

Newsboy

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the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



A FAVORITE PLACE FOR STREET CHILDREN. "COLD SODA WATER 2 CENTS—
ICE CREAM 1 CENT."

When "Ben, the Luggage Boy" first came to New York, he stopped at a street stand similar to this one. Chapter 3 details the event: "'Ice-cream, only a penny a glass,' was the next announcement. The glasses, to be sure, were of very small size. Still ice-cream in any

quantity for a penny seemed so ridiculously cheap that Ben, poor as he was, could not resist the temptation." (Engraving from Helen Campbell's Darkness and Daylight; or, Lights and Shadows of New York Life. Hartford: Hartford Pub. Co., 1895, c1891. See page 11 inside).

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes - lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

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Newsboy recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's Horatio Alger or, the American Hero Era, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited by the editor.

* * *
 HORATIO ALGER, JR.,
 AS A LINCOLN BIOGRAPHER
 by Jordan D. Fiore

This article is reprinted from the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Autumn, 1953, pp. 247-253. A commentary by Gary Scharnhorst, written especially for Newsboy, follows it.

Any mention of the name of Horatio Alger, Jr., usually brings to mind the author's many "rags to riches" books,

which enjoyed enormous sales for many years. Now viewed as an outstanding apostle of the laissez-faire philosophy which dominated nineteenth century economic thought, Alger no longer enjoys great popularity, and his works, once so seriously and avidly read, are curiosities and collector's items.

The typical Alger plot was a simple one: a poor and honest country boy goes to the city where he meets with some slight adversities and inconveniences; finally with some actual effort coupled with amazing good luck, he achieves fame and fortune and wins the only daughter of a wealthy and kind stockbroker, who makes the hero a junior partner in the firm. This pattern, which was used over and over with only slight variation, is well known, and even those who have never read an Alger book know what is meant by the term "a Horatio Alger story." Less famous are Alger's fictionalized biographies.

The book Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy; or, How a Young Rail-Splitter Became President was first published in 1883, [1] as a volume in The Boyhood and Manhood Series of Illustrious Americans. Several firms reprinted the book shortly after its initial appearance, and after the turn of the century it was published with some slight revisions in the paper-bound Street and Smith editions so popular a generation ago. [2] This book was Alger's third venture in fictionalized biography, following his volumes on James A. Garfield (1881) and Daniel Webster (1882). Since the story of Lincoln's rise to fame parallels in many ways the pattern of the Risen from the Ranks and Struggling Upward books that Alger wrote, one might wonder why he did not recognize and use the Lincoln theme earlier. When his Abraham Lincoln appeared Alger had already produced more than twenty successful volumes.

Alger never met Lincoln, but in his first sermons after his ordination to the Unitarian ministry in 1864, he defended the President, whom he believed to be "of all men in the country the most devoted to the preservation of the

Union," one who could not "fail to witness the successful termination of the cause." Lincoln was, Alger asserted later in the year, "nothing if not honest, and as broad in his views as he is honest." [3] Alger's own Civil War record consisted of brief service as a Union recruiting officer and three attempts at enlistment which were thwarted by illness and injuries. [4]

The Alger biography of Lincoln did not grow out of any passionate patriotism engendered by the war or political partisanship, nor did it develop from any desire to change his medium of expression from fiction to biography. In collaboration with Virginia Barry, Alger had planned to write a play based on Lincoln's life for a children's theater then being established in New York. He had been a prolific writer, and his publishers were constantly demanding new books. Since he had spent about six months in collecting information for the play, his regular output fell off. In desperation, his publishers suggested a story about Lincoln based upon the material that he had collected. Without consulting his collaborator, Alger agreed, and within two weeks the completed manuscript was in their hands. [5]

The Lincoln story, like most of Alger's books, shows signs of having been written hastily and carelessly. He admitted that he had used no primary sources, and he added in his preface, "I can hardly hope at this late day to have contributed many new facts, or found much new material," a statement belied by several generations of Lincoln scholars. Instead, Alger consulted some of the standard studies of Lincoln's life then available, from which he gained many facts. He quoted generously—sometimes without the use of quotation marks—and to this information he added several of the more popular Lincoln anecdotes at full value.

