

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.

"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 stiffly.

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 were 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."

"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?"

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, the sooner you begin to earn, and the more you earn, 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.)

WOMEN WHO LIVED AS MEN.

Instances in Which the Deception Was Kept Up for Years.

Dr. James Barry, who lies buried in Kensal Green cemetery, was a wonderful instance of successful concealment of sex, says Tit-Bits.

At an early age she fell in love with an army surgeon, to follow whose fortunes she assumed the dress of the opposite sex and entered the army as hospital assistant.

She displayed such ability that she rose until she was given the post of inspector general of the army medical department.

Slight of form and of dark complexion, her general bearing and conversation displayed an almost feminine refinement.

A favorite with the men on account of her humanity, her quarrelsome temper by no means endeared her to the officers, and served her in such bad stead that once she was obliged to fight a duel, from which adventure she fortunately emerged unscathed.

Science and Invention

A transport for submarine vessels, for the Japanese government, will convey the submarines to the place of action, where they will be floated from within, thus insuring secrecy of action.

A new boiler-cleaning compound is reported from Mexico. It is made wholly from vegetable substances, and is said to remove scale from boiler tubes, while causing no injury to the tubes or boiler shell.

That the finest stone buildings and monuments of many cities are disintegrating through the action of the sulphuric acid produced by the combustion of coal is asserted by a writer in Cosmos (Paris). In London, especially, has been estimated that no less than half a million tons of acid are thus discharged into the atmosphere yearly.

Some wonderful underground caves and waterways have been discovered in the Selkirk Mountains of Canada. It is three years since their existence first became known, but they were only partially explored. Between 5,000 and 6,000 feet have been mapped.

Conflicting theories exist as to the origin of the caves. One theory attributes them to earthquake; another to erosion during a period of about 40,000 years.

Prof. W. A. Noyes of the University of Illinois remarks that when we consider that practically all the soda used to make soap is now manufactured from salt, it is hard to believe that 100 years ago it was made almost exclusively from the potash of wood ashes, or from natural soda, the supply of which was very limited.

Soda from salt was first made in France in 1791 by Le Blanc, but not until 1823, in England, was the industry successfully established. Then the Le Blanc process held undisputed sway for fifty years.

But the chemists attacked the problem again, and the production of soda from ammonia began to displace the older process, in which sulphuric acid was used. Still the chemists went ahead, and now electricity has been called in to play, and the ammonia soda, in turn, is giving place to electrolytic soda.

The Arunta, the people who inhabit central Australia, have been the object of careful ethnological study. Herr O. Freiherr von Leonhardt, their latest investigator, presents some new facts about them. He finds their religious conceptions particularly interesting and curious.

They believe in a supreme god, dwelling in the heavens, and called Altjira. The stars are his camp-fires, the Milky Way is his hunting-ground, and he is surrounded with beautiful youths and maidens who are immortal.

The evening star, the Pleiades, the sun and the moon once lived on the earth, and were the ancestors of the Arunta. It is noteworthy that the Arunta regard their god as a red man, with long hair. But he never lived on the earth, and he pays little attention to men.

The Arunta have also curious beliefs concerning the fate of disembodied souls.

HOUSE IN DEBT TO HIM.

Mark Twain's "Discounts" in Book Deal Made Cash Come His Way.

"Mark Twain is the most interesting character in American literature today and has made more money out of it than any other author," said A. S. Swanson, representative of one of the great publishing houses of New York at the New Willard recently, according to the Washington Post.

He lives just around the corner from our place and so we see him very often. He is never so happy as when telling a story and is often seen doing so in a group of congenial spirits. He was telling me that recently he went into the sales department of our house and, being attracted by a particular book, asked the clerk:

"Four dollars," said the clerk.

AMUSEMENTS

AT THE CHICAGO THEATERS.

GARRICK.

The fifth week of the run of "The Witching Hour" at the Garrick Theater is still continuing the great success of that play to crowded houses. On Monday evening of this week the McDonaid jury visited the theater in a body to witness the piece, and much speculation is rife as to the effect of the drama upon these jurors in this important murder case.

Certainly, no matter what one's personal view may be, "The Witching Hour" inspires a great deal of fresh speculation on the subject of those mysterious influences known as personality and public opinion, and this feature of the piece makes it exceptionally interesting. Mr. Thomas has provided in "The Witching Hour" not only a capably entertaining play, full of throbbing heart interest, but also a foothold inspiration to higher thought and nobler living.

AUDITORIUM THEATER, CHICAGO.

Third Big Week for the "Follies of 1907."

Every theater-goer of Chicago is beginning to realize that the big Ziegfeld musical revue, "Follies of 1907," which is packing the big Auditorium at every performance, gives three times as much value for the money as any other attraction now playing in this Western metropolis.

Never in its history has the Auditorium played to the enormous houses that the "Follies of 1907" are now drawing.

Bickel and Watson are still the big comedy features.

Grace Larkins, Lucy Weston, Annabelle Whitford, Grace Leigh, Lillian Lee, Florence Tempest, Frank Mayne, William Powers, Dan Baker, James Manly, the sensational drummer girls, Peacock girls, Gibson bathing girls, Dixie girls and the Ziegfeld beauty girls, won merited applause.

Dazie, America's greatest dancer, still delights her numberless admirers. The prices for matinees, which are given Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, are 25 and 50 cents, and every night and Sunday 25, 50 and 75 cents. No higher.

MAJESTIC.

Prominent among the headline features at the Majestic Theater, Chicago, for the week of Feb. 24th will be a complete musical comedy, entitled "Robinson Crusoe's Island," one of the most pretentious efforts ever offered on a vaudeville stage.

A company of 15 people headed by Rogers and Devery, two clever comedians, will engage in this spectacle, which is a complete Broadway show, with singing comedians, dancers and spectacular features. Another attractive novelty will be provided by Maude Hall Macy and company who offer "The Magpie and the Jay," a one-act rural comedy drama. Eva Mudge, noted throughout the country as a comedienne and singer of rare charm, will help to add diversity to this program, but the most noted singer of this aggregation is famous Pauline Hall, who has been before the public for years.

The Three Meers, known everywhere for the convulsing fun of their comedy on the high wire, are always sure fire entertainers; while Warren and Blanchard, two staging comedians, are considered perhaps the best of their class as rapid fire entertainers. Europe contributes Charlene and Charlene, two jugglers of unusual attainment, while the eccentric comediana, Howard and North, have an act which is warranted to produce at least one laugh a minute for all the time they are on the stage. Another genuine novelty is Lily Flexmore, the English acrobatic dancer, who has been a sensation wherever she has appeared.

A Tax on Signs.

Every sign in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is taxed. A cafe having a special "sorvette," or ice, to serve, makes a placard and hangs it in a doopost, or to one of the palm trees in the bush which commonly decorate such establishments. The notice thus posted must have a revenue stamp attached. Permanent signs are taxed on a permanent basis, temporary signs on a stamp basis. A sign, "House for Rent," bears a revenue stamp. Under such circumstances the tax on sign boards or bill boards is the expected thing, but naturally there is much less general use of such forms of advertising. As in the cities of the United States, a vacant corner of a frequented street is very likely to have some sort of a bill board arrangement, and temporary inclosures about buildings in course of construction are generally covered with more or less prominent signs, but these signs, being taxed, are regulated both in size and in other respects.

Ways of Hunting.

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