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## STRONG AND STEADY

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

### CHAPTER XXIII.—(Continued.)

Leaving Walter busily engaged in selling books, we will glance at the Drummond household, and inquire how the members of that interesting family fared after Walter's departure.

Joshua's discontent increased daily. He was now eighteen, and his father absolutely refused to increase his allowance of twenty-five cents a week, which was certainly ridiculously small for a boy of his age.

While he was thinking this matter over a dangerous thought entered his mind. His father, he knew, had a small brass-nail trunk, in which he kept his money and securities. He had seen him going to it more than once.

"I wonder how much he's got in it," thought Joshua. "As it's all coming to me some day there's no harm in my knowing."

There seemed little chance of finding out, however. The trunk was always locked, and Mr. Drummond carried the key about with him in his pocket. If he had been a careless man, there might have been some chance of his some day leaving the trunk unlocked, or mislaying the key; but in money matters Mr. Drummond was never careless. Joshua would have been obliged to wait years, if he had depended upon this contingency.

One day, however, Joshua found in the road a bunch of keys of various sizes attached to a ring. He cared very little to whom they belonged, but it flashed upon him at once that one of these keys might fit his father's strong box. He hurried home at once with his treasure and ran upstairs breathless with excitement.

He knew where the trunk was kept. Mr. Drummond, relying on the security of the lock, kept it in the closet of his bed chamber.

Joshua made his way at once to the closet, and, entering, began to try his keys, one after the other. The very last one was successful in opening the trunk.

Joshua trembled with excitement as he saw the contents of the trunk laid open to his gaze. He turned over the papers nervously, hoping to come upon some rolls of bills. In one corner he found fifty dollars in gold pieces. Besides these, there were some moxags, in which he felt little interest. He turned to the contents of the trunk were some folded papers which he recognized at once as United States bonds. Opening one of them, he found it to be a Five-Twenty bond for five hundred dollars.

Five hundred dollars! What could he not do with five hundred dollars! He could go to the city and board and enjoy himself meanwhile, till he could find a place. His galling dependence would be over, and he would be his own master. True, it would be a theft, but Joshua had an excuse ready.

"It will all be mine some day," he said to himself. "It's only taking a part of my own in advance."

He seized the gold and the bond, hastily concealing both in his breast pocket, went downstairs, first locking the trunk, and putting it away where he found it.

He got out of the house without his mother seeing him, and made his way to a railway station four miles distant, where he purchased a ticket for New York.

He took a seat by a window, and, as the car began to move, he said to himself, in exultation, "Now I am going to see life."

CHAPTER XXIV.

Three months later Walter arrived at Columbus, the capital of the State, after a business tour of considerable length, during which he had visited from twenty to thirty different towns and villages. He had now got accustomed to the business, and understood better the arguments to employ to those whom he wished to purchase his book. The consequence was that he had met with a degree of success which had far exceeded his anticipations. He had tested his powers, and found that they were quite equal to the task he had undertaken—that of earning his own living. He had padded his own canoe thus far without assistance, and he felt confident that, if his health continued good, he should be able to do so hereafter.

After eating supper, and spending an hour or two in the public room of the hotel, Walter went up to his room. Here he took out a blank book, in which he kept an account of his sales and expenditures, and, taking a piece of paper, figured up the grand result. He wished to know just how he stood.

After a brief computation, he said, with satisfaction, "I have sold two hundred and eighty books, which gives a gross profit of three hundred and fifty dollars. My expenses have been exactly two hundred and sixty three dollars. That leaves me eighty-seven dollars net profit."

This was a result which might well yield Walter satisfaction. He was only fifteen, and this was his first business experience. Moreover, he was nearly a thousand miles away from home and friends, surrounded by strangers. Yet, by his energy and business ability, he had been able to pay all his expenses, and these, of course, were considerable, as he was constantly moving, and yet had made a dollar a day clear profit.

"That is rather better than working for my board in Mr. Drummond's store," he reflected. "I am afraid it would have taken me a long time to make my fortune if I had stayed there. I wonder

how my amiable cousin Joshua is getting along."