The first chapters of the book contain much conversation, used to advance the story. Beginning with his interpretation of the scene when Thomas Lincoln

brought his second wife to his Indiana home, Alger drew a picture of Abraham's home life, schooling and first jobs, quoting from statements made by Lincoln's stepmother, stepbrother, cousins and neighbors to illustrate his points. Many of the popular accounts of events in Lincoln's early life were retold, and several anecdotes were repeated almost verbatim from earlier biographies. None of the controversial questions—Nancy Hanks' legitimacy, the Ann Rutledge romance, Lincoln's marital troubles—received the slightest mention.

Alger did not fail to draw the obvious morals to be found in Lincoln's early privations and handicaps. Lincoln's rescue from drowning at the age of seven was explained thus: "God looks after the lives of His chosen instruments, and saves them for His work." [6] Of the hard work and poor living conditions that characterized Lincoln's early life Alger remarked to his young readers, "But Abe is not to be pitied for the hardships of his lot. That is the way strong men are made." [7]

Alger could not resist quoting in full Lincoln's famous letter lecturing his stepbrother, John D. Johnston. Lincoln wrote, "Your thousand pretences for not getting along better, are all nonsense. . . . Go to work is the only cure for your case." [8] Alger commented smugly:

Nothing can be plainer, or more in accordance with common sense than this advice. Though it was written for the benefit of one person only, I feel that I am doing my young, and possibly some older, readers a service in transferring it to my pages, and commending them to heed it. . . .

In this country, fortunately, there are few places where an industrious man can not get a living, if he is willing to accept such work as falls in his way. This willingness often turns the scale, and converts threatening ruin into prosperity and success. [9]

Alger edited Lincoln's letters when he felt that emendations were needed. In presenting the well-known and controversial letter which Lincoln wrote to his stepbrother on January 12, 1851, about the impending death of Thomas Lincoln, Alger included Lincoln's statement that he could not visit his father because Mary Lincoln was "sick-abed." But the author omitted Lincoln's explanation, "It is a case of baby-sickness, and I suppose is not dangerous." [10] The reference was to the birth of Lincoln's third son, William Wallace Lincoln, on December 21, 1850. The Alger books never mentioned the subject of childbirth lest the sensitivities of young readers be offended.

Alger drew upon several of the biographies which were standard in their day. These books included Francis B. Carpenter's Six Months at the White House, with Abraham Lincoln (1866), Henry J. Raymond's History of the Administration of President Lincoln, (1864), and David V. G. Bartlett's The Life and Public Services of Hon. Abraham Lincoln (1860). Most frequently he consulted Josiah G. Holland's The Life of Abraham Lincoln (1866) and Ward H. Lamon's The Life of Abraham Lincoln (1872). Alger accepted the statements and evaluations of these writers almost without question. He also quoted selections from several addresses made by Lincoln, including a portion of his humorous account of his experiences in the Black Hawk War, a short address made during his first and unsuccessful campaign for election to the Illinois legislature in 1832, his Mexican War speech made on the floor of the House of Representatives in 1848, his touching farewell to his friends at Springfield in 1861, selections from the First Inaugural Address and the Gettysburg Address. [11]

Among the anecdotes retold or quoted from other works were the experiences of Lincoln as a store clerk: his error in making change, his miscalculation in weighing tea—both of which he rectified after some trouble—and his whipping a

bully who used profane language in the presence of ladies. On the first anecdote Alger commented, "If I were a capitalist, I would be willing to lend money to such a young man without security." [12] About the second story Alger noted,

I think my young readers will begin to see that the name so often given, in later times, to President Lincoln, of "Honest Old Abe," was well deserved. A man who begins by strict honesty in his youth is not likely to change as he grows older, and mercantile honesty is some guarantee of political honesty. [13]

The popular story of Lincoln's working for three days for Josiah Crawford to pay for a borrowed book damaged by a storm is presented in detail. Lamon had criticized Crawford for exacting such a severe penalty, [14] but Alger thought that the penalty was justified. He wrote that the payment "appears to me only equitable, and I am glad to think that Abe was willing to act honorably in the matter." [15] This attitude was in keeping with the Alger tradition, for Alger boys always took the honorable road, whatever the cost. Lincoln the humanitarian was shown in the story of the rescue of a hog from the muddy slough, [16] and Alger showed Lincoln's ability as a lawyer by quoting Raymond's account of the Armstrong murder trial. [17]

Several stories of Lincoln's presidential years reflected his goodness, generosity and sense of justice. Any favorable anecdote was worthy of acceptance by Alger, and was not complete until he had hammered home the obvious moral and had made his studied comment.

