

Newsboy

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Volume 14
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Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



"EXT-R-A-H 'DISHUN."

With this issue, the Horatio Alger Society salutes that class of street youths from which this publication has derived its name—the newsboys. (Illus-

tration from Helen Campbell's Darkness and Daylight, printed in Hartford, Connecticut by Hartford Publishing Company, 1895, c1891).

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.

OFFICERS

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Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. All members' inquiries about their subscriptions (including requests for missing issues) should be directed to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

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, but the editor reserves the right to reject submitted material.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-453 Mark Preston
% Jackson Laboratory
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

The address of Reverend Paul John Rich, PF-365, is missing from the 1976 Horatio Alger Society Membership Roster. It is: First Parish Unitarian Church and Standish Museums, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-476 James L. Bush
1228 E. 13th St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

James is a Social Science teacher and owns fifty-two Alger books. He read of the Horatio Alger Society in the World Almanac, and wrote in a letter of inquiry to HAS Secretary Carl Hartmann: "As a fan of Horatio Alger, I was gratified to see that such an organization exists."

* * *

1976 HAS CONVENTION NEWS

This will be the last issue of Newsboy before the convention, so I hasten to bring you up-to-date on the latest developments. As Ralph Gardner noted in the March, 1976 issue, items for the annual auction, to be held Saturday night at the banquet, will be greatly appreciated. (Remember — all donations are tax deductible)!!

John and Rohima Walter are donating an old-fashioned shoe shine box. Also, I recently received a very nice letter from Bob Sawyer who writes: "One of my other hobbies [besides Alger collecting] is making Dulcimers. In the past eighteen months I have completed seventy of them. The Dulcimer, sometimes called the Appalachian guitar, is a very simple four stringed musical instrument. Homemade by the pioneers from about 1825 to 1900, Horatio Alger no doubt knew of them. In about 1925 they started coming back and are now becoming quite popular. They are not manufactured in factories, but are made in small shops like my own. I'll be glad to bring one to the convention, which I plan to attend, and will donate it to the auction."

I thank John, Rohima, and Bob for their thoughtfulness in contributing these items for our annual auction. The convention is not far away, so plan on being in Rosemont, Illinois, May 6-7-8-9, for the ROSEMONT TWELFTH TIME, — the twelfth annual meeting of the Horatio Alger Society.

NINETEENTH CENTURY NEWSBOYS: A NEW YORK SAGA

—from the files of Jack Bales—

"How shall one condense into one chapter the story of an army of newsboys in which each individual represents a case not only of 'survival of the fittest,' but of an experience that would fill a volume? They are the growth of but a generation or two, since only the modern newspaper and its needs could require the services of this numberless host. Out of the thousands of homeless children roaming the streets as lawless as the wind, only those with some sense of honor could be chosen, yet what honor could be found in boys born in the slums and knowing vice as a close companion from babyhood up?"

—Helen Campbell, Darkness and Daylight
Hartford: Hartford Pub. Co., 1895, c1891

["In New York, Horatio Alger] also became increasingly absorbed in studying the habits and customs of street Arabs. His genial manner, ready sympathy, and generous aid made him beloved by all the ragged urchins to whom he soon became a familiar and favorite figure, as he sauntered along the docks and through their especial haunts. One of his proteges once said, 'Mr. Alger could raise a regiment of boys in New York alone who would fight for him to the death.'"

—Grace Williamson Edes, Annals of the Harvard Class of 1852
Cambridge: The University Press, 1922

(Author's note: Substantially, this article is a composition of quoted passages from century old annual reports of the Children's Aid Society. In order to retain the original flavor of the reports — especially where dialogue is present — I have not altered in any manner the wording.

The pictures and text appearing here represent a significant portion of the literally hundreds of pieces of primary source material concerning street boys and the Newsboys' Lodging House which I have collected. Though my research is far from finished, I feel that Newsboy readers would be interested in some firsthand information about the waifs and gamins about which Alger wrote so devotedly. [For further material, see relevant articles in Newsboy — March, 1963–September, 1963; November, 1975]

I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Horatio Alger Society members in my compilation of an extensive resource collection. These individuals include: Dick Bowerman, Forrest Campbell, Ralph Gardner, Max Goldberg, Irene Gurman, Carl Hartmann, Paul Miller, Gary

Scharnhorst, Dick Seddon, Stanley Pachon, Keith Thompson, and Gilbert K. Westgard II.

Thanks go to Mrs. Marlene Coleman, Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming, Mrs. Pat Roebuck, and Miss Elizabeth White of the interlibrary loan department in the Illinois Valley Library System, Peoria, Illinois — for their dedication in locating needed material for me in libraries all over the United States.

Also, my appreciation to Mr. Matthew Lutes, Eureka College senior and an excellent photographer, for printing copies of rare illustrations and photographs [pictures not in this Newsboy].

The following is from the First Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1854, covering the year February, 1853, through January, 1854:

"In addition to these enterprises [schools sponsored by the Children's Aid Society], a Lodging-house for News-boys [*italics theirs*] is just being opened by the Society in the

Sun-buildings, corner of Nassau and Fulton-streets, under the charge of Mr. C. C. TRACY. It is found that the great proportion of the news-boys live a homeless, vagabond life, sleeping, when the weather will allow, in the open air, and in winter, in the boxes and alleys about the printing-offices. They are entirely independent, living on their earnings, and forming a distinct class among themselves. Everything trains them to shrewd, keen habits, but thus far very few good influences have ever been exerted upon them.

