

# STRONG AND STEADY

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

## CHAPTER IV.—(Continued.)

Walter raised his eyes and saw Joshua, whose small, mean features, closely resembling his father's, expressed considerable curiosity. Walter secretly doubted whether he should like him; but this doubt he kept to himself. Mr. Drummond opened the outer door, and led the way in.

"This is my wife, Mrs. Drummond," he said, as she approached, and kindly welcomed the young stranger.

"I think I shall like her," thought Walter, suffering his glance to rest for a moment on her mild, placid features; "she is evidently quite superior to her husband."

"Joshua, come here and welcome Mr. Conrad," said his father.

Joshua came forward awkwardly and held out his hand with the stiffness of a pump handle.

"How do you do?" he said. "Just come?"

"Yes," said Walter, accepting the hand, and shaking it slightly.

"Are you tired with your journey, Mr. Conrad?" asked Mrs. Drummond. "Perhaps you would like to be shown to your room."

Walter went upstairs, preceded by Mr. Drummond, who insisted on carrying his carpetbag, for his trunk would not arrive till the next day, having been forwarded by express. At five o'clock they sat down to supper.

"I hope, Mr. Conrad," said Jacob, "you will be able to relish our humble repast."

"Humble again!" thought Walter. He was about to say that everything looked very nice, when Joshua said:

"If you call this humble, I don't know what you'd say to the suppers we commonly have."

Mr. Drummond, who desired, for this day, at least, to keep up appearances, frowned with vexation.

"Joshua," he said, "I desire that you will act in a more gentlemanly way or else leave the table. Have you ever been in Stapleton before, Mr. Conrad?"

"No, sir; never."

"It is not a large place, but it is growing; the people are plain, but they have kind hearts. I hope you may like the town after a while. If you feel inclined to walk, Joshua will go out with you after supper, and show you the mill dam, the church, and the school house. He will also point out the store—it is only across the way—where, in my humble way, I try to earn a living. I shall be very glad if you will come in and take a look inside. I may be busy, for work has accumulated during my absence, but Joshua will show you around."

"Thank you, sir."

"May I ask, Mr. Conrad—excuse my intruding the question—who is left executor of your father's estate?"

"Mr. Shaw, the lawyer in our village. He is an excellent man, very honest and upright. He was an intimate friend of my father."

"I am glad to hear you say so. So many lawyers, you know, are tricky. We have no lawyer here," pursued Mr. Drummond. "You will perhaps be surprised to hear it, but my humble services are frequently called into requisition, in administering and settling estates."

"Indeed, sir?"

"Yes; but I am glad you have got a man you can trust. Mrs. Drummond, I think Mr. Conrad will have another piece of pie."

Supper was over at length, and Walter, by invitation, went out to walk with Joshua.

## CHAPTER V.

Walter did not anticipate a very pleasant walk with Joshua. The little he had seen of that young man did not predispose him in his favor. However, having no other way of spending his time, he had no objection to the walk.

"That's the old man's store just across the street," said Joshua, as they emerged from the house.

"Your father's?"

"Of course. Don't you see the name on the sign? Walter did see it, but never having been accustomed to speak of his own father as "the old man," he was not quite sure he apprehended Joshua's meaning.

"You were an only child, weren't you?" said Joshua.

"Yes," said Walter, soberly.

"So am I," said Joshua; adding, complacently, "Between you and I, the old man has laid up quite a snug sum. Of course, it'll all come to me some day."

"I am glad to hear it," said Walter, wondering that Joshua should have made such a communication to a comparative stranger.

"To hear the old man talk," pursued Joshua, "you'd think he was awful poor. He's stingy enough about everything in the house. There isn't a family in town that don't live better than we do."

"I thought we had a very good supper," said Walter, who experienced not a little disgust at Joshua's charges against his father.

"That was because you were with us. The old man laid himself out for the occasion. It's the first decent supper I've eaten at home since the Sewing Circle met at our house three years ago."

Through these communications did not raise Joshua in the estimation of Walter, the latter could not help thinking that there was probably some foundation for what was said, and the prejudice against Mr. Drummond, for which he had blamed himself as without cause, began to find some extension.

