



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
**NEWSBOY**



*Horatio Alger, Jr.*

1832 - 1899

A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

Volume XXVI

November-December, 1987

Number 3



RICHARDSON-COX, CO.

The Bible House, New York.

Directly opposite Cooper Institute, Frank saw a very large building of brick, covering about an acre of ground.

"Is that a hotel?" he asked.

"No," said Dick; "that's the Bible House. It's the place where they make Bibles. I was in there once,—saw a big pile of 'em."

"Did you ever read the Bible?" asked Frank, who had some idea of the neglected state of Dick's education.

"No," said Dick; "I've heard it's a good book, but I never read one. I aint much on readin'. It makes my head ache."

RAGGED DICK, 63:5-9



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

PF-793 James Morrison  
2206 Running Spring Place  
Encinitas, CA 92024

James has 79 Alger titles, and came into the Society by filling out one of our applications that had reached him from a relative who mentioned his Alger interest to our former member Alla T. Ford, a bookseller, 114 S. Palmway, Lake Worth, FL 33460. Mrs. Ford asked your Editor, Gilbert K. Westgard II for some information, and he furnished her with a form on which he first placed a mark so it would be recognized if it was used. James is married, and his wife's name is Mary.

PF-794 Richard Williams  
107 Southern Parkway  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Richard is an attorney, age 40, having 48 Alger titles in his collection. His other hobbies are fishing and woodworking. He and his wife, Lee Ann, may be called at 201 445-8080. It was from KOVELS COLLECTORS' SOURCE BOOK that Richard learned of our Society.

PF-797 Benjamin B. Benson  
15736 Ashton Road  
Detroit, MI 48223

Ben is a professor, age 24, who has 47 Alger titles in his collection. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Wayne State University, and is working on a dissertation, "A Semiotic Approach to the Novels of Horatio Alger, Jr." He says, "In writing the dissertation prospectus, I began both a manual and computer search for literature. Of course, *Newsboy* frequently came up. There are back issues I hope to purchase, but more importantly, I hope to

gain the input of scholars established in the field who may be able to suggest improvements in the focus and scope of the project. Also, I am interested in collecting Alger novels and submitting articles for possible publication." He learned of our Society when reading an article by Jack Bales in *Journal of Popular Culture*. Phone: 313 272-2209.

PF-798 Richard Scharchburg  
12147 Pine Row Lane  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Richard is a college professor, age 55, with 45 Alger titles. His other hobbies include antiques, old books, and antique cars. He, and his wife, Nancy, may be reached at 313 694-5539. A used book salesman told him about our Society.

\* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM

Ida Goldberg  
Wife of Past President Dr. Max Goldberg  
Sophie Wiener Friedland  
Mother of  
Past President Jerry B. Friedland  
Roy L. Wendell, PF-090

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-074 John F. Sullivan  
Unit 302  
99 Philip Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
Phone: 803 723-3064

PF-668 James J. Lowe  
9 Pheasant Woods  
Box 57  
Colchester, VT 05446

THE 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. Founded by Forrest Campbell and Kenneth B. Butler. OFFICERS: President, Jim Ryberg; Vice-president, George Owens; Executive Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann; Treasurer, Alex T. Shaner; Directors, John Juvinal, Glenn Corcoran, Edward T. LeBlanc, Bob Sawyer, Owen Cobb, Bill McCord, Frank Jaques, Will Wright, Paul Miller; Directors Emeritus, Ralph D. Gardner, Bob Bennett, Max Goldberg. NEWSBOY, the Official Organ of The Horatio Alger Society, is published six times a year, and is indexed in the Modern Language Association's INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY. Membership Fee for any twelve month period is \$15.00, with single issues costing \$3.00. Please make all your remittances payable to The Horatio Alger Society. Membership Applications, Renewals, Changes of Address and other correspondence should be sent to the Society's Executive Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, MI 48910. NEWSBOY ADVERTISING RATES: 1 page, \$32.00; half-page, \$17.00; quarter-page, \$9.00; column-inch, \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to The Horatio Alger Society, to Bob Sawyer, 4473 Janice Marie Blvd., Enchanted Acres, Columbus, OH 43207. THE LOST LIFE OF HORATIO ALGER, JR., by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales, is recognized as the definitive biography of Horatio Alger, Jr., and HORATIO ALGER, JR.: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY, by Bob Bennett, is recognized as the most current definitive authority on Alger's works. Send articles for NEWSBOY to Gilbert K. Westgard II, Editor, 1001 S.W. 5th Court, Boynton Beach, FL 33426.



NEWARK AUTHOR,  
GREAT FAVORITE WITH YOUNG FOLKS,  
TALKS OF STORIES FOR BOYS

The demands of boy readers are peculiar, and the author who can satisfy them, not only once or twice, but uniformly, must possess rare ability in an extremely difficult field.

Such an author is Edward Stratemeyer, upon whom, it is commonly said, has fallen the mantle of the late Oliver Optic. Mr. Stratemeyer is a native Jerseyman, having been born at Elizabeth, and for many years has made his home in Newark. He lives at 203 North Sixth Street, in Roseville, and there, in a recent conversation, he explained his views on the writing of boys' stories and his own methods of work.

"At the present day," said Mr. Stratemeyer, "when it is increasingly important that the coming men should be more or less intimately familiar with a constantly growing number of facts, fathers naturally choose for their boys books that instruct, while they entertain. And it isn't the parents alone who demand books of this kind. The boys themselves want them.

"Boy nature is much the same today, I suppose, that it must have been in the Garden of Eden, yet there is one striking difference between the modern boy and the lad of even a generation ago. The modern boy grows up more quickly. At sixteen years he is likely to be a manlier fellow, with a deeper interest in affairs of the world than the youth of a generation ago at twenty. There are several reasons which, taken together, will explain it, I think. Undoubtedly the newspapers have had a great deal to do with it. The average lad of today reads the papers as eagerly, if not as judiciously, as his father. His appetite for information is whetted by what he reads. This is a healthy tendency, and is encouraged by the schools. Almost every school today has its regular discussion of current events, conducted by the teacher. Desire to know what is going on in the world is stimulated, and the boys are led to take a new interest in their history and geography lessons, by being shown that knowledge of these subjects is necessary to an understanding of world affairs. The same tendency is

fostered by librarians, and in most cities special efforts are made to interest young people in the best that the libraries afford.

THE WRITER'S PROBLEM THREEFOLD.

"The results are easily seen in the choice of books made by the boys—I speak of boys, because my books are chiefly for them—and we writers, if we are to succeed, must give them something beside a thrilling story. Our troubles are, therefore, doubled. We must not only evolve an entertaining plot—for that is just as vitally important as it ever was—but we must give it a setting, historical or geographical, that is illuminating, as well as accurate, down to the minutest detail. Then we are confronted with a third problem, more difficult and more important than either of the others—how to combine the story and the information so that the latter shall not appear to intrude, but shall be absorbed almost unconsciously while the lad is intent upon following the adventures of the hero. The plot may be thrilling, the setting scholarly and scientific, but if they are clumsily combined the result is failure.

"It may be taken for granted, I think, that history and geography are not in themselves interesting to the average boy. Hence in selecting a historical or geographical background for a story, it is necessary to take something in which the boy's interest already has been thoroughly aroused, most probably by present or recent events. During the Spanish war books dealing with the operations in Cuba and the Philippines were sure to be eagerly read. South and Central America are now fields which are attracting much attention in the United States."

"Having selected your field," Mr. Stratemeyer was asked, "how do you proceed to get together material for your background?"

"I can best explain," he replied, "by taking a concrete illustration. About two years ago I had in mind the writing of a story, the scene of which was to be laid in Venezuela. At the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo I met some persons who were interested in Venezuela. From them I gathered all the information I could about the country, and they further advised me to write to the Venezuelan bureau of public



information. I did so and shortly received a quantity of printed matter which was exactly what I wanted. After carefully studying this, with the rest of the material I had accumulated, I felt that my background was complete. Then I had but to construct my plot in accordance with the historical and geographical setting, and begin writing.

"This volume, entitled 'Lost on the Orinoco, or American Boys in Venezuela,' was the first of my 'Pan-American' series. A fourth volume, for which I am now gathering data, will deal with life today in Brazil. I find that young men are tremendously interested in the Central and South American countries, and let me say for their benefit that reports concerning nearly every country down there can be had for the asking from the bureau of public information, or similar department, of the country.

"Of course, I make a constant effort to have my stories particularly timely. For instance, when I had finished my Venezuela story, I was about to begin another dealing with some other South American country, when the disaster at Maritnique and St. Vincent's Island occurred. As I was planning to write later volumes on the West Indies, I merely changed the order of the volumes I had in mind, and produced my 'Young Volacano Explorers' at once.

"Perhaps a still better illustration is my 'American Boys' Life of President McKinley.' After the war with Spain it was suggested that I write a boys' life of President McKinley. A large amount of data had been gathered for this, when the President was assassinated. The 'American Boys' Life of William McKinley' was brought out about two months later."

Another book which Mr. Stratemeyer will publish in the fall is to be entitled "At the Fall of Montreal." This will be the third volume of his popular Colonial Series. Of any work beyond that, he says, he is hardly in a position to speak. "I have the plots and outlines of a score of books in my desk," he said, "and keep adding to them constantly. When a new idea comes to me I make a note of it, and if I can gather in any information on the subject I do so. I rarely work during the hot weather, so I am now looking forward to a vacation in the mountains and at the sea-

shore, with a camera and a fishing rod."

During the portions of the year when he is busiest, he is an indefatigable worker. "When starting to write a story," he says, "I generally make a careful outline and cast of characters. After this I compose directly on the typewriter, working four to six hours a day. Sometimes I make half a dozen changes, and then make more when the proof sheets come along. In addition, I usually mark all the subjects for illustrations, as a guide to the artist."

The author's books are all copyrighted in England as well as this country, and one of his stories, "Between Boer and Briton," was used serially by *Boys of Our Empire*, a leading British periodical. The combined sale of his books has amounted to nearly 600,000 copies.

"I have no toleration," said Mr. Stratemeyer, in closing the conversation, "for that which is namby-pamby or wishy-washy in juvenile literature. This is a strenuous age truly, and the boys and girls of today are clever and up-to-date, and appreciate that which is true to life quite as well as do their elders. They love incident and adventure, and if those features are lacking in a book they will not read the volume. The best an author can do is to give them a fair proportion of legitimate excitement, and with this a judicious dose of pleasantly prepared information. Every story ought to be of a high moral tone, but the moral ought to be felt rather than mentioned."

#### LETTERS FROM HIS READERS.

Like most authors who have attained popularity, Mr. Stratemeyer receives hundreds of letters from his readers. He answers them all in person, considering the time and labor well spent, as it makes him many warm friends, not only among the boys and girls, but also among their elders, including librarians, school teachers and army officers. Many of his correspondents frankly admit that they are after his autograph, and such are never disappointed in their quest. Among these letters is one from an old Quaker doctor, which he treasures very highly. The physician wrote:

"Respected Friend—It would afford me great pleasure to receive an autograph letter from thee to place in my collection



of auto. letters from distinguished authors. This request comes from one who has passed his eighty-fifth milestone, and is anxious to get an autograph letter from the author of popular books for boys. Trusting thee will pardon this intrusion."

Many of his letters from boys are extremely amusing. The following one came from a lad who was evidently struggling with the mysteries of the typewriter:

"My Dear Mr. Stratemeyer: I am only a boy. And so you need not suspect that the peiodes are put in the right place or the words spelled right. You know you said that in The Campain Of The Jungle you said there wasa sixth volume it is in old Glory Series! I do not think you have written it yet. I like to read about war and I want to be a soldier some day but my mother. does not want me to be one. I like your books very much. I like the 5th book best. The thing that I wrote the letter about. Was that I want you to write the sixth book. As I must go now I think I had stop."

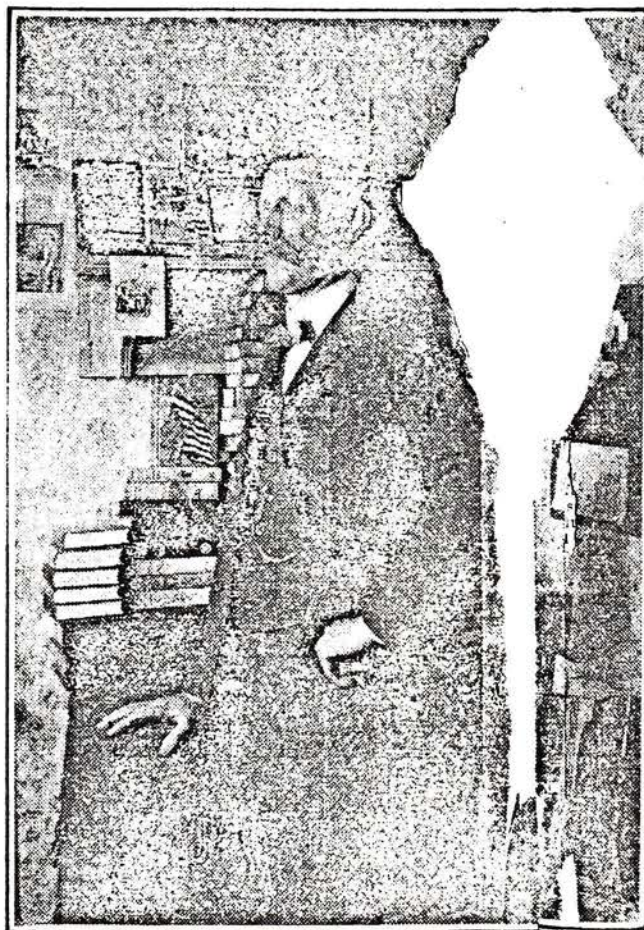
These are but types of scores of letters that Mr. Stratemeyer is constantly receiving. His correspondents are scattered all over the country, and they sometimes give him suggestions which he is able to use to advantage in writing his stories.

—*Sunday News, Newark, N.J.*  
exact date unknown, 1904?

\* \* \*

About a year ago Peter C. Walther sent several items to make up A STRATEMEYER DOSSIER: an original article about the author's contributions to *Old Cap Collier Library*; Stratemeyer's will; an editorial on Stratemeyer's death; and photographs of the present appearance of the Newark home of Edward Stratemeyer (The color of it can only be described as 'bilious blue'), together with pictures taken of the final resting place of Edward and Magdalene Stratemeyer. Peter notes that the book bindings on either side of the headstone appear to be DAVE PORTERS!!! Grateful acknowledgement is given to the compiler's brother, Rev. Paul J. Walther, for all these photographs, with thanks for his time and patience.

Wallace Palmer, whose nearly every letter is a lyrical paean of praise of the great author, kindly wrote an article



EDWARD STRATEMEYER.

\* \* \*

entitled, "Some Stratemeyer Miscellany," which was inspired by Carol Billman's excellent volume, THE SECRET OF THE STRATEMEYER SYNDICATE, and STRATEMEYER PSEUDONYMS AND SERIES BOOKS, by Deidre Johnson.

To complete the Stratemeyer material Gilbert K. Westgard II furnished the article from the *Sunday News*, Newark, an article given to him by the late Harriet Stratemeyer Adams. Identification, at least to a limited extent, came from an advertisement for one of Stratemeyer's books which quoted the opening lines, and named the source. The year is identified by internal evidence. "For It Was Indeed He" also came from the collection of your Editor.

