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THE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.

BY REBECCA HARDING DAVIS.

"Yes, I think I may say without boasting that this is the model school of the State, and Clarence Terrey is its model scholar."

"Here is the roll of names," he said. "I have added a remark to each which may give you a hint of the character of the boys. You will find it useful."

"The loutish, red-haired lad at the end of the bench. You'll observe the vacancy in his face."

Mr. Pigeon paid more attention to John Steele than to any other boy that afternoon. It was undeniably a bad case.

Mr. Piper had a taste for poetry; he read with fine effect, and was anxious that his boys should acquire the same taste.

"How does this poem affect you, Clarence?" asked Mr. Pigeon. "They are most noble verses, sir," said the lad, fluently.

"I'm all-right, mother," gasped John; and then he cried on her breast like the child that he was.

Mr. Nagle was very patient with John. But after a few weeks, he began to despair. The boy seemed to have absolutely no memory for words, and very little for ideas.

heard a clear, authoritative voice: "Help me bring these planks and put them in the trench!"

"Who made them, John?" said his teacher. "I did, sir,"—looking stupid again.

Then he began to drag out one or two benches and boxes that were in the cabin.

The banks were lined with pale, terrified faces. As he was lifted on shore, he saw a boy dragged out of the water, and a poor little woman in black fly to him with a wild cry.

"I'm all-right, mother," gasped John; and then he cried on her breast like the child that he was.

It seemed to have a curious fascination for John. He spent his leisure time poring over it,—measuring the tubes with his inch rule.

"I did that, sir. There is the money to pay for it. Will it be enough?"

with me and teach him my trade. He has a sound, practical head, that boy."

"John Steele, the?"— "Good-for-nothing? Yes," said John, with a laugh.

One day there was a sudden recognition. "John Steele, the?"— "Good-for-nothing? Yes," said John, with a laugh.

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Table with columns: EAST, STATIONS, WEST. Rows include Goldsboro, Best's, La Grange, Falling Creek, Kinston, Dover, Tuscumbra, New Berne, Riverdale, Woodbridge, Havlock, Newport, Hollywood, Atlantic Hotel, Morehead Depot.

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