"When I talk to the old man about his stinging me so," continued Joshua, "he tells me to go to work and earn some money."

"Why don't you do it?"

"He wants me to go into his store, but he wouldn't pay me anything. He offered me a dollar and a half a week; but I wasn't going to work ten or twelve hours a day for no such sum. If I could get a light, easy place in the city say at ten dollars a week, I'd go. There ain't any chance in Stapleton for a young man of enterprise."

"I've thought sometimes," said Walter, "that I should like to get a place in the

city; but I suppose I couldn't get enough at first to pay my board."

"You get a place?" exclaimed Joshua, in astonishment. "I thought you was going to college."

"Father intended I should; but his death will probably change my plans. It is expensive passing through college; I cannot afford it."

"Oh, that's all humbug. You're talking like the old man. Why, you're rich. The old man told me that your father left a hundred thousand dollars. You're the only son; you told me so yourself."

"Your father is mistaken."

"What, wasn't your father rich?" asked Joshua, opening his small eyes in amazement.

"My father was unfortunate enough to get involved in a speculation, by which he lost heavily. I can't tell how his affairs stand until they are settled. I may be left penniless."

"Do you mean that?" asked Joshua, stopping abruptly and facing his companion.

"I generally mean what I say," said Walter, rather stily.

Joshua's answer was a low whistle of amazement.

"Whew!" he said. "That's the biggest joke I've heard of lately," and he followed up this remark by a burst of merriment.

Walter looked at him with surprise. He certainly did not know what to make of Joshua's conduct.

"I don't see any joke about it," he said. "I don't complain of being poor, for I think I can earn my own living; but it doesn't strike me as a thing to laugh at."

"I was laughing to think how the old man is taken in. It's rich! He thinks you're worth a hundred thousand dollars," said Joshua.

"Well, he is mistaken, that's all. I don't see how he is taken in."

"He's been doing the polite, and treating you as if you was a prince of the blood. That's the reason he told the old woman to get up such a nice supper. He expected to get you to take him for a guardian, and then he'd have the handling of your money. Won't he be mad when he finds out how he's been taken in? Giving you the best room, too! Are you sure that none of the property will be left?"

"Probably not much. I am sorry to think that your father made such a mistake. I will take care to undeceive him."

"What! You're not going to tell him, are you?"

"Certainly. I meant to do so; but I did not suppose he invited me just because he thought I was rich."

"What for, then?"

"Being my father's cousin and nearest relation, it didn't seem very strange that he should have invited me on that account."

"The old man's pretty shrewd," said Joshua, rather admiringly. "He knows which way his bread is buttered. He don't lay himself out for any poor relations, not if he knows it. Don't you tell him about it till to-morrow."

"Why not?"

"Because, if you do, we'll have a mean breakfast as usual. I just want him to think you're rich a little while longer, so we can have something decent for once."

"I don't feel willing to deceive your father any longer. I have not willingly deceived him at all. I would rather he knew at once."

"To-morrow will be soon enough."

"At any rate, I shall tell him to-morrow then. But I've got tired walking. Suppose we go back."

They went back together. Mr. Drummond was in the store, but Mrs. Drummond was at home.

"You didn't go far," she said. "But I suppose you were tired, Mr. Conrad."

"A little," answered Walter.

"I wonder," thought our hero, "whether she will change as soon as she finds out that I am poor? Somehow he felt that she would not. She seemed very different from her husband and her son, and Walter was inclined to like her better."

Joshua went out again soon, not having much taste for staying at home; and, as Walter retired early, he did not see either him or his father again till the next morning at breakfast.

"I must go back to the store," said Mr. Drummond the next morning, when breakfast was over. "Joshua will look after you, Mr. Conrad. I hope you will be able to pass the time pleasantly."

"If you can spare me five minutes, Mr. Drummond, I should like to speak to you in private," said Walter.

"Certainly. I can spare five or ten minutes, or more, Mr. Conrad. Won't you walk into the parlor?"

Mr. Drummond was far from anticipating the nature of Walter's communication. Indeed, he cherished a hope that our hero was about to ask his assistance in settling up the estate—a request with which, it is needless to say, he would gladly have complied.