According to Alger, every action in which Lincoln was successful was due to his shrewdness, his good living, and Providence. Even Lincoln's adversities were turned into triumphs by Alger and became a part of God's moving "in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." Regarding Lincoln's defeat for the Senate in 1858 Alger conjectures that had

he been elected, Lincoln might have alienated many Republicans by some erroneous action, and thus his nomination and election in 1860 would have been impossible. Thus, wrote Alger, "The nation would never have discovered the leader who, under Providence, led it out of the wilderness, and conducted it to peace and freedom." Protesting that he did not wish to "moralize over-much," Alger pointed out that "in the lives of all there are present disappointments that lead to ultimate success and prosperity." For example, Washington and Garfield both wanted to go to sea as boys, but having been dissuaded, they triumphed in other fields. As a young man Cromwell decided to emigrate to America, but he finally "remained in his own country to control its destiny, and take a position at the head of affairs." He warned his young readers, "Remember this when your cherished plans are defeated. There is a higher wisdom than ours that shapes and directs our lives." [18]

Alger's Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy is not a rare book. First editions are listed in booksellers' catalogues frequently and seldom bring more than several dollars. Few Lincoln students profess to have read it, and not one considers the book a good biography. But the work was not entirely without merit in its time. It had value as a portrait for young people in the 1880's, when Horatio Alger, Jr., was perhaps more real to American boys than was Abraham Lincoln. In this book, one of the earlier studies designed for juvenile reading, the picture of Lincoln was a fair and adequate one, and contributed to the popular impression of him then held by the youth of America.

FOOTNOTES

- [1] New York: John R. Anderson & Henry S. Allen.
 [2] For a bibliographical record see Jay Monaghan, Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939 (Illinois Historical Collections, XXXI, XXXII; Springfield, 1943, 1945), I: 257-58.
 [3] Quoted in Herbert R. Mayes, Alger: A Biography Without a Hero (New York,

1928), 127.

- [4] Ibid., Chapter V.
 [5] Ibid., 127-28.
 [6] Alger, Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy, 32.
 [7] Ibid., 33.
 [8] For a full text of the letter dated Nov. 4, 1851, see the Abraham Lincoln Association edition of The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln (New Brunswick, N. J., 1953), II: 112-13.
 [9] Alger, Lincoln, 144-45.
 [10] Collected Works, II: 96-97.
 [11] Alger, Lincoln, 72-73, 80-81, 124-25, 186-87, 202-7, 274-75.
 [12] Ibid., 65.
 [13] Ibid., 66. The first edition of this book was dedicated to "Alexander Henriques, of New York, President of the Old Guard, and Vice-Chairman of the Stock Exchange. . . with sincere friendship and regard."
 [14] Lamon, The Life of Abraham Lincoln (Boston, 1872), 38, 50-51.
 [15] Alger, Lincoln, 42
 [16] Ibid., 97-98.
 [17] Ibid., 88-94.
 [18] Ibid., 162-63.

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 A NEWSBOY "REVIEW OF A REVIEW"
 A COMMENTARY ON
 "HORATIO ALGER, JR.,
 AS A LINCOLN BIOGRAPHER"
 by Gary Scharnhorst

(Editor's note: Gary has studied Horatio Alger quite extensively, earning a Master of Arts Degree from Ball State University with a thesis on "In Quest of the Historical Horatio Alger." He has written this article especially to accompany Fiore's preceding essay. For another review of the same book, see the April, 1972 Newsboy, page 6).

Jordan D. Fiore's review of Alger's Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy is, I think, fundamentally sound. To be sure, I would take issue with some of its statements, such as Fiore's distortion of the "typical Alger plot" described in the second paragraph, for I have long argued that, inasmuch as Alger's economic vision did not remain static during the several decades he wrote, no capsule summary of a typical Alger plot is

possible. Moreover, I disagree with Fiore's suggestion in his fourth paragraph that Alger's biography "did not grow out of any . . . political partisanship." Alger, was, I am willing to contend, a sympathizer with the liberal wing of the Republican Party of his day, one of those who were popularly referred to as "mugwumps." Alger disdained the "bloody shirt" waving practiced by the Democrats of the post-bellum period, and all three of Alger's biographies were about men who were either a member of the Republican Party (Garfield and Lincoln) or that party's precursor, the Whig Party (Webster). In fact, in his Lincoln biography Alger explicitly condemns, as did Lincoln, the American adventure in the "ill-advised" Mexican War (p. 117). Both Alger and Lincoln viewed United States participation in that war as lamentable because they believed it was instigated by southern Democrats who wanted to extend slavery westward into Texas from the Old South.