This thought led to the sudden recollection that he had written to Mr. Shaw, asking him to write to the hotel at Columbus, where he was now stopping, giving him any news that he might consider interesting. Such a letter might be awaiting him.

He went downstairs, and approached the clerk.

"Have any letters been received here for me?" he inquired.

"What name?" asked the clerk.

"Walter Conrad."

"There is a letter for that address. It was received a week since."

"Give it to me," said Walter, eagerly.

He took the letter, and recognized at once in the address Clement Shaw's irregular handwriting. Cut off, as he had been for over a month, from all communication with former friends, he grasped the letter with a sensation of joy, and hurried back to his room to read it quietly, and without risk of interruption.

The letter ran as follows:

"My Dear Young Friend—I have just received your letter asking me to write you at Columbus. I am glad to obtain your address, as I have a matter of importance to speak of. First, however, let me congratulate you on the success you have met with as a book agent. It is not a business in which I should advise you to devote yourself permanently; but I have no doubt that the experience which you acquire, and the necessary contact into which it brings you with different classes of people, will do you good, while the new scenes which it brings before your eyes will gratify the natural love of adventure which you share in common with those of your age. When you set out, I had misgivings as to your success, I admit. It was certainly an arduous undertaking for a boy of fifteen; but you have already demonstrated that you are able to paddle your own canoe, and I shall hereafter feel confident of your success in life, so far at least as relates to earning your living. That you may also be successful in building up a good character, and taking an honorable position among your fellow-men, I earnestly hope.

"I now come to the business upon which I wish to speak to you.

"You will remember that a man named James Wall was prominently identified with the Great Metropolitan Mining Company, by which your poor father lost his fortune. Indeed, this Wall, who is a plausible sort of fellow, was the one who induced him to embark in this disastrous speculation. I suspect he has feathered his own nest pretty well already, and that he intends to do so still more. I was surprised to hear from him some ten days since. I will not copy the letter, but send you the substance of it. He reports that in winding up the affairs of the company there is a prospect of realizing two per cent for the stockholders, which, as your father owned a thousand shares, would yield two thousand dollars. It may be some time, he adds, before the dividend will be declared and paid. He professes a willingness, however, to pay two thousand dollars cash for a transfer of your father's claims upon the company.

"Now, two thousand dollars are not to be despised; but my impression is that such a man as James Wall would never have made such an offer if he had not expected the assets would amount to considerably more than two per cent. I am unwilling to close with the offer until I know more about the affairs of the company. Here it has struck me that you can be of assistance. This Wall lives in a town named Portville, in Wisconsin, on the shore of Lake Superior. I would suggest that you change your name, as at once to Portville, and find out what you can. I can give you no instructions, but must trust to your own native shrewdness, in which I feel sure you are not deficient. If it should be necessary to give up your present business, do so without hesitation, since the other business is of more importance. I will write Mr. Wall that I have his offer under consideration. If you need money, draw upon me.

"I hear that Joshua Drummond has run away from home, carrying away considerable money belonging to his father. The latter appears to lament the loss of his money more than of his son.

"I remain your sincere friend,

"CLEMENT SHAW."

This letter gave Walter much food for reflection. He determined to give up his book agency, and leave as soon as possible for Portville. It was encouraging to think that, in any event, he was likely to realize two thousand dollars from the mining shares, which he had looked upon as valueless. Besides, he felt there was every reason to hope they would prove even more valuable.

Three days later, having closed his accounts as agent, he started for Portville. He had made a new start in life, and this unexpected money would prove a stepping stone to new ambitions. His father proved his courage and integrity, with his motto always, "Strong and Steady."

Walter found a cheap boarding house and gave his name as Carl Walters. He at once made inquiries about James Wall. He found out that Wall was regarded as a shrewd speculator and was associated with several men of dubious business reputation in various copper and iron mining enterprises.

The man had an office employing several clerks, who sent out considerable advertising matter offering shares of stock to investors at a distance. Walter managed to get employment in the office.

Within five days he had learned all the ins and outs of the business; in ten he was ready to make a move in his own interests.

The stock for which Shaw had been offered two thousand dollars he discovered was really worth ten thousand dollars.