"I don't suppose you know how I am situated—I mean in relation to my father's estate. It is not certain that my father left anything," said Walter, thinking it best to reveal everything at once.

"What!" exclaimed Mr. Drummond, his lower jaw falling, and looking very blank.

"My father made some investments recently that turned out badly."

"But he was worth a very large property—it can't all be lost."

"I am afraid there will be very little left, if anything. He lost heavily by some mining stock, which he bought at a high figure, and which ran down to almost nothing."

"There's the house left, at any rate."

"My father borrowed its value, I understand; I am afraid that must go, too."

Now, at length, it flashed upon Mr. Drummond how he had been taken in. He thought of the attentions he had lavished upon Walter, of the extra expense he had incurred, and all, as it appeared, for a boy likely to prove penniless. He might even expect to live upon him. These thoughts, which rapidly succeeded each other, mortified and made him angry.

"Why didn't you tell me this before,

young man?" he demanded with asperity. His change of tone and manner showed Walter that Joshua was entirely right in his estimate of his father's motives, and he in turn became indignant.

"When did you expect me to tell you, Mr. Drummond?" he said, quickly. "I only arrived yesterday afternoon, and I tell you this morning. I would have told you last night, if you had been in the house."

"Why didn't you tell me when I was at Willoughby?"

"I had other things to think of," said Walter, shortly. "The thought of my father's death and of my loss shut out everything else."

"Well, what are you going to do?" asked Mr. Drummond in a hard tone.

"I shall have to earn my own living," said Walter. "I am well and strong, and am not afraid."

"That is a good plan," said Mr. Drummond, who knew Walter so little as to fear that he wanted to become dependent upon him. "When I was of your age I had my own living to earn. What do you propose to do?"

"Have you a vacancy for me in your store? Joshua told me you wished him to go in."

"You couldn't earn much, for you don't know anything of the business."

"I should not expect to. I am perfectly willing to work for my board until I find out how my father's affairs are going to turn out."

This proposal struck Mr. Drummond favorably. He judged that Walter would prove a valuable assistant when he was broken in, for it was easy to see that he had energy. Besides, it was desirable to keep him near until it was decided whether Mr. Conrad's affairs were really in as bad a state as his son represented. Even if a few thousand dollars were left, Mr. Drummond would like the handling of that sum. Then, again, no one knew better than Mr. Drummond that Walter's board would cost him very little; for, of course, he would at once return to his usual frugal fare.

"Very well," he said; "you can go into the store on those terms. As you say, you've got your own living to earn, and the sooner you begin the better."

Walter had not said this, but he agreed with Mr. Drummond. It may be thought strange that our hero should have been willing to enter the employment of such a mean man; but he thought it wisest to remain in the neighborhood until he could learn something definite about his father's affairs. He prepared to go to work at once, partly because he didn't wish to be dependent, partly because he foresaw that he should be happier if employed.

When Mr. Drummond and Walter came out of the parlor, Joshua was sitting in the next room, and looked up eagerly to see how his father bore the communication. He was disappointed when he saw that Mr. Drummond looked much as usual.

"Conrad has been telling me," said Mr. Drummond, "that his father lost a good deal of money by speculation, and it is doubtful whether he has left any property."

"I am very sorry," said Mrs. Drummond; and Walter saw and appreciated her look of sympathy.

"As he will probably have to work for a living, he has asked for a place in my store," pursued Mr. Drummond, "and I have agreed to take him on trial. Conrad, you may get your hat and come over at once."

Joshua whistled in sheer amazement. The affair had by no means terminated as he anticipated.

(To be continued.)

## Wise Girl.

Now, there was a certain girl, and she had three wooers. The first wooer said she was the whole world to him, but she frowned upon his suit. The second wooer said she was the sun, moon and stars to him, but she bade him be on his way.

"To me," said the third, "you are a young woman of agreeable manners, with eyes that might be a little bluer, with a nose that is a wee bit puggy and with a few freckles and an annoying habit of blurring out your thoughts."

She married the third wooer. Being pressed for an explanation of her conduct, she said:

"My goodness! I think I was sensible. I married the only one that had courage enough to tell me of my faults before marriage, instead of waiting to throw them up to me afterward."

