

STRONG AND STEADY

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

CHAPTER XXI.

Though Walter was in a room on the second floor, the distance to the ground was not so great but that he could easily hang from the window sill and jump without injury. Before following him in his flight, he will pause to inquire how the robber, unexpectedly taken captive, fared.

Nothing could have surprised Jack more than this sudden turning of the tables. But a minute since Walter was completely in his power. Now, through the boy's coolness and nerve, his thievish intentions were baffled, and he was placed in the humiliating position of a prisoner in his own house.

"Open the door, or I'll murder you!" he roared, kicking it violently.

There was no reply, for Walter was already half way out of the window, and did not think it best to answer. Walter had proceeded half a mile when he stopped to rest. Two or three times he had tripped over projecting roots which the darkness prevented his seeing in time to avoid.

"I'll rest a few minutes, and then push on," he thought.

It was late, but the excitement of his position prevented him from feeling sleepy. He wished to get out of the woods into some road or open field, where he would be in less danger of encountering Jack, and where perhaps he might find assistance against him.

He was leaning against an immense tree, one of the largest and oldest in the forest. Walter began to examine it. He discovered, by feeling, that it was hollow inside. He ascertained that the interior was eaten out by gradual decay, making a large hollow space inside.

"I shouldn't wonder if I could get in," he said to himself.

He made the attempt, and found that he was correct in his supposition. He could easily stand erect inside.

"That is curious," thought Walter. "The tree must be very old."

He emerged from the trunk, and once more threw himself down beside it. Five minutes later and his attention was drawn by a sound of approaching footsteps. Jack had tripped over a root, and was picking himself up in no very good humor. The enemy, it appeared, was close upon him.

Walter started to his feet in dismay. His first thought was immediate flight, but if he were heard by Jack, the latter would no doubt be able to run him down.

"What shall I do?" thought Walter, in alarm.

Quickly the hollow trunk occurred to him. With a little delay as possible he concealed himself in the interior. He was just in time, for Jack was by this time only a few rods distant. Walter counted upon his passing on; but on reaching the old tree Jack paused, and said aloud, "Where can the young rascal be? I wonder if I have passed him? I'll rest here five minutes. He may straggle along."

With these words he sank upon the ground, in the very same place where Walter had been reclining two minutes before. He was so near that our hero could have put out his hand and touched him.

It was certainly a very uncomfortable situation for Walter. He hardly dared to breathe or to stir lest his enemy should hear him.

"He's led me a pretty tramp," muttered Jack, "but I'm bound to get hold of him to-night. If I do, I'll half kill him."

"Then I hope you won't get hold of him," Walter ejaculated, inwardly.

He began to wish he had run on instead of seeking this concealment. In the first case, the darkness of the night would have favored him, and even if Jack had heard him it was by no means certain that he would have caught him. Now an unlucky movement or a cough would betray his hiding place, and there would be no chance of escape. He began to feel his constrained position irksome, but did not dare to see relief of change of posture.

"I wish he'd go," thought our hero.

But Jack was in no hurry. He appeared to wish to waylay Walter, and was constantly listening to catch the sound of his approach. At length Walter was relieved to hear him say, "Well, I shan't catch him by stopping here, that's sure."

Then he started, and Walter, listening intently, heard the sound of his receding steps. When sufficient time had elapsed, he ventured out from his concealment, and stopped to consider the situation.

What should he do? It was hardly prudent to go on, for it would only bring him nearer the enemy. If he ventured back, he would be farther away from the edge of the woods, and might encounter Meg, who might also be in pursuit. He did not feel in danger of capture from this quarter, but the woman might find means of communicating with her husband. On the whole, it seemed safest, for the present, at least, to stick to the friendly tree which had proved so good a protector. He stood beside it, watching carefully, intending, whenever peril threatened, to take instant refuge inside. This was not particularly satisfactory, but he hoped Jack would soon tire of the pursuit, and retrace his steps toward the cabin. If he should do that, he would then be safe in continuing his flight.

