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STRONG AND STEADY

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

CHAPTER V.—(Continued.)

Walter raised his eyes and saw Joshua, whose small, man 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 laid 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 set 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. Mr. 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."

Though 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 stinking 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're 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 stiffly.

Joshua's answer was a low whistle of amazement.

"Where?" 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 trying you as if you was a prince of a 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 guardian, and then he'd have the handling of your money. Won't he be in 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 don't 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 be known 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 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 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

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Montana floods still tie up all railroads except one.

Women's objection to bonnets may split the Dunkard church.

A tornado did much damage in the vicinity of Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Great Britain is taking stern measures to choke out opium in India.

Floods in Missouri and Kaw rivers are causing a stampede to higher ground.

Women suffragists will appeal to both the Republican and Democratic conventions.

Chicago packers are not worrying over the beef shortage as they believe it will not last long.

Many small breweries throughout the country will have to close as a result of recent closing of saloons.

A British steamer struck a rock off the Chinese coast and 80 natives were drowned. All European passengers and officers were saved.

Turkey has sent troops onto Persian soil and annexed a large section of the northern Persia. A government has been organized by the invaders.

A federal grand jury, in session at Portland, has indicted a number of prominent Eastern Oregon men for land fraud. Seven true bills have been returned and the jury is still in session.

Great scarcity of beef in Chicago causes high prices to prevail.

Seventeen of the finest paintings in Paris have been seriously injured by vandals.

A life-size bronze statue of President McKinley has been unveiled at Philadelphia.

The Russian duma has refused to make the necessary appropriation for a new navy.

The death roll from the explosion on the cruiser Tennessee has now reached six.

A Norwood, Mass., boy of 14 years has confessed to the killing of three smaller children.

Gas in a mine at Gladstone, Colorado, killed twenty rescuers of imprisoned miners.

O. H. P. Belmont is some better, although his physicians hold out small hope of his recovery.

A New York actress has secured damages for the sale of her photographs without her consent.

A new record for motor bicycles has been established at Buffalo, N. Y. On a race track ten miles were made in 9-40 3-5.

John Brandt Walker, leader of a great bear campaign in the New York stock market, has failed. At one time he had a fortune of \$3,000,000.

Brewers from all parts of the country are to meet at Chicago to plan a defense against the ever increasing wave of prohibition now sweeping the United States.

Because of washouts in Montana the Burlington road has canceled all Pacific Coast trains running in connection with the Northern Pacific until further announcement.

King Edward has started for Russia. Sir Robert Hart predicts a great future for China.

Eight persons were killed in a collision on a trolley road near Annapolis, Scandinavia, Neb., has been wrecked by a cyclone. Franklin also suffered much damage.

Mayor Busse, of Chicago, has been married a month, and his friends have just found it out.

Hearst has made a net gain of 105 votes so far in the recount of ballots for mayor of New York.

While O. H. P. Belmont's physicians have not abandoned all hope, there is little chance of his recovery.

A tornado in Nova Scotia killed two persons and injured a number of others. Much damage to property is reported.

The crown prince of Serbia is accused of plotting against Montenegro.

The interstate commerce commission will be unable to give a decision on the Pacific coast lumber rate case before July 1.

The situation in Persia is steadily going from bad to worse, and it is believed the present shah will not rule much longer.

Japan says the revolt in Corea is now confined to the remote districts, and that in a short time the entire country will be pacified.

English socialists oppose the proposed visit of King Edward to Russia.

READY TO TRY AGAIN.

Peary is Anxious to Start for North Pole by July 1.

New York, June 9.—Confident of his ability to carry the stars and stripes to the north pole, Commander Robert E. Peary, who has planted the American flag nearer the coveted northern goal than any other living man, is in New York making active preparations for another Arctic dash in the hope of solving the mystery of the north, which for centuries has been the aim of daring explorers. The stanch steamer Roosevelt, which the Peary Arctic Club built for Commander Peary, and which carried him and his little party on his last northward journey, has been overhauled and put in better condition than ever for her expected battles with the ice barriers of the frozen north. The ship is tugging at her anchors in the harbor of New York, ready to start when her commander gives the word. Peary's present plans contemplate his departure from New York about July 1, but lack of sufficient funds to finance the expedition may prevent the start. In fact, unless \$25,000, forthcoming by July the project will have to be abandoned. An auxiliary ship or collier will accompany the Roosevelt as far north as Etah, where Peary's coal depot in the last expedition was located. Etah was the winter quarters of Dr. Hayes' last expedition and is located about 70 degrees north latitude. A small party of sportsmen and scientists may go north as far as Etah on the auxiliary ship, returning with her about September 1.

Commander Peary has devoted nearly 20 years to efforts to solve the great problems of the north and already has put into the work all of his personal means, amounting to \$50,000.

ROAD AGAIN BLOCKED.

Month May be Required to Replace Montana Railroad Lines.

Butte, Mont., June 9.—The Northern Pacific east from Butte is again tied up by a new washout of 600 feet of track near Jefferson Island, a small station in the Jefferson River Valley, about 60 miles from Butte. Two steel trestles on the Great Northern are reported as having gone out, near Basin, 35 miles north of Butte, adding to the demoralized condition of the Great Northern Railway officials will not venture an opinion as to when normal conditions will be restored, one official stating that in his belief a month's time would be necessary to put the Montana line of the Northern Pacific in proper condition. The Great Northern telegraphic service is completely demoralized, and the officials fear they have yet to learn of the real magnitude of the destruction wrought by the flood waters.

The barometer is higher than for several weeks. This would indicate warmer weather and with that the rapid melting of the snows in the mountains. As there now is lying from three to four feet of snow in the mountains it is feared the rush of waters will add to the damage already done.