\* \* \*

HORATIO'S O.K. - APRIL 28 - MAY 1

FRANK JAQUES — HOST

Box 130  
Ada, OK 74820

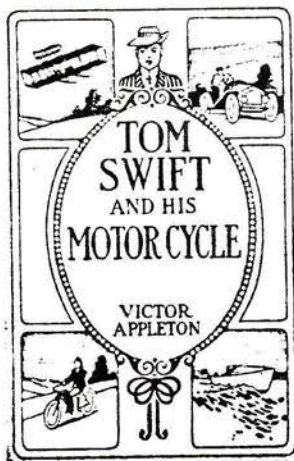




Grosset & Dunlap  
THE INVINCIBLES OF 1908



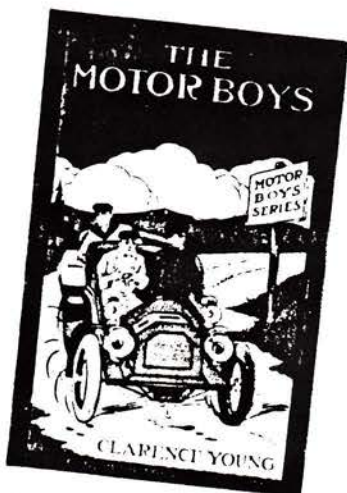
Grosset & Dunlap  
THEIR SONS IN 1924



Stratemeyer Syndicate  
SUCCESSOR TO FIRST PLACE

THESE OLYMPIANS

... whose sales have risen to epic proportions (15,000,000 volumes at least) were all sired by that Homeric scribe, Edward Stratemeyer. Today the first best seller (*The Rover Boys*), the best seller of all time (*Tom Swift*), and the first fifty-center (*The Motor Boys*) have all given way to the moderns (opposite page), also Stratemeyer products. Bomba is the leading hero, but heroine Nancy Drew outsells them all, male and female. These are the successors to the former eminence of the much maligned dime novel (opposite page, center), the pattern from which they were cut. Louder, but less profitably, Nick Carter also preached that "vice never pays."



Capples & Leon  
THE FIRST FIFTY-CENTER



Capples & Leon  
NOW IN MODERN DRESS

Reprinted from: FORTUNE — April, 1934  
"For It Was Indeed He"

The fifty-cent juvenile, which Anthony Comstock included among his "traps for the young." The publishers (principally three), the authors (one in particular), and the profits (fabulous) of literature for adolescents.

"Satan adopts . . . devices to capture our youth and secure the ruin of immortal souls . . . Of this class the love story and cheap work of fiction captivate fancy and pervert taste. They defraud the future man or woman by capturing and enslaving the young imagination. The wild fancies and exaggerations of the unreal in the story supplant aspirations for that which ennobles and exalts . . . They forget the sweet poet's admonition, 'Life is real, life is earnest.'"—Traps for the Young by Anthony Comstock

IF Messrs. Grosset and Dunlap, book publishers, were so inclined (which they certainly are not) they might erect on the grave of Anthony Comstock in Brooklyn's Evergreen Cemetery a monument 700 miles high composed exclusively of the 45,000,000 fifty-cent juveniles that they have sold during the past quarter century despite opinions set forth in *Traps for the Young*. By definition, every one of those books is pure, wild fancy, exaggerations of the unreal; in short, what reformers, intent upon ennobling, dub "cheap." And that is no reflection on the price.

Unobtrusively, like so many Guy Fawkes' heaping gunpowder in the cellars of Parliament, three publishing firms annually unload well over 5,000,000 explosive fifty-centers on the American adolescents, the foundation stones of human society. Or that would be the version of the American Library Association. For pious people is the bitter statistical pill that in profitable but godless years like 1927 fifty-centers outsell Bibles two to one. Collectors of best-seller figures will find that the 9,000,000-copy sales of Harold Bell Wright novels, although supposedly a record for quantity production of one man's work, are a mere drop in the bucket beside the 20,000,000 copies of fifty-cent juveniles turned out by the late Mr. Edward Stratemeyer—for practical purposes the inventor of the business.

Obviously the fifty-cent juvenile is no hothouse sport, but a perennial of the hardest variety, and still blossoming. Of this there is no better proof than the U.S. Government biennial census of book manufacture (figures given in round numbers):

1925: Adult fiction . . . . .	30,600,000—15 per cent*
Juvenile . . . . .	25,200,000—12.5 per cent
1931: Adult fiction . . . . .	19,200,000—12.4 per cent
Juvenile . . . . .	22,400,000—14.5 per cent

\*Of all books manufactured in that year.

That the largest portion of these juveniles are fifty-centers is the final blasphemy that adolescent readers have flung in the beard of Mr. Comstock.

THE fifty-cent juvenile is, precisely, a book for boys and girls between the ages of ten and sixteen. It has few literary pretensions; it is a flat-footed account of the superhuman exploits of adolescent *Übermenschen*—and if it is successful it may have sequels that ramble on for as many as thirty-six volumes. It is a fortuitous



cross between compound interest and perpetual motion. *The Rover Boys* is its quintessence; a substantial profit for author and publisher is its only, and unblushing, purpose.

In literature, the fifty-center takes its place between the dime novel and the "juvenile of distinction." The ten-cent thriller, with the exception of *Frank Merriwell* (of whom more later), is a stirring account of Homeric deeds accomplished by straight-shooting, hard-hitting, clean-living heroes. Decorous "juveniles of distinction" are pseudo novels in terms a child theoretically finds interesting and comprehensible. The fifty-center has its outward appearance of decorum, even in format, but the characters speed unflinchingly through adventures that would make even the ten-cent Deadwood Dick blush. Most important is the rule that every fifty-cent hero must remain an adolescent in whose shoes the reader may easily imagine himself. But his accomplishments must surpass those of the bravest and most sagacious men. In other words, the fifty-center has a glorified dime-novel plot involving boys or girls, but is decked out in cloth covers to resemble *Stalky & Co.*

The nucleus of the fifty-cent theme is the fact that a hero cannot fail. With the definitive finality of a chemical formula, *The Rover Boys at School* is the pattern of elements from which every succeeding fifty-center has been compounded. Holding each volume together are the threads of some hair-raising adventure. Poverty empties the pockets of dastards only. Lack of funds in anyone so middle class as a Rover Boy would be something of a sin. Virtue and success are synonyms, for virtue is resolved to the business of thwarting the villains in their frantic efforts to appear greater men than the heroes. Women's place in the male fifty-center is to invoke manly strength, not vengery. In a long series they serve another purpose: they bear the young for a junior set if popularity warrants it.

In order to hold the reader breathless, the fifty-cent plot whirls lickety-split from the first to the last chapter like an express train. Even the characters rush about at a breakneck rate in airplanes, racing cars, rocket ships, anything capable of breaking the speed limit. When Rover Boys are reduced to such slow means of locomotion as the horse, the reader is assured of at least one runaway. That idea is carried into the very names of the books: *Tom Swift*, *Dave Dashaway*, *The Motor Boys*, *Jack Ranger*.

On the surface none of this is insidious enough to undermine the morals of the nation. Then why the great hue and cry against the fifty-center? It is the embodiment of success-story idealism. If not exactly literary, it makes up by action for what it lacks of art. Certainly it will not fill the adolescent mind with ideas that adults might think too mature for it.

The reformer's answer to all of this is that the fifty-center is overexciting. A child intoxicated with *Tom Swift* would be not only intolerable but permanently warped by an overstimulated imagination. At least that was the cry of one Franklin K. Mathiews whose enmity for the fifty-center will be particularized later.

Of all the scalps Mr. Mathiews would have liked to hang on his belt, that of Edward Stratemeyer would have pleased him most. Grosset & Dunlap would be well justified in placing atop its whim-

sical 700-mile-high spire a monumental bronze of this Mr. Stratemeyer—for he alone produced 250 miles of it. He was the father of this fifty-cent literature. He wrote the first of it (*The Motor Boys, or Chums Through Thick and Thin*), the most of it (under literally hundreds of pseudonyms), its best seller (*Tom Swift*), its worst failure (*The White Ribbon Boys*), its latest success (*Nancy Drew*). With rare justice, he made the most money. When he died in 1930 he had hung up a record of having written, or conceived for others to write, more than 800 fifty-cent juveniles. He also left an estate worth a million dollars. That was his reward for discovering in the late nineties that, like many another natural resource of the time, the reading capacity of the American adolescent was limitless. As oil had its Rockefeller, literature had its Stratemeyer.

Today, librarians and champions of "better books for children" would like to think that the fifty-cent thriller was interred with Mr. Stratemeyer. But that is a reformer's dream. They forget the Writing Garises—Howard, Lilian, young Roger (Princeton '24), and Cleo—who today thump out fifty-centers faster than ever. They forget the Stratemeyer Syndicate founded by the late great Edward and lustily carried on by his daughters, Miss Edna Stratemeyer and Mrs. Harriet Stratemeyer Adams (Wellesley '14); as well as many tenaciously prolific oldsters and newcomers. Barring acts of God, Grosset & Dunlap will go right on publishing its three million copies annually. Its competitors, A. L. Burt Co. and Cupples & Leon, will sell their million or so apiece.

IF THE generation brought up on *Tom Swift* were to dip into such currently popular works as *The Outboard Motor Boat Series*, few readers would notice any change in diet. The machinery of the story might seem strange but the eternal verities of plot and character would have a nostalgic familiarity. Superficially, time has wrought only two differences in the fifty-center. First, modern writers attempt to tell their stories with something more than the formal adequacy of *The Rover Boys* school. Airplanes, radio, television are no longer discussed with the cavalier nonchalance of total ignorance. Today, books concerned with such contrivances are written or revised with the greater authority of such men as Noel Sainsbury, a practicing pilot, or Jack Binns, a radio expert who in 1909 had the distinction, as "wireless operator" on the sinking S.S. *Republic*, of sending the first Marconi "CQD" message ever to bring about a major rescue at sea. The second change has to do with the mold in which the story is cast. The same jellies are poured in but the final form is, for the moment, a detective story. This matter of shaping the plot is a result of the discovery that adolescent reading tastes run about two years behind those of their elders. Thus the fifty-cent heroes went to War, thus they took up science seriously, and thus today they set about solving murders, apprehending international thieves.

Keeping the fifty-center close, but not too close, to adult fiction is perhaps the greatest problem of its publishers. In an earlier day sixteen-year-olds were unsophisticated enough to consume *Tom Swifts* with real relish. Now, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Sax Rohmer, and the spicier thrillers



Cupples & Leon  
OUT OF STRATEMEYER  
BY TARZAN



Charles Bragin Collection  
CHILD OF A VAN  
RENSELAER

Women Own Mystery Stories  
THE SIGN OF THE  
TWISTED CANDLES



Grosset & Dunlap  
BEST SELLER. NEW STYLE





Stratemeyer Syndicate

## EDWARD STRATEMEYER

... alias Captain Ralph Bonehill, Arthur M. Winfield, Victor Appleton, Laura Lee Hope, May Hollis Barton, Roy Rockwood, Clarence Young, Frank V. Webster, Jim Bowie, Lester Chadwick, etc., etc.

claim the adolescent at fourteen. The average child is still initiated to the fifty-centers at ten, and therefore his exposure to them is cut from six to four years. Because the publisher knows that the percentage of children who will buy these books is practically constant, he figures his anticipated sales in terms of the number of years boys and girls spend in the fifty-cent reading period. Consequently, when their appetites are sated two years earlier, he faces a loss of one-third of his custom. It was to sustain interest after the crucial fourteenth year that *Bomba the Jungle Boy* was made in the youthful image of Tarzan, and *Nancy Drew* in that of Philo Vance.

Nancy is the greatest phenomenon among all the fifty-centers. She is a best seller. How she crashed a Valhalla that had been rigidly restricted to the male of her species is a mystery even to her publishers—for "Tomboy" rings like praise in the adolescent female ear, but "Sissy" is the anathema of anathemas to a boy. Thus it is that girls read boys' books, but woe betide the boy caught with a copy of *The Motor Girls at Camp Surprise!* It was the simple arithmetic of a census taker that boys' books should outsell girls'. Yet today, Nancy Drew tops even Bomba, the most popular of modern male heroes. The speed with which the public consumes this fabulous series is shown by the sales figures of one of the larger retailers, R. H. Macy & Co. In the six weeks of the last Christmas season Macy's sold 6,000 of the ten titles of *Nancy Drew* compared with 3,750 for the runner-up, *Bomba*, which had fifteen volumes to choose from. And Macy's would be disappointed if, during the holiday period, it did not find buyers for 50,000 fifty-centers.

Yet originally this half-dollar bonanza was something of an ugly duckling. In the flamboyant half of the nineteenth century successful publishers of juveniles issued the works of Harry Castlemont, Edward S. Ellis, Oliver Optic, and Horatio Alger Jr. at prices near a dollar. When *The Rover Boys* and *The Old Glory Series* came their way the price remained unchanged, and sales followed the usual pedestrian course of all books. Among publishers it remained for one American, two Scotsmen, an Englishman, and a German to fashion the fifty-center and make it a national phenomenon. The American was A. L. Burt, a pedagogue with publishing ambitions. His first ventures were a cheap edition of the classics entitled *The World's Best Books*, the few Algers he could lay his fingers on, and several nondescript juveniles. Today his house is rich, potent, and respected. Even more successful were the Scotsmen. They began as thrifty young men intent upon making their fortunes with the U.S. Book Co. When that firm failed, Bookkeeper Alexander Grosset and Salesman George Dunlap hit upon the idea of peddling the paper-bound novels left in the U.S. Book Co.'s warehouses. As a special attraction they rebound them in cloth and boards. Demand at once exceeded supply. New grist for their mill they secured by renting plates of *passé* novels from the original publishers, and re-issuing them in cheap editions. Thus the highly profitable reprint business was born. They next added cheap juveniles to their list, and profits began to soar.

Then came the Englishman and German, Cupples and Leon. They were book salesmen casting about for an opportunity to make real money too. They saw the firms of Altemus in Philadelphia, Donohue in Chicago, Grosset & Dunlap and A. L. Burt in New York selling juveniles at whatever prices struck their fancy, all the way from \$1.25 to twenty-five cents. One day Cupples & Leon was visited by Edward Stratemeyer, and from that meeting came a juvenile costing fifty cents but looking as if it were worth much more. The adolescent public at once decided that here was the place to get your money's worth. It did not take the other publishers long to follow Cupples' lead. Burt and Grosset, who had popular writers on their lists, rose merrily with them to opulence. Doubters like Donohue and Altemus slipped slowly but surely from the juvenile field.

**T**ODAY virtually all fifty-centers are published by the Big Three—Grosset, Burt, and Cupples. Grosset is the biggest reprint publisher, and fifty-centers account for one-third of its business.

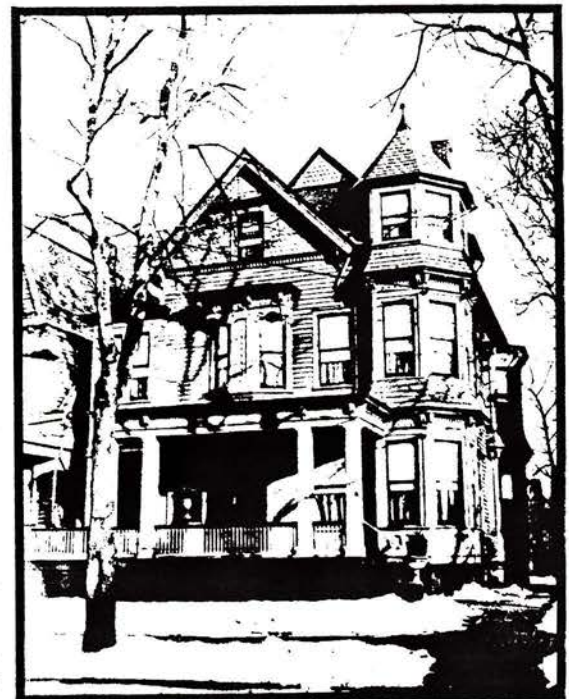


Dodd, Mead &amp; Co.

## DECOROUS MARTHA FINLEY

... wrote *Elsie Dinsmore* in 1868 and thereby started the premier girls' series. Today it flourishes at \$1.25 in the original pansy binding. Reprinters reissue volumes out of copyright as fifty-centers.

Cupples does no reprinting, but is second largest publisher of fifty-centers. Burt, third in fifty-cent ranking, concentrates today on reprint fiction. How much money these firms have made from fifty-centers is their secret, and they hold on to it tenaciously. But a breakdown of fifty-centers could be estimated thus: twenty cents to fifteen cents, margin of profit to the retailer; five cents to three cents, royalty to the writer or the



Drew Peters

**THIS IS THE HOUSE DICK ROVER BUILT**  
... whence came Dan Baxter, Tom Swift, all that mighty company. There reside today Mrs. Edward Stratemeyer and Daughter Edna.





*Browning*  
**FRANKLIN K. MATHIEWS**  
 ... who, under the regis of the Boy Scouts, assaulted the dragon fifty-center and clipped its wings.

producing syndicate; seven cents to twelve cents, allowance for overhead; five cents to three cents, profit for the publisher; thirteen cents to seventeen cents, cost of manufacture. All of which adds up to fifty cents willingly paid by approximately 75,000,000 customers in the course of twenty-five years.