Jack pushed on, believing that our hero was in advance. It had been a fatiguing day, and this made his present midnight tramp more disagreeable. His hopes of overtaking Walter became fainter and fainter, and nature began to assert her rights. A drowsiness which he found it hard to combat assailed him, and he knew he must yield to it for a time at least.

"I wish I was at home, and in bed," he muttered. "I'll lie down and take a short nap, and then start again."

He threw himself on the ground, and in five minutes his senses were locked in a deep slumber, which, instead of a short nap, continued for several hours. While he is sleeping we will go back to

Walter. He, too, was sleepy, and would gladly have lain down and slept if he had dared. But he felt the peril of his position too sensibly to give way to his feelings. He watched vigilantly for an hour, but nothing could be seen of Jack. That hour seemed to him to creep with snail-like pace.

"I can't stand this watching till morning," he said to himself. "I will find some out-of-the-way place, and try to sleep a little."

Searching about he found such a place as he desired. He lay down, and was soon fast asleep. So pursued and pursued had yielded to the spell of the same enchantress, and half a mile distant from each other were enjoying welcome repose.

Some hours passed away. The sun rose, and its rays lighted up the dim recesses of the forest. When Walter opened his eyes he could not at first remember where he was. He lifted his head from his corpebag, which he had used as a pillow, and looked around him in surprise; but recollection quickly came to his aid.

"I must have been sleeping several hours," he said to himself, "for it is now morning. I wonder if the man who was after me has gone home?"

He decided that this was probable, and resolved to make an attempt to reach the edge of the forest. He wanted to get into the region of civilization again, if for no other reason, because he felt hungry and was likely to remain so as long as he continued in the forest. He now felt fresh and strong, and prepared to start on his journey. But he had scarcely taken a dozen steps when a female figure stepped out from a covert, and he found himself face to face with Meg.

Not knowing but that her husband might be close behind, he started back in alarm and hesitation. She observed this, and said, "You needn't be afraid, boy. I don't want to harm you."

"Is your husband with you?" asked Walter, on his guard.

"No, he isn't. He started out after you before midnight, and hasn't been back since. That made me uneasy, and I came out to look for him."

"I have seen him," said Walter.

"Where and when?" asked the woman, eagerly.

It was strange that such a coarse brute should have inspired any woman with love, but Meg did certainly love her husband, in spite of his frequent bad treatment.

"Did he see you?"

"No, I was hidden."

"How long did he stay?"

"Only a few minutes, to get rested, I suppose. Then he went on."

"In what direction?"

"That way."

"I'm glad he did not harm you. He was so angry when he started that I was afraid of what would happen if he met you. You must keep out of his way."

"That is what I mean to do if I can," said Walter. "Can you tell me the shortest way out of the woods?"

"Go in that direction," said the woman, pointing, "and half a mile will bring you out."

"It is rather hard to follow a straight path in the woods. If you will act as my guide, I will give you a dollar."

"If my husband should find out that I helped you to escape, he would be very angry."

"Why need he know? You needn't tell him you met me."

The woman hesitated. Finally love of money prevailed.

"I'll do it," she said, abruptly. "Follow me."

She took the lead, and Walter followed closely in her steps. Remembering the night before, he was not wholly assured of her good faith, and resolved to keep his eyes open, and make his escape instantly if he should see any signs of treachery. Possibly Meg might intend to lead him into a trap, and deliver him up to her husband. He was naturally distrustful, but his adventures in the cabin taught him a lesson of distrust.

CHAPTER XXII.

Walter followed Meg through the woods. He felt sure that he would not have far to go to reach the open fields. He had been delayed heretofore, not by the distance, but by not knowing in what direction to go.

Few words were spoken between him and Meg. Remembering what had happened at the cabin, and that even now he was feeling from her husband, he did not feel inclined to be sociable, and her thoughts were divided between the money she was to be paid as the price for her services, and her husband, for whose prolonged absence she could not account.

After walking for fifteen minutes, they came to the edge of the forest. Skirting it was a meadow, wet in parts, for the surface was low.

"Where is the road?"

"You'll have to cross this meadow, and you'll come out it. It isn't more'n a quarter of a mile. You'll find your way well enough without me."