"They waste at theatres and in gambling the money which they make by hard work. They are a class worth saving; and would make useful, active men for our community. Our plan is to furnish rooms for these boys, supplied with



THE HOMELESS BOY.

—from Short Sermons to Newsboys, by Charles Loring Brace. New York: Scribner, 1866.

wooden berths or bunks, letting them out at 6d. a night. Then, connected with these, we will have a warm, lighted room, with seats, tables, books, and papers, where the boys can meet of an evening or a Sunday, and be instructed, or listen to a simple lecture or reading. The whole being under the charge of a competent Superintendent. We design, too, to have an arrangement, by which the boys can deposit money in the Sixpenny Savings Bank, through the Superintendent. Nearly \$200 were subscribed for this purpose in Rev. Mr. Cuyler's Church, some months since, but the undertaking was delayed through the difficulty of finding a suitable place. The whole amount now pledged is \$698.31. The annual expense for rooms capable of holding 90 boys, and for Superintendent's salary, &c., will be about \$900."

THE NEWS BOYS' LODGING HOUSE

(The following is from the Second Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1855, covering the year February, 1854, through January, 1855).

"The enterprise, whose plan was only sketched in our last Annual Report, has been now tested for nearly a year, and proved singularly successful. The class of news-boys were then apparently the most wild and vicious set of lads in the city. Many of them had no home, and slept under steps, in boxes, or in corners of the printing-house stairways. Others lodged in filthy beds, in the back-side of low groceries. They were dirty, ragged, impudent, and obscene; and continually, from want of means or for petty crimes, were falling into the station-houses or the prisons. Their money, which was easily earned, was more quickly spent in gambling, theatres, and low pleasures, for which, though children, they had a man's aptitude. Of churches, Sunday schools, or even public schools, most of them had known very little.

"The plan proposed to the public at once met with liberal encouragement.

"The upper story of the Sun buildings, corner of Fulton and Nassau Streets, was taken for the purpose: one part fitted up for a bed-room, with accommodation for about 90 boys; the rest as bath-room, office-room for the Superintendent, and school-room. The latter was furnished with seats and desks, given to us by the Public School Society, from their old furniture. A library and numerous maps and prints were subsequently presented by various donors. Lodgings were let for six cents a night. The whole was placed under the charge of a superintendent, Mr. C. C. TRACY, to whose good judgment and patient kindness is due the great influence since acquired over the boys, and their manifest improvement. . . . The boys were cleaner, more respectful, and, at least in the rooms, more decent in language. . . . To promote economy, he contrived a table, in which each boy should have his own money-box numbered, where his earnings could be deposited; and then, before a general meeting of them, he laid the proposition to close the "Bank," as it was called, for a certain length of time. It was carried; and the opening of it, at the end of the time (two months), astonished the boys with the amount of deposits accumulated. The money was, most of it, usefully spent for clothes for the winter. This has given the first taste of the pleasure of saving.

"There have been 6,872 lodgers at the rooms during the year, and 408 different boys. The usual number of lodgers is from 25 to 40. Many come in the evenings who sleep in their homes. The result of it all is very happy. The news-boys are certainly not now "model little boys;" but they are greatly changed from their condition when we first knew them. They come regularly to our evening school, and the informal religious meeting, on Sunday evenings. They wear clean shirts and clean clothes. Gambling and drinking have been much left off by them. Their language and behaviour, though, of course, never to be put into the formalities of better-trained children, is respectable. A number have been started



THE STREET BOY.

—from Short Sermons to Newsboys, by Charles Loring Brace. New York: Scribner, 1866.

in other branches of business. They are more saving, and industrious, and cleanly; and some of them appear to have felt the genial religious influence which, without technicality or formalism, it has been endeavored to bring about them.

"We have not wished in influencing them, even for a moment, to weaken that sturdy independence which is the best quality of the class, nor to lessen the free, natural habits of the boys, any farther than our own comfort requires.

"The expenses of the Lodging-House during the last year, dating from March 18, its opening, have been \$1,199.76; including salary of Superintendent, rent of room, and cost of outfit, \$1,069.23. The receipts from lodgers have been



THE NEWSBOY.

(From a Photograph.)

—from The Dangerous Classes of New York, by Charles Loring Brace. New York: Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, 1880.

\$397.56; the subscriptions received for it have amounted to \$989.90."

THE NEWSBOYS

(from the Second Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society)

"The Newsboys, like other mercantile professions, contain different classes within them—the jobbers and the wholesale dealers. These last are older lads, who buy up papers by the hundred or thousand from the offices, and sell them or give them to sell on commission, to the smaller boys. Nearly all the newspaper stands down town,—that on the outside of the Herald office, the

Tribune, at the different ferries and railroad depots, &c.,—are owned and managed by this class, and generally the small boys who sell there are journeymen, paid according to the liberality of their employers. Most of these younger boys live from hand to mouth, spending their money as freely as they get it, and accordingly have little capital to do business with.

"But in all their various business transactions, says Mr. TRACY, there is one law which is well understood and often executed upon the delinquent, and that is punching! When a boy has bought papers on credit, borrowed money, or sold as journeyman for another, and fails to meet his accounts punctually, he gets an 'awful punching.'

