

JACK'S STORY

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Jack's Story by Gertrude Lefferts Vanderbilt

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GERTRUDE LEFFERTS VANDERBILT

JACK'S STORY



FRONTISPIECE--See Page 13.

*Mary J. Johnson
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Aug. 15 1873.*

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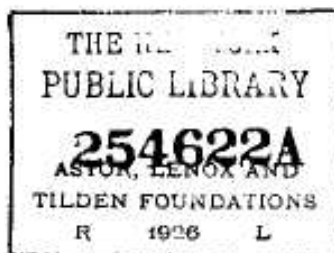
AS TOLD BY HIMSELF.

By G. L. V.

Mrs. George V. Johnson

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS story was told me by Jack. I give it to you, as far as possible, in his words. I do not think that I could write, or you could understand, what he says, without some verbal alteration. I feel quite sure that I have given you exactly Jack's thoughts; and if I were to say to him, "Jack, is this just what you told me about yourself?" he would reply to my question:

"Yes, that is my story exactly as I told you!"

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AS TOLD BY HIMSELF.

CHAPTER I.

THE first time I went to Sunday school, I didn't think I should like it, for I had generally spent my Sundays in playing about the streets; but I heard that boys in Sunday school got oranges and candies, and sometimes a present for Christmas. So just before Christmas I thought I'd go. They put me in a class with a very pleasant-looking young lady for a teacher; the boys called her Miss Gibson. She seemed so kind that it made me happy just to look at her. I'm glad that they did not put me under such a sober-faced woman as the teacher I saw in

the next class. Though I was the poorest-dressed boy among them, and sold papers for a living (and have a hard time at that), she spoke just as pleasant to me as to the boy that had on a blue neck-tie, and wore a watch. I told her I'd give her a Herald for nothing next day; she said she'd give me a paper that same day (not to be outdone, I suppose). Her paper had pictures in it; a sort of Sunday Illustrated Harper or Frank Leslie it looked like, and I was just as much obliged to her as if I could read it; but then I could not read a word. Miss Gibson told the boys things which sounded very queer to me, and which I didn't think were right, for I'd never heard the like before. She was talking to the boys about Christ forgiving our sins. I'd always heard the Priest does that, and then she spoke about the example Christ has set us, and she turned to me, and said she: "Jack, if a boy were unkind to you, how ought you to treat him?" "Knock him down," says I, and then the other fellows