Walter hired a lawyer. When he left Portville he carried with him a check for a small fortune.

Stapleton was his destination. Walter decided to invest some of his money in a general store there. Joshua Drummond was surprised and indignant when he learned of this new business rival, but Walter went steadily on his way. He made a complete success of the enterprise.

New ambitions arose as time went on, and his future proved his courage and integrity with his motto always "Strong and Steady."

(THE END)

## THE ART OF JUGGLING.

It Demands Much Hard Work and Unlimited Patience.

"To be a successful juggler it is necessary to possess infinite patience. Some tricks require such long and continuous practice that unless a man possesses great patience and unlimited powers of ever being able to perform them," says Paul Cinquevalli, in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "Take a trick, for example, like balancing a tall glass on four straws placed on the forehead. It looks easy enough, but it took me years of practice before I could do it. While I am balancing the glass I also juggle with five hats at the same time. I never, as a matter of fact, see the hats. They are handed to me by my assistant, and I then set them going, but the whole time my eyes are fixed on the straws upon which the glass is balanced. If I took my eyes from the straws for a hundredth part of a second their balance would be upset. I know instinctively where the hats are all the time and know exactly where each hat is when I put out my hand to catch it."

"It took me close on eight years practice before I was able to balance two billiard balls on top of each other and then balance the two on a billiard cue. I started practicing it an hour a day, as a rule. After a couple of years' practice one night I woke up, having dreamed that I had performed it. I got up, rushed downstairs and began to practice with my cue and two billiard balls, and at the first attempt I balanced them. About five years later I performed the feat in public.

"For the cannon ball trick I first used a wooden ball weighing just one pound. I caught it on the wrong place and was knocked senseless, but I kept on practicing until I found out how to do it. Now I use an iron ball weighing sixty pounds. If I didn't catch the ball on the right place on the back of my neck it would kill me, but there is no chance of my making a mistake."

BILLBOARDS AS NUISANCES.

California reports an inspiring advance in the campaign against offensive posters, billboards, and advertising boardings in the judicial decision that such objects are nuisances, subject to abatement by the police authorities under the common law, says the New York Tribune. It was argued that anything needlessly offensive to the senses was a nuisance. A soap factory or a pigsty would not be tolerated in close proximity to residences because of the

Surfacting Natural Woods.

White pine, birch, cherry, whitewood, maple, sycamore, gum and hickory need no filling at all. They are classed as the close grained woods, and their surface presents no pores or cellular tissue to be filled. Still the surface needs to be sealed up so the wood will not suck the oil out of the varnish. This is called surfacting. It consists of coating the surface with shellac and then sandpapering down to a smooth finish. When thus treated the wood is ready for the varnish.

Right Kind for Him.

"How," said the waiter, "there is a copper outside and he wants me to make him a sandwich. What kind should I make him?"

"A copper?" laughed the restaurant proprietor. "Oh, make him a club sandwich."

His One Speech.

"Did you ever make a speech?"

"Yes."

"Was it well received?"

"No."

"What did you say?"

"Not guilty."—The Tatler.

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

### PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Mulai Hafid has formally assumed the throne of Morocco.

A serious fire in Omaha destroyed several manufacturing plants.

Count von Goetzen may succeed the late Baron von Sternberg as ambassador to Washington.

A Baltimore woman has confessed that her son murdered her husband because he was cruel to her.

The United States and Mexico are about ready to make a naval demonstration against Honduras.

The wife of Major General Luard was murdered in a wood near London. Her jewelry was the object.

Oregon National Guardsmen are among the leaders in the rifle shoot in the United States army matches.

Herr Gellermann, cashier of a German bank, committed suicide after confessing to the theft of \$125,000.

Texas railroad attorneys are preparing to fight the state commission's order forbidding a raise in freight rates.

The American press humorists are in session at Denver and are said to be about the most somnolent looking men possible, barring undertakers.

Bryan counts on carrying New York.

The big theater hat has been abolished in Paris play houses.

The grand jury at Springfield, Ill., has returned 20 more indictments.

Taft says that, if elected, he will call a special session of congress to revise the tariff.

The sultan is recalling his ministers and ambassadors and replacing them with new men.