Walter felt relieved at the prospect of a speedy return to the region of civilization. It seemed to him as if he had passed the previous night for away in some wild frontier cabin, instead of in the center of a populous and thriving neighborhood, within a few miles of several flourishing villages. He drew out a dollar bill and offered it to Meg.

"This is the money I agreed to pay you," he said. "Thank you, besides."

"I hear my husband's steps," she said, hurriedly. "Fly or it will be the worse for you."

"Thank you for the caution," said Walter, rousing to the necessity for immediate action.

"Don't stop to thank me, Go!" she said, stamping her foot impatiently.

He obeyed at once, and started on a run across the meadow. A minute later, Jack came in sight.

"Why, Meg, are you here?" he said, in surprise. "Have you seen the boy?"

He did not wait for an answer, for

looking across the meadow, he saw one flying figure of our hero.

"There he is, now," he exclaimed, in a tone of fierce satisfaction.

"Let him go, Jack," pleaded Meg, who, in spite of herself, felt a sympathy for the boy who, like herself, had been unfortunate.

He threw off the hand which she had placed upon his arm, and dashed off in pursuit of Walter.

Walter had the start, and had already succeeded in placing two hundred yards between himself and his pursuer. But Jack was strong and athletic, and could run faster than a boy of fifteen, and the distance between the two constantly diminished. Walter looked back over his shoulder, as he ran, and, brave as he was, there came a sickening sensation of fear as he met the fierce, triumphant glance of his enemy.

"Stop!" called out Jack, hoarsely.

Walter did not answer, neither did he obey. Only a few rods in advance was a deep ditch, at least twelve feet wide, over which a single plank was thrown as a bridge for foot passengers. Walter sped like a deer forward and over the bridge, when, stooping down, he hastily pulled it over after him, thus cutting off his enemy's advance.

"Put back that plank," roared Jack.

"I would rather not," said Walter.

"You'll be sorry for it, then," said Jack, fiercely.

He had walked back about fifty feet, and then faced round. His intention was clear enough. He meant to jump over the ditch. Our hero took the plank and put it over his shoulder, moving with it farther down the edge. An idea had occurred to him, which had not yet suggested itself to Jack, or the latter might have been less confident of success.

Jack stood still for a moment, and then, gathering up his strength, dashed forward. Arrived at the brink, he made a spring, but the soft bank yielded him no support. He fell short of the opposite bank by at least two feet, and, to his anger and disgust, landed in the water and slime at the bottom of the ditch. He scrambled out, landing at last, but with the loss of one boot, which had been drawn off by the clinging mud in which it had become firmly planted. Still he was on the same side with Walter, and the latter was now in his power. This was what he thought; but an instant later he saw his mistake. Walter had stretched the plank over the ditch a few rods further up, and was passing over it in safety.

(To be continued.)

SIoux WOMEN.

Among the Sioux it was no disgrace to the chief's daughter to work with her hands. Indeed, says Charles A. Eastman in "Old Indian Days," their standard of worth was the willingness to work, but not for the sake of accumulation, only in order to give.

Generosity is a trait that is highly developed in the Sioux woman. She makes many moccasins and other articles of clothing for her male relatives, or for any who are not well provided. She loves to see her brother the best dressed among the young men, and the moccasins, especially of a young brave, are the pride of his womankind.

Her own moccasins are plain, her leggings close-fitting and not as high as her brother's. She parts her smooth, jet black hair in the middle and plaits it in two braids. Her ornaments, sparingly worn, are beads, elk's teeth, and a touch of red paint. No feathers are worn by the woman, unless in a sacred dance.

She is supposed to be always occupied with some feminine pursuit or engaged in some social affair, which is also strictly feminine as a rule. Even her language is peculiar to her sex, some words being used by women only, and others have a feminine termination.

There is an etiquette of sitting and standing, which is strictly observed. The woman must never raise her knees or cross her feet when seated. She seats herself on the ground sidewise with both feet under her.

