

STRONG AND STEADY

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

CHAPTER X. In due time, to Joshua's great delight, the lottery ticket reached him. It was several days in coming, and he had almost given it up, but the sight of it raised his spirits to the highest pitch. It seemed to him the first step to a fortune. He began at once to indulge in fantasizing about the possibilities of fortune, independence and happiness.

But at length the long-expected letter arrived. Joshua did not like to open it in the postoffice, lest it should attract the attention of the postmaster. He therefore withdrew to a place where he was not likely to be disturbed, and with trembling fingers opened the letter. Something dropped out.

"I wonder if it is a check," thought Joshua, stooping over and picking it up. But no, it was an announcement of the drawing. Joshua's numbers—for each lottery ticket contains three numbers—were 9, 15, 50. But of the thirteen lucky numbers drawn out of sixty-five, neither of them was one.

Slowly it dawned upon Joshua that he had drawn nothing, that his five dollars had been absolutely thrown away. "But there was a letter," he thought. "Perhaps this will explain it," Joshua read as follows: "Dear Sir—We regret to say that we are unable to send you a prize this time. We hope, however, you will not be discouraged. Some of our patrons who have been most fortunate have commenced by being unlucky. Indeed, singularly enough, this is a general rule.

"Hoping to hear from you again, and to send you in return better news, we subscribe ourselves, very respectfully, 'GRAHNS & CO.'"

The effect of Joshua's ill success was to make him very despondent. He thought of all he had intended to do, and how his careless had crumbled, and all in consequence of this letter. He had been so sanguine of success. Now he must write to Nam that his visit to New York was indefinitely postponed—that is, unless he could induce his father to provide him with money enough to go. The prospect was not very encouraging, but he felt desperate, and he determined to make the attempt. Accordingly, just after supper, he detained his father, just as he was returning to the store, and said: "Father, I wish you'd let me go to New York on a visit."

"What for?" asked Mr. Drummond, elevating his brows. "Because I'm eighteen years old, and I've never been there yet."

"Then, if you've gone eighteen years without seeing the city, I think you can go a while longer," said his father, under the impression that he had made a witty remark. But Joshua did not appreciate the humor of it.

"I've lived in New England ever since I was born," grumbled Joshua, "and have got tired of it. I want to see something of life."

They left the store, and Mr. Drummond began to berate the absent Walter. He was provoked to find that he had lost two dollars and a half, and, if Walter had been in receipt of any wages, would have stopped the amount out of his salary. But, unfortunately for this plan of reprisal, our hero received his board only, and that could not very well be levied upon. However, he might have some money in his possession, and Mr. Drummond decided to require him to make up the loss.

"When did she say she bought the shawl, Mr. Nichols?" asked his employer. "About a fortnight ago."

"Will you look on the books, and see if you find the sale so recorded? I am surprised that it escaped my attention," Mr. Nichols looked over the book of sales, and announced that no such entry could be found. Mr. Drummond was surprised. Though not inclined to judge others any too charitably, he had never suspected Walter of dishonesty.

"Are you sure you looked back far enough?" he asked. "Yes," said Nichols; "to make sure, I looked back four weeks. The woman said only a fortnight, you know."

"I know. Then it seems Conrad has concealed the sale and kept the money." "Perhaps," suggested Nichols, who rather liked Walter, "he forgot to put it down."

"If he did, he forgot to put the money in the drawer, for the cash and the sales have always balanced. He's an ungrateful young rascal," continued Mr. Drummond, harshly. "After I took him into my house and treated him as a son—"

"This was not saying much, if Joshua be believed—he has robbed me in the most cold-blooded manner."

Nichols was astonished by the evidence against our hero. He did not like to think him guilty, but it certainly seemed as if he must be.

"What are you going to do about it, Mr. Drummond?" he asked. "I suppose I ought to have him arrested. He deserves it."

"I did not buy the shawl of him," "Didn't you say you bought the shawl of the boy?" asked Mr. Drummond, with a sickly hue of disappointment overspreading his face.

"Yes, but it was not that boy. Come to think of it, I believe it was your son," said Mrs. Blake. "Isn't he a little older than this boy?"

"My son—Joshua!" exclaimed Mr. Drummond. "Yes, I think it must be he. He's got rather an old-looking face, with freckles and reddish hair; isn't so good-looking as this boy."

"Joshua!" repeated Mr. Drummond, bewildered. "He doesn't tend in the store." "It was about dinner time," said Mrs. Blake. "He was the only one here."

"Do you know anything about this, Mr. Nichols?" asked Mr. Drummond, turning to his head clerk. "Light dawned upon Nichols. He remembered now Joshua's offer to take his member now Joshua's offer to take his member, and he felt sure in his own mind who was the guilty party."

