

**NOW OR NEVER; OR, THE
ADVENTURES OF
BOBBY BRIGHT. A STORY
FOR YOUNG FOLKS**

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Now or never; or, The adventures of Bobby Bright. A story for young folks by Oliver Optic

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OLIVER OPTIC

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BOBBY'S FIRST VICTORY. Page 108.

12/55

NOW OR NEVER,
OR THE ADVENTURES
OF
BOBBY BRIGHT.



BY OLIVER OPTIC.

BOSTON, BROWN, BAZIN, & COMPANY.

Adams, William Taylor.

NOW OR NEVER;

OR,

THE ADVENTURES

OF

BOBBY BRIGHT.

A STORY FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

BY

OLIVER OPTIC, *pseud*

AUTHOR OF "THE BOAT CLUB," "ALL ABOARD,"
"IN DOORS AND OUT," ETC.

BOSTON:

BROWN, BAZIN, AND COMPANY.

1857.

OK

TO

MY NEPHEW,

CHARLES HENRY POPE,

This Book

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

THE story contained in this volume is a record of youthful struggles, not only in the world without, but in the world within; and the success of the little hero is not merely a gathering up of wealth and honors, but a triumph over the temptations that beset the pilgrim on the plain of life. The attainment of worldly prosperity is not the truest victory; and the author has endeavored to make the interest of his story depend more on the hero's devotion to principles than on his success in business.

Bobby Bright is a smart boy; perhaps the reader will think he is altogether too smart for one of his years. This is a progressive age, and any thing which Young America may do need not surprise any person. That little gentleman is older than his father, knows more than his mother, can talk politics, smoke cigars, and drive a 2:40 horse. He orders "one stew" with as much ease as a man of forty, and can even pronounce correctly the villanous names of sundry French and German wines and liqueurs. One would

suppose, to hear him talk, that he had been intimate with Socrates and Solon, with Napoleon and Noah Webster; in short, that whatever he did not know was not worth knowing.

In the face of these manifestations of exuberant genius, it would be absurd to accuse the author of making his hero do too much. All he has done is to give this genius a right direction; and for politics, cigars, 2:40 horses, and "one stew," he has substituted the duties of a rational and accountable being, regarding them as better fitted to develop the young gentleman's mind, heart, and soul.

Bobby Bright is something more than a smart boy. He is a good boy, and makes a true man. His daily life is the moral of the story, and the author hopes that his devotion to principle will make a stronger impression upon the mind of the young reader, than even the most exciting incidents of his eventful career.

WILLIAM T. ADAMS.

DORCHESTER, Nov. 15, 1856.

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