Although Fiore had no way of knowing that Mayes' biography of Alger was not accurate, his reliance upon that source remains a flaw, if only a minor one, of his essay. For example, Fiore quotes with authority Mayes' account of Alger's sermon in 1864 commending Lincoln for his prosecution of the war. Mayes in turn probably was aware of Alger's laudatory biography of Lincoln, and had based his story upon what he guessed Alger might have said about Lincoln in 1864. In other words, Fiore clarifies nothing by using Mayes' biography, and by quoting him in fact unwittingly sanctions Mayes' "facts," which were nothing more than educated guesswork.

Despite these minor problems, Fiore's essay is respectable scholarship. Particularly commendable, in my opinion, are his suggestions that Alger skirted controversial questions and his defense of the book as an acceptable juvenile biography written a generation after the assassination. I do wish, however, that Fiore had at least speculated regarding the influence of this book among its young readers. I suspect that it, like Parson Weems' Life of Washington which

Alger mentions in the book (p. 40), was largely responsible for popularizing several of the stories about Lincoln that, true or not, remain permanent fixtures of the Lincoln myth. Fiore does mention Alger's inclusion of these stories, such as the one about Lincoln accidentally overcharging a customer and walking several miles to repay her, but he does not consider Alger as a promoter of these folkloristic traditions.

Moreover, were I to write, like Fiore, a full-blown essay about Alger's biography of Lincoln, I would include in it a brief paragraph or two considering the work as a source of information about Alger himself. I have already mentioned my belief that, extrapolating from the clues Alger provides, we can generalize about Alger's political opinions. In addition, in this book Alger mentions that once in Massachusetts he was introduced to Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, the "Little Giant" who opposed Lincoln in the political wars of 1858 and 1860. He also includes a personal anecdote about his conversation with an immigrating family aboard a Puget Sound ferry during one of his trips to the West, and he sprinkles his biography with allusions to such literary works as Lowell's "Biglow Papers" and such literary figures as Whittier and Bryant, lending credence to the claim that Alger was a thoroughly erudite man rather than a mere literary hack.

* * *
THE KING OF THE PLAY-GROUND
by Horatio Alger, Jr.

PART II

The first part of this Alger short story appeared in last month's Newsboy. The entire story was originally published in the November and December, 1866 issues of Student and Schoolmate, and it comes to members of the Horatio Alger Society through the generosity of Vice-President Evelyn M. Grebel.

Two or three days passed without bringing on a collision between Sam Stockwell and George Fairbanks. George had a manly and dignified bearing, and

attended to his own affairs so sedulously that Sam found it difficult to fasten a quarrel upon him. At length an opportunity came, and as it turned out, not exactly of his own seeking.

There was a small unfurnished room attached to the school which the scholars were allowed to use for storing away their skates, balls, bats, and any other articles which it was thought best for them not to keep in their rooms. In order that all might have a fair chance, there was just so much room appropriated to each, separated by little board partitions.

Before George Fairbanks came, there had been one extra compartment which Sam Stockwell had seen fit to appropriate, thus occupying two. His well known character prevented any other boy from interfering. But when George came, the result was, that there was no room for him.

He counted the compartments and the boys, and said, "Somebody must have more than his share of room. Do you know who it is, Ferguson?"

"Yes," said Ferguson, "it's Sam Stockwell."

Ferguson looked up in the face of the new scholar to see how he would take it. George took it very coolly.

"If it wouldn't be too much trouble, Ferguson," he said, "I wish you would go out and ask Stockwell to come in and move his things, so as to give me a place."

"He'll be mad," said little Ferguson.

"He won't have any right to be," said George Fairbanks.

"But he will," said the younger boy, positively.

"He won't be mad with you, will he, Ferguson? I don't want to get you into any trouble, of course."

"No, I don't suppose he'll be mad with me. He'll be mad with you."

"That's a different matter," said George. "So far as I am concerned I will risk his anger, especially as he will have no good reason for it. Then you won't mind going out and giving him the message, will you?"

"I'm afraid he'll beat you," said Ferguson, who was beginning to have

quite a liking for the new scholar.