—Life.

## The Lady in the Moon.

An amateur astronomer writes of the "lady in the moon": "It is a very beautiful face seen in profile and depicted, as though in proud disdain of things terrestrial. The curve of the throat is exquisite, and indeed the entire outline is marvelously lifelike. The moon lady may best be observed through a small opera glass when our satellite is at half. At that time the tip of the chin about touches the terminator—that is, the dividing line between the light and dark portions of the lunar surface. Most people can recognize the man in the moon. Well, the hair of the lady, in which I can always fancy I see a spray of orange blossom, forms the man's left eye, the nose and mouth. His nose, and the chin and throat the man's mouth."

## Two Epitaphs.

An epitaph from a cemetery in Bridgeton, Me.:  
She was—words are too feeble to tell what.

Think what a wife should be; She was all that.

This from Bar Harbor, Me.:  
I reach my arms out fondly, But they clasp the open air. There is nothing of my darling But the shoes he used to wear.

## So Sudden.

Carson—Would you like to own a puppy, Miss Cecilia?  
Cecilia—Oh, Mr. Carson, this is so sudden!—Young's Magazine.

## Obvious.

"Do you tip the waiter where you dine?"  
"Say, do I look starved?"



## American Agriculture.

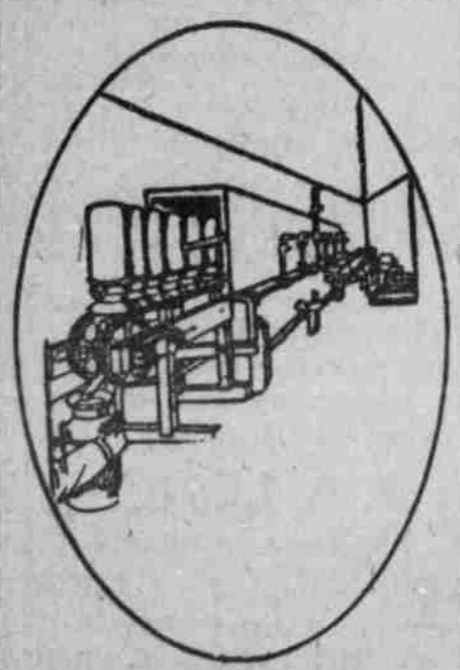
Although agriculture in America is young compared with some of the European and Asiatic countries, it has been developed to such an extent that the older countries look to us for ideas and methods to help them solve the farm problems they have to meet. Our scientists and investigators are among the foremost in the world and as an agricultural nation we need stand aside for none. To be sure, agriculture owes many of its greatest scientific discoveries to English, German and French experimenters, but in aggressiveness and practical development of ideas America is one of the leaders.

Other nations are sending their scientists to America to study how we do things here. Our country presents most of the agricultural problems to be met with in the countries of the old world and we are finding out how to solve them, and the old world wants to know how we do it. A Japanese expert is now in the United States to investigate our methods of improving worn-out soils. He says: "We have in Formosa over 500,000 acres under cultivation and we want to find out how the United States goes about it to improve the condition of its land, so we can improve our country." This is but one instance of where we are sending our ideas abroad.

We have every reason to be proud of our agricultural advancement, much of which is due to our State experiment stations and federal Department of Agriculture.—Goodall's Farmer.

## Machines for Washing Cans.

The old method of cleaning milk cans, lard cans and similar receptacles will in the near future be superseded by a very ingenious apparatus invented by a Boston man. As shown in the illustration this can-washing machine washes the cans and automatically de-



WASHES MILK CANS.

posits them on the floor, where the handles can be conveniently grasped, avoiding the labor of lifting them. The cans travel while being cleaned on a movable chain, each can being placed over an upright nozzle which holds it in position. The various nozzles are connected to a supply pipe through which is forced a cleaning fluid or steam. The latter is forced out through the nozzle, thoroughly cleaning the interior of the can. The nozzles also act as guides to deposit the cans on the floor after they have traveled the length of the chain, the operation being performed automatically and smoothly without injury or accident.

