

# YOUNG TOMSON,

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PRICE SIXPENCE.

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*LONDON:*

Published at J. T. WARD and Co's. Juvenile Library,  
No. 3, Bread-Street-Hill, Cheapside.

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1808.

George Collis, given him by the  
Wallowford Sunday School, for learning  
his book. FRONTISPIECE. well



WINTER FIRE SIDE.

YOUNG TOMSON,  
OR THE  
CONSEQUENCES  
OF  
*BAD HABITS IN YOUTH.*



*Embellished with Twelve Superb Wood Cuts.*

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LONDON :

Published at J. T. WARD and Co's. Juvenile Library,  
No, 3, Bread-street Hill, Cheapside.

1807.

*Arliss and Huntsman, Printers, 32, Gutter-lane*

# YOUNG TOMSON.

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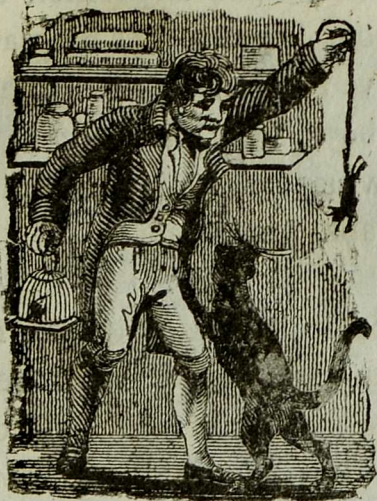
THE little hero of the following history was the only son of a wealthy farmer in the county of Norfolk and having but one daughter, two years younger than our hero, they thought their property sufficient to allow of little indulgences to them.

This being all their family it may easily be supposed they were gratified in every wish and inclination, but the disposition and tempers of their two children were as opposite as possible.

The boy was naturally of an active spirit, daring beyond his age, and a presence of mind that never forsook him in the most perilous situations ; endowed with such qualifications, his friends foretold the advancement of his family in the world by the exertion of his talents, or the involvement of himself in numerous difficulties.

His sister was of a gentle and mild disposition, docile and more desirous of contributing to the happiness of others, than anxious to gratify her own inclination after the wonted amusements of those of her age.

Such were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, who were now placed under the care and tuition of a worthy woman in the neighbourhood, to receive their first lesson.



It was in this case as in many others, that he was foremost in mischief, as well as in getting his lesson; many are the tricks he played, and the various schemes he formed to escape detection.

One day the poor old woman was taken very ill and went to bed, and one of the neighbours was sent for, who not

knowing the wicked disposition of Master Tomson, for that was his name, did not observe him more than the rest of the little boys, which had she have done the following sad accident might have been perhaps, prevented.

The woman having put some meat in a saucepan and placed it on the fire to make some broth for the poor old woman, and left young Tomson to take care none of the little ones came near it, while she went up stairs, which she promised to do ; but no sooner was she gone, and the water began to boil, than he called two or three of the lesser children around him, and told them they might look at the bubbles in the pot, and he would lift them up, which he did, by taking hold of their feet and thrusting their hands into the boiling water, after





TOMSON AT SCHOOL.



The first of these is the school of the  
 town of ... at ...  
 which was founded in the year ...  
 and ...

which he pulled the saucepan down and scalded his sister and two others very much.

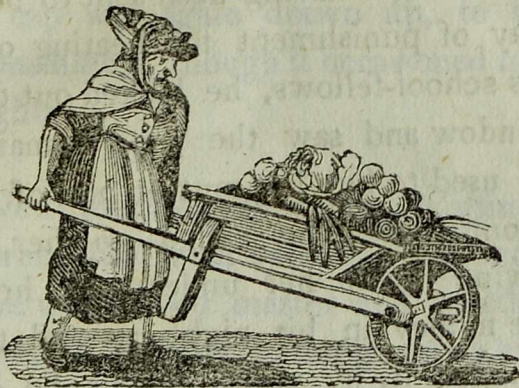
His sister was of a delicate constitution and mild temper, scarcely ever mixing with the other children in their romping games, but careful to attend to the advice and wishes of her amiable mother, under whose care and protection she made a worthy woman, and was very soon after married to a rich gentleman in that neighbourhood.

In the mean time her enterprising brother having been with his school-mistress while she could teach him no more, it was thought necessary to remove him to a boarding-school about twenty-eight miles from home, where he found amongst the large number there

too many, my dear little readers, like himself.