Nearly all her games are different from those of the men. She has a sport of wand-throwing which develops fine muscles of the shoulders and back. The wands are about eight feet long, and taper gradually from an inch and a half to half an inch in diameter. Some of them are artistically made, with heads of bone or horn, and it is remarkable to what a distance they may be made to slide over the ground.

In the feminine game of ball, which is something like "shippy," the ball is driven with curved sticks between two goals. It is played with from two to three hundred on a side, and a game between two bands or villages is a picturesque event.

Family Reparce.

"If you could only make money like your father," sighed the disappointed wife, "things would be all right."

"And if you could only cook half as well as your mother did things wouldn't be so bad, either," replied the husband, who was by no means altogether pleased.—Detroit Free Press.

His Steady Job.

Rigley—You don't believe in a college education, do you?

Jigley—No; it unfit a man for ever, (thing) except to sit around croaking about how much more intelligently he could enjoy wealth than the average man does.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Useless Sacrifice.

Edyth—It's too bad that Clara was in love with Jack when he proposed to me. I feel sorry for the poor girl.

Mayne—Why, she is in love with Tom. She never cared for Jack.

Edyth—Oh, dear! I never would have accepted him had I known that.

TOGO NEAR TO SUICIDE.

Rather than Obey Emperor Against His Judgment, He Would Die.

It seems that there was a decided difference of opinion among the military and naval authorities at Tokio as to the intentions of Admiral Rojestvensky, who came out from Cronstadt with the great fleet of Russian ships. Most of them believed that he had instructions to attack the southern coast of Japan and divert attention from the struggle in Manchuria and the siege of Port Arthur. They were convinced that he would attack Kobe and Yokohama and other ports and try to reach Tokio. If he failed there they expected him to sail up the eastern coast and attack Hakodate. At any rate, they were absolutely certain that he would not run the risk of almost certain destruction by entering the China sea or try to pass through the straits between Japan and Korea, where Togo lay in concealment waiting to pounce upon him.

This conviction was so positive that the council of war at Tokio, which was composed of cabinet ministers, veteran generals and admirals, and that notable group known as "the older statesmen," ordered Togo to come out of his lair and patrol the southern coast, so as to be near by when the attack came. Togo remonstrated. He was convinced that Rojestvensky had come from the west to vindicate the Russian navy and not to invade a fortified coast. His arguments were earnest, but they had no weight with the Tokio authorities, and he was again ordered to come down to defend the coast. To their amazement he refused to obey, and they finally appealed to the Emperor, who, at their solicitation, repeated the order.

It is a tradition in Japan that no man ever disobeyed an order of the Emperor, who is descended from the



ADMIRAL TOGO.

gods, who is himself divine, and the highest object of reverence. Hence, when Togo received instructions from his majesty to abandon the strategic anchorage he had chosen and cruise down along the southern coast to await the mysterious fleet of the enemy, he called his captains together and laid the facts before them. He told them that the information he had received from his scouts and spies, as well as his own judgment, convinced him that the Russian fleet was intending to attack him in the Straits of Korea, and he had decided to await it there, notwithstanding the orders of the Mikado. He fully appreciated the significance and realized the penalty of such unheeded disobedience, but he believed that his majesty had acted upon mistaken information, and he was willing to accept the responsibility of disobeying his orders, because the honor, and perhaps the fate, of Japan was at stake. He did not ask any of his captains to share the awful responsibility with him. Those who declined to do so would be relieved of their commands by men who were willing to make the sacrifice. To those who would stay by him in defiance of the Emperor he would be accordingly grateful. He gave them twenty-four hours to think the matter over and consult among themselves.

The captains were so overcome with amazement at the audacity and the enormity of the offense proposed by their commander that they made no reply. Many of them left the flagship suspecting that he had lost his reason. Even to suggest or to think of doubting the wisdom or of disobeying the sacred voice of the Emperor was the highest treason, and here was Togo deliberately determined to defy it. As may be imagined, nothing else was discussed or even entered the thoughts of the captains that day, but they were careful that the cause of their anxiety should not become known to their subordinates. They had no conference, for none was necessary. The mind of every man was made up from the moment that Togo mentioned his purpose. Not one of them hesitated for an instant as to the course he should pursue, and when they met in the admiral's cabin on the flagship the next morning there was no controversy, no explanations, no difference of opinion.