"But suppose I should beat him," said George, smiling quietly.

"O, I wish you could."

"Then you think I can't. Why not?"

"O, Sam's ever so strong. He's stronger than any of us. You don't know how strong he is."

"No, I suppose not. Perhaps I shall have a chance to find out. But you see, Ferguson, there's no justice in his occupying double his share of room, and leaving me none."

"Of course not."

"And I hope he'll see it. If he doesn't, I must act for myself."

"I'll go out and tell him, if you want me to," said Ferguson.

"Thank you, I shall take it as a favor if you will."

Thereupon Ferguson, doubting considerably what would be the issue of his errand, went out to the play-ground in search of Sam Stockwell. He found him with quite a number of the other boys.

"Sam," said Ferguson, "George Fairbanks hasn't got any place to put his things in the lumber room, while you've got two places. He wants you to move out of one of them, so as to give him a chance."

Sam pricked up his ears. The opportunity for which he had been waiting had at length arrived.

"Did he send you to me with that message?" he asked.

"Yes," said Ferguson.

"Then you may go back and tell him that I want both places, and I shan't move my things, not at any rate until I get ready."

"That isn't fair, is it Stockwell?" Tom Emerson was bold enough to say. "He ought to have some place."

"Shut up, Tom Emerson," retorted Sam, "I don't know that it's any business of yours."

Tom said no more.

Ferguson went back and reported what Sam had said. George Fairbanks took it very coolly.

"Very well," said he, "then I shall have to move his things for him, that's all."

Ferguson looked frightened.

"I wouldn't, George," he said. George Fairbanks smiled. "Thank you, Ferguson," he said, "for your interest in me, but you may be sure I can take care of myself, whatever happens. I think," he continued, "I'll put Stockwell's things all together in one compartment. There's plenty of room."

Meanwhile Sam waited to see what would come of his refusal. He thought it probable George would come out to see him about it, and beg him to withdraw his claims, which would of course be a triumph to him. But half an hour elapsed, and nobody came. At length he saw Ferguson walking slowly towards where they were standing.

"Well, Ferguson," he said, "did you tell Fairbanks what I told you?"

"Yes."

"And what did he say?"

"He said he should have to move your things himself," was the reply. Sam started, and his face became flushed with anger.

"Did he say that?"

"Yes."

"And did he do it?"

"Yes."

"Then he'll repent it, that's all," said Sam, starting for the house. "I'll teach him to know his place. He ain't going to interfere with my rights."

"But it isn't your right to have two places, is it, Sam?" asked Ferguson.

"Shut up, you little fool!" was the only answer this remonstrance received.

Flushed with anger, Sam soon arrived at the room. Looking in, he saw that Ferguson had reported correctly.

"Where is Fairbanks?" he asked.

As if in answer to his question, Fairbanks came out of the house, and walked leisurely towards him.

"Look here, George Fairbanks," said Stockwell, in a loud voice, "I've got something to say to you."

"Very well, say on," said Fairbanks, quietly.

"Did you move my things?"

"Yes."

"What business had you to do it, hey?"

"What business had you to occupy

two places? When you have answered that, perhaps I will answer your question."

"Look out," said Stockwell, "I won't stand any of your impudence. You must put them back again directly."

"What authority have you to give orders?" demanded George, unmoved.

"What authority? I'll let you know," roared Sam. "Are you going to put back my things where you took them from?"

"No, I don't think I shall," said George Fairbanks, deliberately.

"Then I'll make you."

"How will you do it?"

Stockwell advanced, with his fists doubled up.

"Stop a moment," said Fairbanks.

"I see you want to fight. Now I think fighting a very foolish way to settle disputes. Still, as it is forced upon me, I suppose I shall have to do it. Only don't let it be here where we shall be certain to be interrupted. Come out into the field behind the house."

"I'd just as lieves lick you there as any where," said Sam. "Come on."

The two combatants, followed by the entire school, went out behind the house, and took their positions. Sam's face was flushed, and he was evidently much excited. George's face wore its usual calm and resolute expression, but his manner was quiet and unmoved. The sympathies of the boys were in his favor; all admired his pluck, but none expected that he would hold his own against Sam's strength.

Arrived on the ground, George placed himself in the attitude of defense. Sam rushed upon him, only to find his furious blows parried in a manner which he did not expect. Having been confident of an easy victory, this maddened him, and he became more furious in his charges.