Some publishers would jack up overhead and allow themselves but one cent profit. Writers say that a five-cent royalty is the happy exception. But the above is a fair and average estimate.

When beginning a series of fifty-centers it is the convention to issue the first three volumes at once. Such a set must be a breeder, that is, go on for at least seven more volumes if it is to make money. It is a peculiarity of these books that they usually do

come through with the progeny expected of them, which indicates one of the outstanding differences between fifty-cent and other publishing where even a single sequel has slim chances of success. Another condition that the average half-dollar juvenile usually meets is that each edition sells about 7,500 copies, a minimum for a profit. Usual printings are from 10,000 to 20,000. Editions of 2,000, usual in adult light fiction, would mean a good-sized loss for fifty-centers.

Once he has a sure-fire series, the publisher's next imperative is adequate distribution. Grosset & Dunlap owes much of its success to thirty salesmen who dash about finding outlets for books in department, drug, cigar, notion, and book stores. They sell their wares to newsstands, station lunch counters, holes-in-the-wall, trading posts. They are over the country like a plague of locusts. Similarly ubiquitous are Cupples & Leon and A. L. Burt. It is no mere accident that the executives of the Big Three—Harry Burt, George Dunlap, Arthur Leon—have all been star salesmen.

But there is more to marketing fifty-centers than putting them under the customer's nose. When competition jammed the shelves with *The Rover Boys* and the ilk, demand had to be stimulated. Conventional book advertising was useless. The potential customers were too busy shooting marbles to look at book announcements. Actual distribution was brought about by relatives' giving fifty-centers as presents. In cases where parents objected to them they were handed around from boy to boy by a grapevine. And, typical of boyhood economics, fifty-centers acquired a set of values. Thus, *The Boy Allies at Liège* might be worth two of *The Rover Boys*, or *Tom Swift and His Motorcycle* might purchase a baseball



THE BIG DIGIGIBLE HAD RAMMED HER NOSE INTO THE TREE.  
*Tom Swift and His Big Digigible. Frankforter (Page 12)*



"ARE YOU GOING TO GET TO YOUR SIDE OF THE RIVER, NOW?"  
*The Adventures of Captain Hays.*



"HE'S BLEED! THEY'RE KILLED!" KEEN SCREAMS.  
*Page 30*



IT WAS A JOELY LITTLE PARTY THAT GATHERED ABOUT THE ICE-CREAM TABLES—  
*Page 40*



FOR A MOMENT TOM'S HEART MISGAVE HIM—  
*Page 182*



bat with a white door knob thrown in for good measure. Sales promotion was restricted to verbal recommendation by one boy to another. And there was no way to have boys praise, for example, only Cupples books. So Cupples decided to compile a colossal list of children's names. Included on the jacket of each of its books was a coupon which, when filled out with the names and addresses of ten friends, entitled the whole group to Cupples' illustrated catalogue. The catalogue was an insidious narcotic with the habit-forming properties of opium. In it were printed fetching bits from the more popular series. Cupples estimates that all in all 500,000 names have been on that list.

When the age of adolescent reading discretion began dropping from sixteen to fourteen, the

increasingly rapid turnover of these names made the list too expensive to keep up-to-date. Cupples & Leon now issues a dollar omnibus book in which is included the first volumes of four fifty-centers. This *apéritif* is just as effective as the catalogue. Such a volume presents, among other things, the best means of reviving a series that has dropped out of the adolescent eye.

UNLIKE some successful publishing ventures, the fifty-center was not pulled from a hat. The trick was to exploit a venerable part of the book industry. As early as 1767 Mein & Fleming of Boston was advertising "A great variety of Entertaining and Instructive Books for Children." Later came the famous

pirated John Newbery books written for the most part by Oliver Goldsmith, illustrated by the Bewicks, and very much sought after today by collectors. Cheap books pandering to the imagination of the maturing child did not appear until 1860—June 15 to be exact—when Beadle & Adams of New York issued the first dime novel, Ann S. W. Stephens' *Malaeska, or the Indian Wife of the White Hunter*. So quickly did the germ spread that in the same year Edward S. Ellis' *Seth Jones, or the Captives of the Frontier* was bought by 750,000 avid readers.

By the eighties the demand for dime novels was raging like a forest fire. Nick Carter and Buffalo Bill were national heroes. Street & Smith succeeded Beadle & Adams, and through the American News Co. began to distribute well over a hundred thousand different titles, old and new, in weekly editions. One of their most successful writers was William Gilbert Patten, who was probably the first man to exploit the self-perpetuating series for boys, about boys. Previously there had been the goody-goody Rollo books in which the hero always did just as mother said or quickly came to grief. For red-blooded adolescents there was only Deadwood Dick or Ouray Jack, bad *hombres* from the Sunday School point of view. Patten, at the suggestion of Street & Smith, wrote a dime novel about a boy every bit as exciting as Jack, but without the barrier of mature age that separated the adolescent from Jack as a person. The book was *Frank Merriwell, or First Days at Fardale*, written in 1896 under the name of Burt L. Standish. Before he had finished, Patten wrote 775 more Merriwell books that had an average weekly sale of 125,000 copies.

IT WAS the success of Patten that lighted the fifty-cent juvenile blaze. Today, from the Orange Mountains of northeastern New Jersey still comes 90 per cent of the fuel for that conflagration. A literary geological survey would reveal particularly vast deposits of fifty-cent authors centering around East Orange, with the few remaining scattered deposits no farther away than southern Connecticut. Noel Sainsbury, the major creator of airplane boys and girls, works in the Connecticut field. Eustace L. Adams, a nephew of Temple Bailey, and another writer of air stories, although in Florida at present, is a product of the same area. But East Orange itself is the real center of the lode. There live

## The Writing Garises



Orren Jack Turner

HOWARD



Drew Peters

LILIAN



Orren Jack Turner

ROGER



Marie Celeste Studin

CLEO

A fifty-center family group. Howard and Lilian gave immortality to the thriller genre not only by their writings but by producing Roger, already prolific, and Cleo (Mrs. John J. Clancy), just beginning.



the Writing Garises. All but young daughter Cleo have worked for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, and since the decease of Edward Stratemeyer they are well on the way to becoming a syndicate in themselves. Certainly Howard Garis who has written 400 juveniles including the famous Uncle Wiggily books is as well qualified as anyone to head any such company.

But the overwhelming colossus, past, present, and in all probability future, the Roan Antelope of this field, is the Stratemeyer Syndicate. Actually it is not a syndicate; it is merely an office at which hack writers call for and return pieces written to the Stratemeyer order. It was founded by Edward Stratemeyer about 1906, and since his death his daughters, Harriet and Edna, have been its jealous and able custodians. Smoothly, without interruption, the Stratemeyer plant turns out book upon book on a conveyor-belt system. Upon leaving the Stratemeyer brain, a fifty-center is crammed into a three-page, typewritten outline in which the time elements, names of characters, and their destinies are logically arranged. Then comes the writer who is given the outline and anywhere from a week to a month to fill it out into a book. Upon completing his job he is promptly given from \$50 to \$250, releases all claims to ownership of the piece, and the manuscript is thrown once again into the Stratemeyer hopper where it receives a final polishing. At the end of the chute stands a representative of the publisher who, acting like a U.S. Government meat inspector in a packing plant, certifies the manuscript as factually fit for consumption. The finished product is a set of electrotypes for a fifty-center, ready to be turned by the printer into thousands of books for waiting adolescents. Some books are shipped to England, Canada, Australia. A few, like *The Rover Boys*, are translated into German and Czechoslovakian. The whole process takes perhaps forty days, although on occasion books have sped from Stratemeyer brain to the immortality of print in considerably less time.

The chief reason for the continued dominance of the Stratemeyer Syndicate is the fact that it owns all of its copyrights.\* In the days of the great Edward the

\*Of the Big Three, Burt alone does no business with the Stratemeyers. It has never published a Stratemeyer book because it is Burt's policy to buy manuscripts outright.

publisher never even saw a manuscript. Instead he was shown electrotypes. He was given the opportunity of either renting the plates or letting some other publisher make a neat profit from them. Today, however, publishers frequently like to make minor corrections. No longer will they accept the plates. They rent the rights to the manuscript for a royalty of around five cents, do their own electrotyping. But they are no nearer to owning a Stratemeyer *opus* than they were twenty-five years ago.

For the Stratemeyer daughters have inherited from their father not only the genius peculiar to fifty-cent juveniles, but his business acumen. After his death they moved the office from New York City to the top of East Orange's Hale Building. There they sit today at their ponderous roll-top desks dispatching the affairs of fifty-cent juveniles with a sincerity and belief in their work equal to that of the most serious adult novelist. Obscured in a fern-filled corner is a secretary. The only other occupants of the office are immortal: *Tom Swift*, *The Motor Boys*, *The Rover Boys*, *Dave Dashaway*, and dozens of others who exist in the 800 fifty-centers that line the wall.

One who did not know that it is this office that keeps some twenty hack writers busy filling out the lives of superhuman heroes and heroines might readily mistake the Stratemeyer Syndicate for a private detective's office. As a source of open-handed information about fifty-cent juveniles it might as well be just that. Miss Edna, who stays at home managing affairs, waggles her bobbed gray head emphatically and says that their business is their business. Mrs. Adams, who takes care of personal contacts with New York publishers, smiles graciously and says the same. What, the sisters demand in amazement, would their clients think if they knew that the great gallery of juvenile authors, Roy Rockwood, Victor Appleton, Lester Chadwick, Laura Lee Hope, May Hollis Barton, and so on, was nothing but a waxworks invented by their father? So greatly do they feel the need of maintaining the illusion of these fictitious literati that, in spite of the great veneration in which they hold their father, they have refused to authorize any of the many attempts to write his life history. Once when Stratemeyer's readers insisted upon knowing the details of the life of his May Hollis Bar-

ton, a publisher's assistant took it upon himself to write a fabulous biography to satisfy the demand. Little did the readers of this work know that she was a nervous, kindly, nearsighted stocky man who looked like a deacon, and from whom books came forth like an interminable string of sausages; that his business genius and literary horse sense earned for him a steady \$50,000 a year.

**B**YOND the fact that he was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, of middle-class German stock on October 4, 1862, and died in Newark, May 10, 1930, Stratemeyer's real life is guarded as a trade secret. Actually, it was the antithesis of the lives about which he wrote. He never went to preparatory school or college. His sporting activity was confined to an avid interest in big-league baseball and mediocre bowling at the Roseville Athletic Association around the corner from his house. When he was not inventing plots, his recreation was reading travel books or going, like Dave Dashaway, to distant places. Modern fiction and problem novels he abominated as trash. Mr. Stratemeyer created his fraternity of heroes out of dime novels, thin air, and the prompting of his own desires. His heart was the heart of Richard Rover.

When he was a boy he read the works of Alger and Optic with something akin to passion. His youth was the heyday of the success story with a moral and of the dime novel. It was the heroic age of American literature when any dime novelist could grind out his 100,000 words a month (at perhaps one-half cent a word) without turning a hair. It remained for Stratemeyer to inaugurate the golden age. With the rib of Deadwood Dick and the soul of Tom the Bootblack, he fashioned middle-class Richard Rover who made money for himself, his creator, and his publisher. And in all three cases it was a sizable sum.

Stratemeyer's first story was a piece of 18,000 words which, just as Alger would have had it, he wrote on a piece of brown wrapping paper in between waiting on customers at his brother's tobacco store. *Golden Days*, a boys' magazine in Philadelphia, paid him \$75 for it. Such success young Edward decided warranted a *nom de plume*. After casting about for one with the proper *ton* he hit upon Arthur M. Winfield which was explained thus: "'Arthur' was chosen as the nearest approach to



author, while 'Winfield' expressed his hope of winning in his chosen field, and 'M' representing 'Million,' was adopted as a suggestion that some day he might see a million copies of his books in print."

In the beginning, *Golden Days*, Munsey's *Golden Argosy* and his *Argosy* consumed Stratemeyer's products as fast as he put them on paper. But pay was irregular. He drifted to Street & Smith where he edited *Good News*, another boys' weekly, which he built up to a circulation of over 200,000. There he learned the art of mass production, and there he wrote his first dime novel, *Crazy Bob, the Terror of Creede*. Hundreds of others followed: *Cool Dan, or the Sport's Wonderful Nerve*, *Oway Jack*, *The Collis Express Robbers*, *Dead Shot Dave*. They were signed with such names as Jim Bowie, Nat Woods, Jim Daly, and anything that popped into his head. The bibliography fills a big, black book in Street & Smith's offices. Between times he wrote women's serials for the *New York Weekly* as Julia Edwards, did weekly pieces for the famous *Old Cap Collier Library*, and even ran a boys' paper of his own called *Bright Days*.

With Stratemeyer at Street & Smith were all the great dime novelists of the day. Doyen of the lot was Frederick Dey in whose veins flowed a goodly portion of Van Rensselaer blood. Characteristic of his trade, rather than his forbears, Dey's pleasures were simple. Policemen were his boon companions. That he was the one and only Nick Carter was his proudest boast. Upton Sinclair was there, too, writing under the nom de plume of Ensign Clark Fitch, U.S.N., to turn out such gems as *Through the Enemy's Lines, or Clif Faraday's Dangerous Mission*, for the *True Blue Series*. And then the aristocrats of the business would drop in occasionally, particularly H. R. Gordon (Edward S. Ellis), William T. Adams (Oliver Optic), and most famous of all, Horatio Alger Jr., author of, among other things, the 1852 Harvard Class Ode. Stratemeyer was still with Street & Smith when Alger died, and it was he who finished the posthumous works of Alger, probably the most pleasant duty of his life. Thus was he baptized in the dime novel, and thus was he fortified to write *The Rover Boys*.

**S**TRATEMEYER'S first attempt at a serial was a book about boys on a battleship. He sent it to Mr. W. F. Gregory of Lothrop,

Lee & Shepard in Boston. Mr. Gregory promptly put Dime-novelist Stratemeyer's manuscript in his safe and went on worrying about Lothrop's pressing financial problems. It was a great stroke of luck that Dewey chose that moment to defeat the Spanish fleet at Manila. It was equally fortunate that Mr. Gregory, upon reading the news, should suddenly remember the manuscript so summarily dumped in his safe. He got in touch with Stratemeyer. Could he change his book to something about Dewey in a few days? Could he indeed! Almost before the smoke of battle had cleared away, Stratemeyer had produced *Under Dewey at Manila*. And as the popularity of the little Admiral swelled and soared, so the book sold edition upon edition. It established Stratemeyer as a writer of juveniles and it re-established Lothrop's financial standing.

Thus began the *Old Glory Series*, which grew lustily until 1907 and which Lothrop still publishes. But more important than this were three books Stratemeyer dashed off betimes in 1899, *The Rover Boys at School*, *The Rover Boys on the Ocean*, and *The Rover Boys in the Jungle*. The immediate sire of *The Rover Boys* was Gilbert Patten's *Frank Merriwell*. But between Patten's immortal Frank and Stratemeyer's immortal Rovers there is one essential distinction. Merriwell appeared in the *Tip-Top Library* and sold for a nickel (most "dime" novels did). He was the first great boy hero, but the format in which he appeared naturally associated him with such dime-novel hill-billies as Rattlesnake Dick. This, for a squeamish middle class who appraised literature in terms of what it cost them, made Frank an undesirable. Smart Mr. Stratemeyer, who wrote the same thing, put his dime novels in board covers and sold them at prices varying from a dollar to twenty-five cents. At once he gained the reputation of doing "refined books," while Street & Smith, although it goes on publishing many dime-novel magazines a year, is still *persona non grata* in houses on the right side of the railroad tracks.

But in the early days *The Rover Boys* showed no signs of reaching the million mark Stratemeyer had set for himself. By 1906 he was ready to try another idea. Under the name of Clarence Young he wrote a series for Cupples & Leon. They talked it over and decided to sell these books for fifty cents. This series, like dime novels, was

designed to be sold directly to the consumer without the divine intervention of parents, but with parental approval. The crux of the plan was that Stratemeyer took a small royalty, the publishers a minimum profit, and both earnestly prayed that the volume of sales would atone for the picayune return per book. It was like Noah praying for rain. That series was the now famous *Motor Boys*. The twenty-two volumes of this first fifty-center have gone through thirty-five printings, with the smallest of no less than 5,000 copies a title.