Serious trouble is feared in the Alabama coal district where the white miners have ordered the blacks to leave.

During a storm near Pottsville, Pa., lightning set off a charge of dynamite 1,300 feet under ground, killing two men.

A Southern Indiana coal mine has been foreclosed by a Chicago bank which held paper to the amount of \$3,000,000.

The trial of Theodore W. Halsey, the San Francisco telephone magnate, has been postponed until September 26, on account of illness.

Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, has received notice that the government has made an additional appropriation of \$3,300 a month with which to fight the pigrae.

A non-union negro miner was shot from ambush near Birmingham, Ala.

Six indictments have been returned at Springfield, Illinois, against rioters.

Holland awaits the report of M. De Reus before deciding on final action against Castro.

### TRAIN IS WRECKED.

Cottage Grove Local Goes Into Ditch Near Eugene.

Eugene, Or., Aug. 25.—Fireman Frank Boulter and three unknown tramps were killed, Engineer Jack Nichols was fatally injured, and six passengers were badly hurt in a wreck of the southbound Cottage Grove local shortly after 9 o'clock Sunday night, four miles north of this city.

When two miles north of Irving, the engine, going at schedule speed, struck a cow, which was on the track, and turned turtle, landing in the ditch. The baggage cars and passenger coaches, pushing the tender ahead of them, continued on the ties for 75 feet until the baggage car climbed on top of the tender and stood on end. The impact hurled three of the passenger coaches from the track, only the last two remaining on the rails.

The wreck, from the standpoint of destruction to rolling stock, is one of the worst in recent years in the Southern Pacific in Oregon. The engine and tender are a pile of scrap iron. The rails and ties are torn up for a distance of 75 feet, while the passenger coaches and baggage car lie on their sides in the ditch. The cow which tried to cross the track and caused the wreck was cut completely in two.

ARE READY FOR HOME RULE.

Cubans Capable of Self-Government, According to Magoon.

Hot Springs, Va., Aug. 25.—Charles E. Magoon, provisional governor of Cuba, talked with Mr. Taft today regarding conditions in Cuba.

The people of Cuba are qualified for self government in the positive assertion of Governor Magoon. The Cuban people, he indicated, are heartily in favor of government ownership of public utilities. They own the telegraph lines and the test of the popular will, which has just been made on the question of private concessions for telephone lines, he believes has demonstrated their desire for government ownership. The test referred to was made at the suggestion of President Roosevelt, and consisted in the submission to the 32 provinces of the draft of a law which, if approved and enacted, would have resulted, according to Governor Magoon, in the telephone business of the island going into the hands of the present Havana Telephone company. The concession of this company expires in 1910, whereupon the telephone lines and plant of the company in that city will revert to the Cuban government.

FORTY PERISH WITH SHIP.

Norwegian Steamer Goes Down Off Coast of Norway.

Bergen, Norway, Aug. 25.—The Norwegian steamer Folgen Fonden, from Bergen to Haugesund, on the west coast of Norway, was wrecked last night near Skonevika and sank in three minutes.

The steamer carried 70 passengers and it is believed 40 of them were drowned. Fifteen bodies have been recovered. The captain of the steamer was among those saved.

The Folgen Fonden carried on only a local traffic and it is believed that no foreigners were aboard.

It is reported that a terrible panic occurred when the steamer struck; that fearful scenes were witnessed as the vessel sank. Boats were hurriedly manned by those who had witnessed the catastrophe and they hurried to where the steamer had gone down, but most of them arrived too late to rescue the passengers.

Victory is Complete.

Tangier, Aug. 25.—The defeat of the sultan, Abd El Aziz, by the forces of his brother, Mulai Hafid, has been confirmed. The sultan of record was surprised on the night of August 19 and most of his troops deserted to the side of the usurping sultan after the firing of a few shots. Reports indicate that the defeat of Abd El Aziz was due largely to the betrayal of his own tribesmen. Mulai Hafid has been proclaimed sultan of Morocco at Tangier and announcement of the proclamation telegraphed to all parts of the country.

Alaska Town Wiped Out.