At first George acted only in self-defense. He soon decided, however, that if this continued, the contest would be of indefinite duration. Accordingly, he struck a skilful and effective blow, which felled Sam to the earth.

Mortified and enraged, Stockwell rose and renewed the fight. He tried

to grasp Fairbanks round the waist, when by his superior strength he might throw him over, but in doing this he only exposed himself to another blow, which again felled him.

The boys looked on in amazement. Could it be that the tyrant who had kept them so long in awe, had more than found his match? It seemed so indeed. But Sam had good pluck. Again he made the attack, and again he was overthrown, the blood gushing from his nose.

"You'd better give it up, Stockwell," exclaimed the other boys. "You're fairly beaten. Three cheers for Fairbanks!"

"No, boys," said the victor, "I'd rather you wouldn't. We've had a little trial, that's all, and I've come off best, as I ought to, having taken lessons in boxing. Sam, will you give your hand, and we'll forget all about this?"

But for this Stockwell was not prepared. He saw it was of no use continuing the fight, but he couldn't be reconciled to the victor. He picked himself up, and marched off sullenly.

"Boys," said Fairbanks, "I don't want you to mortify Stockwell by speaking of this."

"I couldn't have believed you would lick him," said Tom Emerson, incredulously, expressing the feelings of the rest of the boys.

"Suppose he orders us round as he did before," said Ferguson.

"I don't think he will," said Fairbanks.

"But if he does?"

"If I see good cause, I will interfere to protect you," answered Fairbanks.

From that time a change came over Sam Stockwell. He had been beaten in a fair fight, and he knew if the fight should be renewed he would be beaten again. Once or twice he tried to exercise his old sovereignty, but he saw that his subjects were no longer disposed to obey him, and he did not insist. George Fairbanks became a universal favorite. He showed no disposition to take advantage of his superiority, but set an example of quiet courtesy and consideration for others, which had the best influence on the other members of

the school, even Stockwell, who ceased to be a bully and a tyrant.

* * *

NEW YORK - NOW AND THEN

by Forrest Campbell

The following is taken from the February, 1966 Newsboy. As the article is a good one, with probably few members having read it and fewer remembering its contents, it is reprinted now.

In the Book Section of the current [that is, 1966] February Readers' Digest, you will find an up-to-date description of the city in the adventures of a New York City detective. His beat in the 16th Precinct includes "Times Square" and "The Great White Way" between 42nd and 52nd St., just south of Central Park.

Although much of the city's street system, including the 16th Precinct and Central Park, was already laid out and in use in Horatio Alger's day, the heart of the city was five or six miles south, around City Hall. City Hall Park and the neighboring Bowery was the preferred setting for the Horatio Alger stories.

New York is in a state of continuous change. The old city must make way for the new. It was so, even in Alger's day.

HOW TO READ ALGER. . . AND ENJOY IT

The Alger story setting, in and around City Hall Park, is delightful and refreshing, compared to New York of today.

If you do not have an old street map of lower New York, or old post cards, try to visualize it from what you have at your disposal. City Hall Park is triangular in shape like the letter "V." It would be helpful to draw your own diagram and start from this point. Tilt the V a little to the right until the left side is perpendicular. This is Broadway. The right side is now known as Park Row. Portions of this street were known as Chatham Street in the Alger settings.

The top of the V (when closed) is Chambers Street. City Hall, built in 1812 and still existing, sets in the northern portion of the V and faces south. To the right of the V is the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge, but bear in mind that it was not opened until 1883. In the lower portion of the V was located the old Post Office, but also bear in mind that it was not completed until 1875. It no longer exists. Facing on the west side of Broadway between Vesey and Barclay near the lower portion of the V was the Astor House. It no longer exists. Printing House Square was across from the park on the right. The loft of the "Sun" Building on this Square was one of the locations of the popular Newsboys' Lodging House.

Nassau Street parallels Broadway on the right and terminates at Printing House Square. Centre Street begins on the opposite side of this Square and parallels Broadway in a northerly direction. Spruce Street begins at this Square and ends at Gold Street just south of Brooklyn Bridge. Fulton Street begins at North River, crosses Broadway one block south of the Astor House, and ends at East River. The Fulton Street Market and Ferry are located at the East River terminal. Bowery Street and section can be reached by going up Chatham (Park Row) just a few blocks beyond the bridge entrance. In the Bowery section is located such familiar places as Baxter Street, famous for its clothing merchants, Mott and Pell Streets, famous as the low rent tenement district, and Mulberry Street, noted for its street hucksters and where merchants display their wares out of doors. Let your imagination run rampant. The streets are teeming with people. The streets are the playground for the small children.