"When selling for another, if he is unable to dispose of his stock, or in other words, 'gets stuck,' he must be able to prove clearly that he has not been 'loafing,' or he gets 'punched.' If a boy sells at the ferry or any other place where another claims the exclusive privilege, the punishment is punching." [Regarding this latter case, recall how in the Alger books, the Hero always maintains that he has a right to sell wherever he chooses, regardless if another newsboy is present].

"If a boy should happen to 'step out' with a few shillings of another's money, he never dares to come round 'those corners' until he settles up, otherwise a condign punishment of awful punching awaits him. Sometimes the delinquent is followed up to the theatre, (the Bowery or National,) where a settlement is made in a summary manner.

"There is much generosity shown by these boys to one another. Mr. TRACY lately noticed a busy conversation going on among them. He inquired and found that they had been to the Races during the day, and that "Express" had spent \$4 of "Pat's" money, and had come home broke, and now Pat was looking for him! The boys made up 20s., which they lent to the bankrupt boy, and this, together with a promise that the balance should

be paid soon, satisfied Pat and the trouble was quieted."

EXTRACTS FROM MR. TRACY'S DIARY

"Aug. 12, P. M.—This evening a Deaf Mute boy was brought from the office of the Children's Aid Society to lodge here, and it was interesting to see the conduct of the others towards him. Instead of trying to tease or make fun of him, as they sometimes do by strangers, their sympathy in his misfortune was very evident. But how the lady could talk to him with her fingers was the greatest wonder of all to many of them. This being explained, many pleasing efforts were made by them to interest the poor boy.

"Aug. 13, Sunday Evening.—One boy, who has taken much interest in the Deaf Mute boy, seemed quite delighted with his success in trying to teach "Dummy" to read and write in English. They both staid (sic) in and spent the day in study, and the boy was much pleased that he could make his communication in English with considerable facility.

"Aug. 11 P. M.—During a short interview which I had this afternoon with Horace Greeley, he said, 'I think of you as the man said of the Chaplain in Congress when he began to pray for General JACKSON, "You have got a hard case now!"' And, he added, 'the News-boys are the hardest cases to be found.'"

"Aug. 27—Sunday P. M.—Passing the Tribune office to-day I saw eight or ten newsboys sitting in the hand-cart and standing around it, all very cosily engaged in conversation. Most of these boys have slept at the Lodging-House quite regularly until within the last three or four weeks, and as I came near them they appeared quite restless; but seeing the opportunity too good to be lost, I opened on them pleasantly, by asking a few questions. When I asked where they slept now, one keen little fellow in a half joking manner replied —'We have become retired snoozers now, but somebody has stole our box, and now I don't know what we'll do.' I

reasoned with them about the course they were pursuing—stealing papers, picking other boys' pockets, beating, and otherwise compelling strangers to yield to their unjust demands, sleeping out, &c. 'It is all wrong, and I have determined to take measures to stop it at once. Those who have homes must go to them, and those who have no home must find one. I intend,' said I, 'to notify every boy personally before I begin, and then he must not be surprised if at any time, day or night, he is arrested and sent to the House of Refuge.' This lecture was given in a low tone, so as not to attract the attention of others; but still an occasional passer-by would stop to listen: if it was a boy, he soon got a hint, such as—'Do you want anything?' accompanied with a look and a gesture that satisfied him



"If I do nuthin' wrong, somethin' good 'I come to me."

BOSTON, LEE & SHERARD.

—from Ned Nevins, The News Boy, by Henry Morgan. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1869.



—from Never Give Up; or, The News-Boys, by Mrs. Madeline Leslie. Boston: Graves and Young, 1863.

that he had better leave. A man who inquired—'What is the matter here?' was told by one of the boys—'Oh nothing, Sir; he (meaning me) is only a street preacher.'

Evening.—Four of the ringleaders came in here for lodging this evening, and as one of them was getting into bed he said—'Ah! Mr. TRACY, this is a little nicer than the box to sleep in.'

The preceding extracts are from the Second Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, as are the following passages, which were penned in 1854:

A WANDERER RETURNED

"Sept. 5, Tuesday Evening.—One of the prominent characteristics of a newsboy is the love of liberty. Liberty to work or not;—liberty to eat or not;—liberty to sleep how, where and when he pleases;—liberty to select his own associates and amusements;—in short, free,

unrestrained personal liberty. A. S., who is a fair specimen of the best class of newsboys—industrious, independent, cheerful and liberal—was induced by another boy who had been expelled for unruly conduct, to leave here and take private board and lodging where he might enjoy his inalienable rights unrestrained. After an absence of two weeks, however, he returned to the Lodging-House this evening. As he entered, without turning a glance to the right or left, with a glow of joy in his face that told how glad he was to return, he came right up to me, and, holding out his hand, he said, 'Ah! Mr. TRACY, I am coming back to you again?' After shaking my hand most heartily, he seated himself and gazed around the room, seeming perfectly delighted to get back again."

"Sept. 10, Sunday, 2 P. M.—I put on my overcoat, and taking my umbrella, left home for the Lodging-House. When I arrived here, I found twelve or fifteen of our boys who had sought a shelter from this cold storm, in our stairway, anxious to get into the rooms. As they saw me coming up stairs, one cried out, 'Here comes Mr. TRACY, now we can get in!' 'That's good,' said another. 'Hurrah for Mr. TRACY!' and many similar expressions. Many of these little fellows who were poorly clad, and badly prepared for weather like this, were wet to the skin, and without the money they had taken this morning, which was burning in their pockets, would be chilled through with the cold. We interested them as well as we could for two hours, and while the boys were away for their supper, we put up the stove and made a good fire.