**B**UT that was just the beginning. When Grosset & Dunlap purchased the rights to publish *The Rover Boys* in 1908, Stratemeyer's star shot up like a rocket. The firm added more titles, and followed Cupples' lead in reducing the price. Aided by its tremendous sales activity, *The Rover Boys* broke out upon the country like measles. By 1930, 5,000,000 copies of the thirty volumes of that series had been sold, *The Rover Boys* had bred a second generation, become a tradition, made Stratemeyer wealthy. Modestly he reiterated in his prefaces: "I hoped that the young people would like the stories, but I was hardly prepared for the very warm welcome the volumes received." Actually, he was more than prepared. By the time *The Rover Boys Series* was an assured success he had at least ten parallel stories under way, had formed his Syndicate to set other people to writing new books as fast as he could think of plots. Thus began the Stratemeyer deluge.

On working days from nine to five he sat in his little office around the corner from Grosset & Dunlap in New York dictating two chapters a day, outlining plots to his hirelings, driving bargains with publishers. Second in command was Howard Garis who filled in (from Stratemeyer's outlines, of course) all but the first few *Motor Boys*, every *Tom Swift*, *Great Marvel*, and hundreds more that even he forgets. Mrs. Garis was the Syndicate's first woman writer. St. George Rathbone, a dime novelist who wrote pieces for Sunday School papers, Stratemeyer brought with him from Street & Smith. There were many others, about twenty in all, but no one was any more than a cog in the Stratemeyer machine. So unrelenting was his dominance that his writers were never allowed to meet



one another in his office. They saw the master by appointment, and the appointments never overlapped.

Just who were the authors of the Stratemeyer books may some day be a matter for historians to wrangle over. But one point is clear; every work signed Arthur M. Winfield, Captain Ralph Bonehill, Edward Stratemeyer—lock, stock, and barrel. None of these were, properly speaking, the property of the Syndicate, for Syndicate books were outlined by Stratemeyer but filled in by writers like Garis. Yet Stratemeyer was the author even of Syndicate books, in the sense that he conceived them. The supplementary work of hired writers constitutes a claim to a sort of literary foster parenthood. And certainly the names under which the Syndicate employees wrote were as indisputably Stratemeyer's as his shoes. They were assigned to whoever suited his fancy. Half a dozen people might use the same one in the course of a series. His reason for such tactics was obvious. It was good business to be able to replace a writer without losing a potent name like Victor Appleton. It was bad business for the public to know it.

And just how good the business was, the Winnetka Survey of 1926 revealed. This investigation was made under the auspices of the American Library Association and directed by Carleton Washburne, superintendent of the Winnetka, Illinois, public schools, who asked 36,750 pupils in thirty-four representative cities what they read. Ninety-eight per cent replied with titles of fifty-centers, and most of them added that they liked *Tom Swift* best. By 1913 *Tom Swift* had passed *The Rover Boys* as best seller and was not routed from this eminence until 1931 when *Nancy Drew* made its astounding spurt. Today the sale of *Tom Swift* is the record of all time: 6,500,000 copies of thirty-six volumes and still lusty.

Librarians frothed at the mouth, banned the books from the stacks, but Stratemeyer merely shrugged his shoulders and went on piling up profits. If a child could not get his books free from the library he would have to buy them, and that was just so much more money in his pocket. Yet the opposition had a champion who gave Stratemeyer a run for his money. He was Franklin K. Mathiews, chief librarian of the Boy Scouts of America. And more than Dan Baxter and all the great gallery of black hearts, he hated the guts of Richard Rover.

Mr. Mathiews is a kindly gentle-

man and one not likely to go about looking for trouble. But the state of adolescent literature in the early nineteen hundreds demanded action. In the five years that the Boy Scouts had been founded, over 5,000,000 cheap books about Boy Scouts had been sold. Excellent publicity for the young B. S. of A. though this might have been, these fifty-cent hair-raisers would lead small boys to sniff at anything so mundane as building campfires or tracking woodchucks. To purge the world of this infection, Mr. Mathiews shortly took effective steps.

**A**FTER a few preliminary negotiations with Ralph Henry Barbour, Joseph A. Altsheler, William Heyliger, and other writers of approved and expensive juveniles, Mr. Mathiews put a list of their works in his brief case and marched into the very citadel of the fifty-center, Grosset & Dunlap. To Mr. Louis Reed of that office he expounded an idea that would first, he insisted, make money and second, improve adolescent reading habits. Briefly, he had compiled a list of acceptable juveniles that could be sold for fifty cents like the thrillers. Grosset & Dunlap was to reprint them, the Boy Scouts of America would inaugurate "Safety First Book Week" to publicize the series. Smart Mr. Reed liked the idea. The books were prepared and on November 1, 1913, appeared the first "Safety First" pamphlet, sent to all booksellers. Grosset's new list was on the back with, among other titles, *Williams of West Point* by NRA Hugh S. Johnson, then a budding young littérateur of great industry. Since that time this collection has had a checkered career, becoming finally "Juveniles of Distinction" costing a dollar. Grosset has sold over 2,000,000 copies of the books thus advertised and other publishers adopting the idea have had similar success.

**M**R. MATHIEWS' second blow was an article for the *Outlook* entitled *Blowing Out the Boy's Brains*. "One of the most valuable assets a boy has," he announced, "is his imagination . . . Story books of the right sort stimulate and conserve this noble faculty, while those of the . . . cheaper sort, by overstimulation, debauch and vitiate, as brain and body are debauched and destroyed by strong drink."

*Blowing Out the Boy's Brains* became a tract that swept the country. Women in Portland, Oregon, stood beside the counters of bookstores discouraging would-be buyers of fifty-centers. Disgusted booksellers packed up their *Tom*

*Swifts* and shipped them back to the publishers.

Naturally, Stratemeyer was furious. He threatened to sue but was told by Grosset & Dunlap, notoriously considerate of its authors, that such a maneuver would necessitate choosing sides, and the firm was not sure whose side it would be. In a calmer and more practical frame of mind he issued a pamphlet of his own in which he included only Syndicate books as worthy of adolescent attention. The result of this counterattack was Mathiews' decision to fight Stratemeyer on his own ground. He persuaded Percy Keese Fitzhugh, who was working on historical encyclopedias for Harper's, to write the *Tom Slade* scout series. It was the fifty-cent material but presumably put together more adroitly than an Syndicate yarn. Over 3,000,000 copies of that work have been sold to give Fitzhugh claim to fame as the only man whose books have been more popular than all but the three Olympians of the Syndicate (*Tom Swift*, *Rover Boys*, *Motor Boys*).

Today, as is fitting for a reasonably successful St. George, Mr. Mathiews is no longer rabid about the dragon fifty-centers. He admits that perhaps they engender the reading habit. But Stratemeyer never conceded that his books were, as Mr. Mathiews had suggested, "of the cheaper sort."

The fact that they were financially successful made excuses superfluous to Stratemeyer's mind. But he did attempt to justify them by making his later stories suggestively instructive. The flower of this idea was the *Don Sturdy* books in which the hero follows explorations of the moment to find phenomena even stranger than those described in Sunday supplements.

Until the moment he took to his bed with fatal pneumonia he was devising new series. And the "great juvenile" he was always going to write was forever lost in the deluge of his 20,000,000 pot-boilers that bestow upon him the fame of a colossus he never wanted to be.

But the fifty-cent juvenile is not dead. Not by a long shot. Publishers will tell you today that even such moss-backed old standbys as *The Rover Boys* are. Rip Van Winkle-like, coming back to life. For a while the movies, then the depression, damaged them, but the fifty-centers have never really lost their place in the literary sun. Tripe they were in the beginning, tripe they are now, and tripe they always will be. But a wise publisher knows to his profit that they are pap to the maturing mind, and from the customer's point of view, most delectable pap to boot.



EDWARD STRATEMEYER AND THE  
"OLD CAP COLLIER LIBRARY"

by  
Peter C. Walther

Two summers ago while at the Library of Congress doing research on the works of William T. Adams ("Oliver Optic") I came across some new material relative to Dime Novels and Edward Stratemeyer. The copyright transfer records for 1902 indicated that some dime novels which were originally issued in the Old Cap Collier Library had been resold to Stratemeyer by Norman L. Munro. My initial reaction was "Why?" followed by the immediately obvious "Why not?" as he had probably written them himself and was negotiating with Munro for final control of this literary property.

The letter reads as follows:

N. L. Munro Pub. House  
24 Vandewater St. New York, N.Y.  
June 20, 1902

For and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Dollars, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the firm of Norman L. Munro transfers to Edward Stratemeyer of Newark, N. J. and his heirs, all right, title and interest in the copyrights of the following stories, which appeared originally in the "Old Cap Collier" Library, under the following titles and numbers of that Library:

- No. 448 "Dash Dare the Detective"
- No. 458 "Dash Dare on his Mettle"
- No. 473 "Jack Sharpley, the Always Ready Detective"
- No. 560 "Dash Dare on Time"
- No. 604 "Dash Dare's Man Hunt"
- No. 627 "Dash Dare on the Stage"
- No. 661 "Old Spangle the Circus Detective"
- No. 704 "Battery Boice, the Electric Detective"
- No. 724 "Waldo, the Wizard Detective"
- No. 737 "Placer Dan, the Yukon Detective"
- No. 757 "Vasco the Magician Detective"

Done at New York, N.Y. on the date above mentioned.

N. L. Munro  
by H. E. Munro

(witnessed by A. H. Klees; recorded on July 10, 1902 in the Copyright Office in Book 27, p. 509; assignment #339)

The "Old Cap Collier Library" was published by Norman L. Munro at 24 & 26 Vandewater Street in New York City from April 28, 1883 to September 9, 1899 on a weekly to semiweekly basis and comprised a total of 882 issues. (For all the bibliographical material relative to this Library I am indebted to Gary Hoppenstand's excellent compilation *The Dime Novel Detective*, published in 1982 by the Bowling Green University Popular Press at Bowling Green, Ohio; specifically see p. 99.) A letter to that assiduous doyen of Dime Novel Collectors, Mr. Edward T. LeBlanc of Fall River, Massachusetts, provided me with the specific dates of the issues above cited. Coordinating this factual data with the complete title and author list found in Mr. Hoppenstand's book we can provide a complete Checklist of the eleven dime novels in the "Old Cap Collier Library" which were authored, it would seem to me conclusively, by Edward Stratemeyer.

- No. 448: "Dash Dare the Detective; or, Solving the Monmouth Track Mystery" by Ed Strayer (August 6, 1892)
- No. 458: "Dash Dare on his Mettle; or, Clearing Up a Double Tragedy" by Ed Strayer (October 15, 1892)
- No. 473: "Jack Sharpley, the Always Ready Detective; or, Hunting Down the Red Hand Gang" by Ed Strayer (January 21, 1893)
- No. 560: "Dash Dare on Time; or, Clearing Up a Deep Railroad Crime" by Ed Strayer (September 8, 1894)
- No. 604: "Dash Dare's Man Hunt; or, The League of the Magnet Mine" by Ed Strayer (July 6, 1895)
- No. 627: "Dash Dare on the Stage; or, The Murder in the Dressing Room" by Ed Strayer (December 14, 1895)
- No. 661: "Old Spangle the Circus Detective; or, The Robbery of the ticket Wagon" by Ed Strayer (August 8, 1896)
- No. 704: "Battery Boice, the Electric Detective; or, Rounding Up the Race Track Swindlers" by Ed Strayer (June 5, 1897)



- No. 724: "Waldo, the Wizard Detective; or, A Strange Murder on the Lakes" by Ed Strayer (October 23, 1897)
- No. 737: "Placer Dan, the Yukon Detective; or, the Missing Nuggets of Gold" by Ed Strayer (January 22, 1898)
- No. 757: "Vasco the Magician Detective; or, The Murder in the Theatrical Car" by Ed Strayer (June 11, 1898)

\* \* \*

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF  
EDWARD STRATEMEYER

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

I, Edward Stratemeyer, of the city of Newark, county of Essex and state of New Jersey, being of sound mind and body, do hereby make this my last will and testament.

Immediately after my funeral I direct that all my funeral expenses and just debts be paid. After expenses and debts have been paid, my remaining estate is to be divided as follows:

To my beloved brother, Maurice H. Stratemeyer, of Elizabeth, N. J.—or in the event of his death then to his widow—I leave the sum of One Thousand Dollars, (\$1000.) in cash.

To my beloved niece, Mrs. Alice Roll Hill, of Elizabeth, N. J. I leave the sum of One Thousand Dollars, (\$1000.) in cash.

To my beloved daughter Mrs. Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, of Maplewood, N. J. I leave the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars, (\$20,000.) to be paid either in cash or stocks and bonds of like market value, as my executrix may desire.

To my beloved daughter, Edna Camilla Stratemeyer, of Newark, N. J., I leave the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars, (\$20,000.) to be paid either in cash or stocks and bonds of like value in market, as my executrix may desire.

The entire remainder of my estate, consisting of real estate, personal property, cash on hand and in the banks, stocks and bonds, notes and mortgages receivable, and other securities, royalties due and becoming due, copyrights, bookrights, printing plates, and everything else which I may possess, no matter where

located, I leave to my much beloved wife, Magdalene B. Stratemeyer, her and her heirs and assigns forever.

I hereby appoint my wife as my executrix and she shall serve without giving a bond.

Should my wife not care to serve as executrix then both of my daughters, or either of them, may serve, and also without giving bonds.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 19th day of February, 1920, in the presence of two witnesses.

Edward Stratemeyer (L.S.)

Witnesses to signature  
of Edward Stratemeyer:

