



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.

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2010 convention preview

‘In a New Hampshire World’

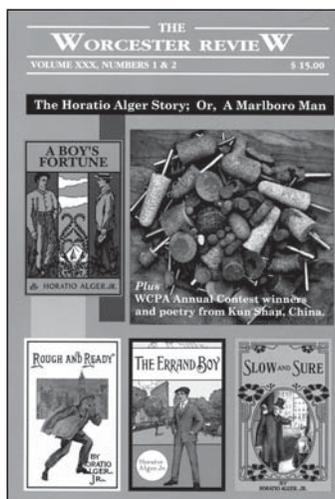
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The Holiday Inn of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Photo by Art Young



Horatio Alger Jr., A Marlboro man

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President's column

Happy New Year everyone! I hope this year is a great year for each of you. A friend of mine recently exclaimed that "this is the best year in her life." I asked her how she could say that being as the year was only 2 weeks old and she said, "I believe in the power of positive thinking." I agree with her. I always maintain a positive, cup-is-half-full, attitude and even when an outcome is not what I expect, it was usually what I need and I always gain positive experience.

Thomas Edison did not invent the incandescent light bulb. He did; however, dramatically improve the life and commercial viability of the light bulb. A New York Times reporter is said to have asked him about his continued failure in designing a longer-life filament. Edison's response is purported to have been "I have not failed 700 times. I have not failed once. I have succeeded in proving that those 700 ways will not work. When I have eliminated the ways that will not work, I will find the way that will work."

This is why I continue to attend estate sales and shop at book and antique stores looking for all those items on my want list. I figure that at some point, I will have seen all the books I don't want; therefore, I will then find all the books I want. Maybe this is one illustrative definition of bibliomania.

I also hope that this is a great year for the Horatio Alger Society. I am setting a few objectives for the H.A.S. this year.

- 1.) To increase membership over the previous year.
- 2.) To increase our Internet presence through an updated Web site and utilization of other Web tools such as a blog and social networks.
- 3.) To have another great H.A.S. convention.
- 4.) To provide Brad Chase with the information necessary to complete his Hurst bibliography.
- 5.) To acquire new contributors to our excellent issues of *Newsboy*.

Increasing membership seems daunting. Horatio Alger name recognition is at an all-time low, especially in the younger generations. However, Horatio Alger material is used in many home school curriculums and thus a new generation of Alger readers, howbeit small, is being created. Also, the current membership of the H.A.S. has many varied interests outside of Alger and *Newsboy* has non-Alger boys' series articles in nearly

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive & Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series, pulps and dime novels.

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Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of *Newsboy* \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.**

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.thehoratioalgersociety.org

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send ads or "Letters to the Editor" to *Newsboy* editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

2010 convention preview

'In a New Hampshire World'

JUST THE FACTS

The 2010 H.A.S. convention, "In a New Hampshire World," will be hosted by Art and Pat Young, and will be held on May 13 through May 16, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Conveniently located near historic downtown Portsmouth, the Kittery Outlet Malls, and New Hampshire and Maine's great coastline, the Inn has 130 guest rooms, a pool and accommodating function rooms.

Convention attendees may add up to four (4) total days at the convention rate to be taken at the beginning, the end, or split between.

The Inn is located just off I-95 at the intersection of Route 1 and the Spaulding Turnpike. Two airports serve the New Hampshire seacoast: Logan International in Boston, Massachusetts; and the Manchester-Boston Regional in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The driving conditions are better, less traffic and smoother flow, if you arrive at Manchester. The hotel is 47 miles from the airport.

Logan International Airport in Boston is 55 miles from the hotel. If you would like to attend the convention but do not wish to rent a car and drive from Logan, there is an excellent bus service that runs almost every hour from Logan to Portsmouth. The bus terminal is only a couple of miles from the hotel and the Youngs would be happy to arrange transportation.

The Holiday Inn can be contacted for reservations at:

Holiday Inn

300 Woodbury Ave.

Portsmouth, NH 03801

Phone: (603) 431-8000 or (800) 315-2621

Fax: (603) 431-2065



Historic downtown Portsmouth, N.H., will welcome the Horatio Alger Society on May 13-16.

The room rate is \$99 plus tax per night for all attendees. Please mention the Horatio Alger Society for the group rate and make your reservation by May 1, 2010 as the group rate is not guaranteed after this time.

The registration fee for the 2010 convention is \$120.

Enclosed is the official convention registration form,

along with a schedule of events. Please be sure to read both sides of the schedule; also, note that the convention registration form includes space for selection of your entrée for the Saturday night H.A.S. banquet at the Holiday Inn.

AND, IF YOU HAVE TIME

If you have the time, there are several places you might want to include in your plans in addition to the city of Portsmouth and the outlet mall in

Kittery, Maine. The Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth (and just a few blocks from the hotel) is a wonderful place. This seaport museum has a collection of 42 original buildings, the earliest dating to 1695, some with original furnishings. There are lovely gardens and people dressed in period clothing who will chat with you about the lives of the original inhabitants of the homes.

Another attraction is a terrific boat ride out to the Isle of Shoals. The Isle consists of several small islands which were once the site of a grand hotel often visited by famous people like painter Childe Hassam, writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, and President Franklin Pierce. The trip takes 2-3 hours. Just up U.S. Route 1 (less than an hour drive) in Wells, Maine, is Doug Harding's Book Store. Harding's has 14 rooms filled with quality antiquarian books and is a pleasure to visit. Finally, a drive along "Antique Alley" (Route 4), Portsmouth to Epsom, will introduce you to more than 10 antique shops. More information on area bookstores and places of interest will be available at registration on May 13.

— Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

Editor's notebook

The 2010 Horatio Alger Society convention is around the corner, and before long it will be May. Hosts Pat and Art Young have an exciting weekend of May 13-16 planned for us, and Portsmouth, N.H., is a perfect location, just an hour's drive north of downtown Boston. I have been to Portsmouth many times, and find it one of the most scenic of the classic seaport cities on the New England coast.

Of course, the antiquarian bookstores that I visited in downtown Portsmouth years ago are now gone — no surprise in this age of the Internet. But book-collecting opportunities remain if you're willing to take side trips into Maine and central New Hampshire. This is the Society's third convention in New Hampshire: Jim Thorp's family hosted us in 1984 in Nashua, while Angelo and Mary Sylvester were our hosts in 1997 in North Conway.

