THE HISTORY OF

TOMMY TWO-SHOES.

HARTFORD:

Printed by Sheldon & Goodrich,

Stereotype Edition.

Lucy Lathrop

THE

HISTORY

OF

TOMMY TWO-SHOES,

OWN BROTHER TO

MRS. MARGERY TWO-SHOES.

EMBELLISHED WITH CUTS.

Salt

HARTFORD:
Printed by Sheldon & Goodwin.

[Stereotyped by J. F. & C. Starr.]

Capital Letters.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W

X Y Z.

Small Letters.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p

q r s t u v w x y z &.

Vowels.

A E I O U Y—a e i o u y.

Points.

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THE HISTORY

OF

TOMMY TWO-SHOES

CHAPTER I.

LITTLE Tommy Two-Shoes was born of honest, industrious parents, and although they had the misfortune to be reduced in their circumstances, yet they were very much respected by all who knew them, on account of their fidelity; and it was marked by all the reputable people in the neighbourhood, what care they took in bringing up their children in every christian virtue: however, the

Great Disposer and Wise Governour of all things, saw it best to take them early to their reward in heaven, by which means little Tommy, as also his sister Margery, lost the benefit of their parental affection and help; but as the children were careful to remember the instructions given them by their parents, when living, and to act accordingly, that Good Being who had taken the father and mother to himself, took care of the children which were left behind.

CHAPTER II.

MR. Smith, a very worthy clergyman, who lived in the parish where little Margery and Tommy were born, and having a relation come to see him, who was a charitable, good man, he sent for these children to him.—The gentleman said he would take Tommy and make him a little sailor, and accordingly had a jacket and trowsers made for him.—When Tommy looked at himself in his new dress, he was mightily pleased with it, and determined to do every thing in his power to merit a continuance of the favours of his new friend.

Mr. Kindheart (for that was the gentleman's name) thought Tommy a little too young to go to sea,

and therefore sent him to school; and his attendance to the thing

which he was taught, together with his good behaviour, soon gained him the esteem of his teacher and school-fellows. When he was put to writing, he spared no pains to get complete master of that art; and he succeeded so far, that all the boys in the school were directed to look to him as a

pattern. The manner in which he held his pen was admired by all; and his master, who was very expert at drawing, drew the figure of his hand and pen, and hung it up in the school, where it hangs to this day for all the boys to imitate.

CHAPTER III.

TOMMY having finished his education, Mr. Kindheart told him he intended going to London in a

few days, and that he was to go along with him; and as soon as his fortunate ship, the Come-again, could be got ready for sea, he should try his fortune in her.

But I must beg of you to stop a little till I tell you how very affecting the parting was between this little boy and his sister.—Tommy cried, and Margery cried, and

they kissed each other an hundred times; at length Tommy wiped off

her tears with the end of his jacket, and bid her cry no more—that he would come to her again when he returned from sea. However as they were so very fond, the gentleman would not suffer them to take leave of each other, but told Tommy he should ride out with him and come back at night. When night came, little Margery grew very uneasy about her brother, and after sitting up as late as Mr. Smith would let her, she went crying to bed, where we must wish her good night.

CHAPTER IV.

IT is generally known, that Tommy Two-Shoes went to sea when he was a very little boy, and very poor; and that he returned a very great man, and very rich; but no one knows how he acquired

so much wealth but himself and a few friends, who have perused the papers from which I am compiling the history of his life.

After Tommy had been at sea some years, he was unfortunately cast away, on that part of the coast of Africa, inhabited by the Hottentots.—Here he met with a strange book, which the Hottentots did not understand, and which gave him some account of Preston John's country; and being a lad of great curiosity and resolution, he determined to see it; accordingly he set out on the pursuit, attended by a young lion which he had tamed and made so fond of him, that he followed him like a dog, and obeyed all his commands; and indeed it was well for him that he had such a companion, for as his road lay through large woods and for-

ests that were full of wild beasts and without inhabitants, he must have been soon starved or torn in pieces, had he not been both fed and protected by this noble animal.

Tommy had provided himself with two guns, a sword, and as much powder and ball as he could carry; with these arms, and such a companion, it was mighty easy for him to get food; for the animals in these wild and extensive forests, having never seen the effects of a gun, readily ran from the lion, who hunted on one side, to Tommy who hunted on the other so that they were either caught by the lion, or shot by his master and it was pleasant enough, after hunting match, and the meat was dressed, to see how cheek by jow' they sat down to dinner.

When they came into the land of Utopia, he discovered the statue of a man erected on an open plain, which had this inscription on the pedestal :—*On May-Day in the morning, when the sun rises, I shall have a head of gold.* As it was now the latter end of April, he staid to see the wonderful change, and in the time inquiring of a poor shepherd what was the reason of the statue being erected there, and with that inscription? He was informed, that it was set up many years ago by an Arabian philosopher, who travelled all the world over in search of a real friend; that he lived with, and was extremely fond of a great man who inhabited the next mountain, but that on some occasion they quarrelled, and the philosopher leaving the mountain, retired into the

plain, where he erected this statue with his own hands, and soon after died. To this he added, that all people for many leagues round came there every May morning expecting to see the stone head turned to gold.