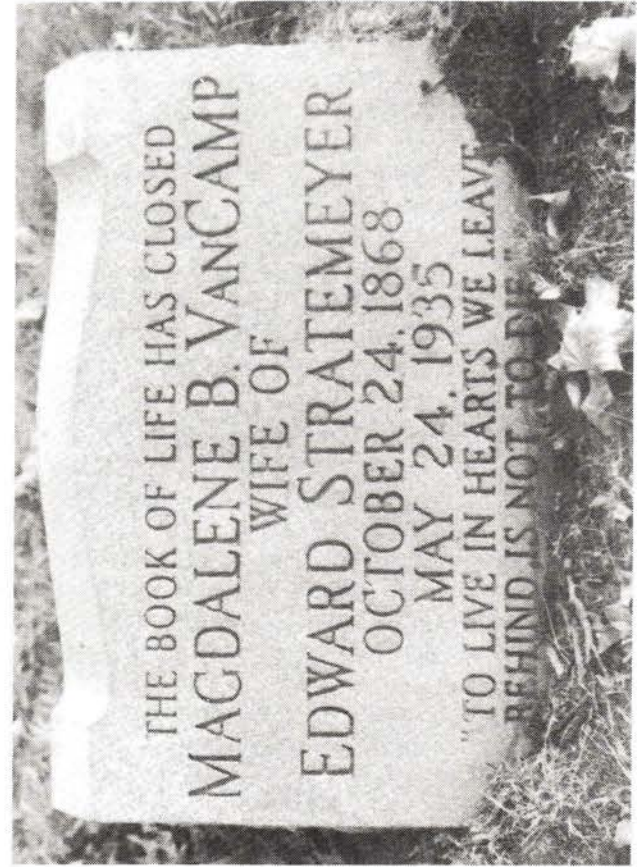
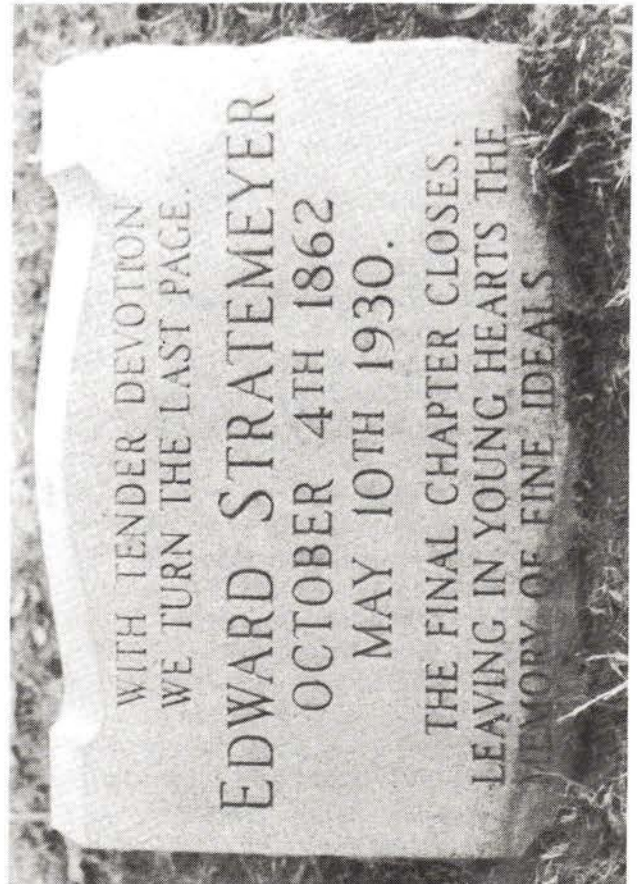
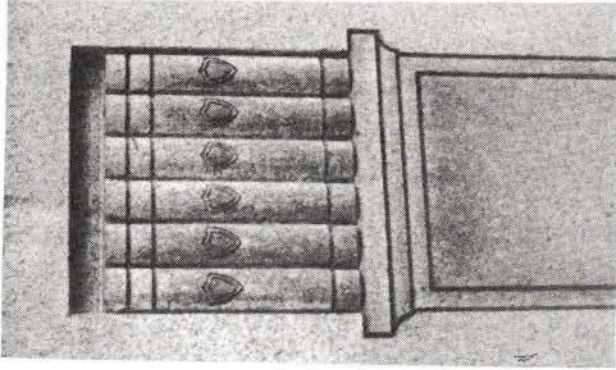
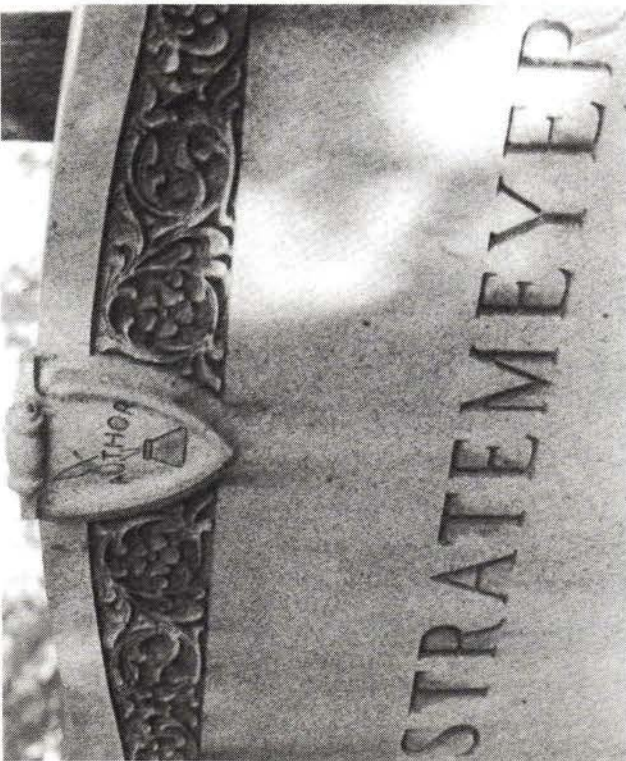
- Howard R. Garis  
12 Myrtle Ave  
Newark, N. J.
- William D. Osmun  
173 N 3d St  
Newark N. J.

\* \* \*



Edward Stratemeyer's house (1986)  
171 N. 7th St. Newark, New Jersey







## PASSING OF AN EPOCH

NEW YORK TIMES  
May 13, 1930

No Henty books have been issued for years. Frank, that versatile hero of "Harry Castleman," whose adventures on Don Carlos's Rancho won him the devotion of boys, has long been silent. Nick Carter is gone. "Deadwood Dick" has just died. It has been a long time since "Oliver Optic" and Horatio Alger, Jr. told of the rise of boys from virtuous poverty to equally virtuous riches. Now Mr. Stratemeyer, whose "Rover Boys" series sold more than 5,000,000 copies, has laid down his pen. Who is to write tales of adventure for the boys of the airplane and television age?

It is probable that new formulas will have to be fused by the next boys' Froisart. Mr. Henty selected "Archibald Forbes," associated him with Wallace and with the Bruce, wove the more pleasing high-lights of Scottish history into the narrative, and there, in a lovely green buckram cover, was "For Name and Fame." The same method worked as well with innumerable other tales of historical adventure. "Castleman" put into his epics more of the flavor of the soil. "Optic" and Alger kept uppermost the theme of the triumphs of virtue. The writers of detective and Wild West thrillers, preserving lightly the theme of sterling character, made action their hand-maiden. Mr. Stratemeyer evolved a happy combination of both.

All these are now dated. The boys of the airplane age are ready for the touch of a new and skillful hand. Fortunately, they will still turn to "Tom Sawyer" while waiting for the next instalment of something probably called "Peril in the Sky."

\* \* \*

Back issues of *Newsboy*, a full set of available issues, some dating back as far as 1968, and consisting of about 100 individual copies, may still be obtained from Carl T. Hartmann, our Executive Secretary, 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, MI 48910, for only \$50.00. What a wealth of reading! Make your checks payable to The Horatio Alger Society.

## SOME STRATEMEYER MISCELLANY

by  
Wallace Palmer

I've been reading from THE SECRET OF THE STRATEMEYER SYNDICATE, by Carol Billman, and find it very interesting. She relates most of the vestigial, publicly known facts and details of the life of Edward Stratemeyer quite accurately. She does say, however, that Mr. Stratemeyer chose the middle initial, "M," in his most famous nom-de-plume of "Arthur M. Winfield," as the symbol for the "millions" of his works which he hoped would be sold under that name. I do not believe this is correct. His own explanation of the name is taken from an interview with him which appeared in Grosset & Dunlap's trade-paper, *Business Promoter*, about 1909, when Grosset & Dunlap became one of his chief publishers; and what he said in that interview was, that he chose the "M" because away back there, at the beginning of his illustrious career, in the 1890s, when he and his mother devised the name ("Arthur for author," his mother suggested, "and make the last name Winfield, because I know you will win success in that field."), he himself inserted the "M" as the symbol for the Roman numeral that stood for a thousand, because if a new book in the America of those days sold as many as 3,000 or 4,000 copies, both the publisher and the author deemed it a success.

Also, like Deidre Johnson, in her highly commendable work, STRATEMEYER PSEUDONYMS AND SERIES BOOKS, Mrs. Billman gives the address of the Stratemeyer Syndicate as 24 W. 25th St., in Manhattan. This may have been the address which the Syndicate used in some of its advertising over the years; but the actual address was 315 4th Ave. (near where Private Detective Mike Hammer has his office in the TV series), at 24th St. That was the entrance address of the Ashland Building, on the 18th floor of which was the office of the Syndicate, where "Old Edward" (as Mrs. Billman quotes his name) and his ever-faithful Secretary, Mrs. Harriet Smith, reigned solely and supreme during the entire interim of the Syndicate which he had founded, there in New York, in or about 1906, until his ascendance to Mount



Olympus where now he dwells with the Heavenly Choir of all the world's greatest authors of the past, in May, 1930; and high among the signs marking the building's tenants, as one entered the impressive marble-floored foyer of the Ashland Building, was a neat and modest little sign, in large gold lettering, "The Stratemeyer Syndicate." And, Mr. Stratemeyer used the 315 4th Ave. address on his own letterheads, embossed simply as Edward Stratemeyer. The 25th St. address specified by both Mrs. Billman and Diedre Johnson, may have been that of a side-entrance on the North side of the building; but in my own visits to the Syndicate offices in 1926 and 1927, I never saw any such side-entrance. Everybody entering that big loft-building thronged through the main entrance, 315 4th Ave.

And, I find it a remarkable coincidence that Mrs. Billman uses THE ROVER BOYS DOWN EAST as a sample-synopsis of the thirty ROVER BOY titles, which did indeed sell into the millions, and not just the thousands Mr. Stratemeyer had originally hoped they would. For my many perusals of this volume, and the one following, THE ROVER BOYS IN THE AIR have long-developed in me a theory that his genius-daughter, Harriet, herself wielded a pen or typewriter in the broth of these two titles from the series, along with her fond and admiring Dad. Harriet was still attending Wellesley at the time both were written, and they are both good yarns, but don't read like the real and pure Arthur M. Winfield one senses so definitely in the first magic and inspired three volumes of the First Series. I also think there are certain ghosted passages in several of the other volumes of the First Series, beginning with THE ROVER BOYS OUT WEST, but do not sense Harriet's own style of treatment in any of these. And, I still believe, after much consideration, that Harriet's own "first-leaves" as an author are to be found in THE ROVER BOYS DOWN EAST, and IN THE AIR. The next two volumes, THE ROVER BOYS IN NEW YORK, and THE ROVER BOYS IN ALASKA, are two of the very finest in the First Series, just as are the first trilogy of the series volumes, dashed off in Shakespearian style by the Maestro, in 1899 and 1900; so I believe IN NEW YORK

and IN ALASKA are both pure Edward Stratemeyer without detriment of any ghost-collaboration. So it is my own construction that, after her part in contributing to DOWN EAST and IN THE AIR, Harriet devoted herself entirely to her upcoming graduation from Wellesley, in 1914, and then to her marriage to Mr. Russell Adams, although later, I have the strongest impression Harriet prepared most of the text, to her father's famous outlines, for most of the volumes of the Second Series. The fifth volume of the Second Series, THE ROVER BOYS IN THE LAND OF LUCK, reads much like the real Edward Stratemeyer, but the others in the Second Series are all somewhat diluted from his own magic ability, talent, and power; and I declare all of this after reading each volume in both series, very lovingly, over more than one hundred times.

It is much to be regretted that no definitive life of Edward Stratemeyer, the most truly phenomenal author who has ever lived, was ever written by his most gifted daughter, Harriet. She told me at the new office of the Syndicate, in East Orange, in 1933, that she agreed with me that such a life should be written. Both Mrs. Billman and Deidre Johnson relate most of the publicly known facts as to that great and nobly-dedicated life, but these leave a large gap in the knowledge of the early Stratemeyer years, both at Elizabeth and Newark. Of particular interest, and still unrevealed, is the period when the Stratemeyer family removed from their first residential address, 203 N. 6th St., Roseville, to the grand manse at 171 N. 7th St., Newark, where "Our Authorial Hero" flourished in his greatest literary glory, up to the sad days of mourning when his mere earthly self was very appropriately laid out in state for the three days following the ascension of his spirit, preceding the funereal rites which were performed in that house at 8:00 o'clock on the evening of May 13, 1930, after the Stratemeyer family had resided in that home for about twenty-five years after making the move from Roseville. And, there are still those of us who hope that such a life of Our Lord Edward Stratemeyer may even yet come to be written by a fully qualified gosseller and biographer.



Reprinted from:  
**PUTNAM'S MONTHLY.**

A Magazine of Literature, Science, and Art.

VOL. I.—JUNE 1853.—NO. VI.

NEW-YORK DAGUERREOTYPED.

*BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.*

Continued from page 72.

OUR great city has the name of loving the dollar well; she ought equally to have the glory of spending it kindly and freely. Our charities appear on the same grand scale as our business. It is a refreshing thing—and in the whirl and struggle of New-York life, it does one good—to turn aside a moment to our great institutions of mercy and world-wide charity—to find that wealth, and talents, and enterprise have at length been employed to make men less selfish, and to bring them nearer to one another, in kindness. Will the reader accompany us to one of these—perhaps the greatest in influence and strength. We walk up the Bowery in a broad and busy part, until it separates into two Avenues, the Third and Fourth. On the point, where they diverge, you see some little old buildings;—these are all to come down, and a park is to be laid out there, with a fountain. Beyond, where the men are excavating, will rise the Cooper Institute, the splendid gift of a mechanic, for the instruction and amusement of the people; and still beyond, and above that, forming with the others one of the finest architectural objects appears the grand building we are to visit,

the new Depository and Printing-House of the *American Bible Society*. We have no other building like it in the city. It is six stories high, with a frontage on four streets of seven hundred feet. It seems as we approach, square, yet you will find it an irregular, four-sided figure in shape; the longest side (232 ft. 6 in.) being on Ninth st., and the shortest (76 ft. 11 in.) on Third av. We enter at the principal entrance on Fourth avenue;—a rather handsome portal with columns and arches, and a heavy curved pediment. Above, in a niche on the outside, is a figure of Religion, of brown freestone, pointing with one hand to heaven, and the other to the open page of a Bible. There are three other entrances; we ascend the broad stairway, and enter first the manager's room on the second story, a large room—fifty feet by thirty—fireproof and lighted by a dome: under it is the library, also fireproof.

If we go up to the fifth and sixth stories on the north side, we shall see the great press-room—one hundred and nineteen feet long by forty-one feet wide. Near it are the bindery, the gilding and the finishing rooms, all on a similar grand scale. There are huge hydraulic presses;



and one great gangway, through which the paper is hoisted up, and another, through which the Bibles, when finished, are let down.

On the sixth story, are most of the three hundred women, employed by the establishment, in well-lighted, pleasant work-rooms, binding, stitching, or busy at some other work on the Bibles. These rooms, and the whole building, are well aired, by contrivances for ventilation, and by the large court within, around which the sides are built. It is heated by the steam-pipes, which connect with the boilers, well-placed in the area, beyond the power of doing injury by explosion.

Here will go on this next year the immense operations of the society. Think of it! over seven hundred thousand copies of Bibles and Testaments were printed by this Society last year, and since its foundation some eight millions! It began in 1816 with printing 6,410; in its twelfth year, it printed 134,607; in the twenty-fourth, 157,261; and in the thirty-sixth, 666,015.

In the year 1273, it cost a laboring man the wages of 14 years, to buy a Bible. In 1816 the cheapest Bible was worth a dollar. Now a good plain Bible can be bought for twenty-five cents, and a Testament for 6½ cents. The only Bible Society in the world, on a scale like this, is the British and Foreign Bible Society.

All these seven hundred thousand and odd books were sent out last year, be it remembered, to the poor man's bare home, to make it beautiful with patience and contentment. This is the work, to which this great building, and all this wealth and labor are given. Who will not wish it God's blessing?

Another institution, corresponding in character, and equally grand in its operations, is the *American Tract Society*, whose extensive "house" is on the corner of Nassau and Spruce streets, near the site of the old Bible House. During the last year, this body has sent out more than *two hundred and eighty millions of pages*. In the same time it has printed over one million of volumes, and more than ten millions of tracts, of which last 920,000 are in foreign languages. Since its formation, it has printed about one hundred and thirty-one millions of tracts, and over eight millions seven hundred thousand volumes. Of those printed last year, about five millions of pages have been distributed gratuitously; more than two and a half millions over the sea, and millions through foreign countries, in one hundred and fifty different languages and dialects. Of the bound volumes, printed last year, we observe that such works as D'Aubigné's History, number 8,000 sets;

Edwards' Temperance Manual, 12,000; Pilgrim's Progress, 27,000. In German, there are 70,000 volumes; in Spanish, 140,000; in French, 11,000; in Danish, 2,500, and in Italian, 1,000. The total receipts for the year are \$342,858; the expenditures, \$342,199.

Naturally, in operations on such a gigantic scale, many a publication will be circulated, not worthy a place among the works of the Society. There should be more tracts issued on practical, everyday subjects. Tracts for the poor, on the preservation of health; tracts on the great principles of business and social intercourse; tracts on economy, and punctuality, and cleanliness, as well as on higher matters.

*The American Home Missionary Society* has for its objects, as substantially stated in its Constitution, the support of poor Churches, and the preaching to the destitute within the United States. It proposes, also, at times, to help Home Missions in foreign countries.

The office of the Society is in the American Tract Society building. The number of missionaries in the employ of the Society, during the last year, was 1,065, scattered through 28 different States and Territories. Of these, Illinois has the most—117; and Maryland, Georgia, and Arkansas, the least; each, one. The New England States have 305; the Middle States, 213; the Southern, 14; and the Western States and Territories, 533. Their operations combine the *itinerant system*, as it is called, and the regular system. That is, some of the pastors employed go from district to district, as they are needed; and others remain in fixed localities, like settled clergymen. In number, 619 are given as regular pastors; 260 as preaching to two or three congregations, each; and 186 as moving through wide districts, within definite limits. Nine missionaries are employed by the Society in churches of *colored people*; and sixty preach in foreign languages; 13 to Welsh and 39 to German congregations, and others to the various foreign immigrants.