As usual, I recommend arriving a day or two early to take advantage of some of the many fine restaurants in the area (or to take those book-hunting excursions). The Youngs will have plenty of information included in our registration materials, and if you are arriving and checking into the Holiday Inn on Tuesday or Wednesday, just let Art know so he can point you in the right direction for some of the finest dining or sight-seeing experiences in New England.

Enclosed with this issue is the official "In a New Hampshire World" convention registration form, and the Holiday Inn's telephone reservation numbers can also be found on Page 3. Be sure you mention that you are with the Horatio Alger Society to receive the special \$99 (plus tax) group rate. Please reserve your room(s) by May 1 to ensure getting the special group rate.

Also enclosed is the schedule of events; be sure to look on both sides of the sheet! Yes, we plan to have a full H.A.S. auction, with more information to be provided in the next issue of *Newsboy*.

In this issue: Be sure to read Scott Chase's story on Page 7 concerning the two Alger poems he uncovered, along with three more Alger comic book adaptations in early-1940s issues of *Shadow Comics* and *Doc Savage Comics*. We believe more comic-book Algers are out there and hope to prove it by the end of 2010. Also note that these two Alger poems, first published in 1859, are reproduced on Pages 8-9 of this issue. "The Queen of Baby Land" is particularly inventive with its subtle

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President's column

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every issue. Our mission statement ends with "The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series, pulps and dime novels." I ask that you mention the HAS; the strength, friendliness, and diversity of its membership; and the outstanding *Newsboy* to your collecting acquaintances, friends, colleagues and customers.

An up-to-date Web site is an important aspect of marketing in today's environment. The Internet is the first choice for locating information regarding any topic in today's world. While our Web site has some good information, pictures, and a few articles, it has an outdated appearance and there is a great deal of interesting Alger and related information that could be posted to the Web site as articles or blog entries. An entry on a social networking site could be used to generate interest by posting conference updates and links to newly posted information on the H.A.S. Web site. I do not expect thousands or even hundreds of hits, but a few interested people will add to our membership and circle of friends.

Our 2010 H.A.S. convention is being hosted by Art and Pat Young in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The location, food, speakers, and activities will be very entertaining. Art wrote a teaser for the previous issue of

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MEMBERSHIP

New members

Scott B. Chase (PF-1106)
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Rochester, NY 14616 (585) 581-5918
E-mail: genlindy@frontiernet.net

Scott is the son of longtime member, researcher and former H.A.S. President Brad Chase (PF-412) and his interest in Alger has led to the discovery of the Alger poems and comic adaptations which are introduced on Page 7. Scott's other major pastime is genealogy.

Stephen Saucier (PF-1107)
11207A Avalanche Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Helen Pettibone (PF-1108)
5627 Woodward
Merriam, KS 66202

Horatio Alger Jr., A Marlboro Man

By Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)

"Horatio Alger Jr., A Marlboro Man" is the title of a special feature in the current *Worcester Review* that includes seven short scholarly articles, several historical photographs, an Alger photograph and several illustrations, excerpts from Alger's *Five Hundred Dollars* and from *Nothing to Do*, and several new poetry contributions.

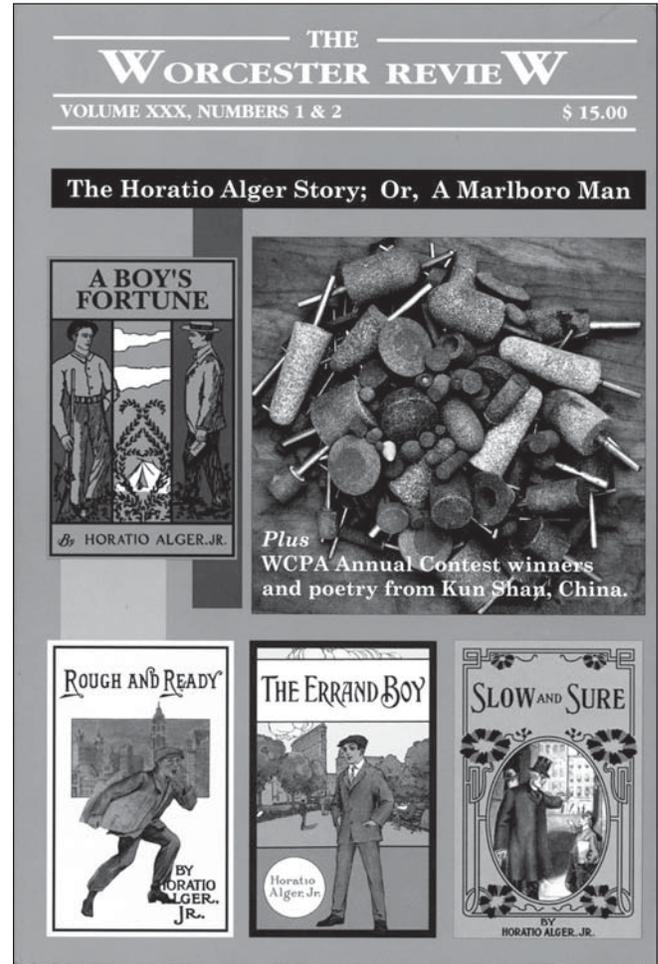
The *Worcester Review* publishes special feature sections from time to time and is a publication of the Worcester County Poetry Association, Incorporated.

S. Elizabeth (Beth) Sweeney was guest editor of the special feature, and she did an excellent job of collecting and editing the short pieces included here. She was extremely helpful in locating archival documents and photographs, and she received help from the American Antiquarian Society, the Marlborough Historical Society, the Worcester and Marlborough Public Libraries, and other institutions.

Beth received her Ph.D. from Brown University and is associate professor of English at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, where her specialties include detective fiction, Nabokov, and feminist narrative. Her own contributions in the special feature include an introductory essay on "The Horatio Alger Story" and a very nice piece on "Borrowing Privileges: Horatio Alger, S.N. Behrman, Milton Meltzer, and the Worcester Public Library." There is symmetry, Beth points out, between Alger heroes' reading biographies of successful men in the novels and the fact that some poor, immigrant children in the Worcester area who later became successful remember receiving inspiration from Alger stories that they once found in the public libraries. She finds evidence of the removal of these novels from the region's public libraries, just as my late former colleague, Dee Garrison, did in her 1971 article on "Cultural Custodians of the Gilded Age: The Public Librarian and Horatio Alger."

The feature includes a short piece by Gary Scharnhorst, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of New Mexico. Exploring Alger's Marlborough connections both before and after his Harvard years and characterizing Marlborough of the 1840s as pre-industrial, Scharnhorst seconds John Cawelti's contention that Alger created a world that was a throwback to an economic era that predated the one in which he actually wrote.