Tommy got up very early on the first of May to behold this amazing change, and when he came near the statue, he saw a number of people who all ran away from him in the utmost consternation, having never before seen a lion follow a man like a lap-dog. Being thus left alone, he fixed his eyes on the sun, then rising with resplendent majesty, and afterwards turned to the statue, but could see no change in the stone. Surely, says he to himself, there is some mystical meaning in this: This inscription must be an enigma, the

hidden meaning of which I will endeavour to find, for a philosopher would never expect a stone to be turned to gold. Accordingly, he measured the length of the shadow, which the statue gave on the ground by the sun shining on it and marked that particular part where the head fell; then getting a chopness, (a thing like a spade,) and digging, he discovered a copper chest, full of gold, with this inscription engraven on the lid of it:—

Thy WIT,
O man, whoever thou art,
Hath disclosed the enigma,
And discovered the GOLDEN HEAD.
Take it and use it,
But use it with WISDOM;
For know
That GOLD, properly employed,

May dispense blessings,
And promote the happiness of
mortals ;
But when hoarded up,
Or misapplied,
Is but trash, that makes mankind
miserable.
Remember
The unprofitable servant,
Who hid his talent in a napkin ;
And
The profligate son,
Who squandered away his sub-
stance, and fed with the swine.
As thou hast got the GOLDEN HEAD,
Observe the *golden mean*,
Be *good* and be *happy*.

This lesson, coming as it were from the dead, struck him with such awe and reverence for piety and virtue, that before he removed the treasure, he kneeled down

and earnestly and fervently prayed that he might make a prudent, just, and proper use of it. He

then conveyed the chest away, and by his prudence and activity got it safe to *Old England*.

As he was now possessed of sufficient wealth, and had it in his power to fix in any part of the kingdom he pleased, he took a straight course for the city of York, knowing it to be a genteel healthful, pleasant, and plentiful situation, where he spent his remaining days in ease and honour; and as he was determined to be as good as he was great, he attended divine service every day at the Minister. He continued this practice for several years, and then died in peace.

CHAPTER V.

IT may not be improper, however, in this place, to give the reader some account of the philosopher who hid his treasure, and took so much pains to find a true and real friend to enjoy it. As Tommy had reason to venerate his memory he was very particular in his inquiry, and had this character of him: that he was a man well acquainted with nature and with trade; that he was pious, friendly, and of a sweet and affable disposition: that he had acquired a fortune by commerce, and having no relation to leave it to, he travelled through Arabia, Persia, India, Lybia, and Utopia, in search of a real friend.—In this pursuit he found several, with whom he

exchanged good offices, and that were polite and obliging; but they often flew off for trifles, or as soon as he pretended to be in distress, and requested their assistance, left him to struggle with his own difficulties.—So true is that copy in our books, which says, *Adversity*

is the Touch-Stone of Friendship. At last, however, he met with the Utopian philosopher, or the wise man of the mountain, as he is called, and thought in him he had found the friend he wanted; for though he often pretended to be in distress, and abandoned to the frowns of fortune, this man always relieved him, and with such cheerfulness and sincerity, that concluding he had found the only man to whom he ought to open both his purse and his heart, he let him so far into his secrets, as to desire his assistance in hiding a large sum of money which he wanted to conceal, lest the prince of the country, who was absolute, should, by the advice of his wicked minister, put him to death for his gold.—The two philosophers met and hid the money, which the stranger af-

ter some days went to see, but found it gone. How was he struck to the heart, when he found that his friend, whom he often tried, and who had relieved him in his distress, could not withstand this temptation, but broke through the sacred bonds of friendship, and turned even a thief for gold which he did not want, as he was already very rich. Oh! said he, what is the heart of man made of? Why am I condemned to live among people who have no sincerity, and who barter the most sacred ties of friendship and humanity, for the dirt that we tread on? Had I lost my gold, and found a real friend, I should have been happy with the exchange; but now I am most miserable. After some time he wiped off his tears, and being determined not to be so imposed on, had

recourse to cunning and the arts of life. He went to his pretended friend with a cheerful countenance, and told him he had more gold to hide, and desired him to appoint a time when they might go together, and open the earth to put it into the same pot; the other, in hopes of getting more wealth, appointed the next evening. They went together, opened the ground, and found the money they had first placed there, for the artful wretch he so much confided in, had conveyed it again into the pot, in order to obtain more. Our philosopher immediately took the gold, and putting it into his pocket, told the other he had now altered his mind, and should bury it no more, till he found a man more worthy of his confidence. See what people lose by being dishon-

est. This calls to my mind the words of the poet:—

A wit's a feather, and a chief's a rod,
An honest man's the noblest work of God.

Remember this story, and take care whom you trust; but don't be covetous, sordid, and miserable; for the gold we have is but lent us to do good with. We received all from the hand of God, and every person in distress hath a just title to a portion of it.

When you play with a Horse, take care of his Heels.

A BOY who was at school ran to catch a Horse that was in the field; upon which one of his friends, who was older and wiser than he, told him not to go near the Horse, for he would kick; Dick was above taking his friend's advice; and the horse, when he came within reach of his heels, gave him such a kick that he was taken up for dead.

What a silly Boy was this, not to take his friend's advice; had he observed what was said to him, and kept at a distance, he would not have been mangled in this manner

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL LESSONS.

The first Lesson to be Good.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart. with all thy soul, and with all thy strength.

The second Lesson to be Good.

Thou shalt love thy neighbours and all people, as well as thou loveest thyself, and do unto all men as you would have all men do unto you.

1728 Solid inches make one solid ft.

The third Lesson to be Good.

Elliot, Mary (Belson

Thou shalt love thyself, and take care to preserve thy life and health; and to do that, you must not be idle, nor over fond of eating or drinking, or sleeping, or of pleasure; but employ yourself in some sort of labour or exercise, and live soberly, temperately, and chastly.

N. B. The first of these lessons implies piety, or your duty towards God; the second, charity, or your duty to your neighbour; and the third, sobriety, or your duty to yourself; and this, love of God, of your neighbour, and of yourself, is the ultimate end, or point, to which all human actions should be directed.

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