



Stories

-of-

Self-Reliance

*An American Sunday School
Union Publication By*

Joseph Tuttle

Stories of Self-Reliance

Stories

-of-

Self-Reliance

*An American Sunday School
Union Publication By*

Joseph Tuttle

A publication of

THE
Greater  Heritage
Sound Theology Intellectual Rigor

Winter Springs, FL

2021

Stories of Self-Reliance by Joseph Tuttle
First published in 1853 as *Self-Reliance*
This eBook edition first published in July 2021
© 2021 The Greater Heritage

Published by The Greater Heritage
1170 Tree Swallow Dr., Suite 309
Winter Springs, FL 32708

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher. Exceptions apply for brief quotations used for reviews and/or articles.

Email: info@thegreaterheritage.com
Website: www.thegreaterheritage.com

Cover Design: J.R. Waller
Font(s): Adobe Caslon Pro, MrsEavesPetiteCaps, Vollkorn.

ISBN (PDF): 978-1-953855-28-2
ISBN (EPUB): 978-1-953855-29-9
ISBN (MOBI): 978-1-953855-30-5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 25 24 23 22 21

“He was a man among men, whom
it was a pleasure and a benediction
to have known.”

*-General Lew Wallace (1827-1905) from a
speech given at Joseph Tuttle's funeral*

The following narrative, written by a clergyman, was suggested by a paragraph in a letter from another clergyman, in which reference was made to his own experience of the goodness of God, in bringing him out of many perplexities and hardships, into a position of great usefulness and comfort. The general outlines of his struggles, his early energy and integrity, together with many personal anecdotes, having been ascertained, it was thought they might be useful if woven into a story for the young.

American Sunday School Union

Contents

1	“I Wish I Was a Man!”	01
2	“Mother Is Dying”	05
3	A Mother’s Grave.	10
4	Dark Days and Wise Counsel	13
5	God Helps the Man Who Helps Himself	17
6	Hard Work and Good Wages.	21
7	Farmer Jones Makes an Offer.	24
8	John Makes a Visit	29
9	Where There Is a Will There Is a Way	32
10	The Doctor’s Bill	40
11	Important Changes	43
12	Startling Proposition	51
13	Ways and Means	56
14	Keep Good Courage	60

15	The Sleigh-Ride and Duty	64
16	New Scenes	70
17	The Hypochondriac	77
18	A Serious Mistake	88
19	The Path Regained	95
20	Conflicting Opinions	100



“Perhaps I can help father?”

I

“I Wish I Was a Man!”

“Mother, what makes father look so sad when he comes into the house?” said little John, one day. “He hardly notices me and Mary any more; and I was certain I saw a tear in his eye yesterday, as he looked toward the twins in the cradle.”

“There are some difficulties which my little boy cannot very well understand, I fear,” said the mother. She was a delicate-looking woman. As she spoke, she laid her hand upon his head.

“Oh yes, I guess I can. Do tell me, for perhaps I can help father!”

“And what could such a little boy as you do?” said his mother, smiling.

“I can work, and get money,” said the little fellow, with great animation.

“Nobly said, my boy! But how long would it take you to get four hundred dollars, to pay off your father’s debt?”

“Why, - does he owe so much as that, mother? Oh, I wish I was a man! How I would work, and get money, if that is making

father look so sad! But, mother, how does it happen that father owes four hundred dollars?"

"Your father had earned enough at his trade to buy this little house where we live, and the people concluded to make him a constable. By-and-by, he had orders to collect debts of some poor people; and because they cried, and told him they were very poor, he would not sell their cow, nor the beds on which they slept, as he must do, if he would get the debt paid."

"I like father the better for that," said John. "I would not take away a poor man's cow or bed for any thing."

"Ah, John, there are two sides to that question. Your father was elected to an office, and took an oath to perform all its duties to the best of his power. Don't you think, my son, he ought to have done what he promised to do?"

