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CASTORIA

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

Ambition,
Or the Pluck of Edward McGray
By Victoria Barnard Age 14,
Hartford Ky.

The night was dark and the snow was falling fast, in the great city of New York a sixteen year old boy was slowly walking home. He had a beautiful face, but that was covered with dirt. A suit of golden hair and a pair of holly shoes and a ragged suit of clothes completed his description.

"I wonder what mother will say. I have done my best. I wish I had a father," he said. This boy was Edward Lawrence McGray. He supported his mother by selling newspapers, opera tickets and doing anything he could get pay for. When he reached the great, tall, rugged tenement where he and his mother lived, he opened the door and went into his mother's room, "mother," he said, "I have only earned one dollar. I tried to earn more, but I could not."

"That is all right," answered his mother, "I would not have expected more. If your father had lived you would not have to work so hard." After supper they soon went to bed. The next morning Edward ate an early breakfast and left early.

When he passed by the N. and Y. Savings Bank a man stopped him and said, "do you want to earn a dollar?" "Yes indeed," answered the man as he drew a roll of bonds out of his pocket.

"Take these into that bank and sell them."

Edward took them and went into the bank and walked up to the cashier.

"What can I do for you, my little man? Do you want to put some money in the bank?" asked the cashier.

"No, answered Edward, "I want to sell these bonds." He showed the bonds to the cashier.

"Do you want silver or paper money?" asked the cashier.

"I don't know," answered Edward, "wait a minute and I go ask, the man is right out side the door."

Now a man sending a boy into the bank to sell some bonds, while he stood outside the door in a large city would raise suspicion.

"Wait a minute, said a man coming into the room. The man went outside and brought in the man that had given Edward the bonds. "Now, tell us where you got the bonds," asked the cashier.

"I won't tell anybody," answered the man that held him captive, "he has been to the jail once before. We know that those bonds are Mr. Woods. But that boy must not lose a dollar. Give him one and have him to leave his name because when Mr. Woods comes home from Europe he will want to see him." Then the man left with the captive.

"What is your name sonny," asked the cashier.

"Edward Lawrence McGray," answered Edward, "No—Mutt Street."

"All right here is your money," said the cashier, handing Edward a dollar.

"Don't you want me to expose another thief?" asked Edward.

"No it is too expensive," answered the cashier.

Edward left the bank feeling good over this experience. He made fifty cents more that day. That evening after he had eaten his supper his mother said to him, "Edward have you heard of the boy that exposed a thief at the N. and Y. Savings Bank?" "What about it mother," asked Edward. "I will read it," answered his mother, picking up the paper. This is what she read.

"In this city this morning at 7 a. m., a very queer event occurred. A boy entered the N. and Y. Savings Bank and said he wanted to sell some bonds. The cashier asked him if he wanted silver or paper money. He said wait a minute and he would go ask the man who was out side the door. The bonds were found to have been Mr. Woods', and the man had stolen them. The cashier has mislaid his name and address so we cannot give his name."

"Do you know any thing about it, or do you know the boy?" asked his mother after she had finished reading.

"Yes mother I know all about it," answered Edward smiling, "because I was the boy."

"Now Edward," said his mother, "talk seriously, do you know the boy?"

"Yes, mother, now seriously, I am the boy," answered Edward, whereupon he told all about it.

Two weeks later Edward went into the N. and Y. Savings Bank to deposit some money. When he got to the cashier's window the cashier said, "Aren't you Edward Lawrence McGray?" "yes," answered Edward, "well," replied the cashier, "Mr. Woods has returned from Europe and wishes to see you."

Edward left the bank feeling very happy. He took a car and went to see Mr. Woods. When the conductor came around after the tickets the lady that was by Edward thrust her hands into her pockets and drew them then out in dismay.

"Why sir," she said, "I guess I have lost my pocket book. But I will give

you my card and will pay you when I get home."

"That won't work. I must have my pay answered the conductor.

"Take the pay out of this," interrupted Edward. The conductor took the pay.

"How can I thank you my boy." Exclaimed the woman, "May I ask your name and address. Mine is No. 129 Fifth Ave." Why I thought Mr. Woods lived there," said Edward. "It is. But I am his daughter and live with him. But are you the boy that exposed the thief that stole father's bonds," she asked in surprise. "Yes I am the boy. But I believe I had less to do with it than what people say," answered Edward. Well any way father wants to see you," replied Miss Woods.

After a while they got off of the car and went up the steps of Mr. Woods beautiful residence. He went into the library while Miss Woods went up stairs to tell her father. When Mr. Woods came down he greeted Edward kindly. When he had talked a while he told Edward to tell him about the bonds. After he had finished, Mr. Woods said, "would you like to enter my dry goods store?" "Very much," replied Edward. "Well," answered Mr. Woods, you will be engaged at \$5 a week." After awhile Edward left feeling very happy. He went home and told his mother about it.

It is now five years later and Edward and his mother live in a nice little cottage on the shore of the ocean. Edward earns \$3 a week. His motto is "Have pluck and there will be luck," and he still sticks to it.

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An Alphabet Party.

This is a rather odd party, and may be participated in by all who know their "A. B. C." The question in each case is, What letter or letters of the alphabet have the following meaning?

Containing nothing? M T (empty.)
Statement of indobtedness? I O U (I owe you.)
Part of a house? L (ell)
An insect? B (bee).
To behold? C (See.)
Part of the body? I (eye).
A famous poem? L E G (elegy).
A number? A T (eighty).
All right? O K.
A foe? N M E (enemy).
Indefinite quantity? N E (any).
A vegetable? (pea).
Intemperance? X S (excess).
An image? F E G (effigy).
Poorly dressed? C D (sleazy).
Two of a kind? W (double u).
To covet? N V (envy).
A bird? J (Jay).
A verb? R (are) or B (be) or C (see).
A common beverage? T (tea).
A girl's name? L C (Elise).
Another one? L N (Ellen).
Yet another? F E (Effie).
Still another? K T (Katie).
A literary effort? S A (essay).

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