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About the House

Two Kinds of Honesty.

A certain brother and sister, just promoted from one school to another, found that among their new school-mates cheating was prevalent. It was apparently a point of pride with the pupils to deceive the teachers as often as possible and to invent new ways to do it. Neither of the newcomers yielded to the fashion, but they resisted it in very different ways.

The girl, who was of a strong and independent nature, detested the habit, felt a sweeping scorn for all who indulged in it and was outspoken in expressing her disdain. With the few who loved her honesty, she held herself apart from her mates; she toiled with indignant fidelity at her tasks, never complaining, never telling tales, and accepting with a feeling of exaltation rather than of discouragement a rank lower than that which her mental inferiors attained by cheating.

She was regarded as a person apart, who had strict notions, did not mind work, said sharp things and shot contemptuous glances. Her affairs were of no consequence to the rest of the school. She did not care for their opinion nor they for hers.

With her brother it was different. He was an active, companionable and sensitive boy who disliked work as

much as he loved play, cared immensely for what the other fellows thought of him, delighted in doing a good turn for anybody, and desired always to be like the persons he was with, and to do as they did.

He thought it mean to cheat, but he could not think meanly of all the pupils who cheated. Some of them were very "good sorts" in most things. Then, too, even if he himself did not cheat, how was he to keep from helping others to, when his best friends would ask him the answers to questions and think him a prig if he didn't tell?

He tried one day to acquaint his sister with his difficulties. She was horrified.

"Why, Tom," she exclaimed. "Do you mean to tell me you'd like to cheat?"

Now, that was exactly what Tom did mean. He would have liked to cheat. He felt the temptation and longed for the comfortable result. Yet he had not cheated. But he stammered and hesitated and felt so ashamed before the bristling virtue with which his sister received his confession that he never finished it. He dropped the subject as soon as he could, and so forfeited the strong and bracing help that he needed. If only the nature that was so nobly honest had been

patient and gentle too that sisterly opportunity would not have been thrown away.

The two are still at school. The aggressively honest girl still maintains her honorable oddity, and still wins no one to her side. The boy still refrains with difficulty from doing as the other pupils do; sometimes he helps his friends when it would be better for them if he refused. But his own work is still honest, and some of his mates are coming to do as he does, half from love of honesty and half from love of him. Perhaps, as his moral nature grows with his physical and mental growth, he will be as sturdily and naturally honest as his sister and more sympathetic than she with the weaknesses of others.

It is a fine thing to have a nature superior to common temptations; but when virtue asserts itself so vigorously that it crushes or alienates the feelings of those who are less hardy morally it links itself with a fault. Common honesty and common kindness should go hand in hand.

Some Short Cuts In Sewing.

When gathering, lengthen the machine stitch and make two rows of stitching about three-eighths of an inch apart. Draw up one thread of each row and you have neat gathers that will not slip out of place.

When putting on a straight facing or binding, let one edge be selvage. This saves much time and basting.

The less particular things may be pinned instead of basted. If you are careful to put the pins in at right angles to the line of stitching, the machine foot will pass over them with no trouble.

A little fancy stitching adds much to the appearance of some otherwise plain looking things. Wind floss on the bobbin of your machine, loosen the shuttle tension enough to allow the floss to pass through easily, and lengthen the stitch. Ordinary thread is used for the needle. Stamp the material and work on the wrong side. This stitching has the appearance of couching.—Mrs. H. R. W.

When cutting children's garments from a small amount of goods and piecing is necessary, piece where trimming would look most effective. Cover the seam with a bit of braid or a simple design in embroidery work or a few fancy stitches, as the long and short stitch, or feather stitch. On garments for grown-ups wool yarn or beads can be used in charming effects.

To do punch work by a short-cut method, use a design such as a wild rose or butterfly, baste a piece of strong paper underneath, then a piece of coarse curtain net. Work through all. When finished cut out linen, being very careful not to cut net. Tear out paper, leaving net, which greatly resembles punch work. This can be worked to great advantage in mending thin breaks in lunch cloths and also to cover stains. Work the design over the stain or hole and cut away. Mrs. R. R.

I have a family of seven to sew for, so I have to use all the short-cuts I can. I do very little basting and find I can make the work look just as neat as when I baste it.

I do my patching of every-day clothes on the sewing machine. I put a patch on the knee of a pair of overalls by ripping up the inside leg seam,

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



sewing the patch in place and then resewing the seam.

In making buttonholes in every-day garments, I sew back and forth three or four times, leaving a small space in centre where buttonhole is needed. This is then cut, being careful not to cut the stitching.

In making plain garments I cut out several garments at a time. Then stitch all seams so as to have them ready for pick-up work at odd times.

To prevent ripping in tablecloths, sheets, or towels at the ends, I sew back and forth two or three times in the same place instead of tying the threads.

When hemstitching wears out, I stitch serpentine braid across the worn edge. This makes a neat finish and lasts a long time.

When I get new-underwear I stitch two or three times around the buttonholes on the sewing machine. This prevents them from stretching or losing their shape.—Mrs. L. W. E.

I have five children to sew for, the oldest being five years of age. I do my summer sewing in the winter when the men are not working very hard and don't require the hearty meals that take so much time to prepare. I use lots of pins and do very little basting. I do the stitching with No. 40 thread, and instead of French seams lay the edges together and fold over about one-quarter inch and stitch. I find this will hold as long as the cloth will wear.

I make everything I can with the kimona sleeves. When it comes to darning men's cotton work socks, I crochet around the hole with knitting cotton, using single crochet and skipping every other stitch until hole is filled. I use tape to tie children's nightgowns instead of making buttonholes.—Mrs. A. H. S.