This then, in general, was the small world of Horatio Alger, and the boys he loved. Many times the boys preferred an "oyster stew" supper and a night at Tony Pastor's or the Barnum Museum, rather than spend the night at the lodging house. In such instances they would take refuge in an entrance way or a

packing box in an alley, occasionally spending the night on the Fulton Ferry. On rare occasions they ventured as far as Fifth Avenue, and even on to Central Park, but this was not their world. They did not belong here. Some of the boys had a constant fear of being sent to Blackwell's Island (also known as Welfare Island) which is located in East River opposite Central Park. It was perhaps the desire of many of these street boys to rise above it all and "get a place" at A. T. Stewart's, and to dream of being able to dress well enough to dine at Delmonico's without being thrown out. It was extremely difficult for them to rise above their station in life and "get a place" due to their appearance, lack of education, and a sponsor. Then Horatio Alger came upon the scene. He recognized the hopelessness of their situations. He pondered, studied, offered advice, encouragement and eventually put his ideas into actual practice.

Now, with this background, I think you are ready to read Alger for the second time (it is my third). In doing research for my proposed Alger-type play, The Boy From the Bowery [this play was put on the stage - see the August, 1968 Newsboy], I am fortunate in having a treasury of reference books, such as: King's Handbook (1892); Valentine's Manual, (1923); Shackleton's Book of New York, (1917); New York State Manual, (1887); old post cards and folders, old maps and street guides, and last but not least, The World Almanac. I also studied the biographies of John Jacob Astor, A. T. Stewart, and Hetty Green.

If you are fortunate in having the complete set of the Ragged Dick series, I suggest you begin with the story Ragged Dick and read them in the order written. You will find a treasury of historical references, and armed with your map of the small world of Horatio Alger, you will begin to feel at home. You will in spirit be with them as they cross the hustle and bustle of Broadway and enter City Hall Park. Can you imagine the danger in crossing Broadway in

1868? I cannot. Yet, the way Alger describes it, it must have been so. You will stand nearby and listen as "our hero" blacks the boots of a gentleman or a city bred dude. You will be able to trace their footsteps as they walk up Nassau and turn into Spruce. You will be able to sense the kindly spirit of Frank Whitney as Dick escorts him on a tour of the city. And feel the pangs of hunger when Dick "stands treat" to Johnny Nolan.

It is not surprising that the story of Ragged Dick was proclaimed a best seller in its day. Alger has left us a legacy in historical knowledge as well as a formula for success and a moral. In the story of Ragged Dick I find three references to the term "partic'lar friend;" Chapters 6, 12, and 18. In a sequel story, Mark, the Match Boy, there is in Chapter 26 (conclusion) an example of Alger's moral lesson in Dick's own words. Dick was unwilling to accept a reward of a thousand dollars for saving the life of a child, but the donor insisted. Dick says, "Then, I will keep it as a charity fund, and whenever I have an opportunity of helping along a boy who is struggling upward as I once had to struggle, I will do it."

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ALGER ANALYSES

by Jack Bales

Number 2 in a series of books that are useful in studying the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Campbell, Helen, and others. Darkness and Daylight; or, Lights and Shadows of New York Life. Hartford, Conn.: Hartford Publishing Co., 1895, c1891.

Since Forrest Campbell's article on New York City is in this issue, I thought that this month's "Alger Analyses" would be on a book dealing with the same topic. Darkness and Daylight is a fascinating pictorial history of Alger's New York, belonging in every Alger collection. It is all there - Blackwell's Island, the Newsboys' Lodging House, street life in New York, the Bowery, the Tombs, and much more,

including 250 fine engravings.

The volume is divided into three descriptions of life and scenes in New York City. Part I - "As Seen by a Woman" (Helen Campbell, New York missionary and philanthropist); Part II - "As Seen by a Journalist" (Col. Thomas W. Knox, New York newspaperman); Part III - "As Seen and Known by the Chief of the New York Detective Bureau" (Chief Inspector Thomas Byrnes).