"Sept. 10, Evening.—The storm and cold weather have driven in an unusual number of boys this evening. We have twenty-five lodgers, besides several who have spent the evening here and gone home, or somewhere else to sleep. All enjoyed our comfortable fire very much, and while we were teaching two little boys their A B ab's, another boy was amusing a crowd who were cozily seated around the stove, by telling them

how they would do on the cold snowy nights next Winter. Stooping down in front of the stove, with his head turned on one shoulder, and his hands held close to the fire, he said, 'Ah, won't you snoozers like to get up to this fire? Yes, you will,' (with a toss of his head)—'yes you will; I know it!'

"Sept. 11, Monday Evening.— The cold weather and rain of yesterday, begin to make the boys realize that Winter is approaching in earnest, and now they begin to feel the force of the counsel I have given them about saving their money and preparing for Winter. One boy offered a resolution—'That no boy be allowed to take any money out of the "Bank" until the 1st of November next'—which after being fully discussed was passed unanimously."

NEWSBOY'S DICTIONARY OR GLOSSARY

"'Bumming' is a word used by the boys, which signifies roving about the streets of nights without sleep.

"'Snoozing' is synonymous with 'sleeping-out.' Itinerantly sleeping in boxes, empty casks, entries, stairways, printing-offices, markets, &c.

"'Bluffing'—cheating by selling an article for more than it is worth—such as galvanized watches for gold—mock jewelry for genuine—old newspapers for latest issue, &c." [Alger readers can recognize these ploys in the author's books about New York City street life].

"'Grubbing' is soliciting—more commonly or vulgarly termed begging."

The following is from the Second Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1855.

THE NEWSBOYS' BANK

"We have already mentioned that the boys passed, in September, a resolution

I. NEWSBOYS.

KINDNESS APPRECIATED.

The public are well aware of the unremitting attention of WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq., to the wants of the inmates of the Lodging-house. The boys, appreciating his efforts, held a meeting on the 18th of February, 1862, to consider the propriety of presenting him with a testimonial of respect. At the meeting thus held, many suggestions were made, and at last the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, We, the inmates of the Newsboys' Home, have ever witnessed the warm interest manifested towards us by our friend and well-wisher WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq.; and,

Whereas, His valuable teachings, and unremitting attention have been the means of encouragement and improvement to us all, and being desirous of manifesting our grateful affection towards one whose heart has ever been warmly interested in our welfare; therefore,

Resolved, That WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq., be requested to sit for his photograph, at an early day, at our expense, as our gift to the Newsboys' Home.

Resolved, That Charles H. Daly, *alias* Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Klee, and Edward Flannery be a committee to present the foregoing resolutions to William A. Booth, Esq.

The boys, during three months, succeeded in raising five dollars and one cent, and the Committee waited upon Mr. Booth, and presented the foregoing resolutions. They were received cordially, and the gentleman at once cheerfully acceded to their request, and procured a very splendid photograph from Brady, which probably cost ten times the amount of their collection. The boys are still under the impression that their appropriation paid for it. The photograph now adorns the Lodging-house, and ever reminds the boys that they have a kind friend in the President of the Society.

—the above is from the Tenth Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1863. William A. Booth became President of the Society in 1860, and he soon held a particular interest in the street boys who frequented the Newsboys' Lodging House. In the Society's Ninth Annual Report, dated February, 1862, Lodge Superintendent Charles O'Connor wrote: "[He] has much endeared himself to the boys by his constant visits and kindly efforts for their religious and moral improvement." See illustration next page.



Horatio Alger, Jr.

Co

WILLIAM A. BOOTH, ESQ.,

And other Officers of the Children's Aid Society,

EMBRACING THE NEWS-BOYS' LODGING-HOUSE
IN NEW YORK CITY,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY THE AUTHOR,

IN TESTIMONY OF HER HIGH APPRECIATION OF THEIR HUMANE
AND BENEVOLENT ENTERPRISES.

—from Never Give Up; or, The News-Boys, by Mrs. Madeline Leslie. Boston: Graves and Young, 1863.

that their 'Bank' should be opened on November 1. This Bank is a savings-table, in which each boy has his own box for his money.

"On Wednesday evening, the 1st instant, a good number of the boys gathered at the rooms, and there was great excitement in prospect of the opening. Mr. Tracy was expecting some friends to be present on the occasion, and hoped to induce the lads to deposit in the Six-penny Bank; and accordingly waited some time—the boys growing gradually more impatient, and filling up the time in all sorts of sharp-shooting. 'I move that the boys as has most tin in the Bank gives a treat of oysters to all the rest,' said one little boy, mounted on a desk—a proposition which excited immense applause. 'I move coffee and cakes.' 'I go in for that.' 'Half-past seven, Mr. Tracy.' 'Hold your hats!' 'Ready now?' &c. As the eventful moment approached, the uproar increased. 'Open, Sesame!' 'Who goes for his grub?' 'I move that the Bank be opened.' 'How much have you got in—sixpence?' 'Call down to the store, and I'll give you my old clothes!' and the like—the boys pressing in a circle around, until Mr. Tracy said, despairingly, 'I suppose, boys, it's of no use. We can't have order. We shall have to give up opening the Bank this evening.'