My own piece, "Keeping New England's Factories off Limits: Horatio Alger's Erasure of the Industrial Landscape," draws on Chapter 5 of *The Fictional Republic* but adds historical data on Marlborough that highlights the economic transformation the town and



the region were undergoing as Alger arrived there in 1844. The article seeks to explain why, to Alger, the factory was a dangerous place and why it was not conducive to the kinds of contacts necessary for the hero to be recognized for his mind and character.

Lisa Fluet's essay, "The Unsocial 'Purfessional': Revisiting Horatio Alger's Ragged Dick," notes recent evidence on declining class mobility in the United States and thinks about Alger's vision of class mobility in comparison with that in a 2005 Curtis Sittenfeld novel about a lower class girl's at a New England boarding school (*Prep*). Fluet, who is an assistant professor of English at Boston College specializing in twentieth century modernism, also re-examines Dick's philanthropy and explains how Dick's aspirations to professionalism cause him to appear unsociable to many of his peers. Carol Singley, associate professor of English at Rutgers

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Alger, A Marlboro Man

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University, Camden, contributed a fresh and extremely interesting piece titled "Horatio Alger's Tattered Tom: A Tale of Two Genders." Singley, who is completing a book on "Building Nation and Family: American Adoption, Literature, and Culture," locates *Tattered Tom* in the context of 19th century adoption stories that were highly gendered. Because Tom shifts several times from boy to girl, the adoption stories change throughout the novel. John Anderson's "Models and Mirrors: Alger's Worcester Contemporaries" considers Alger's three biographies, contending that they parallel the basic plot of Alger's novels, and linking these biographical plots to the lives of some of Alger's actual contemporaries in the Worcester area. Anderson is an emeritus professor of history at College of the Holy Cross and has also served as Mayor of Worcester.

One poem, "Entrepreneur" by Mary Fell, who teaches and writes at Indiana University East but who comes

from Worcester, offers another take on the Alger story from the perspective of a young person working in a shoe factory in central Massachusetts. Two poems by Eve Rifkah, who teaches English at Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts, recount incidents in which children find brief respite from their hardscrabble lives, one at the public library ("Escape") and one on a trip to the country ("Picnic").

I have purchased two copies for the Society auction in New Hampshire, but you may not want to wait or take your chances. The issue can be purchased now. The cost is \$15 per copy plus shipping and handling. For 1-4 copies, include \$3.50 shipping and handling; for 5 or more copies, enclose \$5.00 shipping and handling. Send a check, specifying Volume XXX Numbers 1 & 2 to The Worcester Review, 1 Ekman St., Worcester, MA 01607. Alternately, if you happen to be in the Worcester area in the near future, you can purchase the current issue at Ben Franklin's in Worcester. If you are in New Hampshire, Toadstool Bookstores in Keene, Peterborough and Milford carry the current issue of the *Worcester Review*.

President's column

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Newsboy and there is more information in this issue, including the convention registration form and schedule of events, along with hotel and travel information. Every one of you reading this column is important to the success of a convention, for it will be lacking if you are not present. A convention must have attendees. You bring friendship, conversation, laughter, and books (of course) to the convention. This is a great venue. Add some time to your trip before or after the convention to take in the local sites and even those slightly more distant such as Alger's birthplace or gravesite.

As most of you know, Brad Chase has written some excellent Alger reference books related to specific publishers. He is currently working on a book describing the Hurst publishing company and its many Alger formats. He has requested that you provide him with information regarding Alger books published by Hurst that you possess. He wrote an article in the March-April 2009 issue of *Newsboy* describing this effort. I intend to have this article and the data sheets Brad wants you to fill out posted to the Web site. I hope that you will help Brad in this endeavor, as we all benefit from Brad's efforts.

Call me biased, but I believe that *Newsboy* is one of the best fanzines available in any collecting field. Every issue contains relevant articles regarding the works of

Horatio Alger. Each issue also contains articles related to other boys' series describing the series, authors, publishers, artists, and other aspects. We also discuss relevant topics related to book collecting such as value, book reviews, purchasing venues, auction results, and many other items of interest. Many of our issues are now printed with color images resulting in an exceptional and professional appearance. I challenge you, the reader, to become you, the writer. Have you located a new item for the Alger canon? Do you have a special author or series that you want to present? Do you have the text to an Alger short story that has not yet been reprinted, or some other topic in which you are interested and want to share? Contact Bill Gowen or myself and we will help you put your name in *Newsboy* as an author. I am sure that within our membership there is a plethora of information waiting to be published.

The objectives I have described are attainable with help from you. I challenge you to tell someone about the H.A.S., provide ideas and material for our Web site, attend the 2010 convention, provide Brad with your Hurst-related information, and write an article for *Newsboy*. Together, we can make this a great year for the Horatio Alger Society!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
 Bob Sipes (PF-1067), Acting President
 1004 School St.
 Shelbyville, IN 46176
 Phone: (317) 398-0754
 E-mail: doogie@lightbound.com



These newly discovered comic book adaptations bring the total known *Shadow Comics* and *Doc Savage Comics* Alger titles to eleven. See related story on Page 9.

Additions to the Alger bibliography

By Scott B. Chase (PF-1106)

I am admittedly very new to the Alger collecting and researching arenas, although my history, or should I say exposure, to Alger goes back several decades. I grew up going “bookin’” with my dad all over New England, he looking for Algers and me for pennies. Always a good time and good finds for both of us.

Today, my interests have expanded into several areas in addition to coins. One of these is the Alger books remaining to fill in the holes in my dad’s collections (there are other aspects of Alger’s works that also intrigue me). While searching to fill these holes, I have come across three new comic stories, two new poems and a new source for the poem “John Maynard.” These are not listed in any Alger bibliography or in *Newsboy*. I include here the two new poems in complete form for your collections, and I provide the best images I could get of the cover page of the three comics (above). I trust these will be of interest to the Alger community.

Short stories in comics

“Dick’s Luck,” Street & Smith, *Shadow Comics* Volume No. 3, May 1940. Storyline: When Dick’s sick adopted mother leaves her estate to him instead of her own brother, the brother attempts to get her estate by trying but failing to kill Dick.

“Frank and Fearless,” Street & Smith, *Shadow Comics* Volume No. 8, January 1941. Storyline: Enemies Jasper and Nickolas become step brothers, and when Jasper’s father dies, Nickolas’ mother has control of Jasper’s inheritance. A struggle ensues.