## Burn Dead Animals.

In the attempt to stamp out hog cholera and other contagious diseases among live stock the matter of burning all dead animals is one of considerable importance. Outbreaks of disease have frequently been traced to the careless disposal of the carcasses of an infected animal. Burning is much more effective than burying, as the germs of some diseases, as anthrax, for example, retain their virility for a considerable length of time. Then in burying carcasses, unless they are placed very deep in the ground, there is always more or less danger of their being rooted or dug out. Dogs will dig open such graves and hogs will root them out.

Those who have attempted to bury a hog or horse will readily appreciate the statement that it is easier to burn than bury them. A little kerosene and a brush heap will soon dispose of a carcass, with the certainty that all germs are destroyed. Some recommend the construction of a specially arranged furnace for this work, but on the ordinary farm this would doubtless be an added expense. It will not be a difficult matter on any farm to gather enough trash, such as brush, old rails, etc., to burn a dead animal and the expense is inconsiderable. Anyway, it is the only safe way to insure against infection.

Bees help to make the crops and pay the farmer for the privilege. They are little trouble to keep and may be the source of a good income.

A Spanish professor, according to German newspapers, has made the discovery that the sundew yields a splendid refractive that can be used as a substitute for quinine.

W. J. Monroe, of Iowa, has the smallest colts ever born in that State. They are Shetland twins, both mares, and one weighs eighteen pounds and the other twelve pounds.

Alfalfa seed has a light olive-green color and is about the same size as red clover seed. The dead and worthless seed are the brown-colored ones. Brown seed indicate old seed, and is not apt to give good results.

A first-class quality of red clover seed should be of fair size, purple and yellow colors predominating, and always with a luster. If it is small, with many shriveled brown seed in it, it should be rejected.

Egyptian cotton has been successfully grown in New Mexico and Arizona by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Several million dollars' worth of this cotton is imported into the United States each year, and its growth here will mean a great saving.

## Yellow Rust Parasite on Wheat.

An instructive account is published in the Experiment Record of the Department of Agriculture of the manner in which the yellow rust parasite acts upon susceptible and resistant varieties of wheat. In an experiment with Michigan Bronze wheat, and "rust-proof" Elngora, young seedlings of each were infected by placing spores on the leaves. In the Michigan wheat the germ tubes passed into the inner tissues and developed rapidly, producing pustules in about ten days. In the case of the resistant Elngora wheat the germ tubes made good their entry, but almost in the beginning showed, through the microscope, weakness and starvation, and were unable to make further progress. The wheat plant continued to flourish, except for the small dead area where the fungus entered the leaves. The reason for this resistance is unknown, but is supposed to be due to some toxic principles in the host plant.

## Keep Ahead of the Weeds.

The importance of keeping ahead of the weeds is realized by every successful agriculturist. At the beginning of growth in the spring weeds start up and lead the farmer a merry chase as long as the growing season lasts. He must keep at them or they will get the start and go to seed, thereby increasing their numbers many fold. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" in the fight against weeds. A thoroughly practical farmer recently remarked that he thought the problem of weed eradication one of the most important the farmer has to face. It is indeed one of considerable moment.

## Breeding Dairy Cows.

In breeding dairy cows a man should have a definite object in view. Too many shift from beef to dairy when dairy products are low, and then shift back again from dairy to beef when beef rises in value. By this method a man is constantly shifting from one breed to another, and as a result he is getting a herd that is good for neither milk nor beef. A man must have an ideal toward which he is breeding and then bend all his energies to that end. This shifting from one breed to another is a suicidal policy that will ruin any man and any herd.—Kansas Experiment Station.

## How Wire Fences Murder Cattle.

"The time of thunder storms is coming," said a farmer, "and I am liable to lose a cow or two. My barbed-wire fences are to blame. In fact, you might call a barbed-wire fence a cattle murderer."

"The wire, you see, attracts the lightning. The lightning, playing like a gold snake along the fence, leaps out wherever there's a cow handy, and I've got another lot of fresh meat on my hands."

"In the old rail-fence days a cow killed by lightning was unheard of. But now, if you go to insure your stock, you pay a higher rate if your fencing is of wire."