I think my greatest short-cut in sewing is the plain slip-over dress with sleeves and body all cut together. I use an old dress for a pattern. Cut out, finish around the neck and opening first. Sew up the two sides and arm seams, hem, finish the sleeves with bias binding, put on the fastening, the dress is ready to wear. I put straps on the side seams and make a sash or a belt. The neck can be opened down the front, back or on both shoulders.

A yard and a half of pink checked percale, scalloped around the bottom

and sleeves and finished with white bias binding and a white lawn sash made a very pretty dress for my seven-year-old daughter.

I find that a supply of cotton tape and bias binding of different widths is a great help. I always have a package of safety razor blades that are sharp on only one side, at hand when I want to do ripping.—Mrs. T. C.

Hop-a-Doodle.

Tie together the legs of two players so that to move ahead they have to hop. Furnish each of them with a smooth pole, about ten feet long and well padded at one end, and then let them see which can first push the other over with the padded end of the pole. The roosterlike contest will provide plenty of fun for those who look on as well as for those who take part.

Ivory on Islands.

The most valuable desolate islands in the world are the Liakova, in the Arctic Ocean, off the mouth of the Lena, in Siberia. They are frost-bound and utterly barren, save for Arctic moss; but they contain such enormous quantities of fossil ivory that they are exceedingly valuable—in fact, although uninhabited save for the ivory diggers, and of themselves incapable of supporting life, they produce a revenue of £1,000,000 a year.

To fear or to worry is as sinful as to curse, for how can one fear or worry if he intrinsically believes in the Eternal Justice, the Omnipotent Good, the Boundless Love? To fear, to doubt, is to deny, to disbelieve.—James Allen.

Live and Let Live.

There is no joy like that which comes from a useful life, the perpetual effort to do our level best; to try to get ahead without crowding others back, and injuring their opportunities or interfering with their rights; making the most of ourselves not only without making anyone else the poorer, but by helping them as we go. When one man goes upward he can carry a score with him, if he will.



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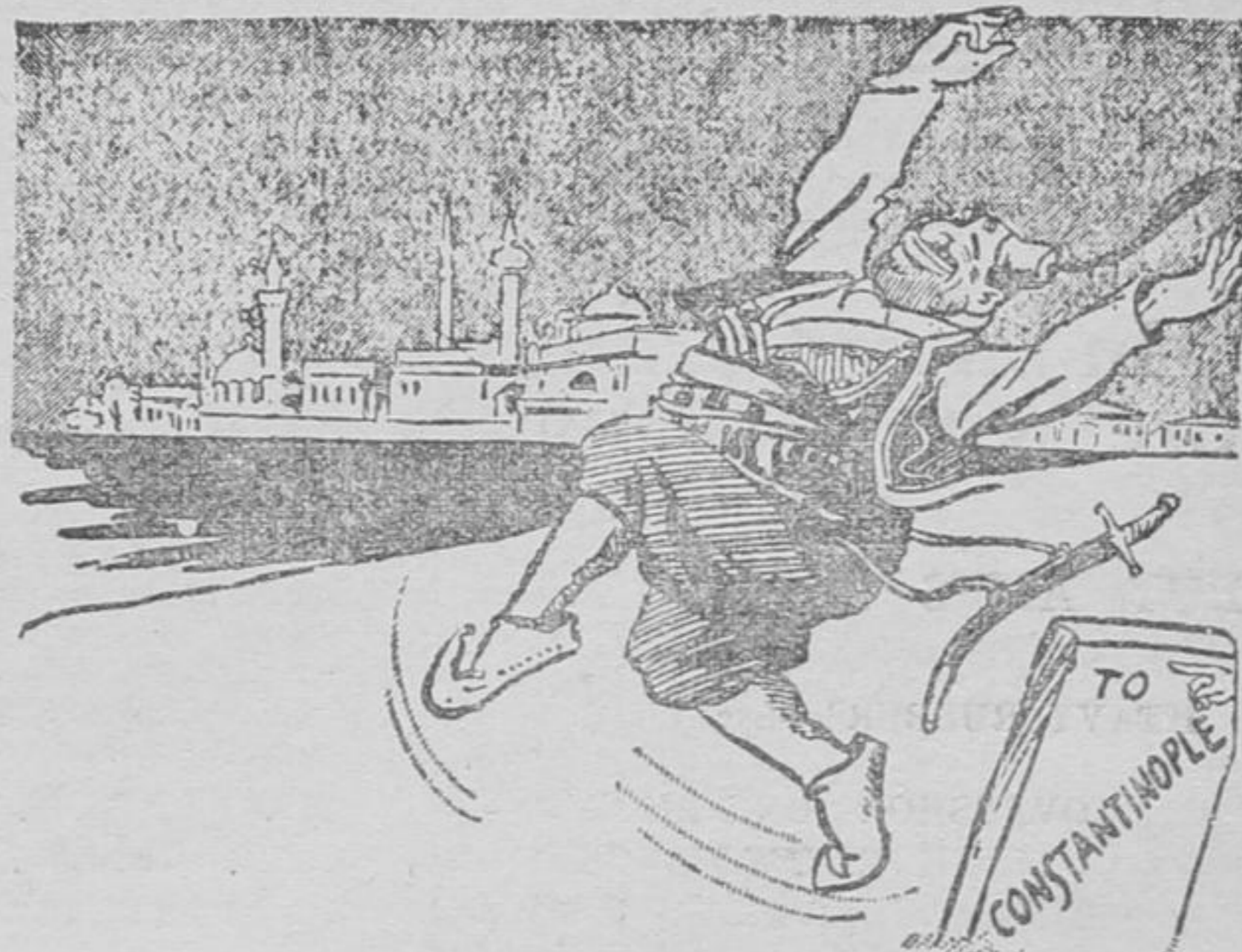
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