“Making His Way,” Street & Smith, *Doc Savage Comics* Volume No. 9, September 1942. Storyline: As a boy, Jimmy Camp was swindled by one of his father’s partners. As an adult and heavyweight boxer, he gets even with the swindlers.

Note: For the short story in the March 1940 issue of *Shadow Comics* titled “Bob Burton,” there is no subtitle as listed in Bennett.

Poetry

“As You Cross the Street.” N.Y. *Saturday Press*, 16 July 1859, p. 1.

“The Queen of Baby Land.” N.Y. *Saturday Press*, 15 October 1859, p. 1.

A third poem by Alger, “The Lost Heart,” also appeared in the N.Y. *Saturday Press*, on 4 June, 1859, p. 1. The title is noted in Bennett, but this original publication date was heretofore unknown. “The Lost Heart” later appeared in *Grand’ther Baldwin’s Thanksgiving* in 1875 and was reprinted in *Alger Street: The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, in 1964.

New source

The famous Alger poem “John Maynard” has been reprinted many times, as noted in Bennett and other bibliographies. A newly discovered source is the school reader *Poems Teachers Ask for, Book II*. Dansville, N.Y.: F.A. Owen Publishing Company, p. 78.

Editor’s note: The poems “As You Cross the Street” and “The Queen of Baby Land” are reproduced on Pages 8-9.

Original Poetry.

As You Cross the Street By Horatio Alger, Jr.

I.

Bertha, as you cross the street,
Cross the street with trailing dress,
In your spring-time loveliness,
Tell me, do you sometimes meet,
One whose face with sorrow worn,
Hallow eyes and faded cheek,
Show that life is very bleak
Unto her so woebegone?

II.

Yet her face was once as fair,
And her life as golden sweet,
roses blossomed at her feet —
Bertha, you who see here there,
Can you dream it? She is young,
If we count by days and years,
But the mark of time appears
Plainest when the heart is wrung.

III.

Bertha, do not shrink away
From her touch. Alas, poor child,
Though by sin in truth defiled,
She has wandered quite astray.
Love is pure. Of that she felt,
For her love was so complete,
How could she suspect deceit?
Ah! she loved indeed too well.

IV.

Bertha, gentle, fair and winning,
As you pass the poor child by,
Do not mark with scornful eye
Her more sinned against than sinning.
God, who marks the sparrow's fall,
Knows her struggles and her tears,
And her weary, wasting years,
And His love is over all.

N.Y. Saturday Press,
A JOURNAL OF THE TIMES
July 16, 1859

The Queen of Baby Land By Horatio Alger, Jr.

Let those who will in Milton's praise
Essay the sounding line:
I place my votive offering
On quite another shrine
That task I leave to other hands
More fitted to the use,
Enough for me to chant in rhyme
Thy praises, Mother Goose!

Thy name is homely — yet should that
Thy moral influence clog?
Or how shall those deride thy muse
Who venerate a Hogg?
We hail thee queen of Baby Land,
And may thy kindly sway
Abide in all our nurseries
Forever and a day!

Full many a baby's tender heart,
Great Mother Goose, shall thrill,
On hearing thy pathetic lines
About poor Jack and Jill
Ah, many a time I well recall,
My blood congealed to ice
On hearing that thrice mournful tale
About the three blind mice.
I've doubled up my childish fist,
With thoughts of vengeance rife,
And felt how much I'd like to slay
The cruel farmer's wife.

My eyes were opened very wide,
My infant wonder grew,
In reading of the ancient dame
Residing in a shoe,
Whose offspring were so numerous
She knew not what to do!
Sometimes I've laid me on the grass,
And looking up on high,

Have fancied with my childish eyes
 I might perrchance espy
 The lady that's employed to sweep
 The cobwebs from the sky.

I well recall the fearful fate
 Of Gotham's sapient three
 Who in a fragile bowl essayed
 The perils of the sea;
 A feat of daring quite unmatched:
 Yet in my childish soul
 The question rose — which first were cracked;
 The wise men or the bowl?

I would that I had skill to paint,
 The Human face devine,
 I'd buy some canvass and a brush
 And quickly picture thine.
 I think I see tghelucid face,
 Thy specs with iron bows,

That seem to sit with conscious pride
 Astride thy placid nose,
 A cap conceals thy scanty hair,
 A cap with ample frill,
 Bequeathed thee by thy aged dame
 That lived upon the hill.

Hail! Great enchantress Mother Goose!
 Immortal are thy lays:
 Where shall a worthier brow be found
 To wear the poet's bays?
 We crown the queen of Baby Land,
 And may thy kindly sway
 Abide in all our nurseries
 Forever and a day!

N.Y. Saturday Press,
 A JOURNAL OF THE TIMES
 October 15, 1859

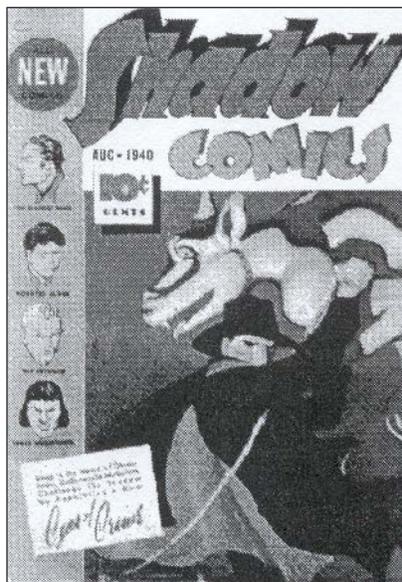
Street & Smith's Alger comic book adaptations

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

In his accompanying article, Scott Chase lists new additions to the Alger bibliography, specifically two poems published in the *N.Y. Saturday Press* in July and October 1859; and three Alger stories in *Shadow* and *Doc Savage* comics in the early 1940s.

I want to bring our readers up to date on the ongoing research in these latter so-called "comic adaptations."

Research in this area first came to light in the January-February 1982 issue of *Newsboy* when in his article "Alger and the Comics," Jerry Friedland (PF-376) revealed the existence of six comic adaptations and speculated that there were probably more yet to be discovered. He was right, of course, and Arthur P. Young, in a two-part 1998 *Newsboy* series, titled "Alger at the Comics," discussed the additional Alger titles "Rough and Ready," appearing in *Shadow Comics* No. 4 in June 1940; and "Robert Coverdale's Pluck and Luck," published in *Shadow Comics* No. 6 in August 1940. These two titles helped fill



a couple gaps speculated by Jerry in his original ground-breaking research. (*Doc Savage* and *Shadow* were published by Street & Smith).