"Why, yes - I suppose so; but I can't see how it could be his duty to go and sell the cow of some poor man, and leave his children without milk. That doesn't look right, anyhow."

"I will try and explain it to you. You see, these poor people got in debt to some man, and when he wanted his pay, they told him they could not pay him. Then he went to the magistrate, and got a judgment against them."

"A judgment, mother! What is that?"

"I cannot explain it like a lawyer; but I suppose it means that the magistrate, who is a sort of judge, said the debt was just, and must be paid."

"Did he, too, take an oath to do right in his office, just as father did?"

"Yes, my son; and he could not do otherwise. So he issued 'an

execution,' as it is called, which is an order to seize any property belonging to the man who owes the debt, and sell it to pay the debt."

"Well, mother, I do not see what that has to do with father, for he is not a judge."

"Very true, but he was the constable; and the law made him the officer to carry out the order made by the magistrate, or judge, and he ought to have done it."

"What! Sell a poor man's cow?"

"Yes, John, sell the poor man's cow, because it was a just debt, and he had promised to execute the law."

"But couldn't father help bringing such trouble on poor people, some way or other?"

"Yes, he could help it by becoming liable for the debt himself, and that was what he did."

"I love him for his kindness to the poor, at any rate," said John.

"So do I love your father for his kindness; but there were a good many debts of that kind, and then some dishonest people, who were able to pay, practiced deception on him, and he became liable for *their* debts too."

"And is this the way father ran in debt?"

"Yes, my son - by not carrying out the law as he had promised to do, because it would distress some one, he has become liable for the debts of other people to the amount of four hundred dollars."

"And he can't pay it, can he, mother?"

"No - not without selling this house, where all his children

were born.”

“And *must* he do that, mother?”

“Yes, unless he acts dishonestly; and that your father will never do. He loves this pleasant little home, which he bought with his own hard work; but he is ready to give it up, rather than that any one should suffer through him, even though it was for such kindness. He was too tender of the poor for his own interest.”

“And this is what makes father feel so bad!” said the boy to himself. “Oh, I wish I was a man, to help him!”

About The Greater Heritage



Mission

The Greater Heritage equips Christians for an abundant life of service, personal spiritual growth and character development through the study of God's Word and the contributions of His people in the fields of art, literature and music throughout history.

What We Do

The Greater Heritage publishes original articles, books and Bible studies. The ministry also hosts a digital museum and podcast. All of its books are entirely made in the USA.

Want to publish with us? Inquire at:

The Greater Heritage
1170 Tree Swallow Dr., Suite 309
Winter Springs, Florida 32708
info@thegreaterheritage.com
www.thegreaterheritage.com

Find more books and our latest catalog online at:

www.thegreaterheritage.com/shop

“Difficulty is a hard master, but he trains most excellent scholars.”

This splendidly rich children’s book, written by Rev. James Tuttle for the American Sunday School Union in the 1850s and based on true accounts, follows the life of James Howard from his hardworking childhood to his adult years as he strives to become a pastor.

Along the way, James is confronted with challenges great and small. Yet in each struggle he remains committed to relying on God’s guiding hand to see him through.

Set in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, *Stories of Self Reliance* is an enlightening celebration of community, family, and Christ.

Its story teaches the value of hard work, thrift and industry and the importance of Christian service, adhering to Godly principles, and salvation in Jesus. Its inspiring lessons on character development make it a worthy addition to any home library.

—

Joseph F. Tuttle, D.D. (1818-1901) was a Presbyterian minister and distinguished president of Wabash College. He earned degrees from Mariette College and Lane Theological Seminary and pastored the Second Presbyterian Church of Delaware, Ohio, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, New Jersey and Central Presbyterian Church in Crawfordsville, Indiana. His lineage traces back to the New Haven Colony’s founding in 1638. He and his wife Susan are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Crawfordsville.

A Publication of



JUVENILE FICTION /
Religious / Christian /
Values & Virtues
(JUV033240)