Though the book is concerned with an exploration of the vice and filth that existed in New York during the late 1800's, the authors concentrate on the methods undertaken to correct the effects of the depravation, squalor, and brutality of the city. For example, every Alger reader knows of the historic Five Points - that area formed by the intersection of Baxter, Worth, and Park Streets and being so fearful a place that Charles Dickens even noted it in his book American Notes. He wrote: "Let us go on again, and plunge into the Five Points. This is the place; these narrow ways diverging to the right and left, and reeking everywhere with dirt and filth."

But besides describing the area, Chapter II of Darkness and Daylight discusses the Water Street Mission, detailing the work of the famed Jerry McAuley, who knew every street and alley in the poor areas of New York, and who spent his life in helping the slum dwellers of the city.

Another instance - one chapter is on the homeless boys of New York. Besides mentioning the Newsboys' Lodging House, information is included on the Children's Aid Society and of its work in aiding the delinquent juveniles of the city. (This chapter appears verbatim in the Newsboy in six parts - March-September, 1963).

Chapters discuss well-known swindles that confidence men played, engravings picture tools used by burglars, and passages illustrate the effects of charities like Charles Loring Brace's Fresh

Air Fund. It is a remarkable history of The City, and its 700+ pages give the reader a firsthand view of its sights, sounds, and smells.

(Author's note: A similar book on New York history is Sunshine and Shadow in New York by Matthew Hale Smith, Hartford: J. B. Burr & Hyde, 1872).

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

"The Kerlan Collection," a twenty-eight page brochure illustrated in color, is now available. The twenty-fifth anniversary brochure describing the research center for the study of children's books includes a biography of the founder, Dr. Irvin Kerlan, an article about research, and a list of seven hundred authors, illustrators, and translators represented by manuscripts, illustrations, and correspondence in the Kerlan Collection. A brochure can be ordered from the Curator, Kerlan Collection, 109 Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. Enclose a check or money order only for \$2.00 payable to the University of Minnesota.

"Victorian Popular Fiction," a sixteen page brochure which accompanied an exhibit, is available free upon request from the Curator, Hess Collection, 109 Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455. The exhibit of Penny Dreadfuls, Boys' Weeklies, and Halfpenny Parts were selected from the Hess Collection.

HAS member Dick Bowerman tells me of a book that Alger collectors might be interested in. It is The 1866 Guide to New York City (reprint of the 1866 edition without the folded map, published then by J. Miller of New York under the title, Miller's New York As It Is). It is a 1975 Schocken Paperback Edition, and you can order a copy from Schocken Books, 200 Madison Ave., N. Y., N. Y. 10016. ISBN number is 0-8052-0474-1. Cost is \$2.50.

An article entitled "Strive and

Succeed (Horatio Alger & His Times)" appears in the Fall, 1975 issue of Good Old Days Revisited. This was written by Herb Risteen, an Alger Society member and author of six books for boys that he wrote for Cupples & Leon Company some twenty-five years ago. (For more information about these books, see the Fall, 1971 - Winter, 1972 issue of The Boys' Book Collector, page 263). Herb's article originally appeared in an early issue of Good Old Days, and is available for \$0.75 from Tower Press, Inc., Box 428, Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874.

Horatio Alger, Jr. is mentioned in "Whatever Happened to Oliver Optic," an article in the May, 1975 issue of Wilson Library Bulletin. It is about the "literary quarrel" that existed between Optic (William T. Adams) and Louisa May Alcott, and is by Gene Gleason.

Remember how in Julius, Alger detailed the Children's Aid Society's program of sending homeless juveniles from the streets of New York City to homes out West? Well, Annette Riley Fry tells the story of "The Children's Migration" in the December, 1974 issue of American Heritage. It is an excellent article, full of illustrations. The Children's Aid Society of New York sent me a handsome reprint of it, with a photograph by famous New York historian Jacob Riis on the cover. The picture shows three street boys sleeping next to a steam grate (just like in the Alger books)! I highly recommend this article to all HAS members.

In 1967 Aurand Harris won the HAS Newsboy award for his Alger-type play, Rags to Riches. A copy of the text is available for \$1.80 from Anchorage Press, Inc., Cloverlot, Anchorage, Kentucky 40223.

Don't forget - the ROSEMONT TWELFTH TIME will be held in Rosemont, Illinois next May 6-7-8-9. Gilbert K. Westgard II is the 1976 Convention Host, and he, along with all HAS officers and board members, hope you'll be there next year!