"Then, from all the large boys, 'Oh now keep order—can't you? Don't you see, Mr. Tracy wants order? Order! Order!' until the cries for order were rather more uproarious than were the cries of disorder before.

"However, at length quiet is gained, and Mr. Tracy has the opportunity of making a speech. 'Now, boys! who is going to invest five dollars in the Six-penny Savings Bank?' No reply. 'That bank is the best, you know. Some of you ought to save your money till it gets colder. Of course, I'm in favor of every boy's doing what he likes with his own money, only I want to make a few suggestions. We have seen, boys! that it is a practicable thing to save money. A boy can save more than he thinks; he can disappoint himself. He should begin now to save. Every one who sets apart all he can and puts it in the Savings-Bank gets five per cent more for the year. . . .'"

"To this advice the boys listened attentively, but as soon as Mr. T. had done speaking, the clamor and their characteristic restlessness began again. 'Mr. Tracy, what's the time—past seven?' 'It's goin' to open now,' 'Get out of the way,' 'I'm for the Bank,' &c., &c. Mr. Tracy—'All the boys be seated now!' Older boys to smaller—'You keep order there!' 'Now, boys, I will call the numbers, but I propose that Mick counts the money!' 'No, no, Sir—let every boy finger his own money here!' arose in a shout. 'No. 1?' 'Absent—gettin' his dinner!' 'No. 2?' 'Here I be, Sir!' 'No. 3?' 'Gone dead!' 'No. 4?' 'At his country-seat, gettin' his winter lodgin'!' (i. e. House of Refuge.) 'No. 7?' 'Gone to heaven.' 'No. 8?' 'My eyes!—what a stock of pennies Barney has!—count it!—there's an English ha'penny!—hurry up!—two dollars two shillings!—No. 8 has got a check for the poor-house!' 'I make a move,' says Barney, having got his own money, 'that the Bank be closed!' at which there was a general laugh. 'No. 12?' 'Go ahead!—gone to sleep!' 'No. 18?' Don't hurry the boy!

Let him count his money! Put on your shirt, Paddy; han't you got your money now?'

"This kind of running fire was kept up during the whole time, the boys being in the greatest excitement. Some were found to have as high as \$10 or \$11 in the Bank, and the total amount drawn was about \$69.

"As soon as possible after this, some the same evening and the rest the next day, were marching off to the different clothing establishments to strike sharp bargains for clothes. . . . The next night they all made their appearance, very proudly, in new garments; and such 'running' of one another on account of bad bargains! Some had overcoats for which they paid \$4 and \$6; others, very jaunty caps; others, good flannel shirts and warm vests. On the whole, the investments were very judicious, and we felt rejoiced at these first steps toward respectability; for, six months ago, a flannel shirt of three months unchanged wear had been the principal garment of the corps. All seemed pleased with the mysterious influence of the 'Bank.'"

One of the programs of the Children's Aid Society was the sending of homeless youngsters to families out West. Horatio Alger's Julius; Or, The Street Boy Out West (1874) was a tribute to this aspect of the Society's work. Following is a letter from a former newsboy, written from his new home in Indiana. It is addressed to Charles O'Connor, Superintendent of the Newsboys' Lodging House, and appeared in the Seventh Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1860. This report was for the year February, 1859, through January, 1860.

M____, Ind., Nov. 24, 1859.

TO MY FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR: So I take my pen in my hand to let you know how I am, and how I am getting along. As far as I see, I am well satisfied with my place; but I took a general look around, and, as far as I see, all the boys left

in M____ are doing well, especially myself, and I think there is as much fun as in New York, for nuts and apples are all free. I am much obliged to you, Mr. O'Connor, for the paper you sent me. I received it last night; I read it last night—something about the Newsboys' Lodging House.

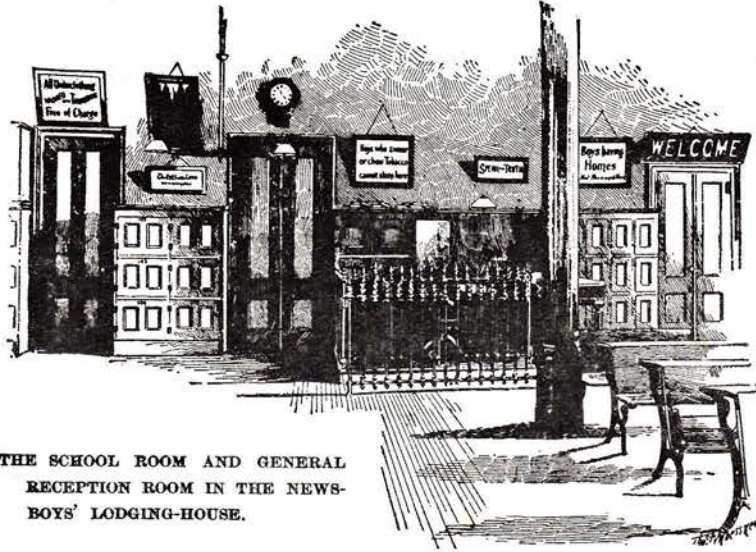
"All the newsboys of New York have a bad name; but we should show ourselves, and show them, that we are no fools; that we can become as respectable as any of their countrymen, for some of you poor boys can do something for your country—for FRANKLIN, WEBSTER, CLAY, were poor boys once, and even Commodore



"PLEASE, SIR, MAY I HAVE A BED?"