For some time he behaved himself much to the satisfaction of his master, being particularly attentive to his book, and got his lessons well, but having plenty of pocket money allowed by his parents to place him on a footing of equality with his school-fellows, he again had recourse to his foolish ways; he became fond of buying all the toys and sweetmeats that attracted his notice, and in a short time acted with less prudence than at first.

At length his wants were so numerous that his allowance was not sufficient to supply them, and in consequence had many things on credit unknown to his master, and much to the blame of the



people who trusted him, as it involved him in many distresses, and fixed a ruinous sentiment in his heart which was afterwards the cause of much misfortune to him.

He never wanted long what he once fixed his mind upon, for he had a quick genius, and soon devised means of procuring what he was not allowed openly to purchase.

One night having been sent to bed by way of punishment for beating one of his school-fellows, he looked out of the window and saw the poor woman that he used to buy hot mutton pies of, [See Frontispiece] he called to her, and having made her understand, he put the money in his night-cap and tied a string to it, by which means he let it down, and the woman supplied the place of the money with a pie, then pulling the string as a signal the pie was drawn in at the chamber window in the night-cap.

This he always practised when sent to bed before his school-fellows, but the master getting to know of this plan, took care to watch him, and so contrived it that when he let down the cap to take the money out and put some

stones in, then he pulled the string and the cap was again drawn up, to their astonishment, though it occasioned much laughter.

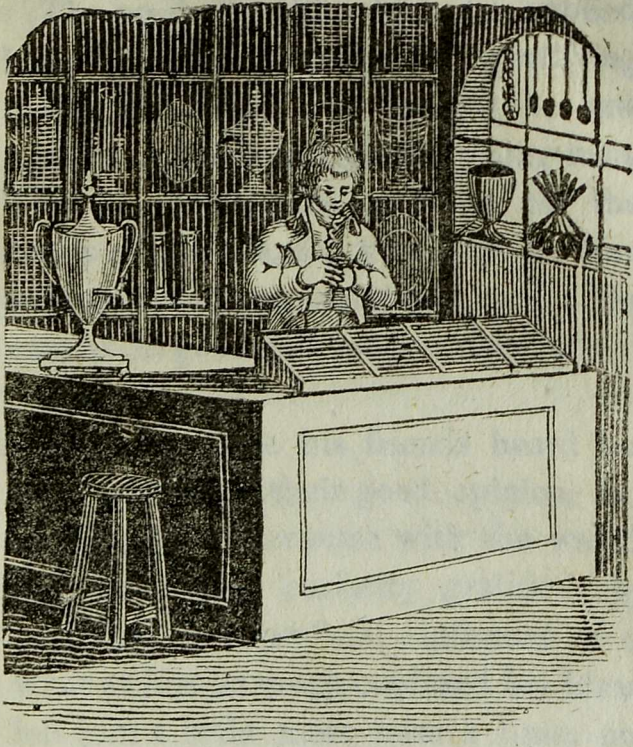
Next morning the master, wishing to prevent him from spending his money as he was a good master and gave them plenty of victuals, jokingly asked him if he had any more money to spare, and never beat him, but only told him to keep his money and be careful.

This good nature had no effect upon him for he now began to imbibe that dangerous feeling of indifference to whom he owed money, or how he spent his allowance; this brought upon the displeasure of his master, he gave an alarm to his anxious friends, and advised them to settle him with some respec-

table person, that would check his careless temper and learn him a valuable business that might always procure him a respectable living, when his friends should think him steady enough to be entrusted with his own property.

This scheme, like the rest, succeeded very well for a time, as it divided him from from his old companions, and engaged his attention by something new and he was put apprentice to Mr. George Allworthy, a noted jeweller in the city, of London, with whom he was delighted together with the mystery of the business, stimulated his active mind to obtain a thorough knowledge of what he saw daily transacting around him, the utility and purport of which he could not clearly comprehend at the first view.





TOMSON APPRENTICE.



The assiduity with which he applied himself to business was highly gratifying to Mr. Allworthy, who thought he saw a promising prospect for the young man. This character gave gladness to the hearts of his friends, who thought him well secured from temptation under the care of so good and industrious a man.