The number of Sabbath School scholars connected with the Churches of the Society, is about 66,500. During the past year, forty-five Churches have been organized by their missionaries. The receipts of the year, with the balance in the treasury, amount to \$172,738; the expenditures, to \$162,831.

The Society has been in operation twenty-six years; during this time, its receipts amount to \$2,365,420.

The average expense of a missionary



was reckoned in 1826-27 at \$83; in 1851-52 at \$153.

This Society, as all who are familiar with our back-country districts know, has done a good work through the country. Their agents, not always men of broad views or refined culture, have yet gone where few others would have the courage or the self-denial to go. In the remote backwoodsman's log cabin, on the prairie, among the Indians, in the new, sickly Western village, on the dirty flat-boat and the canal, you will find the Home Missionary, sharing the sickness, and the labor, and the suffering, with those to whom he would bear the old words of Truth and Love. Who, of us, comfortable and at ease here in our pleasant homes, shall criticize too freely, if the self-denying laborer is not always as broad in his opinions as he is in his charity? We will forget the narrowness, and the dogmatism, and be thankful that there are, in an age of selfishness, men ready to forego all which the heart most values, for the sake of the unhappy and the needy.

The most powerful of all benevolent organizations in this country, the "*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*," has only an Agency in this city, and cannot be considered a New-York Institution.

Allied with this in its great objects, but separated by its distinctive Anti-Slavery character, is the "*American Missionary Association*." This Society has for its especial principles, that no Mission-Church should ever admit a slaveholder as a member; that slaveholding should everywhere be preached against as a sin; and that no countenance or support should in any way be given to associations, religious or political, whose principles or conduct are opposed to those avowed by the Society, with reference to slavery. The whole number of missionary laborers employed by the Society is given at 140, being an increase of 45 over the number last year. Their stations are in Africa, Siam, Sandwich Islands, and in various parts of our own continent. The receipts of the Society for the last year, were \$30,826; the expenditures, \$30,233.

*The American Seamen's Friend Society*.—It is estimated that over 110,000 sailors arrived in this port in the year 1851, and that an average of 6,000 are continually in port. This Society is designed to bring good influences to bear upon this large class in various modes—by preaching and by opening boarding-houses, savings-banks, reading-rooms, schools, and the like, for them.

It has had, during the years 1851-

52, seventeen chaplains and missionaries, regularly employed in this port and various foreign ports, preaching every year to some fifty thousand sailors. In the "*Sailors' Home*," founded by this Society, there have been, within the year, 3,027 boarders, and not far from \$11,000 have been deposited by the boarders in the savings-bank. During the same time, 218 shipwrecked and destitute men have been relieved in it. In the ten years since its opening, 33,527 seamen have boarded in it.

The "*Colored Sailors' Home*," in Franklin-square, has had 247 boarders this last year, and three of the larger temperance houses have received 4,233 persons. The Seamen's Savings Bank has over \$3,000,000 on deposit, a considerable part of which belongs to seamen.

The Society, besides all these labors, has issued the "*Sailors' Magazine*," with a monthly circulation of 6,000 copies. It is also engaged in furnishing ships with libraries of useful and religious books. The expenditures, the past year, have been \$22,591; the receipts, \$23,660.

Among the other Institutions for the benefit of the sailors, may be mentioned the *Marine Society of the City of New-York*, founded in April 1770.

Its object is the improvement of maritime knowledge, and the relief of the wives and orphan children of deceased sailors. The list of widows, receiving regular relief, members 56, one of whom has been aided by the Society since 1788. The permanent fund constantly employed in charity is \$44,000: the amount of disbursements since its origin, to the poor widows and orphan children of deceased shipmasters, and to the members, is \$159,000. The permanent fund is loaned in bond and mortgages upon real estate, worth double the amount in New-York and Brooklyn; and the whole has been so well managed, that little or no loss has been sustained.

The widows on the pension list of the Society, receive relief in the following grades: the first grade, thirty one widows, \$60 each; the second grade, thirteen widows, \$50 each; the third grade, twelve widows, \$40 each. About \$3000 are thus spent annually. Thirty dollars constitute a shipmaster a life-member, and two dollars per annum afterwards secures a share to his wife, of the relief fund. This Society has been in operation 82 years, and has formerly found the names of our oldest and most substantial merchants in its list of supporters. It is doing a careful and thorough charity to a class, who, of necessity, in their business expose themselves and their families to the most sudden risks. May it find no lack of public support.

A similar society to the above is the



*New-York Nautical Institution and Shipmasters' Society*; devoting itself especially, however, to the spread of nautical knowledge. It was organized in 1820, and incorporated March 23d, 1848.

For sick seamen, the institution most widely known is the *Seamen's Retreat*, on Staten Island, near the Quarantine-ground. The trustees of this institution have the right to collect from the master of every vessel arriving from a foreign port, one dollar and fifty cents; for each mate, one dollar; and for each sailor, fifty cents; and from the master of every coasting vessel, twenty-five cents for each member of the crew. Every person who has paid these "hospital-moneys" can claim reception into the Retreat. There have been, during the past year, 2,956 patients in the institution, of whom 167 have died. In connection with the Retreat, a large brick building has just been erected near by for the destitute or sick female relatives of sailors, and such sailors in particular as have paid hospital dues.

The *Marine Hospital*, also situated on Staten Island, is devoted to the sick passengers or seamen from the ships just arrived. It is supported by an emigrant tax of two dollars on every cabin-passenger, native of a foreign country, and of fifty cents on every steerage-passenger. The fund from these sources, employed for various objects, amounts now to nearly \$100,000 per annum. The two institutions last mentioned are controlled by the State Legislature.

The *Sailors' Snug Harbor*.—This Asylum for aged or infirm seamen stands on the north side of Staten Island, in a charming situation, opposite the Jersey shore, and commanding a full view of the harbor and distant City of New-York, with their ships and spires. It was founded in 1801, by a bequest of Captain Robert Richard Randall, and incorporated in 1806. The property appointed for the object consisted of a piece of land, then an open field near the city, worth about \$50,000. Now this field is covered by the New-York Hotel, and the substantial blocks of elegant houses in its neighborhood; and it yields a rental of nearly \$100,000 per annum—one of the richest endowments in the country. For many years the Snug Harbor itself was a plain wooden building, isolated on a slight eminence, near what is now the corner of Broadway and Ninth-street. The present commodious and elegant edifice on Staten Island, has a front of white marble, and, with its wings, is 225 feet in length. The grounds belonging to it cover about 160 acres. The number of aged and disabled seamen sup-

ported within its walls during the past year was 295. Near by this Asylum is the *Home for Sailors' Children*.

The *Mariners' Family Industrial Society* has for its object to supply work to the female relatives of seamen, and to relieve any pressing want among them. Their clothing store is at No. 322 Pearl-street. The "Seamen's Retreat" disburses a portion of its charitable fund through the medium of this Society.

*The American and Foreign Christian Union*.—This Society originated in 1849, and grew out of three others, "The American Protestant Society," the "Foreign Evangelical Alliance," and the "Christian Alliance." Its object is especially to spread Protestant doctrines and practice through Roman Catholic countries. It publishes a monthly Magazine, "The American and Foreign Christian Union," a monthly tract, "The Missionary Intelligencer," and a semi-monthly, "*Der Freie Deutsche Katholik* (The Free German Catholic). One of the Secretaries is the well-known and respected Rev. Robert Baird, D. D.

"*The New-York Association for improving the Condition of the Poor*," is the name of a Society, operating very widely in its charities over the city. According to its charter, the city shall be divided into as many districts as there are wards; and these again into sections of about 25 families each. For each section a suitable visitor shall be obtained, whose duty it is to find out the wants of every family, and if needy and not the fit subject for other societies, to give them tickets for food, or fuel, or medicine. Money is in no case allowed to be given by the visitor, without especial permission.

Of those assisted, not more than *one-eighth* are American-born, usually one-half Irish, and about three-eighths German or foreign in birth. In religion, three-fourths are Roman Catholics, and most of the remainder unconnected with any Protestant Church. During the last year, 6559 families, with 29,515 persons were relieved.

We extract some rather striking facts from the report of this Association for 1852.

Relieved during 1851 by the Alms House department:

In the Alms House	2,783	of whom	78 p. ct.	foreigners.
Bellevue Hospital	5,342	"	82	"
Penitentiary	3,450	"	75	"
City Prison	21,279	"	71	"
Lunatic Asylum	441	"	72	"
Randall's Island	2,087	"	75	"
Out-door poor	42,872	"	73	"
Work House	965	"	75	"

Total Relief 79,792 of whom 75 p. ct. or 59,799 were foreigners.

During the same year, relieved by this



Association 27,022, of whom three-quarters were of foreign birth. Allowing that one-half of this number was aided from other sources, and that the other poor of the city would amount to 20,000 (which is a low estimate), and we have the following result:

Alms House Relief	. . . . .	79,732
City Association	. . . . .	13,511
Other Charities	. . . . .	20,000

Total 113,243

Of whom 75 per ct., or 84,925 are foreigners, who have been here more than five years; bringing a direct tax upon us in this assistance of about \$500,000. During the same time, \$480,000 have been expended by the Commissioners of Emigration for those, who have been here less than five years.

We get from all this some slight idea of the expense of pauper immigration to us.

Among the Institutions, which have originated from this Association, are "The Demilt Dispensary," "The Northwestern Dispensary," and "The Juvenile Asylum."

*The American Female Guardian Society.*—This Society originally started with reference to throwing good influences around poor young women, has turned more and more to efforts for relieving deserted children. They have been enabled to erect a building in 30th-st. (between Fourth avenue and Madison avenue), as a house of reception for poor women and children, called, "The House of Industry and Home for the Friendless." Their object is to find homes in the country for its inmates. Since its opening in 1847, there have been received into it 1489 adults and 961 children. In the year 1852—415 adults and 217 children. Of the former, 243 were provided with places; and of the latter, 134 were sent to their friends or to families in the country.

The Society publishes a semi-monthly paper, "The Advocate and Guardian," with an issue of 14,000. They have also published 10,000 tracts, 3000 copies of "Friendly Advice to Domestic," and 1000 petitions for street children.

*The Asylum for the Relief of Respectable, Aged, Indigent Females*—or, as it is more familiarly known, the *Old Ladies' Home*, is in 20th-street, near Second avenue. The Association was established in February, 1814; and the Asylum founded, November, 1838. It has been uniformly prosperous, and acknowledges in various receipts for the last year, \$22,108.

*The House and School of Industry*, has its rooms in 100 West 16th street. It was established in 1850.

*The Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children*, was found-

ed in 1797, by the efforts of the late Mrs. Isabella Graham.

This Society has been a very efficient, successful Association. During the years 1847 and 1848, the number of persons relieved were 385 widows, and 1023 children; and the sum of \$5,413 was expended in their behalf.

Out of this Society, sprang the *New-York Orphan Asylum*. The managers found often young children on their hands, for whom they had no home, except the Alms House. By the constant exertions of the ladies of the Association, an Asylum was at length opened for these orphans, in a hired house, at Greenwich Village, May 1st, 1806. They were incorporated in 1807; and, by collections in various Churches, were enabled to build a suitable edifice in Bank-street. At length, in the increase of the City, Greenwich ceased to be a village, and they determined to obtain a situation farther removed in the country. The old property was sold, and nine and a half acres were bought in Bloomingdale at a cost of \$17,500.

The present Asylum buildings were commenced in June 1836, and finished in 1840. They are on Ninth avenue, near 23d-street.

There have been as inmates of the Institution this last year, 184 children;—112 boys, and 72 girls. Of these, 1 has died, and 12 have been returned to their friends, or have been indentured. The Board acknowledge during the past year legacies, to the amount of \$15,199, and the gift of a library of 750 volumes, with a valuable Philosophical Apparatus.

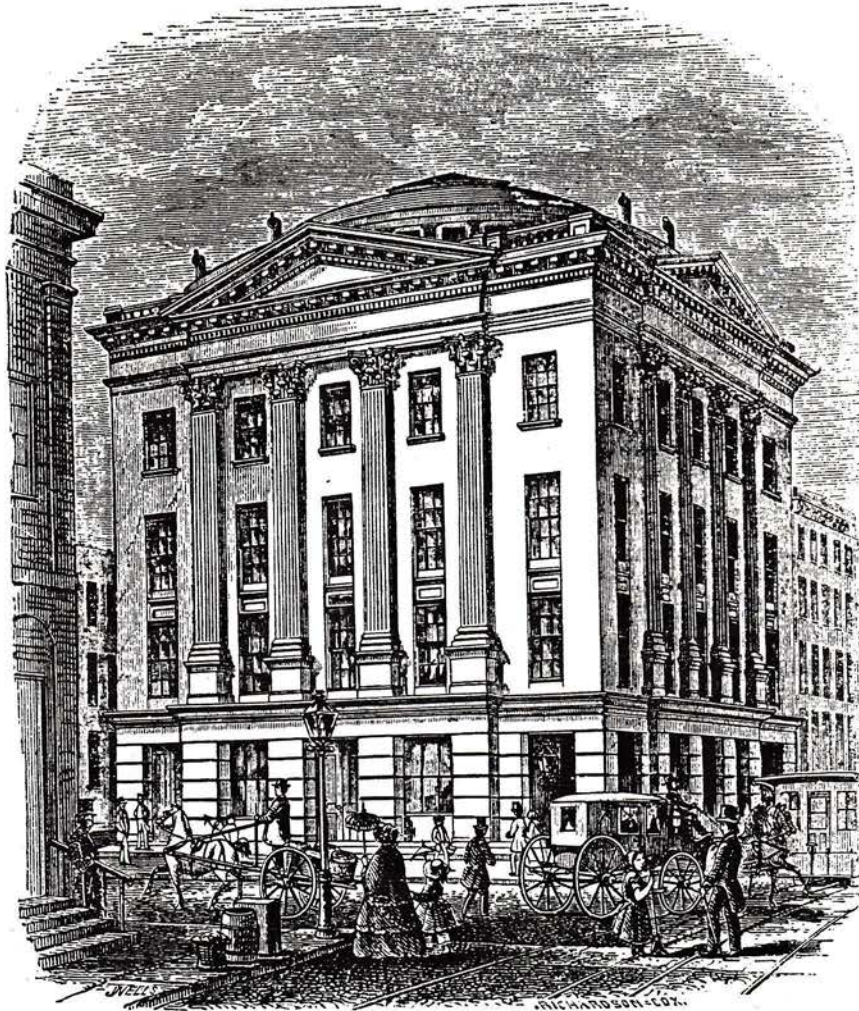
Another Orphan Asylum, equally successful with the former Institution, is the *Leake and Watts Orphan House*, founded by a legacy of John George Leake, deceased June 2d, 1827.

The House was first opened for children November 1st, 1843. It is situated amid pleasant scenery, between 111th and 112th streets, and between Ninth and Tenth avenues. The whole front of the building and its wings, facing on the South, extends 206 feet. The Institution has a fine landed property of 26 acres, unencumbered, and an income sufficient to support 250 children. There were at the last Report 194 children within it.

A similar Institution, now very widely known, was commenced under more unfavorable circumstances, than either of the above—the *Colored Orphan Asylum*.

In 1836, the colored pauper children were kept in the cellars of the Alms House, or in places entirely unsuited to health or improvement. The prejudice against their color was so great, that those





The Odd-Fellows' Hall, New-York.

who attempted to relieve them, could find no house which could be rented for their shelter. They were obliged at length to purchase a house and two lots in 12th-street, at the heavy rates then prevailing—for \$9,000.

They had received in 1840, \$13,000 for a building fund; and in 1842 they acknowledge as a gift from the City, 20 lots of land on Fifth avenue, between 43d and 44th streets. There the present building was erected, and in 1843, opened for the children. In 1849, a Hospital was added, the money for its erection being obtained by legacy.

