kind of blundering that braves danger without stopping to calculate is a splendid foundation for you to build on. Now I think that when you get more accustomed to this new life you will be less nervous and rattled. Never mind what they call you, Bumpus, you have the making of an officer; and remember I said so."

Again Billy had to blink fast to have his dignity. "That's all," said the Commandant, with a twinkle, "except that I shall expect you and McDougal to report at my quarters next Sunday for dinner."

SLATS' DIARY

BY ROSS PARQUHAR Friday—An Emmy's sister was here tonight and she is the I which has been married three times, to different men, pa says he thinks they ought to be a rule that when a woman has been married three times she should ought to keep her husband like they do troikas and out in races and ect.

Saturday — pa and ma went to a reception this p.m. and ma was a giving to the tickets for being so quiet all the time and pa and her that the credit way, to get credit for knowing what you are talking about is to keep your mouth shut so he done it.

Sunday—Elylilk is home on a visit to her mother and the rest of her so she hasn't so much to do a round the house now she says. Her ma and she didn't think she done so well getting married. Elylilk well she went down last time because this was only the 1st time, after she has more experience she will do better.

Monday—we had a tub of hot water to bathe in today, in her bath no good in mathematics and she signals runs a way up in to the hunders.

Tuesday—well we went with pa to his horses house tonight to a recital of music and singing. I declare that house is the biggest building I ever seen, when we went in I felt like I was a going to bathe in it was so big it wood make a swell fire.

Wednesday—the teacher was a trying to tell us today that the light of the sun travels about 12 million miles a second. Jake didn't believe it. But I can't see nothing so much in that because it is all down hill.

Thursday—ma was wandering where I got my new nife this p.m. and I told her that the new kid with cum to school today had give it to me, but I didn't tell her that he had to give it to me. Ma has always tried to teach me to be polite to strange boys. It is kinda sad to think what a failure ma has been, thataway.

Don't Submit to Asthma. If you suffer without hope of branking the chains which bind you do not put off another day the purchase of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Remedy. A trial will drive away all doubt as to its efficiency. The sure relief that comes will convince you more than anything that can be written. When help is so near, why suffer? This matchless remedy is sold by dealers everywhere.

Leslie Hahn PRACTICAL FURRIER

Furs Repaired, Remodeled, Cleaned All Charges Reasonable—Goods Made to Order

105 Wyndham Street—Phone 637W GUELPH, ONTARIO

Over Mason & Elsch Store

Pratt's POULTRY REGULATOR Makes Hens Lay GUARANTEED —or your money back Write for Useful Poultry Book free

There's a dealer near you, ask him, or write direct to us. Prices and nearest dealer's name on request. Pratt Food Co., of Canada, Ltd. 328 Carlaw Ave., Toronto, Ont.

Sold in Acton by W. D. TALBOT

McKenna and LaFontaine Central Ontario Sporting Goods Athletic Club

Sporting Goods—Club Prices JERSEIES STOCKINGS ORESHIN And All Sporting Equipment HOCKEY SUPPLIES Teams Completely Outfitted MARCONI RADIOS Skate Sharpening and Skating

WHOLESALE RETAIL Phone 2168F and 2993 GUELPH, ONTARIO

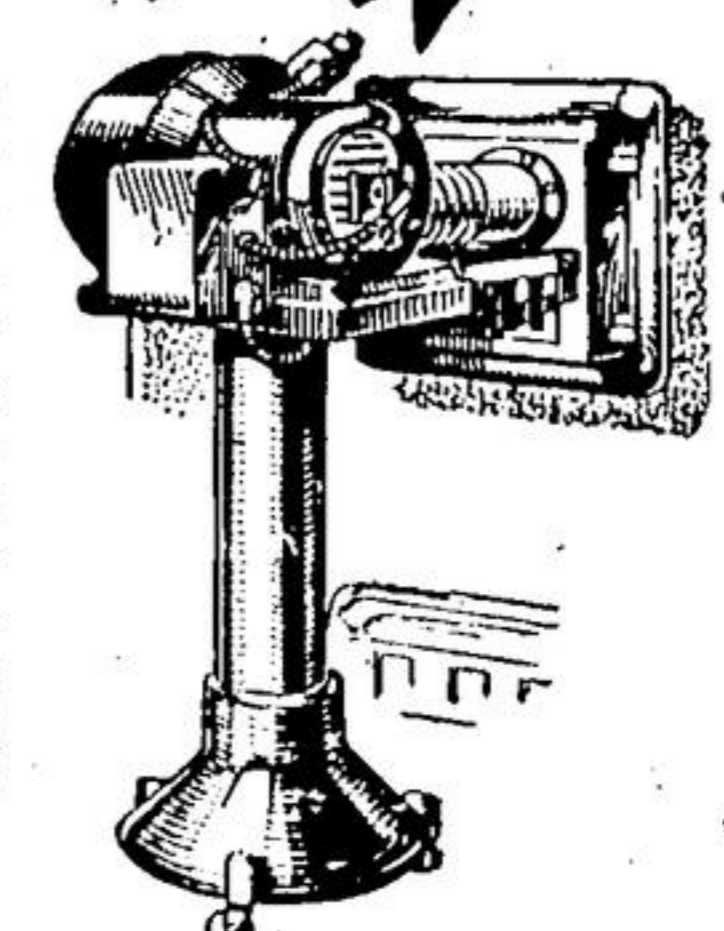
ENJOY YOUR SLEEP! FIX IT & FORGET IT! GILSON AUTOMATIC OIL BURNER will have your home warm as toast for the morning!