As Togo called them one after another he found himself unsupported, and when he asked their opinion they told him that they did not believe he could find a single officer upon any of his ships who would stand with him against the orders of the Emperor. They laid their swords upon his table and resigned their commands.

With tears rolling down his weather-beaten cheeks, Togo asked them to reconsider their decision. He argued with them for an hour, giving the rea-

sons why he believed the Russian fleet was coming up the Straits of Korea, and every captain heartily indorsed his judgment, but the Emperor had spoken, and they must obey him, right or wrong. There was no alternative. Togo asked them what they would do in his place, if the responsibility was upon them. They answered with one voice:

"Obey the Emperor."

He dismissed them sadly, again affirming his determination to meet and fight the Russians in the straits even if he had to meet them alone, and asked them to return for a final conference the following morning.

They met again, as before, even more determined than at the previous councils, and, finding himself without a single supporter or sympathizer, Togo announced his intention to solve his dilemma by taking his own life. His judgment as a sailor, his conscience as a patriot, would not permit him to abandon the spot which he had chosen for an attack upon the Russians, and his reverence for his sovereign would not permit him to disobey his majesty's orders, although he was confident they were wrong. Therefore he would relieve the situation by suicide, and the next in command must assume the responsibility of carrying out the Emperor's orders.

The admiral's farewell to his command was interrupted by an orderly, who brought the news that Rojestvensky's ships had been sighted, and in a short hour every captain was at his post and the line of battle had been formed. The result is well known.

After the war was over and the admiral returned to Tokio to receive the honors he had so richly earned, he asked a private audience of his sovereign and frankly related the story of his disloyalty that I have so tamely told. None but the two men know what was said at that interview, but it was satisfactory to both.—William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-Herald.

OAK AND PINE.

The Value and Usefulness of These Classes of Woods.

Though generally assumed that oak is the wood capable of being put to the greatest variety of uses, it is known, as a matter of fact, that the pine is really the most used, on account of its great abundance. Nevertheless, the timber of the oak combines in itself the essential elements of strength and durability, hardness and elasticity in a degree which no other tree can boast, unrivaled as a material of shipbuilding, also superior in architecture, cabinetmaking, carving, mill work, cooperage and innumerable other purposes, while the bark is of great value as furnishing tan and yielding a bitter extract in continual demand for medicinal purposes.

But of uses for the pine details would be well nigh endless. The timber is invaluable in houses and ship carpentry; common turpentine is extracted from it in vast quantities, and immense supplies of var, pitch, resin and lampblack. In the manufacture of matches, and, above all, paper pulp, thousands and tens of thousands of acres of pine forests are cut down every year, and, briefly, the timber of this tree, constituting as it does the chief material of English and American builders, may be said to be more used than all other kinds of wood put together.

Testing Her Hat.

Two women had been shopping nearly all day and were as warm and wear as the circumstances warranted. As they were handed their change at the last counter one exclaimed: "Now for an ice cream soda and home!"

"Not for me," returned the other, with a martyr-like expression on her face. "I'm going to buy a hat."

"A hat? Why, you're all tired out and your hair is coming down."

"I know it, and that is the very reason. When you start out well brushed and fresh almost any hat will look good on you, but one that looks decent on me as I am now is the hat I want. That will be a true test. I always buy my hats when I am looking a little worse than usual. So you go for your ice cream soda, while I choose between a Merry Widow and a 'Soul Kiss.'"

"No, no," protested the first, "I'll try on a few, too, just to cheer myself up."

From a Summer Resort.

"Dear husband, we've been here a week, I've had no chance to write. For things have followed in a streak To tax me day and night. Dan's had the colic awful bad From eating unripe quince, Jack tumbled in the creek and's had An ague ever since.

"Ma's suffered from mosquito bites Till she is 'most insane, And poison ivy has made frights Of Sue and Mary Jane. A tree on Patrick fell and cracked His skull. He bled a stream, The nurse with agony is racked From country fair ice cream.