Since the opening of the Asylum, 631 children have been admitted. The number of inmates during the last year was 258, of whom twenty-one have been indentured, and fifteen have died. The number of children under eight years of age, is 79.

The *Protestant Half Orphan Asylum* is conducted on a different principle from any of the above. The parents, where

not incapacitated from labor, are required to pay fifty cents a week for each child received into the Institution. The income from this source alone, the last year, amounted to \$2,245, or about one-third of the receipts of the Society. An excellent provision it is found to be for all parties; and the worst evil from a charitable Institution is somewhat escaped, the weakening of independence in the recipients.

There are now within the Asylum 176 children. The whole number in attendance during this last year is 246, and what is most remarkable in a medical point of view, there has not been a single death among the children for about three years. During the last ten years, says the Medical Report, there have been 676 cases of distinctly infantile diseases, and only one death—this from scarlet fever. The deaths during the cholera season amounted to ten. The average annual number of children in the Asylum since 1842, is 161 and a fraction.



This success in that most difficult matter—the preserving the health of a large number of children, shut up in one building—is well worthy of close attention from medical men.

The Asylum buildings are on Sixth Avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh streets.

The *Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum* is situated in Prince-street. The president is the Archbishop Hughes. As we have received no report, we can give no facts with regard to this Institution. It is believed however to be well supported, and successful in its operations.

The [R. C.] *House of Protection*, under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, is in Houston-street, corner of Mulberry.

In speaking of the Benevolent Institutions of New-York, we should not omit one, peculiar in its organization, and with many objectionable features, still wide-reaching in charities—the *Odd-Fellows Association*.—The Annual Report to the Grand Lodge of the U. S. for 1852, speaks of “their Brotherhood, as affiliated for no unlawful purpose, but on the contrary, ever standing firmly in defence of their country and its laws; excluding from their halls all sectarian and political discussions; discouraging every species of vice and immorality; disseminating no other doctrines than those of peace and good-will to man,” \* \* \* “an Order, built upon the very homestead of humanity, a gentle brotherhood.”

The Order numbered in 1842, 24,160 members; it contains now 193,298, with 2,729 lodges. The revenue from the subordinate lodges amounts to \$1,164,331 per annum. The total amount of relief to \$614,721.

The Association which owns the fine building, called the “Odd-Fellows’ Hall,” at the corner of Grand and Centre streets, reports the present indebtedness at \$82,601, which includes \$60,000 mortgage on the building, \$15,560 of stock, and \$2,175 due to stock holders. Receipts are stated at \$75,583.

One of the most practically useful of our benevolent institutions of New-York, is the “*People’s Bathing and Washing Establishment*, No. 141 Mott-st. We say *benevolent*, for although it is founded by joint-stock subscription, nominally returning interest, yet it is in effect a charity of the most effective character. The first idea of such an establishment originated in London, about eight years ago, and there are now several of these associations in the great metropolis, all supported, we believe, by voluntary contributions.

The New-York enterprise originated in 1850. A few active philanthropists sub-

scribed the funds, and erected the building at a cost of about \$40,000. Robert B. Minturn is the president; Richard Warren, Horace Greeley, and Marcus Spring, are among the active directors. In the “washing” department of this building sixty-eight women can work at the same time; and the washing, drying and ironing of an ordinary family, can be done easily in one hour, at the cost of *three cents*, including fuel, an immense saving for the poor, in time, in money, and in comfort. The male and female swimming and single baths can accommodate a large number at the same time, and cost from 5 to 10 cents. The object is to promote cleanliness and comfort among the poor, at the smallest possible cost—the prices barely paying the actual expense.

For the first three months of its existence, ending last August, the number of bathers was 38,600, and the whole revenue \$2,136.

The greatest number of bathers during any one week, was from June 12th to the 19th—4,670; income, \$237 68; from washing, the same week, \$253 27. The next greatest number is from July 17th to the 24th—4,214; income \$207 18. The highest number per one day, is 1,147.

This year has opened very favorably, the bathers for a single day in spring having already amounted to 753.

Within a few years the attention of our citizens has been aroused to a wide-spread evil in the city, for which no remedies had yet been found—the condition of *vagrant children*.

It was suddenly discovered that there were, hidden in cellars, swarming in foul alleys, infesting docks, and markets, and factories, a vast multitude of almost heathen children. They were not usually of American origin, or the fruits of our institutions; still they were, it was evident, poisoning the whole range of society around them. The law did not touch them, as very many were not legally vagrant. The first measures to reach them, were the formation, in 1848, by some earnest Christian men, of a “Boys’ Meeting,” on the corner of Hudson and Christopher streets. This was a Sunday meeting for street boys, where the poorest and most ragged might hear something of Christian truth. From this sprung various similar meetings, and at length, in 1851, the “*Asylum for Friendless Boys*,” situated in Bank-street. This Asylum was designed to provide a home for the street boys, where they could be instructed in the common school branches, and also in some industrial pursuit, until they were sent away to the country. There have been up to January 21, 1852, in the Institution, 127 boys,



mostly of the poorest and most miserable class. Of these, 100 are foreigners. Out of school-hours in the morning, they have been employed in sewing, knitting, and shoemaking.

Since the establishment of that Asylum, the city has taken up the matter of providing a home for these street children.

An Institution has been incorporated, with a grant of \$50,000 from the city, provided \$50,000 were raised by private subscription. This sum has been collected almost by the individual exertions of one active and benevolent merchant; and in the present year, the *Juvenile Asylum of New-York* will begin its operations. The Bank-street Asylum is merged into it; it has a large fund, and an especial Act under which it can collect children, and the whole power of the city to sustain it, so that success seems almost certain.

It is a great experiment to collect four or five hundred of outcast vicious boys and girls from our great city, and try to bring them up to take an honorable place in American life. If successful, hardly any expense can be considered too great. Nothing costs a State more than such a class of young vagrants and criminals growing up in its midst. The plan of the Institution, though on a much larger scale, is similar to that of the Bank-street Asylum. It will teach the boys some honest trade or business, give them the basis of a mental education, and then send them out to be apprenticed with mechanics or farmers in the country. According to an especial Act, the Courts have the right to commit to this Institution not only the vagrant children, but also children who are neglected or abused by their parents. The Institution has a House of Reception in Grand-street, where all the children found in circumstances of vagrancy or abandonment are kept for ten days, after which, if not reclaimed, they are committed to the Asylum. The Asylum buildings themselves are to be on the northeast side of the island, beyond the city.

In connection with these Institutions for a truly neglected class, may be mentioned a new Society, originated by active, earnest men from various denominations, designed to act exclusively on the poor children of the city—the *Children's Aid Society*. It proposes in its circular, to devote itself to the multitude of children who cannot in any way be shut up in asylums, and who are now out of religious influences. It begins with the opening of "Boys' Meetings" in needy quarters, through which a knowledge is gained of this class, and in which the only words of religious instruction that ever

reach the street boy, can be spoken. With these it intends "to connect 'Industrial Schools,' where the great temptation to this class, arising from *want of work*, may be removed; and where they can learn an honest trade." It hopes to be "the means of draining the city of these children, by communicating with farmers, mechanics, or families in the city who may have need of such for employment." Lodging-houses for boys, lectures, reading-rooms, all come within its ultimate plan.

More momentous objects could not be before any Society. If successful, it will do the very work of all others most needed in this city; for it is the individual labor in the homes and dens of the poor, the inducing them into the country, where labor is in demand, and where no man can starve, which will help them more than all the asylums that the whole Corporation estate can support. The opening work-shops for the street children, which shall be self-sustaining, is also a grand experiment; and one which, if satisfactory, is calculated to change the whole surface of poverty in the city.

It remains yet to be seen whether this immense youthful vagrancy and crime is an incurable disease, consequent on the overcrowding of a great city, or whether there are remedies which can strike at the very seat and core of it.

*The New-York Hospital.*—In 1770 several wealthy citizens of the city of New-York subscribed a large sum of money, for the purpose of establishing a hospital, and applied to Lieutenant-Governor COLDEN for a charter of incorporation. Their prayer was granted the next year by the Earl of Dunmore, Governor and Commander-in-chief of the province, and a charter given to the applicants, to whom were joined the officers of the city government, the Rector of Trinity Church, and the President of King's (now Columbia) College, under the incorporate name of the "Society of the Hospital in the city of New-York in America."

The Society at once organized and commenced building a hospital within two years, but the breaking out of the Revolution, and the confusion accompanying it, prevented further operations; and it was not till 1795, that the hospital was in condition to receive patients, when 18 were admitted.

The expenses of the establishment were defrayed through an annuity of £800, granted by the Legislature of the State, March 1, 1788.

This sum was increased two years afterwards to £2,000, and again in 1805 to \$12,500, which by an act, passed in 1806,





New-York Hospital.

was ordered to be paid annually, until 1857.

The ground, on which the Hospital stands, is bounded in front by Broadway, in the rear by Church-st., on the north by Anthony-st., and on the south by Duane-st. The approach to the Hospital from Broadway, is by an avenue, 90 ft. wide, planted with a double row of trees.

The principal building, called "The Hospital," is on a high ground, in one of the most open situations in the city. It is built of gray stone, is 124 ft. long, including its two wings, by 50 ft. deep. The basement-story, which is about 10 ft. high, contains the kitchens and store-rooms, with two wards for the accommodation of patients, infected with contagious diseases. The principal story is about 14 ft. high. In the centre is a hall and staircase, the library, a parlor and bed-room for the Superintendent, and an apothecary's shop. In each story of each wing, are two wards, 31 ft. by 24, opposite each other, and opening into passages which extend

from one end of the house to the other. On the second and third floors of the centre are rooms, for the accommodation of the officers and servants, besides the theatre for surgical operations in the third story, which can accommodate about 200 persons. The building contains also 20 other rooms, 15 wards for the sick, most of them 30 ft. by 24, and capable of holding 150 patients. The edifice is crowned with a cupola. There is an excellent kitchen-garden, and the grounds are laid out in walks, planted with fruit and shade trees, for the benefit of convalescent patients.

South of the Hospital is the *Marine Hospital*, which is also built of gray stone. It is 90 ft. long, by 40 ft. deep in the centre, and 65 ft. deep in the wings. It has three stories, including the basement, and contains 29 rooms, in which 150 patients can be accommodated.

This Hospital is intended for the reception of seamen of the port of New-York, who have paid Hospital money to the United States. By an arrangement, enter-



ed into between the Treasury Department of the United States, and the Hospital in 1799, three dollars a week are paid for each seaman received, provided the number admitted does not exceed at any time a hundred. By a recent application to the Secretary of the Treasury, an allowance has been obtained for the care and support of 200 sick seamen; this, it is hoped, will meet the demands of seamen for the coming year.

From the last Report of the Governor of the New-York Hospital, to the Legislature of the State, we gather that 3,877 persons have been under the medical treatment in the Institution during 1852, of whom 2,862 were cured, 353 have died, and the remainder were dismissed or relieved, with the exception of 291 patients, yet in the buildings. Among the deaths are included 110 cases of sudden death from accidents upon which Coroner's inquests were held; deducting these, we have but 243 deaths for the whole number of patients—or about 7 per cent.

The receipts of the Hospital during 1852 have been \$42,459; the expenditures, \$51,997.

This excess has been paid for, by the excess of receipts over expenses in the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, so that the Society has only the debt of \$40,000 incurred in 1851, for the valuable improvements made in the Hospital, during that and the previous year.

From 1792, when the Hospital was opened, until 1853, 96,434 patients have been received, of whom, 70,235 have been discharged *cured*, and 59,000 as *relieved*! 9,824 have died, among which are included more than 100 a year brought to the Hospital in a dying condition. The number of patients admitted, has kept pace with the growth of the City; increasing from 566 in 1794, to 1,670 in 1831, and 3,576 in 1852.

*Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum.*—This Asylum is a branch of the New-York Hospital, and is under the management of the same Board of Governors. It is situated near 118th-st. between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, at about a quarter of a mile from the Hudson. Previous to 1821, insane persons were admitted as patients into the New-York Hospital in what is now the Marine Hospital. But when the progress of medical science had opened the eyes of the Governors, to the necessity of *moral treatment* for Lunatics, and after many efforts from a philanthropic man, Thomas Eddy, they determined to purchase a farm in the neighborhood of New-York, and build there an edifice, suitable to the wants of the insane.

Accordingly the piece of ground, now

occupied by the Asylum—containing about 55 acres—was bought by the Governors for \$500 an acre, and on the 17th of May, 1818, the corner stone of the principal edifice was laid. This building is of freestone smoothly-hewn, and consists of a centre and two wings, 211 feet long. The centre contains the offices; the wings are occupied by the patients; the eastern wing by women, and the western by men. On each floor of either wing, a hall 10 feet wide extends the whole length through the centre. One large room on every story is used as a sitting-room; the rest as bed-rooms. The house is well supplied with baths and water-closets.

Parallel with the extremities of the building and nearly 150 feet in its rear, there are two other buildings, built of brick, and of about one-third the size. One is occupied by male, and the other by female patients.

Attached to the three buildings, is a farm of 55 acres. Half of it is under high cultivation; the remainder was laid out 25 years ago, with great taste after the fashion of English gardening, and is now a spot of rare beauty.

The plan adopted by the Governors of the Asylum in their treatment of the patients, is, to regard them, so far as their condition will possibly admit, as if sound and unimpaired in mental faculties. The Asylum is made as nearly like a Home to them as can be, with no more restraint than is absolutely necessary; and within certain limits, they are permitted to play, walk or ride, pretty much as they choose. The patients perform some manual labor; but a large proportion either unaccustomed to work, or used to only one kind of work, refuse to do any thing. No compulsory means are attempted, so that naturally but little labor is done.

The women however accomplish much more than the men, partly because better trained to industrious habits, and partly because their chief work (sewing) can be done in their own rooms.

In connection with the Hospital, may be mentioned the "*New-York Dispensary*," an association for giving medicine and medical advice to the poor. It originated in 1790, and was incorporated in 1795. In 1847 it relieved 28,227 patients, at an expense of \$3,476.

It has two branches, the "*Northern Dispensary*," at the corner of Waverley Place and Christopher-st., founded in 1829; and the "*Eastern Dispensary*," corner of Ludlow-st. and Essex Market Place, founded in 1834.

In the "*Northern Dispensary*," there have been treated, since its origin in 1827,



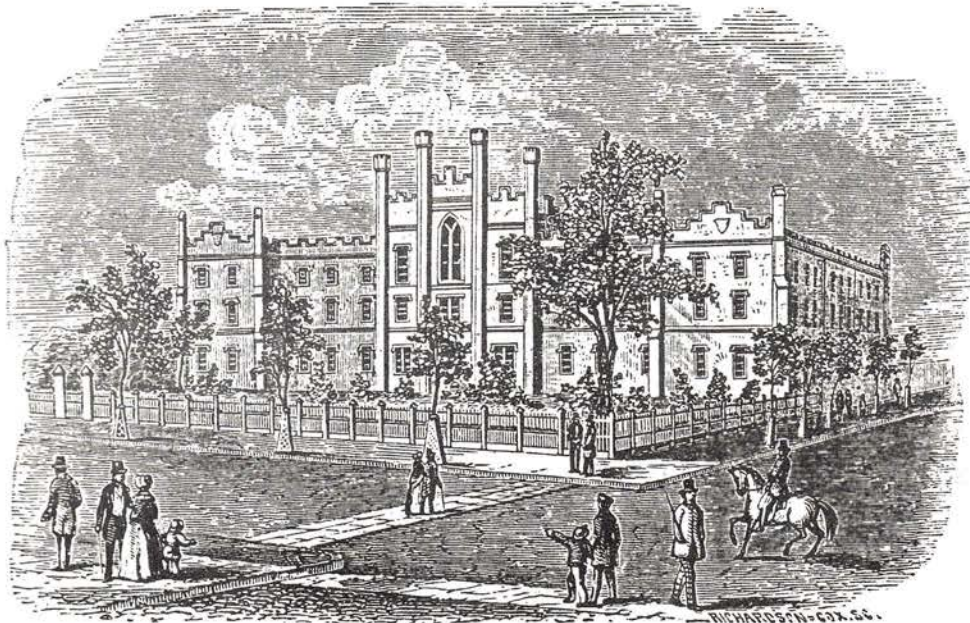
240,976 patients. During 1852, 17,831 have been treated, of whom 15,864 have been cured or relieved. Of these, 11,914 were foreigners. The receipts for the last year are \$3,788. Expenditures, \$3,644.