Just set your stat, kick off your shoes, and forget all about heating worries! It costs so little to put the new Gilson Magic Oil Burner in your home, why not do it? No more dust, ashes or shovelling for yours! "Cheap-as-coal, too," say many of our customers.

Gentlemen: The Magic Oil Burner is satisfactory and no trouble to run. It has heated my house all winter as cheaply as coal. Mrs. C. Dundas, Southampton, Ont.

GILSON OIL BURNER

Suits any heating plant—installed without alterations—so that coal fire can be built as formerly should electric current or oil supply fail. Heat controlled automatically by thermostat. Very silent. Absolutely safe. Extremely economical. Fully guaranteed. Ask for booklet "Gilson Automatic Oil Burner" and see demonstration.



W. F. MOONEY MILL STREET ACTON, ONTARIO

Christmas Cards Ready to Help You! Say "Merry Christmas"

The final shipment of THE FREE PRESS stock of Personal Christmas Greeting Cards arrived on Saturday and they are now ready for your inspection. Now, artistic and popularly priced, this is the finest assortment we have ever offered our patrons in Personal Greeting Cards.

A new line just shown this year is an assortment, with every card in the lot different. They come attractively boxed in 25 and 15 to the box, and the prices quoted include your name and address printed on them.

Plain designs, of beautiful workmanship, others more elaborate and highly colored. Most of them with beautifully lined envelopes. A whole stock to choose from in the moderately priced ones, and a very fine showing in the higher priced lines. They aren't half displayed in our window. The best way to select is to come in early, while the assortment is full. We cannot duplicate our present stock when it is exhausted and every year we are sold out.

At the prices we quote Personal Christmas Greeting Cards are not a luxury. They range from \$1.50 for one dozen, and \$2.25 for two dozen, up to \$2.75 per single dozen, and \$4.00 for orders of two dozen. The assorted boxes are priced at \$3.00 and \$3.50. And of course those prices include the printing of your name and address. They are all ready to send when we deliver them to you—just address them and they carry your greeting, appropriately and with dignity.

MAY WE IMPRESS AGAIN—ORDER NOW FOR BEST CHOICE

The Acton Free Press Phone 174 Artistic Printing Mill St., Acton

TIME TABLES AT ACTON

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Going East No. 26—Daily, except Sunday, 7:02 a.m. No. 30—Daily, except Sunday, 11:43 a.m. No. 39—Daily, except Sunday, 6:18 p.m. No. 38—Daily, except Sunday, 8:47 p.m. No. 24—Sunday only, 7:12 p.m.

Going West No. 31—Daily, except Sunday, 7:34 a.m. No. 29—Daily, except Sunday, 9:10 a.m. No. 33—Daily, except Sunday, 3:20 p.m. No. 199—Daily, except Sunday, 6:18 p.m. No. 37—Daily, except Sunday, 7:24 p.m. No. 39—Daily, except Sunday, 10:21 p.m. No. 25—Sunday only, 10:23 a.m. No. 29 will stop only on signal. No. 30 will stop only to discharge passengers from Toronto and east.

CANADIAN NATIONAL ELECTRIC RAILWAYS

Westbound Daily—except Sunday, 8:16 a.m. Daily, 10:16 a.m. Daily, 12:16 p.m. Daily, 2:16 p.m. Daily, 4:16 p.m. Daily, 6:16 p.m. Daily, 8:16 p.m. Daily, 10:16 a.m.

Eastbound Daily—except Sunday, 7:33 a.m. Daily, 9:33 a.m. Daily, 11:33 a.m. Daily, 1:33 p.m. Daily, 3:33 p.m. Daily, 5:33 p.m. Daily, 7:33 p.m. Daily, 9:33 p.m. Daily, 11:33 p.m.

Toronto Terminal Keele Street and St. Clair Avenue Daily delivered by special express freight. Freight picked up at any address in Toronto.

TRAVEL BY B-U-S

WESTBOUND Daily, 1:05 p.m. Daily, 4:05 p.m. Daily, except Sundays and Holidays, 8:05 p.m. only, 10:05 p.m.

EASTBOUND Daily, 9:55 a.m. Daily, 1:00 p.m. Daily, 8:00 p.m.

ARROW

NOTICE Owing to the unsafe condition of a part of the Townline between the Townships of Nassagaweya and Pushtich, opposite Lot 15 and part of Lot 14 in Nassagaweya, and the great expense of repairing the same, notice is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Nassagaweya will proceed legally to close the said portion of Townline, and devote the same through lands in the Township of Pushtich, with the consent and co-operation of the Municipal Council of the Township of Pushtich. Any person having a just reason for opposing the said change of road can be heard at the meetings of the Nassagaweya Council to be held November 17 and December 15. JOHN MARSHALL, Township Clerk, November 6, 1939. 19-4

Painting and House Decoration Graining a Speciality Prompt Attention Satisfaction Guaranteed Estimates Given TELEPHONE 179 RICHARD H. BLANCHE Box 350, Acton

Savage & Co. WATCHES DIAMONDS CHINA GLASSWARE ENGAGEMENT AND WEDDING RINGS

GUELPH, ONTARIO 21 Wyndham St.