"E'en Pug has not escaped. A taste Of snake his portion is, And so you'd better come in haste As soon as you get this. Do come and bring the doctor, pray Ere things get any worse, And if you don't come right away You'd better bring a hearse!" —Chicago News.

Though people are too modest to admit it, every man is his own hero, and every woman her own heroine.

We hate to have a stranger come up to us, and say: "Guess who I am!"

If you would lengthen your life, shorten your worries.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1108—Death of Peter the Hermit, preacher of the first crusade.
- 1386—Swiss defeated the Austrians at battle of Sempach.
- 1608—Champlain founded the city of Quebec.
- 1700—Peter the Great of Russia decisively defeated Charles XII. of Sweden at battle of Poltava.
- 1775—Washington took command of Continental army at Cambridge.
- 1781—Engagement between British and American troops at Klux, N. Y.
- 1770—Fairfield, Conn., burned by the British.
- 1792—City of Washington selected as the capital of the United States.
- 1830—First normal school in America opened at Lexington, Mass.
- 1846—Commodore Sloat of the United States navy bombarded and took possession of the city of Monterey.
- 1848—Peace proclaimed between United States and Mexico.
- 1850—Integrity of Denmark guaranteed by England, France, Prussia and Sweden.
- 1851—Corner stone of the extension of the capitol laid by President Fillmore.
- 1854—Turks defeated the Russians at Gurgovo.
- 1855—Lord Canning appointed Governor General of India.
- 1863—Surrender of Fort Hudson, a Confederate fortress on the Mississippi river. Last day of the battle of Gettysburg.
- 1865—Execution of Payne, Atzerott, Heold and Mrs. Surratt, for complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln.
- 1866—Prussians defeated the Austrians at Sadowa.
- 1887—The Ameer of Afghanistan, following a rising against taxation, claimed peace, amnesty and a reduction of taxes for two years.
- 1900—Idaho Territory became a State.
- 1893—Marriage of the Duke of York and Princess May of Teck.
- 1895—A third daughter was born to President and Mrs. Cleveland. Gray Gables. Twenty perished in a railroad wreck on Grand Trunk near Quebec.
- 1897—Lisbon celebrated the 400th anniversary of the departure of Vasco Gama to discover the sea route to India.
- 1898—The island of Guam sold by Americans of the warship Charleston.
- 1900—Li Hung Chang made viceroy of China.
- 1905—Christ's College, Cambridge, celebrated the 400th year of its foundation.
- 1907—Mayor Schmitz of San Francisco sentenced to five years' imprisonment for extortion. Opening of the lift lock in the canal at Klux, Ont.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The baccalaureate address of President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton to a senior class said that the fundamental moral problem in the complex civilization of to-day was "how to separate the individual soul out of the confusion and attraction of modern societies, and brotherhoods, leagues, alliances, corporations and trusts. Into some clear vision of life, where he may think and apart, looking beyond the things of the day to the things that abide." Standing by the thought, had been confused by the tempt to confound morals with material ambitions. Individual conscience and law would make reforms. But the tendency toward vast organizations of kinds had resulted in men's trying to arate their individual life from the of their organization, being moral one and immortal in the practical that the tendency to be practical not conquer the tendency to be material.

Gov. Warner has announced the pointment of Chase S. Osborn, of Ste. Marie, Mich., as regent of the university of Michigan, to succeed Peter White, of Marquette. Mr. Osborn was chairman of the Michigan delegation at the Republican national convention at the Republican national convention at the commencement address to the students of Kansas State university. subject was "Landmarks of American Liberty."

Dr. Wu Ting-Fang, Chinese minister to the United States, delivered the commencement address at Iowa University. At the conclusion of his address, Dr. Wu was given the honorary degree of LL. D. In the afternoon Minister Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President, has taken his degree as a doctor of arts, thus finishing a four-year course in three years. The young man has made known his purpose to begin a career in the ranks of the military, and is said to have accepted a commission as a minor.