The *Demilt Dispensary* is a fine building at the corner of Second avenue and 23d-st, which with the lot has cost \$30,000. Up to this time, \$20,389 have been received towards defraying the debt.

The number of persons treated for the year up to March 27, 1853, is 2,197, of whom 1,376 are foreigners.

The *New-York Institution for the Blind* owes its origin especially to the efforts of Dr. Samuel Akerly and Samuel

Wood, in company afterwards with Dr. John D. Russ. It was incorporated in 1831. The school was opened on March 15, 1832, with three blind children who had lost their sight by ophthalmia, which prevailed to an alarming extent in the New-York Alms House in 1831-32. On the 19th of May, 1832, three other blind children were added to the number from the same place, and, with these six, the school was opened at No. 47 Mercer-street, under the direction of Dr. John D. Russ. In 1834, the Legislature passed an act providing for the support of 32 indigent blind pupils. The Institution succeeded; and, in Dec., 1837, the corner-



The New-York Institution for the Blind.

stone was laid to its beautiful building in Ninth avenue. The grounds of the building reach from the Eighth to the Ninth avenue on one side, and between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets on the other. It is of three stories, built of limestone, in the castellated Gothic, and is 175 feet in length.

It contains a chapel, library, dormitories, and the usual school and work rooms, and kitchens.

We have before us an unpublished Report of the Superintendent of this Institution, a gentleman favorably known to many in the city for his talents, and one well adapted to inspire energy into a settled institution.

It appears from this report that the number of blind in the different departments is 153; of whom 42 are operatives, and 103 pupils. Of these last, 95 are from New-York, 4 from New Jersey, 1 from Connecticut, 1 from Michigan, 1

from Alabama, and 1 from Tennessee. The operatives are engaged—the male on mattress and mat making and willow-work; the female on bandbox-making, fancy-knitting, and sewing. But few of these live with their families, out of the buildings; the most are boarders of the Institution.

Besides these regular paid workmen, the pupils are trained in the workshop, each, three hours a day.

As the Report sensibly remarks, the great object of such an Institution is not a *charity*. It is not to take in the helpless members of society, and provide for them. It is to enable them to help themselves. And, we say, that any institution which houses suffering men and women, only to weaken their capacity of taking care of themselves, is a curse rather than a blessing to society. It is not the first thing for a man to be comfortable. The blind had better drift



around in society, exposed to every abuse and hardship, at once, than be made drones. It is very evident, from the Report, and from the facts, that this system with the operatives does not work well. The plan professed is, if the blind laborer does not support himself, to turn him away. But, in practice, when once a blind man is living in the buildings, it is very difficult for any kindly-disposed officer to send him out in the world. The consequence is, that each one is sure of his support, and has no especial stimulus to exertion. The greatest wrong which can be done to a man is inflicted—independence is weakened. It is found in this Asylum, that the most industrious are those who are able to lay by something from their earnings, and the idle are invariably those who do not quite pay for their board. Assured of their support, they have neither the fear of want, nor the hope of gain before them. The only remedy, evidently, is to put the manufacturing branch on the same footing with ordinary establishments of the kind, to pay the laborer for what he does, and to make his comforts depend on his exertions. This can be done, with every allowance to the defect of the blind, by making the wages a certain fixed rate *higher* than is paid other workmen, and by compelling them to seek homes elsewhere.

The same difficulty occurred to the celebrated philanthropist, Dr. Howe, of Boston, as mentioned in his Report of 1850 to the Trustees of the "Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind." If we have heard correctly, he has since made a change similar to the one suggested here.

For the proper training of the blind, it is plain that three hours a day of manual labor cannot be sufficient. No man can be a hard-working man on such slender preparation. Labor will always be a burden, and will not be persevered in, except by those of great force of character. The habit of continuous muscular toil is the hardest possible to acquire by people of sedentary habits, and needs great previous practice.

In the teaching of the blind, it is probable that the oral mode must always be the most generally used. It is a slow work with the quickest—gaining ideas by the touch of the fingers. There are so many crude conceptions to remove in the darkened intellect—so much, familiar to the youngest seeing child, which, with the blind, must be laid first as a foundation, before a step can be taken; that "word of mouth" must be the great and efficient method of reaching their minds. It is much to be desired, however, judging from the meagre list of books for the

blind, that more were prepared for this class.

A singular fact developed in the treatment of the blind, is, that the *purblind*, that is, those seeing dimly, are always inferior in the classes and school-learning to the blind, though with vastly more knowledge of the external world. Dr. Howe, if we are informed correctly, explains this, by supposing the disease which injured their sight, has likewise softened the brain. Mr. Cooper, more philosophically, as it seems to us, supposes that they have just sight enough to weaken the power of concentration, which so remarkably distinguishes the blind, and not enough to give them the usual perceptions, which form the basis of the thoughts of the seeing.

The system of study in the Institution includes the higher philosophical studies, along with the common English branches. Music is especially made much of. The Library, though the variety is small, contains 700 volumes in raised type.

The *New-York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb* was incorporated by the Legislature of the State in April, 1817, and went into operation during the spring of the next year. For eight or nine years, the School of the Institution was kept in the Alms House, better known now as the new City Hall, and the pupils lived with their teachers in different parts of the city. In 1828, several lots of ground, bounded by the Fourth and Fifth avenues, and 48th and 50th streets, were leased of the city Corporation for a trifling rent by the Society, and the edifice which now constitutes the main building of the Asylum, was erected thereon at the cost of \$31,000.

As it stood originally, it was 110 feet long and 60 feet deep, and four stories high. It became necessary, however, in 1824, to add a fifth story, and in 1838 two wings were built on the northern side of the Asylum, at right angles to it. In 1846 two wings more were added, each 85 feet long and 35 feet deep. These were provided with spacious sitting-rooms and dormitories, which had long been needed.

The Asylum has now a front of 210 feet on 50th-street—the extreme depth of the wings being 90 feet. The arrangement within is very convenient: the building, also, being thoroughly ventilated and neatly kept. It is lighted with gas, manufactured on the premises, and is warmed in winter by means of hot-air furnaces. A handsome lawn surrounds the Asylum, in which the pupils take their exercise. There is a vegetable garden besides, where the table is supplied.



During the last year, there were 260 pupils within the Institution. Most of these are supported by the City and State of New-York and the State of New Jersey. The income of the Society for the same period, was little more than \$12,000. Its expenditures were \$5,200 more than its receipts. In addition to this deficiency, it is in debt about \$40,000.

Five hours a day are devoted to school exercises. The pupils are taught to read and write, and the higher branches of history, geography and grammar. Three or four hours are spent in some mechanical employment. The males are taught cabinet-making, book-binding, tailoring, shoemaking or gardening. The females, dress-making, and the folding or stitching of books. The school-division is in 13 classes, each having its own school-room and teacher. Religious exercises are carefully observed. In the morning, a passage of Scripture, written upon slates, is explained in signs by the President or one of the Professors; and then prayer is offered in the same language. In the evening, they are questioned on the explanation of the morning.

The course of instruction is carried out as thoroughly as the means of teaching yet discovered will allow. Most of the peculiar excellences of this Institution may be ascribed, without doubt, to the constant and laborious efforts of its President, the REV. MR. PEASE.

*The Prison Association of New-York* was established December 6th, 1844; and incorporated May 9th, 1846. Its general office is at No. 15 Centre-street. The objects of this Society are the melioration of the condition of prisoners, the improvement of prison discipline, and the encouragement of released convicts, by supplying them with honest work. Since its organization, it has relieved 977 prisoners, of whom 225 are reckoned as "doing well;" 470 as hopeful; 126 as doubtful; 19 as returned to prison; and 137 as unknown.

The class of Charitable Institutions with which we shall close our article, is one of which little is known by the public, and yet one which is as generous and pitiful in its purpose, and as solidly successful in its results, as any other of the city. We speak of the various Institutions to raise up the fallen and degraded woman; to give her hope and character again before the world. A difficult task, from which the refined shrink, the otherwise benevolent turn away in skepticism, and which the world in general regard as a romantic effort of philanthropy. The Asylums devoted to this object are the "*Home*" for female convicts, in Tenth

avenue; the *Female Magdalen Asylum*, in Yorkville, between 88th and 89th streets, and the *House of Industry*, in the Five Points, conducted by the REV. MR. PEASE.

*The Home* was formed in 1845, by private subscription, by the Female Department of the Prison Association, as a place of refuge to the female prisoner, when her time at Blackwell's Island was expired. Hitherto the released woman, whatever her better resolutions might be, was at once, on leaving the prison-boat, dragged away to her old haunts. She had no home, no friends who would shelter the convict, no money,—and, with the harpies always on the watch, the end was inevitable.

It was hoped, in this Asylum, to provide for a short time a home, where the woman could be busied in steady labor, and be brought under calm religious influences, until a place was found for her at a distance.

There have been, on an average, about 100 members of this Institution, annually; during 1852, 166 were received. The inmates, at any one time, average about 30. The only condition of admission is a sorrow for what has been, and a desire to do better hereafter. From the statements of the Report, it would appear that about *fifty per cent.* of all inmates received, have started on a better course of life.

The *Magdalen Female Asylum* has a similar object with the above Institution. Among its seventy inmates, during the last year, it reports *six* dismissed at their own request, and only *six* expelled. Eight have been sent to the hospital, and all the others, so far as is known, are doing well. In the labor performed by the women, it acknowledges \$100, as accruing from needle-work alone.

*Mr. Pease's* Institution, at the Five Points, dates only from 1848; but, thus far, is incomparably the most successful of any of these. It was opened by his discovering, in mission-labors through that district, that preaching and tracts were of little use to these women, unless some home, and some chance for honest work could be given them. He accordingly hired and cleaned a notorious brothel, and received a few women as regular inmates, giving them shirt-making as an employment. The Missionary Society, which had engaged him, considered this as unsuitable occupation for a minister of the Gospel, and abandoned him. The work done, though in no case ever stolen or designedly injured, was too poorly done to be sold. Mr. Pease was not discouraged, but through these and a thousand obstacles, worked patiently and good-



naturally on. He has now over a hundred inmates constantly in his "House of Industry." Since its foundation, some 800 women have been sent out to places in the country, of whom a large proportion are doing well. Within the house, tailoring, straw-braiding, stock-making, glass-cutting, and baking for the public, are going on; and, if last year's Report be correct, out of the expenses of \$15,000 for the year, some \$12,000 have been paid by the well-directed labor of these women.

Among all the varied efforts of benevolence in our metropolis, is there any more generous or more successful than this?

We have thus given a passing glance at some of the most prominent organizations in New-York which may be strictly termed philanthropic. For the rest a mere list of names must suffice.

#### ASYLUMS:

Jews' Asylum for Widows and Orphans, W. 27th street, between 7th and 8th avs.  
Lying-in Asylum for Destitute Females, 85 Marion.

#### SOCIETIES:

American Anti-Slavery Society, 142 Nassau.  
American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, 48 Beekman.  
American Baptist Home Missionary Society.  
American Bible Union, 350 Broome.  
American and Foreign Bible Society, 115 Nassau.  
American Dramatic Fund Association.  
American Missionary Association, 48 Beekman.  
American Society for Ameliorating the Condition of the Jews, 4th av., cor. Astor-place.  
American Sunday School Union. (Branch.)  
American Temperance Union, 149 Nassau.  
Association for the Suppression of Gambling.  
Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.  
British Protective Emigrant Society, 86 Greenwich.  
Central American Education Society, 78 Wall.  
City Bible Society, 16 Park-place.  
Emmet Mutual Benefit Association, 76 Prince.  
Female Missionary Society.  
Franklin Widow and Orphan Society.  
French Benevolent Society.  
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.  
German Hebrew Benevolent Society.  
German Mutual Assistance Society.  
German Society of the City of New-York.  
Hebrew Society for Widows and Orphans, 56 Orchard.  
Hibernian Benevolent Society, 42 Prince.  
Irish Emigrant Society, 51 Chambers.  
Italian Benevolent Society, 307 Broadway.  
Ladies' Union Aid Society, 200 Mulberry.  
Mariners' Family Industrial Society, 322 Pearl.  
Mechanics' & Tradesmen's Society, 472½ Broadway.  
Missionary Society, Methodist Episcopal Church, 200 Mulberry.  
Montefiore Widows' and Orphans' Society, 40 Beaver.  
New-York and Brooklyn Foreign Mission Society.  
New-York Bible Society.  
New-York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society, 20 John.  
New-York Bible Union, 350 Broome.  
New-York City Temperance Alliance, 461 B'way.  
New-York City Tract Society, 81 Vesey.  
New-York Ladies' Home Missionary, Old Brewery.  
New-York Marine Bible Society.  
New-York Printers' Union.  
New-York Society for Educating Colored Children.  
New-York City Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men.  
New-York State Colonization Society.  
New-York Sunday School Union.  
New-York Typographical Society.  
New-York Young Men's Christian Association, 659 Broadway.

Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions, 23 Centre.  
Presbyterian Board of Education, 23 Centre.  
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 23 Centre.  
Protestant Episcopal Mission Domestic Committee, 49 Chambers.  
Protestant Episcopal Mission Foreign Committee.  
Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union, 20 John.  
Protestant Episcopal Tract Society, 20 John.  
Public School Society of New-York, Grand, cor. Elm.  
Reporter's Guild.  
Society for Education at the West, 80 Wall.  
Society for Promoting the Gospel among Seamen in New-York.  
Sunday School Union, Methodist Episcopal Church, 200 Mulberry.  
Working Girls' Home, 383 Broome.

Hibernian Society.  
New England Society.  
St. Andrew's Society.  
St. David's Benevolent Society.  
St. George's Society.  
St. Nicholas Society.

#### SECRET AND BENEFIT SOCIETIES

Ancient and Honorable Society of Free Masons, 75 "Lodges."  
Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, 100 "Lodges" and "Encampments."  
Order of United Americans, 86 "Chapters."  
Sons of America, 2 "Camps."  
United Daughters of America, 9 "Chapters."  
Order of United American Mechanics, 3 "Councils."  
Ancient Order of Good Fellows, 22 "Lodges."  
Christian Mutual Benefit Society, 4 "Societies."  
American Protestant Association, 7 "Lodges."  
United Ancient Order of Druids, 18 "Groves."  
Benevolent Order of Bereans, 3 "Assemblies."  
Mechanics' Mutual Protection Association, 3 "Associations."  
Sons of Temperance, 23 "Divisions."  
Independent Order of Rechabites, 11 "Tents."  
Encampment Order of Independent Rechabites, 2 "Encampments."  
Cadets of Temperance, 4 "Sections."  
Temple of Honor and Temples of Temperance, 8 "Temples."  
Daughters of Temperance, 6 "Unions."  
Ancient Order of Good Samaritans, 2 "Lodges."  
Daughters of Samaria, 2 "Lodges."  
Society of the Iron Man.  
Order of the Circle.  
Musical Mutual Protective Association.  
Ancient Order of Hibernians.  
Father Mathew Temperance Benevolent Society.  
Hibernian B. B. Society.  
Hibernian Universal B. Society.  
Irish-American Benevolent Society.  
Meagher Benevolent Society.  
Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Society.  
Cartmen's U. P. Society.  
Hudson River Boatmen's Benevolent Association.  
Laborer's Union Benevolent Society.  
'Longshoremen's U. B. Society.

#### HOSPITALS:

Bellevue Hospital, 1st av., near 23d-street.  
Jews' Hospital, West 28th street, bet. 7th & 8th avs.  
New-York Ophthalmic Hospital, 7 Stuyvesant.  
St. Luke's.  
St. Vincent's, 102 & 104 E. 13th street, under the charge of the "Sisters of Charity."  
Ward's Island.

#### DISPENSARIES:

Eastern, 74 Ludlow.  
Homœopathic, 433 Broome.  
New-York Eye and Ear Infirmary, 97 Mercer.

#### Summary, inclusive of those described:

Asylums	22
Benevolent Societies	90
Secret and Benefit Societies, (including 349 separate "Lodges," "Chapters," "Divisions," etc.)	75
Hospitals	8
Dispensaries	7

Other Societies and Institutions, Literary, Scientific, Educational, and Mercantile, will be referred to in future articles.