For some time his friends heard nothing to change their good opinion, but an extended intercourse with the world, and his ardent curiosity gratified by acquiring a superficial information of what at first so much confused his ideas, left him a little more leisure time, nor did he feel that anxiety for business which was the same almost every day, that he did on commencing his career in life: it may easily be imagined that he would form a connection with young

men in similar situations and of course incline to their company when business would permit. Ever aspiring, his companions were most generally older than himself, which occasioned him at a very early period to imitate the actions of men.

It was not long before Mr. Allworthy discovered with much disquietude, the inclinations of his young man to company, and a reluctance to be confined to business ; he thought it in his power to arrest its progress without alarming the minds of his affectionate parents ; he accordingly took an early opportunity to reason with him on the impropriety of his conduct, and the misfortunes it would finally bring upon him if he did not immediately reform, and employ his leisure time to more advantage, and apply the

property allowed by his parents for the enjoyment of innocent pleasures, to more beneficial and laudable purposes.

This friendly admonition was listened to with patience, though it had no favorable influence upon a mind already persuaded that present pleasures were better than the prospect of future happiness and comfort.

This sentiment my dear little reader, was the cause of many years trouble and distress, and when too late he perceived the deceitfulness of such sentiments.

From one imprudent step he was hurried on to another, until Mr. Allworthy could no longer hide his many extravagant excesses from his friends,

which he daily indulged in, without a breach of the high trust, and confidence reposed in him; he therefore communicated the heart-reading intelligence in as mild terms as he could, without deceiving the parents, whose feelings on becoming, acquainted with their son's conduct, may be better fancied than described; no time, however, was to be lost, and they set out for London next day, to receive him again into their own care, and with the intention to propose fixing him in business on his own account, thinking that would be the likeliest method of diverting his attention from his present connection and manner of living.

The parents arrived in London at a very convenient season, as some of his tradesmen were become very pressing for

their money, which he ought to have paid long before, but having applied the money given him for that purpose, to his own immediate use, they found him in a very unpleasant situation, from which, their paternal goodness once more released him.

Matters being finally settled with Mr. Allworthy, they took leave of him, Frank receiving his last friendly advice, the parents, presenting their thanks to Mr. Allworthy, for interesting himself so much for the welfare, of their son, after mutual professions of esteem, departed from him with regret.

Their state of mind during the journey home was by no means an enviable one Tomson stung with remorse at his past follies, preserved a sullen silence, while

the parents occupied themselves in forming plans to secure his future happiness and welfare.

Being recovered from the fatigue of their journey, they began to consider the necessary steps to be taken, after some deliberation it was determined to fix him in business in the city of Norwich, where he would be very near to them; which was done as early as possible.

They provided him a nice house and shop, which instead of his attending to, he became more extravagant and proud. Nor did his mind rest satisfied in bringing himself to distress, but he married a respectable tradesman's daughter, and by his ill treatment broke her heart.





His friends were now all tired of assisting him, and the clamours of his tradesmen becoming very loud, he resolved on leaving the business and going abroad.

Stung with remorse he enlisted in a regiment then going to the West Indies; in their passage there came on a very heavy storm, which made him feel what his bad ways had brought upon him, for being now but in his two-and-twentieth

year, a fine stout young man, they made him work very hard.

The ship put in at St. Domingo for provisions, not knowing the desperate state of that country, and were forced to fight to get themselves released; but during the time the rest of the crew were in the engagement he was contriving to make his escape from them, which he accomplished in a singular manner.

As he was in the act of getting on shore, a ball from a musket struck his left hand, which made him quit his hold, and he fell backwards upon a large plank that was floating upon the water.

Here he laid for some time, till at length recovered from the loss of blood

he endeavoured to regain the shore. He saw two blacks at a distance in a boat, who seeing his unhappy situation came to him; they took him into their boat, dressed his wound, took him home to their little hut, and gave him some food.

By this kind treatment he soon recovered, but his bad disposition soon involved him in fresh difficulties, for having found out that these two blacks had a few small diamonds in their possession, he contrived by a villainous scheme to rob them, and resolved to take away the lives of these two humane blacks, who had once saved his, not doubting but that would enable him best to secure the diamonds, avoid detection, and escape the punishment due to his wickedness and ingratitude: the in-

tervention of providence prevented the commission of so much sin, but he got clear off with the diamonds.