(A sketch from life.)

—inside view of Park Place Newsboys' Lodging House from The Dangerous Classes of New York by Charles Loring Brace. New York: Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, 1880. (originally published in 1872).



THE SCHOOL ROOM AND GENERAL RECEPTION ROOM IN THE NEWSBOYS' LODGING-HOUSE.

The signs in the Duane Street Newsboys' Lodging House read from left to right: "All Underclothing Washed on Thursdays Free of Charge", "The Eyes of the Lord are Every Place", "Boys Who Swear or Chew Tobacco Cannot Sleep Here", "Speak the Truth", "Boys Having Homes Not Received Here", and "Welcome". (Illustration from Darkness and Daylight by Helen Campbell. Hartford: Hartford Pub. Company, 1895, c1891).

Donations for the Newsboys' Lodging-House.

Two or three Friends, by cash,	1 00	W. E. Hitchcock,	5 00
Rev. E. Thompson,	10 00	Jno. Jeffrey,	1 00
A Friend,	25 00	C. Baker & Son,	6 00
J. Maxwell,	5 00	A. M. Collins,	5 00
A Friend, (Conn.),	5 00	A. L. Bassett,	1 00
W. E. Allen,	1 00	W. N. Felt,	2 00
W. T. Coleman,	10 00	Cash, (J. B.),	1 00
C. N. B.,	1 00	Mrs. D. B. C.,	2 00
Hull & Argalls,	5 00	Thos. H. Williams,	2 00
Mrs. J. E. Coleman,	1 00	J. Maxwell,	5 00
J. S. Aspinwall, for others,	7 00	Jno. N. Quirk & Co.,	2 40
A Friend,	1 00	Phair & Co.,	2 00
W. H. Cooke,	1 00	Wynkoop (H. & T.) & Co.,	2 00
D. F. Lee,	1 00	Cash (Prize Fund),	1 00
A Friend,	5 00	J. C. Lamphear, (Business Fund),	1 00
New Jersey,	10 00	J. K. Corning,	5 00
Stapleton S. S. Society,	5 00	Cash,	07
Do., R. D. Ch. S. S.,	20 00	H. H. Casey, Secy.,	50 00

CLOTHING, ETC.

C. Baker & Son, 1 Ton Coal, \$6. Baldwin, Studwell & Fisher, shoes, \$12. Phair & Co., printing, \$2. S. Thompson & Nephew, Coal, \$6. C. C. Tracy, brooms, brushes, tubs, &c., \$15. Leavitt & Allen books, \$10. F. W. Sheppard, Clothing. W. B. Merritt, do. E. W. Keeler, Comfortable, \$1.50. R. Russell, Clothing. Unknown, do., by Express. R. Percv. Clothing. Unknown, do. Do., do. Do., do. Mrs. L. I. W. and family, do. Mrs. A. E., 3 quilts. Mr. Hannas, 5 gray blankets. Mrs. W. Brooklyn, liberal donation of new bedding. Mr. Cubert, Clothing. Mr. B. T. Martin, do. Miss Lizzie Curtis, bedding—the finger-work of a very little girl. *Daniel D.*

O'Sullivan, (the Professor), Stationery. C. Baker & Son, 1 Ton Coal. Mrs. Abel, quilt. Mrs. J. W. Corwin, *Pres.*, 1 barrel Clothing. Mr. J. P. Wilson, bedding. J. N. Brainard, Clothing. 7 young Ladies, Chelsea, bedding. Mrs. W. J. Havens, do. Young Ladies of Brooklyn, per J. H. Fotheringham, large lot of new bedding. Miss A. M., quilt. J. W. Crane, Clothing. Mr. Bell, $\frac{1}{2}$ load of wood. Mr. Youatt, $\frac{1}{2}$ do. Home for Friendless, 24 quilts. Mr. S. H. Carey, Thanksgiving supper. Young Ladies of Brooklyn, per J. H. F., second instalment Clothing. *John Smith*! Clothing.

—from the Fifth Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society, dated February, 1858, covering the year February, 1857, through January, 1858.

V. C. PERRY or MATH. C. PERRY. But even GEORGE LAW, and VANDERBILT, and ASTOR—some of the richest men of New York—and MATH. and V. C. PERRY were nothing but printers, and in the navy on Lake Erie. And look at WINFIELD SCOTT. So now, boys, stand up and let them see you have got the real stuff in you. Come out here and make respectable and honorable men, so they can say, there, that boy was once a newsboy.

"Now, boys, you all know I have tried every thing. I have been a newsboy, and when that got slack you know I have smashed baggage. I have sold nuts, I have peddled, I have worked on the rolling billows up the canal. I was a boot-black; and you know when I sold papers I was at the top of our profession. I had a good stand of my own, but I found that all would not do. I could not get along, but I am now going ahead. I have a first-rate home, ten dollars a month, and my board; and I tell you, fellows, that is a great deal more than I could scrape up my best times in New York. We are all on an equality, my boys, out here, so long as we keep ourselves respectable.

"Mr. O'CONNOR, tell FATTY or F. JOHN PETTIBONE, to send me a Christmas number of Frank Leslie's and Harpers's Weekly, a Weekly News, or some other pictorials to read, especially the Newsboys' Pictorial, if it comes out. No old papers or else none. If they would get some other boys to get me some books. I want

TABULAR STATEMENT SINCE ORGANIZATION OF NEWSBOYS' LODGING-HOUSE.