All eight of these *Shadow Comics* stories and the two heretofore-known *Doc Savage* Alger stories are listed in the short-story section of the updated version of Bob Bennett's Alger bibliography, published under the title *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (Newark, Del.: MAD Book Company, 1999).

Chase logically lists his three new Alger comics entries as short stories because that is where they are listed in Bennett. However, "comic adaptations" is a more accurate term because these stories either use titles and plots

from Alger's full-length novels, such as "Rough and Ready," or they combine known titles such as "Robert Coverdale's Luck and Pluck."

In Art Young's "Alger at the Comics, Part 2" in the November-December 1998 *Newsboy*, he does a content
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Street & Smith's Alger comic book adaptations

(Continued from Page 9)

analysis of the latter story, whose eight *Shadow* comic-book pages are fully reproduced in that issue. He notes that the story, which first appeared in Street & Smith's *New Medal Library* (No. 555) in 1910 as *Robert Coverdale's Struggle, or, On the Wave of Success*, follows the original book-length story, but in its truncated comic form has been visually updated with modernized settings, 1940s-period clothing, etc. Although very highly condensed, Young states that the *Shadow Comics* version "very closely parallels that original story."

So, because they are related to Alger's mainstream novels rather than created from scratch as short stories, that is why we are categorizing these versions as "comic adaptations," rather than members of the short-story category, where they are found in Bennett. In today's terminology, these Alger tales could be described as "graphic novels," although their edited-down length makes that term a stretch in this case.

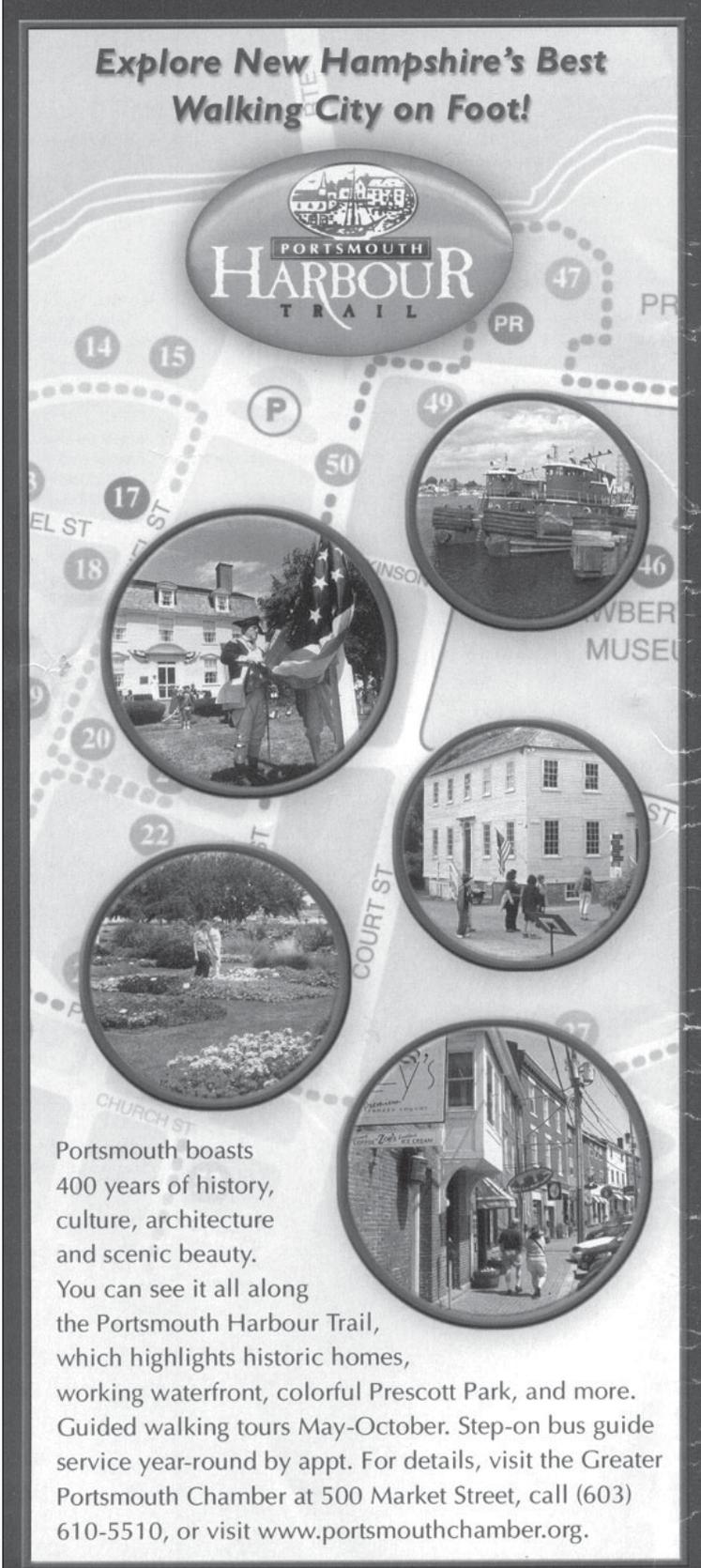
To summarize, here are the two Horatio Alger, Jr. comic stories previously known to appear in *Doc Savage Comics*: "Facing the World" (No. 2, October 1942) and "From Rags to Riches; or Tappy Hart" (No. 11, January 1943). We can now add "Making His Way" (No. 9, September 1942) as a result of Chase's research, bringing the total to three.

The following six Alger stories were previously known to have appeared in *Shadow Comics*: "Bob Burton and the Ranch Mystery" (No. 1, March 1940); "Mark the Match Boy" (No. 2, April 1940); "Rough and Ready" (No. 4, June 1940); "Brave and Bold" (No. 5, July 1940); "Robert Coverdale's Luck and Pluck" (No. 6, August 1940); "Bound to Win" (No. 7, November 1940). Chase has now uncovered "Dick's Luck" (No. 3, May 1940) and "Frank and Fearless" (No. 8, January 1941), which brings the total to eight.

That raises the grand total to eleven (11) comic book adaptations as of this date. More titles seem likely to emerge through additional research. Thanks to Jerry Friedland, Art Young and Scott Chase, we're getting there.