"Yes," said Mr. Drummond, "about a fortnight ago, as Walter was rather late in getting back, Joshua offered to stay in the store for a while. He must have sold the shawl, but he must have guessed at the price."

"A mistake has been made," said Mr. Drummond, hurriedly, to the ladies. "A mistake that will be profitably. I mistake that to be able to sell you another shawl for less than ten dollars."

"The ladies went out, and Mr. Drummond and his two clerks were left alone. "Mr. Drummond," said Walter, quietly, "after what has happened, you will not be surprised if I decline to remain in your employ. I shall take the afternoon train to Willoughby."

He walked out of the store, and crossed the street to Mr. Drummond's house. (To be continued.)

SAVAGES ARE LEARNING. Rubber Traders on the Amazon Can No Longer Make Good Bargains. A letter from Iquitos, at the head of navigation on the Amazon, says that the rubber traders have overcome the business of bargaining the finest kind of gawags for good, hard rubber collected by the Indians. Fortunes had been made in the business, but the natives have cut their eye teeth. They have found at last that many of the trade goods they accepted are almost valueless, and that the commodity they exchanged for baulies is highly prized by many natives.

AMUSEMENTS

AT THE CHICAGO THEATERS.

GARRICK. "The Witching Hour" has but two more weeks to remain at the Garrick theater, when it will give way to Miss Frances Starr in David Belasco's "Rose of the Rancho." The seventy-fifth performance of the telepathic drama will be celebrated Wednesday night, March 11, when unique souvenirs will be distributed. When the present engagement closes the piece will have been presented 100 times. The indications are that the piece might remain indefinitely at capacity business, but previous contracts force the piece out for a tour of Middle West cities. Among the other special occasions will be a clergyman's night, when prominent prelates and preachers will be invited to witness the play.

MAJESTIC. The Majestic theater, Chicago, always up to date and offering the best feature acts to be found in the vaudeville field, promises another extraordinary bill for the week of March 16. Nat M. Wills, the famous comedian, who at will flies from musical comedy to vaudeville and back again, is now one of the headliners of the variety form of amusement. Another important number on this bill is the Willie Painter troupe, European acrobats of the first class. This will be their first appearance in Chicago. Clifton Crawford, considered by many the most entertaining of all the monologists, will be another happy addition to the bill. Carlyle Moore and Miss Ethelyn Palmer and company will furnish one of the chief dramatic episodes of the bill, with a one-act romantic comedy by Cecil de Mille, entitled "The Man of the Hour," while the comedy element will very largely be represented by the polite comedians, Gallagher and Barrett, with their hilarious farce, "The Battle of To-Soon." Barnold's trained dogs, one of the greatest acts of the kind, will furnish a wonderful example of animal intelligence. There are half a dozen other expert numbers on this bill, including the Masagani Grand Opera Trio, Charles Semon, the funny man; the three Westons, dainty singers and comedians, and many others equally entertaining.

McVICKER THEATER. George Broadhurst's splendid comedy drama, "The Man of the Hour," a study in political graft and love, will begin a four weeks' engagement at McVicker's Theater Sunday, March 15. Wm. A. Brady and Jos. R. Grismar, owners of the rights to "The Man of the Hour," have given the play a fine cast and a setting worthy of its high merits.

Dealing with things political "The Man of the Hour" shows the "march of time" in all his glory. This great personage selects young Alwyn Bennett as the candidate for mayor because he is young and seemingly pliable. But after election Bennett develops unexpected character and defeats the plans of the corrupt boss and his friends when they attempt to put through a perpetual railway franchise. The enemies of the young mayor even use his love as one of their tools to gain their ends, but he remains steadfast and in the end gains his sweet heart, saves his honor and fortune.

In the company which will appear in McVicker's are: Orrin Johnson, W. J. Deving, Geo. C. Staley, Samuel Everett, Thomas Meighan, Frances Ring, Louise Everett, Kate Lester and other prominent players.

AUDITORIUM THEATER, CHICAGO. One of the most remarkable events in the history of Chicago's theaters will be the transfer of the English Opera Company at the Auditorium Theater to the Auditorium, opening Monday night, March 23, and following the "Follies of 1907." Although badly situated, both as to location and theater, the Rheinhart-Hinshaw singers won immediate recognition from the press and public. The company won the recognition of Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, who control the Auditorium. It is said that these managers have had it in mind for a long time to devote this big house, as far as possible, to operatic productions.

It is the idea of the management to give a series of revivals of the light opera successes of recent years, opening with Smith and DeKoren's "Robin Hood." The entire main floor being scheduled at 75 cents, and the first balcony at 50 and 25 cents for reserved seats. There will be Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday matinees, the Wednesday matinee to be given at bargain prices, 25 and 50 cents.

WHEATON NEWS ITEMS.

Mr. Waymond W. Brooks, of Chicago, and Miss Elizabeth W. Saunders, of Hinsdale, were married in this city the 7th inst., by Judge Herrick.