YEAR.	No. of Boys.	No. of Lodgings.	No. of Meals.	Returned to friends.	Expenses.	Paid by Boys.	No. of Boys using Bank.	Am't saved by them.
1854 to 1855.....	408	6,872	.....	.....	\$1,199 76	\$397 56	.....	.....
1855 to 1856.....	374	7,599	.....	.....	1,431 82	391 26	16	\$643 58
1856 to 1857.....	387	5,157	.....	.....	1,762 56	262 56	116	270 70
1857 to 1858.....	800	8,026	11,923	.....	1,925 03	298 03	.....	.....
1858 to 1859.....	3,000	14,000	13,114	.....	2,199 34	807 15	.....	.....
1859 to 1860.....	4,500	19,747	13,341	100	2,113 56	955 44	23	110 10
1860 to 1861.....	4,000	27,390	16,873	247	3,420 57	1,036 98	230	1,259 77
1861 to 1862.....	3,875	32,954	19,809	.....	2,736 08	1,138 88	388	1,376 59
1862 to 1863.....	3,000	29,409	20,000	396	3,402 82	1,102 33	347	1,315 10
1863 to 1864.....	6,325	36,572	25,506	437	5,758 16	1,559 10	405	2,080 06
1864 to 1865.....	6,793	42,446	30,137	576	7,159 95	1,944 22	499	2,505 92
1865 to 1866.....	7,256	43,797	32,867	633	10,058 13	2,127 44	599	2,486 43
1866 to 1867.....	8,192	49,519	33,633	719	10,847 79	2,718 79	542	2,121 76
1867 to 1868.....	8,599	51,740	35,617	819	12,094 00	3,177 69	703	2,203 45
1868 to 1869.....	8,944	53,610	54,092	896	23,333 45	3,644 49	796	2,057 76
1869 9 months.....	7,383	39,077	33,207	642	13,445 24	3,180 85	659	1,688 22
1869 to 1870.....	8,655	55,565	56,128	713	15,102 11	4,214 42	1,107	2,433 60
1870 to 1871.....	8,835	53,005	53,214	1,100	14,898 03	3,349 77	1,065	2,588 31
Total.....	91,326	576,485	469,461	7,278	\$132,888 40	\$32,306 96	7 495	\$25,141 35

Above table from The Dangerous Classes of New York, by Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society and of the Newsboys' Lodging House. New York: Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, 1880.

something to read.

"I hope this letter will find you in good health, as it leaves me. Mr. O'CONNOR, I expect an answer before two weeks—a letter and a paper. Write to me all about the Lodging House. With this I close my letter, with much respect to all.

"I remain your truly obedient friend,

J. K."

* * *

ALGER ANALYSES

by Jack Bales

Number five in a series of studies of books that are useful in researching the life, works, and times of Horatio Alger, Jr.

The Newsboy. New York: J. C. Derby, 1854.

"I have before me, as I write these lines, a book of 527 pages entitled,

The Newsboy. It was published anonymously by J. C. Derby & Co., of New York in 1854. The author, who later admitted her identity, was Elizabeth Oakes Smith. The book had a considerable success and Alger most certainly read it."

—Frank Gruber
Horatio Alger, Jr.
Los Angeles: Grover Jones Press, 1961

Although this volume does have several marked similarities to the boys' books penned by Horatio Alger, Jr., I feel that Gruber is overstepping the bounds of "suppositional journalism" when he asserts that "Alger most certainly read it." [Underline mine] In the area of biographical writing, it is frequently hazardous to state which books influenced a specific writer. Furthermore, as in Gruber's case, a biographer's affirmations particularly can be greeted with not a few critically raised eyebrows when 1. the events in question transpired a century previous to the time of his [the biographer's] writing,



—frontispiece of The Newsboy, published by J. C. Derby in 1854.

and 2. the research marks the first serious effort into the life of the biographee.

But whether Alger ever read Smith's The Newsboy or not is unimportant. What is significant is that the book was among the first of a myriad of volumes published during the middle 1800's that portrayed the life styles of New York City street boys. Thus, it deserves more than passing attention from Alger scholars.

As does Ragged Dick, the boys in The Newsboy have an avowed love for the Bowery Theatre. Other resemblances between Smith's book and Ragged Dick include references to the secondhand clothing stores on Chatham Street, frequent referrals to the Tombs Prison, and descriptive passages that point out the difficulties that one encounters in crossing the carriage laden thoroughfares of metropolitan New York. A final instance also should be noted—the

hero of the story enters into a lucrative business partnership with "The Benefactor," thereby honoring the "Luck, not Pluck" credo of that "rags to riches formula" about which Alger's detractors so gleefully scorn.

But here the similarities cease. Popular though The Newsboy may have been in 1854, a 1976 reading finds it to be a boring and banal story of a newsboy and his struggle to provide for himself and two street waifs whom he has informally adopted. Unlike Alger's novels, in which the reader is allowed to revel in the breezy informalities of likeable heroes amidst fast paced action, instead he is forced heavy doses of saccharine didacticism. Following is an illustrative sample, taken from Chapter XXVII, "The Hand on the Heart," which gives the author's feelings as Bob (the hero) thinks about the death of Minnie, one of the objects of his beneficence:

"All this passed through Bob's brain while he planned for a bit of earth in which to hide the ashes of little Minnie, whose lot was not a forlorn one, since God sent her his best boon, a friend. Alas! how often you and I looked abroad, and longed for such a boon! Lovers we can have, but love is selfish. It likes not the sigh and the tear—it shrinks from toil, and sickness, and death—it covets roses and lilies, perfume and luxury."