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BOOK REVIEW

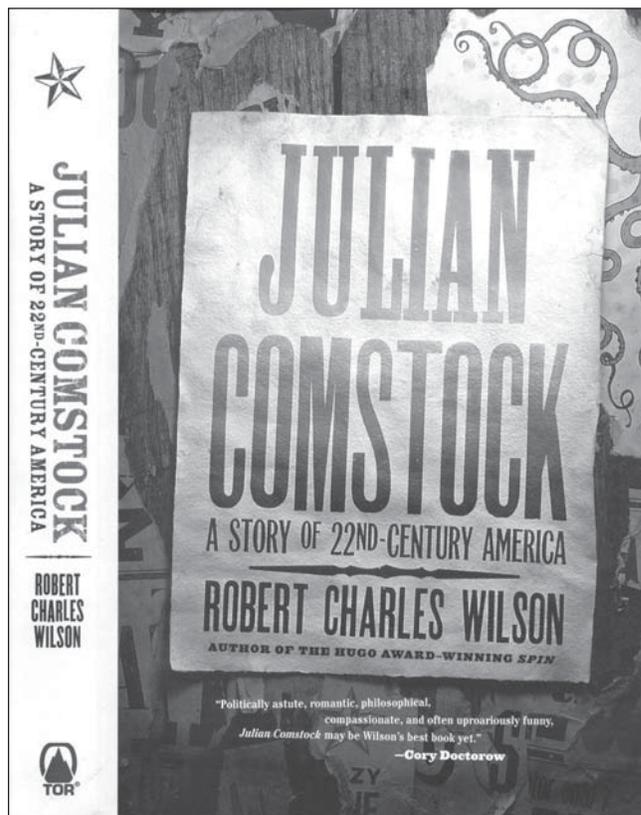
Wilson, Robert Charles, **JULIAN COMSTOCK, A STORY OF 22ND-CENTURY AMERICA**. 413 pp. New York, 2009: Tor, an imprint of Tom Doherty Associates LLC. ISBN 978-0-7653-1971-5 \$25.95 hard cover. Available at a discount from amazon.com and other Internet retailers. For additional information, visit Robert Charles Wilson's blog at http://www.tor.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=blog&id=35585

Reviewed by Peter C. Walther (PF-548)

The death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1930 did nothing to bring about the simultaneous death of Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Far from it. There have re-dounded upon us a virtual avalanche of pastiches (direct or indirect) about the great consulting detective that have continued unchecked to the present day. Holmes is indeed timeless and deathless. We have all heard that old saw: "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." The creating of pastiches is its own art, and its own reward. The works of Lin Carter owe a great deal to Edgar Rice Burroughs, how many Conan wannabes have we come across, and Ruth Plumley Thompson carried the torch first lit by L. Frank Baum. Not to mention the Stratemeyer-Alger "completions." And we should not forget Dumas or Dickens. Well now, I am happy to report that it is Oliver Optic's turn.

Mr. Robert Charles Wilson has fashioned a grand and glorious pastiche after the works of William T. Adams. He has modeled his style and voice after that of his (and my!) favorite author and his text savors of the brisk pacing and narrative flow of Oliver Optic. Not only is the book dedicated to him but there are many distinctive touches in the text paying silent but sincere homage to some of the tales Adams wrote over one hundred years ago. I will not give away any of these precious references but merely tickle your literary fancies.

Any reader familiar with some of the Optic canon will recognize characters which first saw the light of day in Oliver Optic's imagination. The author for instance must have been quite familiar with the *Boat Builder Series*, the *Lake Shore Series* and the novel *Living Too Fast*. In fact, Adams as author makes a noteworthy appearance toward the end of the volume. "His hair was snowy white, and it had retreated from his forehead and taken up a defensive position at the back of his skull. He wore a full beard, also white; and his eyes, which were embedded in networks of amiable wrinkles, gazed out from under ivory brows. He wasn't fat, exactly, but he had the physique of a man who works sitting down and dines to his own satisfaction."



This matches certainly the famous late portrait of Adams so often seen, the "Santa Claus" image as Dave Kanarr characterized it to me many years ago. In a very recent e-mail Robert Wilson wrote that "I kept a framed photograph of him in my office as I worked on the book." Very likely this was the one.

There is much that I would wish to say but I had best not say it. Let the reader discover and enjoy these memorable touches for himself. I cannot help, however, expounding on an intriguing reference. On page 103 the reader will encounter the names of two famous generals of the War in Labrador: a General Stratemeyer and a General Galligasken. Stratemeyer is doubtless familiar to all of you. Probably Galligasken less so. If you have happen to possess a copy of Oliver Optic's biography of General Ulysses S. Grant, *Our Standard Bearer*, take it off the shelf for a minute and tell me what you discover.

Don't blink, and you will note Elijah Kellogg as well as Emma Southworth in passing.

Would Adams have approved of this book? That is a thorny question, one that Wilson cannot help but pose himself in the Dedication, yet it is a question that proves futile, meaningless and serves no constructive purpose. The Oliver Optic prototypes are certainly well in evidence, yet *Julian Comstock* is a novel of the future, over

(Continued on Page 12)

BOOK REVIEW:

Julian Comstock

(Continued from Page 11)

150 years in the future, and Adams began his writing career over 150 year in the past. A vast gulf encompasses both worlds. Julian Comstock is a flawed hero (but a hero nonetheless) and there would be much that Adams might have objected to had it been placed in his hands, say, in 1890. But good literature is timeless and speaks through generations. If Oliver Optic were able to renounce his Victorian trappings and been placed in the 22nd-century or even in ours, then he may very well have penned such a tale as this. It is something he would

have been very proud of and we the reader are enriched, entertained and ultimately ennobled by it.

A reviewer in *Maclean's*, cited on the rear panel of the dust jacket, noted that the author is developing a reputation "for his signature combination of startling concepts and character-driven storytelling." That is certainly what Oliver Optic did generations hence, and it is what Robert Charles Wilson has done now.

This science-fiction novel is highly recommended and belongs on the bookshelf of every reader of this magazine. The author told me that it was six months before he could get Adam Hazzard out of his head. It is no wonder.

His richly drawn characters, his compelling and breathless situations still buzz around in mine.

As they will in yours.

Guaranteed.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

references to several classic nursery rhymes.

Even though Alger's 1896 essay "The Novel — Its Scope and Place in Literature," has previously been published in *Newsboy*, it was way back in 1984, so we decided to give this excellent piece another look. Then, while editing this issue, I came across Alger's travel essay on his 1873 visit to Sir Walter Scott's home in Scotland. This is a perfect companion piece to the other essay because right in the opening paragraph Alger cites Scott as a very important figure in the development of the novel as a literary form. As far as I know, "A Visit to the Home of Walter Scott," though listed in Bennett, has never appeared in *Newsboy* — so I hope you enjoy it!