The subcommittee of Du Page County do not exhibit a very shining record for law observance. During the twelve-month ending March 1st, 20 per cent of them had been indicted by the grand jury of our county. Some were indicted on more than one indictment, and each on several counts. What is there about the saloon business that makes for lawlessness naturally? The charge of disregard for law against this business is universal and well sustained. Why tolerate the business?

C. A. Blanchard, G. P. Barstow and A. E. Wilson have been chosen delegates to the Prohibition State Convention at Springfield, May 6th. Dr. E. C. Guild, Mrs. A. E. Wilson and F. E. Herrick were selected as alternates from Wheaton.

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Surveyor A. L. Webster was at Naperville Monday on a survey.

George Morgan has returned from the far South where he has been for the past year engaged in railroad construction work as a civil engineer.

Cigarette smoking is preparing several Wheaton young men for the undertaker and they will be in his hands in the not distant future.

Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth, one of the most beloved and attractive women of the land, will speak Saturday evening, the 14th inst., at the Gary Memorial Church, Wheaton.

Prof. Peak's dancing class will give a Shamrock cotillion next Tuesday evening (the 17th). Out of respect to St. Patrick green will be the prevailing color.

Mrs. Booth has drawn the largest audience of any woman in America. She devotes the entire proceeds of her lectures to further the work of prison reform. She will tell some of her experiences in her lecture at the Gary Memorial Church, Wheaton, Saturday, 14th.

Surveyor C. A. Prout is making a subdivision of valuable property south of the railroad track in the village of Glen Ellyn, this week. He has also just made a 35-acre subdivision north of the C. & N. W. at Winfield opposite the 529-acre subdivision recently completed at Winfield by him.

The last number on the entertainment course will be Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth. She has fire and magnetism of the highest order and is sustained by a deep conviction and lofty purpose. Be entertained and inspired by her eloquence at the Gary Memorial Church, Wheaton, the 14th inst. (next Saturday night).

YOUNG MEN'S CLUB A Clean Mind and a Clean Body Are Man's Best Material Assets.

The mock trial occurred at the clubhouse last Friday night. The prisoner was given a lengthy trial and was found not guilty of the larceny, as charged, but was declared guilty of violating the rules of the club and was fined \$10 and costs. Those present enjoyed the evening and expressed the hope for more of the same kind.

All those interested in athletics and baseball should not fail to be on hand at the club rooms next Tuesday evening. There is something doing.

Dr. Hedley's lecture at the Auditorium was well attended and greatly enjoyed. He certainly will be greeted with an overflowing house should he come here again.

SENECA'S TRIUMPH. Seneca Athletic Club basketball team defeated the Crescent Club at the Auditorium last Saturday night before a large and enthusiastic audience by the score of 28 to 22.

The game was fast and interesting from the first blast of the referee's whistle, neither team being able to obtain a commanding lead until the last few minutes of play when the Senecas gradually pulled away and deposited the game in their "own" column. The score at the interval was Seneca 14, Crescent 14.

The overwhelming defeat of the Crescents by the Seneca team on February 22d, seemed to indicate another easy victory for that team but the Crescents, strengthened by the addition of Wells and Torrey, upset all "dope" and for all of the first half and part of the last it was an even break and take your choice.

Near the end of the game, however, the pluck and perseverance of the Senecas, which has won so many games for them began to show and their desperate playing finally brought them the verdict in one of the closest and most exciting games ever witnessed on the local floor.

Innes and Carlson starred for the winners while Wells and Torrey did the best work for the losers. Line-up: SENECA CLUB.

Right Forward—Parmelee, Innes. Left Forward—Carlson. Center—Puffer. Right Guard—Innes, H. Carner. Left Guard—C. Carner. CRESCENT CLUB.

Right Forward—Wells. Left Forward—Allison. Center—Torrey. Right Guard—Ambrose, Winter. Left Guard—Winter, Ambrose. Baskets, Parmelee, Innes (5), Carlson (4), Puffer (2), Wells (5), Allison, Torrey, Winter. Free throws, Innes (4), Wells (4), Torrey (2). Referee, Mulvan. Timekeeper, Peters. Score, Duncan. Time of halves, 20 minutes.

The Crescents have challenged the club for another game, to be played Saturday, March 28th, at the Auditorium.

The Senecas have a hard schedule ahead of them, however, and they have not yet consented, but if none of their men are injured at Kewanee on the 21st the prospects for another game are bright.

There are two games scheduled for Saturday, March 14th, at the Auditorium, the Crescents playing the Hull House team, while the girls are pitted to clash with the Hull House girls.

A NERVE TONIC for Over-Wrought Business Men

Business conditions today ask more of a man's vitality than ever before. It's one continuous drive at high tension, overtaxing the body and brain until a complete breakdown comes.

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