## More Horse Meat.

In 1906 58,000 horses were slaughtered for food in Paris, furnishing about 12,000 tons of meat. Formerly horse meat was eaten by only the poorest classes, but now it is no longer regarded as refuse meat, and its consumption by the working classes is rapidly increasing throughout Europe.

## Stomach Worms in Sheep.

The Louisiana Experiment Station reports the successful use of bisulphide of carbon for stomach worms in sheep. One drachm of the bisulphide was mixed with an ounce of raw linseed oil, and that shaken up with an ounce of lime water and given as a drench.

## For the Farm Dairy.

Work in breeding for milk production at the Canada experiment farms seems to show that (a) superior dairy cows may be found in all breeds; (b) pure bred females are not essential to success in dairy farming, but a pure bred bull should always be used.

# THE WEEKLY HISTORICAL



- 1494—Jamaica discovered by Columbus and named St. Jago by him.
- 1602—Queen Mary II. of England beheaded.
- 1670—The Hudson's Bay Company formed in England.
- 1707—Legislative union of England and Scotland put into effect.
- 1775—The Quebec Act became law, providing for the government of Canada by Governor and Council.
- 1776—Adoption of the Pine Tree flag, the great and general coat of Massachusetts.
- 1788—Maryland ratified the Constitution of the United States.
- 1808—Spanish organized a revolt against Napoleon. . . . Charles IV. abdicated in favor of Bonaparte.
- 1809—Temperance Society for the State of New York, New York, being the beginning of the Prohibition movement in the United States.
- 1827—French National Guard disbanded.
- 1854—First railroad opened in Iowa.
- 1856—Montmorency bridge fell.
- 1850—Colorado river expedition ended.
- 1865—Sir Samuel Cunard, founder of Cunard steamship line, died.
- 1877—Occupation of Bayona by the Prussians.
- 1878—First elevated train run on avenue in New York City.
- 1881—First cod turned in the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway.
- 1882—Charles S. Parnell, the Irish leader, released from Kilmallock.
- 1885—Col. Otter attacked the Cayre rebels at Cut Knife Creek.
- 1888—Henry M. Stanley found Pasha on the shores of Albert Lake.
- 1894—Many lives lost by earthquake in Venezuela. . . . International Hispanic conference met in London.
- 1898—Spanish fleet destroyed in the bay of Manila.
- 1903—Landslide at Frank B. C. the loss of seventy-five lives.
- 1906—A score of lives lost in a storm at Laredo, Texas. . . . Steamship wrecked off Laredo, with nearly 100 lives.
- 1907—Attempted assassination of President Cabrera of Guatemala.



Construction work on the Erie and Jersey road and the New River road is being pushed rapidly. The South Dakota railroad and house commission has decided to freight rates reduced west of the river. A new tariff is now being put out.

The balancing of the books of the Pennsylvania railroad for 1907 shows while the system earned \$30,000,000 in 1906, it paid \$10,000,000 for labor, or 65 per cent on the earnings.

Those opposed to closing the States to navigation had a majority at the meeting before Major Schenk of the States engineer corps at Fargo, who are confident that the plan to close the river below Belmont will be rejected by the federal government.

Roads running east from Chicago to be all at sea regarding the proposed adoption of the testing of the tunability of the 2-cent maximum rates passed by many of the States. Matter was taken out of the hands of the passenger officials by their officers some time ago.

The usual cut-and-dried proposals for meetings of the Grand Trunk Pacific Canada were varied at the gathering of the directors of the London, and the report of the meeting, and the report of the meeting, only adopted after earnest opportunity of interest for the company had been made.

An order for 200 refrigerators placed recently by the Northern as an addition to its equipment to be fully prepared to handle the fruit crop of the Northwest. The fact that the demands on the year will be heavier than ever, that reason those reaching the district are all providing extra equipment. One road which began in 1904, using 115 cars, expects to haul 500 cars.

Some of the eastern roads are working out a system with the National Educational Association only will be given a rate of 140 miles for the round trip for the convention, which is to be held at Cleveland, but will continue at the \$2 membership a fee which the past years collected for it, without in conflict with the ruling of the state Commerce Commission. It is illegal for the roads to collect in connection with the sale of the then turn over the amount then in a gross sum to the association.