HEARST'S GAIN NOW 123.

Counting of 77 Ballot Boxes Completed in New York.

New York, June 4.—The recount of the ballots in the disputed mayoralty election of 1905 proceeded with expedition today before Justice Lambert, in the supreme court, and 29 ballot boxes were opened, which show a gain of 16 votes for William Randolph Hearst. Seventy-seven boxes have been counted since the recount began, and the total gain for Hearst is 123. Early today Hearst made large gains, which were materially reduced by the recount late in the day.

Supreme Court Justice Lambert, who is trying the case, has requested Governor Hughes to recommend to the legislature that a special appropriation be made under which the jurors who are hearing the evidence may be allowed extra compensation for their duties.

It has been learned that one of the jurors has lost his employment since the opening of the trial nine weeks ago, and that another's business has seriously suffered from neglect for so long a period. It is said that from \$5 to \$10 a day for each juror was the compensation suggested to the governor.

Tornado in Iowa.

Charles City, Ia., June 9.—A tornado struck this city Sunday, demolishing about 200 residences and barns. One man, W. R. Beck, is known to have been killed and four children are reported missing. The path of the tornado was about ten rods wide. It struck the city in the southwestern part, crossed the river and lifted the water almost clean from the river bed. It passed in a northeasterly direction, just missing the Charles City college buildings, and spent itself a few miles northeast of the city.

Bandits Rob Pay Train.

City of Mexico, June 9.—Word has reached this city that bandits attacked a pay train on the way to the Los Grandes mine near Balzac in the state of Guerrero. Of the escort of four men, three were killed and one wounded. Four thousand dollars was stolen. Rurales are in pursuit of the highwaymen. The mine belongs to an American company.

FLOODS CAUSE HAVOC

Montana Cut Off From Outside by Raging Rivers.

RAILROADS LOSE MUCH TRACKAGE

Great Steel Bridges Washed Out—Wires Down on All Sides—Deluge Continues.

Missoula, Mont., June 6.—At 5 o'clock last evening the flood situation in western Montana was growing more serious each minute. Helena is cut off from the outside world. She is without railway, telegraph or telephone communication. For a short time in the afternoon there was a telephone connection, and at the time it was learned that all of the streams in Helena and vicinity are overflowing, and that there has been much damage to farms and considerable loss of livestock.

The Great Northern's branch lines are out of service, and the main line in northern Montana is cut in several places. The first train started eastward out of Spokane over the Great Northern is now tied up. There is no communication either by rail or telegraph.

All streams continue to rise. The Big Blackfoot river is nearly its highest flood mark.

The Northern Pacific has lost several miles of track east of here during the day. At Bonita, Nimrod and Bearmouth the telegraph operators have been compelled to leave their posts, driven out by the rising waters. At Garrison nearly all the residents have fled from their homes and are camped upon the hills in the rain.

None of the dams on the river have given way, though the power dam owned by ex-Senator William A. Clark, above Missoula, is reported to be in a critical condition.

Yesterday afternoon the Northern Pacific released by wagon transfer 200 of the passengers that have been marooned east of here. They will be sent to Spokane on a made-up train.

The damage to the new roadbed of the St. Paul line between Missoula and Butte will not fall short of a million dollars, and it is becoming greater all the time.

The Northern Pacific has assembled on this division all of the piledrivers from the west that it can get; it has taken from its own western divisions and has borrowed from other roads. The fight against the water is being carried on by 10,000 men, but the water is gaining steadily, and the rain continues to fall in torrents. The Missoula river at this place is but a few feet below the highest mark ever registered. The expensive city bridges are in danger, and are guarded to prevent their use, so dangerous are they considered.

West of here the Northern Pacific has no trouble as yet.

At midnight the Northern Pacific has surrendered the fight against the water east of Missoula for the present. Unless the rain stops soon, there will be very little left of 150 miles of the most expensive road on the line. Two big steel bridges have been washed out, but it is not understood that they are destroyed.

The serious feature of the situation is the fact that the high water has extended west of Missoula, and is attacking the track between Missoula and the west end of the state. The Idaho division has sent a big force of men over to help in the fight on the west end.

CRUISER'S BOILER BURSTS.

Four Men Killed by Explosion on Tennessee at San Pedro.

San Pedro, Cal., June 6.—While the United States armored cruiser Tennessee was steaming at 19 knots per hour on speed trial off Point Loma, Cal., at 11:08 yesterday morning, a steam pipe in the starboard engine room burst under a 235-pound pressure, killing four men and injuring ten others—all of the men in the compartment at the time. Two of the injured will die.

The explosion, the cause of which is yet unknown, occurred only a few minutes after Admiral Uriel Sebee, Captain J. B. Howard and Chief Engineer Robertson had left the engine room on a tour of inspection. Four of the men were killed instantly, and two more are expected to die at any moment.

Boycott Is Spreading.

Tokio, June 6.—Two hundred thousand yen is now indicated as the size of the proposed present to Canton guilds if the boycott is discontinued. Meanwhile advices from north China and Manchuria state that, owing to the activity of the Cantonese emissaries, the movement is rapidly spreading throughout the north. The emissaries are working systematically and secretly. Their literature makes no mention either of the boycott or of Japan, speaking of "the national disgrace with reference to the country disagree," which the Chinese all understand means Japan.

Bringing Back the Meat.

London, June 6.—It is declared here today that 210,000 pounds of American meat that has been stored in London Glasgow and Liverpool was today re-shipped by fast steamer to New York to meet the continued shortage of meat in the United States.