Seattle, Aug. 25.—Moore City, Alaska, in the Innok district, was burned on July 3, according to passengers who arrived on the Northwest today from Nome and St. Michael. The United States commissioners of the jail and a few cabins were left standing.

Turkish Capital Aflame.

Constantinople, Aug. 25.—Fire broke out this afternoon in the Stamboul quarter and within a very brief period a terrible conflagration was raging. A strong wind carried the flames along at great speed and for six hours they swept over the section, destroying 1,500 houses and shops.

Von Sternberg is Dead.

Heidelberg, Germany, Aug. 25.—Speck Von Sternberg, former German ambassador to the United States, died here yesterday morning.

## BANDIT'S RICH HAUL

Stops Eleven Stages in Yellowstone Park.

SECURES OVER TWO THOUSAND

Unarmed Passengers Also Give Up Watches, Jewelry and Other Valuables—Soldiers Pursue.

Lake Hotel, Yellowstone Park, Wyo., Aug. 25.—The greatest stage hold-up in the West in many years, at least in the number of coaches held up, occurred yesterday within the boundaries of the Yellowstone park. The work was done by a lone highwayman, and the passengers were absolutely helpless in his hands, as no guns are permitted in the park to either drivers or tourists.

In all, it is estimated from the statement of passengers, that something like \$2,000 in cash was obtained, drafts worth \$10,000, other papers and transportation, besides a rich haul in watches and jewelry.

In all, 21 coaches left the Upper Geyser basin in the morning. The highwayman was encountered about five miles further on at a lonely spot along the banks of Spring creek, a tributary of the Fire Hole river. The creek is lined with bushes. The first lot of coaches, numbering seven, and following each other closely, passed by the place unharmed. There was a gap between them, and the next lot of eight following.

After the first of the eight came along the highwayman stepped from the bushes and ordered the driver to halt. He did not molest the driver, nor any of the drivers following.

These eight coaches had barely gone on when three more came along, and these were robbed in a like manner.

In all about 125 people were held up, though not all of these suffered loss. When the robber ordered the drivers to move on, he stood a few minutes with his gun pointed toward them, and then walked down the road.

As quickly as possible after a telephone word was reached at Thumb Station a detail started in pursuit of the man who is described as about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with bluish-grey eyes, and bristly grey whiskers. He acted like a man short of breath or a consumptive.

GUN SILENCER IS TESTED.

Maxim's Latest Invention Gives Astonishing Results in Practice.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 25.—The official test of Hiram P. Maxim's gun silencer was made by officers stationed at the United States armory here today. The test, it is said, proved the truth of the claims of the inventor. The device was attached to a regulation army rifle. The test was made at regular ranges, relays of signals being stationed at intervals. It was found that while the discharge of the unequalled rifle is audible 7,700 yards, with the silencer this distance was cut down to 1,500 yards. Further tests were made to determine whether the silencer interfered with the velocity of the bullet and it was found that this interference was slight, reducing the velocity not more than 5 or 6 per cent.

INDIGNANT AT CASTRO'S ORDER

Citizens of Parian Ports Resent Embargo on Travel.

Port of Spain, Aug. 25.—News has been received here that President Castro has instructed the collectors of customs in Venezuelan ports not to clear any passengers for the West Indian islands. The Venezuelan consul here has been instructed to withhold passports from persons desirous of taking passage on the steamers to Venezuela. This action on the part of the Venezuelan government has caused great indignation and is a serious blow to the inhabitants of the Parian ports and Ciudad Bolivar, and will add considerably to the misery already existing there.

Bandits Burn Two Towns.

Aberdeen, S. D., Aug. 25.—It is reported here today that the towns of Lowry and Ataska, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad's river extension, were burned in a raid by a mysterious company of mounted men last night. The mounted company completely surrounded the two towns and fired every building. The reason for the raids is not known here. Colonel Holmes, president of the Dakota National bank, who is president of the Lowry bank, confirms the report that his bank was burned.

Old Virginia is Shaken.

Richmond, Va., Aug. 25.—There were several severe earth tremors felt in Powhatan, Amelia and Chesterfield counties last night and this morning. No one was hurt and no property damage done.