"Bob had a right to even more selfishness in the matter of Minnie. Had he not toiled up and down the great wicked city, weary of foot, though strong of heart, to get her bread? Had he not expended his little all to keep the wee thing looking as a 'gal should look,' neat, and sweet, and as pretty as a little broken-back could look? . . . And when they all went out to look at the stars, and Minnie felt the silver chain falling from heaven, always nearer and nearer about her heart, did she not always say to him,

"'Bob, dear, good Bob, I will not go away. No Bob, I will stay, and when you feel Minnie's hand on your heart,

you will not be unhappy. But if they do call me home, dear Bob, I'll come again, and you'll still feel Minnie's hand on your heart."

Although Bob's attentions to his "children" account for a substantial slice of the book's story, a more important plot concerns the newsboy's friendship with Mr. Dinsmoor, a New York merchant. In a story theme not unlike that of Alger's Charlie Codman's Cruise, Mr. Dinsmoor's daughter, Imogen, is kidnapped by Juan Marcou, a Spaniard whom Dinsmoor knew at college. Both men loved Fannie Lyndsey, but she married Dinsmoor, and consequently, Marcou takes his revenge in a manner he knows would harm them both.

Bob knows Imogen, and after her disappearance, seeks to locate her. Though he does obtain some relevant information concerning her whereabouts, he is knocked senseless at the threshold of Mr. Dinsmoor's door before he is able to see him. During Bob's recovery at the Dinsmoor home, he [Bob] is a great comfort to the bereaved family, and especially to Mr. Dinsmoor, whose wife eventually dies from sorrow. Following is a passage from Chapter XLVI, "Dilemmas", in which Dinsmoor offers Bob and Dady (Bob's remaining "daughter") a permanent place in his house:

"'You shall have learning, Bob, I will be a friend to you in the best way. You shall be taught everything to render you an accomplished merchant; and let me tell you, Bob, you have a capital in your own honest, manly integrity, worth millions in a city like this. Whoever helps you helps himself, Bob.'

"The Newsboy extended his hand cordially to the speaker, as if he had found his equal. He looked upon Mr. Dinsmoor with an admiring respect, such as he had never before felt for him, as if all at once the crust of conventionalism had peeled off, and he saw a man.

"'When you speak of the learnin', Sir,' he replied, 'you comes very near

to me. Rack-o'-bones [a woman who befriended Bob] has been a teachin' of me, and I'm bound to say I learns fast, seein' I wants the learnin' as I wants bread.'

"'You shall have it, Bob, and I will learn of you also; learn the uses of life, and the uses of wealth through your great heart, Bob.'

Bob and Dady live for years with Mr. Dinsmoor, and during this time Imogen remains absent, for unbeknownst to Bob and his friends, she is a prisoner in Cuba. Bob is now in his early twenties, and is the confidential clerk of Mr. Dinsmoor. He is sent to Cuba on business for his employer, and through several singular circumstances, is able to rescue Imogen. [A typical Alger coincidence!]

During the years Imogen was absent from her family, Bob slowly fell in



GETTING POINTS FROM THE LAST EDITION.

—from Darkness and Daylight, by Helen Campbell. Hartford: Hartford Pub. Co., 1895, c1891.

love with her, and his seeing her again kindled anew his feelings. However, she marries a childhood boyfriend, much to the consternation of her family. The book concludes with this summation:

"[Bob] travelled much abroad, and thus enlarged his views of life; and, when some months [later], the great stone house was thrown open, and a numerous assemblage came to congratulate Mr. Dinsmoor on the marriage of his beautiful daughter to the handsome Charles Gardner, Bob, the young partner of the firm, was not there. But when the father blessed his child, and imprinted a kiss upon the brow of the bride, his noble heart confessed with a pang he would gladly have substituted for the bridegroom, in place of Charles Gardner, the unknown of birth, the unaided in youth, the self-reliant, manly young Newsboy. The Newsboy is abroad, but perhaps may yet return."

* * *

A feature of the ROSEMONT TWELFTH TIME that is not on the agenda is Ralph Gardner's annual Alger quiz held every year at the Saturday night banquet. Entitled "AQ for AE's (Alger Quotient for Alger Experts), this contest is composed of questions that concern the characters, titles, and plots of Horatio's stories. There are always some tough questions, so glance over your Alger books now.

I [Jack Bales] have a number of old photographs of newsboys and the Newsboys' Lodging House, and copies of two rare pictures will be given to the auction at the convention. Remember, donations are very much appreciated, as the proceeds will help the Horatio Alger Society's treasury. See you this May!!

* * *

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Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer, J. E. WILLIAMS, in the Metropolitan Bank, by either of the above Trustees, or by the Secretary at the Office. Donations of Clothing, Shoes, Stockings, &c., are much needed, and may be sent to the Office, No. 11 Clinton Hall, Astor Place. Old Clothing will be called for, if the address be sent to the office.

The above is the verso of the title page of the Tenth Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society. This is dated February, 1863, and is for the year February, 1862, through January, 1863.

Note the inclusion of Alger's friend, Charles O'Connor, on this list. The first superintendent of the Newsboys' Lodging House, Christian C. Tracy, also is noted.