Now he bent his way further up the country, unknowing whither he was going, or how to subsist; his sorrows now came fast upon him: in a foreign land, without even the necessaries of life, and inexpectation every moment, of seeing some monster stalk forward to devour him, worn out with anxiety, hunger and fatigue, he sat himself down, and in a short time fell fast asleep, but he was disturbed by hideous dreams; in about six hours he awoke to all the horrors of his situation in the middle of a large forest, and a prospect of nought but death before him, but he was yet doomed to feel more adversary.



So much was this once daring and proud young man humbled, that he felt inclined to bend his knee to that bountiful God whom he had so long neglected; yet almost ashamed to do it now as he did not even think of it in his prosperity; these are generally the feelings of a proud heart, that has neglected a benefactor.

While his mind was thus engaged, he suddenly lifted up his head, and perceived two black men at a consider-

able distance, who appeared to be coming near the spot where he was; they soon observed and made towards him, on their approach he discovered them to be the same two men whom he had robbed of the diamonds, and intended to have destroyed.

He would now gladly have hid himself from their notice, but that was impossible, he therefore awaited his fate with as much resignation, as a guilty man may be supposed to do, not doubting but they would take away his life, in this, however, he was deceived.

As first they appeared much displeased, but observing his distress they seemed all on a sudden to pity him, and on making them understand how long it was since he had taken any food, they



INDIAN GENEROSITY.



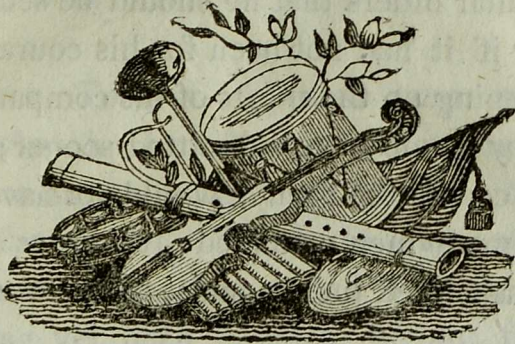


became kind, and gave him some of the victuals which they had brought out for their own use: thus you see black men can be humane, and are not so cruel as we have been told, unless they are injured, and then they have the same feelings as white men.

When he had eaten as much as he would, they made him understand, they would go with him to the coast in search of a vessel, that he might go back to his own country or get a living by working as a sailor, which he was glad to do, and accordingly began their journey, they were fortunate enough on their arrival to meet with a merchant vessel bound to England, he made an agreement with the master of her, and went on board directly.

To the master he was an acquisition, he having lost some of his crew by the diseases peculiar to the climate; two days afterward, they set sail, nothing particular occurred during the voyage, until they came within a days sail of England, in company with two other vessels, that had joined them on their passage, when they observed a French frigate bearing down to attack them, seeing it impossible to make their escape, it was resolved to try if they could not defend themselves against her; she fired at them without asking any questions, which was immediately returned by the merchant vessels, the battle now became very hot, in which our hero behaved with a great deal of bravery.

The French ship had a greater num-



ber of men, and better calculated for fighting than the merchantmen, who were now unable to fight any longer, the French took possession of them, and made the best of their way to Holland, where they sold the ships and cargoes, and sent the sailors to prison, to be kept as prisoners of war, among whom was Tomson, who had now the prospect of being confined in a dungeon.

The captain of the frigate gave particular orders that he should be secured, for if it had not been for his courage in keeping up the spirits of his companions, they would have submitted sooner; and of course the French would not have had so many men wounded; this was what exasperated them against him.

Tomson still loved his native land, though he had been so long absent from it, and could not bear the idea of his countrymen and their property being seized, without feeling vexed; when the battle was over he threw his firelock into the sea, saying no Frenchman should ever use it against his country.

Now he was in a situation much worse than he had ever been before, for his daring spirit had so enraged the Cap-

tain, that he had ordered him to be heavy laden with chains.

Poor Tomson appeared very sorry for what he had done, which made the sailors have more pity for him than they had for the rest. This he took advantage of, and while they rested at night not having yet been chained, he got from them and made the best of his way to the first town; but not having any money, he had nothing to eat.

On the next evening he sauntered about the town, but not meeting with any person, who would give him any food to eat, because he was so wicked a young man, he robbed a gentleman of his purse, and travelled all night to the next town, where he arrived before many people got up.