Jim Towey's reprints: For years, Jim Towey (PF-975) of West Granby, Ct., has been offering a wide range of reprints of scarce series books, along with more than 2,000 recreated dust jackets. Recently he has added several titles of interest, including the Stratemeyer Syndicate's ultra-scarce *The White Ribbon Boys of Chester* (\$40), originally published by Cupples & Leon; *The Young Wireless Operator with the Oyster Fleet* (\$35) by Lewis Theiss, originally published by W.A. Wilde; and the fourth and fifth titles in Edith Lavell's *Linda Carlton Series*, originally published by A.L. Burt and later by Saalfield: *Linda Carlton's Perilous Summer* and *Linda Carlton's Hollywood Flight* (each \$40).

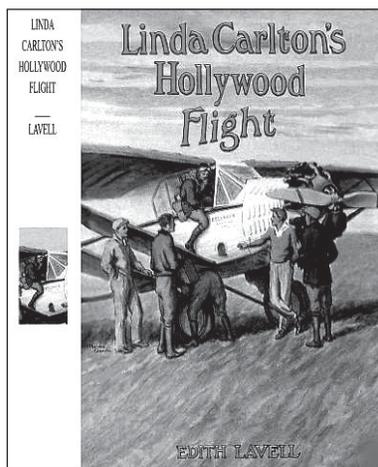
These are for sale by contacting Jim at 249 Hartland Road, W. Granby, CT 06090, by telephone at (860) 653-7447, by e-mail at toweyj@cox.net, or through his eBay store: jim.towey-The Adventure Continues. If you keyword any of the above books such as "White Ribbon Boys" or "Linda Carlton" on the eBay search page, Jim's store listings will appear. By the way, he now accepts PayPal for all transactions. Jim says he has changed his approach, now producing very small print runs so as not

to be stuck with inventory that does not sell. These are quality books, and his investment is high. Some of his reprints such as the Mark Tidds have sold very well, while others have not. He notes that initial interest in his 25-copy print run of the two Linda Carlton titles has been high, so if you want to place an order you must act quickly.

Towey still has two other scarce titles in Theiss' *Wireless Patrol Series* in stock: *The Hidden Aerial* and *The Young Wireless Operator with the U.S. Coast Guard* (each \$30).

Also in stock are reprints of a pair of two-volume series by the late and great Sam and Beryl Epstein: the *Roger Baxter Series* and *Tim Penny Series*, at \$25 per volume. I have these books and they are well worth the price. The writing is exquisite, displaying Sam and Beryl's gifts for plotting and descriptive prose that came to full flower with their *Ken Holt Series* for G&D (under the joint pseudonym "Bruce Campbell").

Jim always welcomes phone calls at (860) 653-7447, and you can also visit his Ken Holt homepage at www.members.cox.net/kenholt.



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No. 6.

THE NOVEL — ITS SCOPE AND PLACE IN LITERATURE

BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.

Within fifty years the novel has advanced to a much higher place in the popular estimation than ever before. The time was when it was considered almost discreditable to read a work of fiction. The novel was hardly accorded a place in literature. This was not wholly without reason. Men of ability were seldom drawn into this department of literary work. It was the genius of Scott that first invented novel-writing with dignity. Some noteworthy novels, indeed, had appeared before Waverly, but they were few in number. The world could not stand aloof or view coldly such a book as *Ivanhoe* and its hardly less brilliant companions. Sir Walter Scott, therefore, may be said to be the father of the modern novel.

Some thirty years since, in company with an American member of Congress, I entered the pleasant and unpretentious dwelling in Edinburgh where Scott wrote some of his most brilliant novels. There was nothing in the house or surroundings to kindle the imagination of the great romancer. It would seem better adapted to be the home of a prosaic barrister. But to us there was an indefinable charm in the reflection that here Sir Walter conjured up those stirring and picturesque scenes of feudal times. In the rear part of the house, on the second floor, I believe, is a plain bed-room, where from a bed of pain Scott dictated the magnificent romance of *Ivanhoe*. It is certainly wonderful that, amid such plain surroundings, he should have been able to imagine and describe the brilliant scenes and characters of his great romance.

Had the Waverly Novels never had any worthy successors, they alone would have won for the novel a high place in literature. But since the days of Scott a long list of illustrious writers have turned their attention to novel-writing. Perhaps there are none who have attained the high rank of Scott, yet there are those who in some respects have surpassed him. Thackeray, Dickens, Bulwer; Charles Reade.

Wilkie Collins, George Eliot are names that will spring at once to the recollection of all who have even a slight familiarity with the fictitious literature of the last fifty years. Imagine for a moment the loss to English literature if these authors and their works were stricken from its record. I might extend the remark to other languages, but in the brief space at my command I think it best to confine myself to English literature. No one at this late day would venture to deny to the novel a place and a high place, in literature. Against the prejudices of the narrow-minded, it has secured recognition and conquered a place for itself.

What is the function of the novel, and in what consists its value? I am disposed to divide novels into three classes — novels that instruct, novels that entertain, and novels with a purpose. To the first class belong historical novels, notably those of Scott already referred to. Prof. Bowen, while occupying the chair of history at Harvard, recommended his students to read Scott's novels, and especially *Quentin Durward* and the *Fortunes of Nigel* for the graphic and correct pictures which they afford of the French and English courts during the reigns of Louis XI and James I; No historian has ever been able to represent with so near an approach to reality, the cunning and crafty Louis, and the cowardly and pedantic James; as the great romancer. I doubt if a contemporary writer would have been able to paint as faithfully the characteristics of the two monarchs and their courts.

I accord a high place also to the novels of G.P.R. James, which have fallen into undeserved oblivion. While standing far below Scott's, some of his historical romances possess high merit, notably *Richelieu* and *Philip Augustus*. In my college days I read many of James's novels with pleasure and profit. I hope to see the interest in them revived by a popular edition from the press of some prominent publisher. While the author has some peculiarities that provoke a smile, his novels are well worth reading.

Novels that simply entertain are of course in the great majority. Some of these are works of art, and as such commend themselves even to fastidious critics. Indeed I

(Continued on Page 14)

This essay, originally published in the March 1896 issue of New York Railroad Men, made its only previous appearance in Newsboy in March-April, 1984.