Having bought a Dutch dress, he went to the next public house, got something to eat and drink, forgot all his cares, and began drinking and dancing with some sailors who by means of a trap door let him fall into a cellar.

There they let him remain for some time, but hearing he had committed a robbery, they bound him fast with chains and hurried him to a dungeon.

The horrible distress he was now doomed to live in, made him reflect on his sad conduct, which was the sole cause of his wretched situation.

He thought to himself, had I attended to the advice of my dear parents, and been careful to have followed the steps



TOMSON FALLING INTO THE CELLAR.





of my worthy master I should not have been reduced to this sad condition.

He then thought of the grief his friends must have experienced from his long absence, and their never hearing from him.

And so it did; his affectionate mother took it to heart, and died about a year after he left England.

His father lived only six months after, for one evening in the summer season sitting at his cottage door, reflecting on his son's ingratitude, he began to give way to his sorrow; he continued his grief for a day or two, refusing all the food he was offered, and on the third day was seized with convulsions, and in the evening expired.

My dear little reader, consider the affliction of his sister on seeing her parents brought to an untimely grave by their grief for a wicked son.

He had now been in prison nearly two years without any other food than bread and water, and nothing but the cold and damp floor of his dungeon to sleep on, and without any possible means of escaping.

But one evening groping about his dark abode, he found a knife, which he again concealed, until time should bring round a convenient opportunity to release himself by cutting off his chains.

It was not long before he began to put his plans in forwardness for making his escape; by degrees he cut his chains

nearly in two, in several places : when the gaolor had been round to all the separate cells of the prison, which was a regular custom every evening at six o'clock, to see that all was safe, and to lock the doors.

Upon the departure of the gaolor, Frank always prosecuted his work, and revolved in his mind the conduct necessary to observe to avoid suspicion, and for the more effectually making his escape, thus was he occupied till nearly morning, being a laborious task to perforate his strong iron shackles with an old knife.

His ardent spirits suffered no depression from the many difficulties that presented themselves to his imagination that he would have to encounter before

he could reach his long deserted native shores.

From habit his prison had become familiar to him, where he could have no society, save that of a ferocious looking keeper, who was not all times a welcome visitor ;and an innocent mouse that found a passage into his cell, and at last became so tame that it would play beside of him, and even eat a bit of bread out of his hand.

When the gaoler came in the evening, he had taken off his irons, and the moment he entered the dungeon, he knocked him down, run out, and pulled the doors to after him.

He got from the town as quick as possible, and travelled till he came to

the sea shore, where he saw a vessel at anchor; he asked for the Captain, and told him the whole of his adventures and sad career

The captain told him he would take him home if he would promise to amend his life.

He thanked him for his kindness and assured him he would.

They arrived at Dover in a day or two after, and the Captain gave him money to pay his fare on the outside of the coach to London.

“Talk not to him of better days.  
Can all the drops of heaven restore to  
vegetation a withered tree.

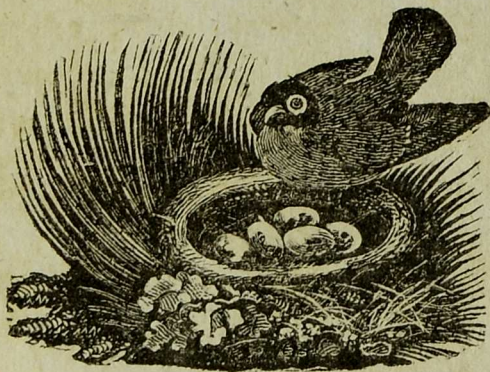
“ Can the shrouded corpse feel pride in the gay trappings of the living.

“ The hollow moanings of the wind ; the thickest glooms of night are more congenial to the miserable.—Rejoice, ye light hearted ; because innocent, rejoice ! the flowery way, the sunny path, the smilingly-inviting perspective are yours.—But the remorse-struck, broken-hearted criminal can only view about him the pall, the winding-sheet, the coffin, and the grave.” Now let us attend to the last scene of poor Tomson’s existence.

Punishment will always fall on the wicked, so Tomson did not escape, for he fell from the top of the coach, and broke his leg.

The coach-man took him to an hospital, where he had great care taken of him, and his sister sent for; but his limb was so dreadfully fractured that a mortification came on, and she arrived only just in time to see the end of her wretched brother, who died two hours after.

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