THE NOVEL — ITS SCOPE AND PLACE IN LITERATURE

(Continued from Page 13)

may say, that a novel of this class is much more likely to be artistic than the historical novel or the novel with a purpose. It may be indeed a more valuable contribution to literature from a literary point of view. The historical novelist is likely to be affected by the nature of his work, and the same is true of the novelist with a purpose. The writer who seeks chiefly to entertain has full scope and can give reins to his imagination following his own idea and plans without restriction, just as the sculptor whose subject is ideal is more likely to attain artistic beauty and perfection than one who sets himself to portray a living subject.

Of course the novels of this class admit of infinitely greater variety than those of the other two. While less valuable they probably, yield more enjoyment. Nor are they without striking and distinct merits. Often they are valuable photographs of men and manners. They not unfrequently show a rare and profound insight into human character and motives, especially in what may be called the philosophical novel. To this class belong the principal novels of Balzac and George Eliot, if I may be permitted to couple the two. To achieve success the writer must be a profound student of character, with the gift of expressing intelligently and plainly what he has been able to read in the volume of human life.

I pass to the novel with a purpose. This is perhaps the latest development in the history of the novel. It was not until

a recent period that it was discovered how effective a helper the novelist might become to social reform and a broad humanity. Foremost in the list of novels with a mission comes Uncle Tom's Cabin. Mrs. Stowe, when she wrote this wonderful novel, probably had a very inadequate idea of the importance of the book and its far-reaching effects. That it precipitated the civil war and so led ultimately to the abolition of slavery can hardly admit of a doubt.

It has not been given to any other writer to achieve with a single book such wonderful effects. Speeches and editorials by the hundreds had appeared on the same subject, but all the efforts of all the anti-slavery orators sink into insignificance compared with the work of this plain and unassuming woman. Orators appealed to the intellect, she to the heart. She portrayed the cruelties and the infamy of the system of slavery in a way that set the people aflame with indignation. The greatest advance that has been made in the cause of humanity in this age was the work of a woman and a novelist. If Uncle Tom's Cabin had been the only novel ever written it would have gained for itself a high place in literature, not as an artistic production, but as a factor in the world's progress.



I have not the space to refer to other novels with a purpose. Most of Charles Reade's romances belong to this class. Others will occur to the reader. They are not numerous, but many of them have been very effective. In their way they have not only been a contribution to literature, but helped the world's progress. Whether indeed there shall be a new development of the novel, and it shall achieve a still higher place in literature I cannot tell, but I think I have shown that it is entitled to the highest respect and appreciation.

A VISIT TO THE HOME OF WALTER SCOTT.

BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.

At 39 Castle Street, in Edinburgh, stands, or rather stood, for I believe it has been demolished since my visit to it, a house which possessed a peculiar interest for all who revere genius and appreciate a pure and noble character. This house was for some years occupied by Sir Walter Scott, and here

Because in the preceding essay Alger cites the work of Sir Walter Scott as essential to the development of the novel, we offer his reflections on his visit to Scott's home. It was first published in The Golden Argosy on April 14, 1883.

some of his best-known novels were written.

A considerable number of years since, I found myself a guest at an Edinburgh hotel. My stay was protracted to a week, in consequence of the illness of my traveling companion. I spent my time in exploring the curious old town, rich with historical associations, in the company of a Member of Congress from my native State, who, though his early educational advantages had been very limited, had so far made up his deficiencies in after years as to surprise me with the extent and accuracy of his historical knowledge. It was he who proposed to me one morning to visit Scott's house.

On our way to Castle Street, we fell into conversation, I cannot at this time remember how, with an old man of decent appearance. Judging from his age that he might, perhaps, in his early days, have met Sir Walter, I questioned him on this point.

“Yes, sir,” he answered; “I knew Sir Walter, well. Many’s the time I’ve carried him in my sedan chair.”

“What can you tell us about him?” I asked, delighted to have found a connecting link between the present and the past. It was something to meet a man who had known the great novelist.

“I mind me,” he said, with a shrewd twinkle of the eye; “that when I carried Sir Walter he always gave me half a crown, but Lady Scott never gave me more than a shilling.”

Scott’s house is, or rather, was, a plain, three-story building” and was occupied at the time of my visit by lawyers, offices. We were shown his bed-chamber, dining-room, office, and writing-room. The first attracted special attention, for here it was, when prostrated by sickness, that he dictated the greater part of that most brilliant of his novels, “Ivanhoe.”

There is another house, grander and more pretentious—whose name is linked with that of Scott. This is Abbotsford, which Scott called “romance of stone and lime.” It is surrounded by a fine estate of two thousand acres, and here the novelist lived in baronial style. Yet it calls up sad associations, for it was in part the large sums spent for this estate, and the expense of maintaining it, that laid such a heavy burden upon Scott’s later years.

It was my fortune to visit Abbotsford one pleasant day in July, 1873. The visitor regards with special interest the last suit of clothes worn by Sir Walter. It is, fortunately, protected from relic-hunters by the glass case in which it is preserved. In the library is a circular glass case, containing a great variety of gifts to the poet by illustrious and distinguished persons, including those of royal blood. Among them are notice able a portfolio and a pen and pencil case, the outside being worked in green worsted. These were a gift from Napoleon I.

I have not space for a complete biography of Sir Walter, but the main events of his life are easily accessible, and a brief sketch will be sufficient. He was born in Edinburgh—on the 15th of August, 1771. His father was a writer to the Signet, not rich, but in comfortable circumstances. As a boy he was delicate, and for this reason was allowed to spend a considerable time in the country, where the bracing air strengthened him. and helped to fit him for the labors of after years. I am sure my young readers will like to read some lines which young Walter wrote “On the Setting Sun,” a little before his twelfth birthday. Here they are:

“Those evening clouds, that setting ray
And beauteous tint, serve to display
Their great Creator’s praise;
Then let the short-lived thing called man,

Whose life’s comprised within a span,
To Him his homage raise.

We often praise the evening clouds,
And tints so gay and bold,
But seldom think upon our God,
Who tinged those clouds with gold.”

These lines are not remarkable, but they are interesting as among the earliest efforts of one who was to make Scotland classic ground by his spirited lays.

He did not appear as an author until the age of twenty-eight, and then only as a translator of one of Goethe’s tragedies. In the same year he received the appointment of Sheriff Selkirkshire. Worth 300 Pounds per annum. He had previously married a young lady of some fortune, and seemed to have a settled place in the world. Passing over some desultory work, I come to the year 1805, when, at the age of thirty-four, he published “The Lay of the Last Minstrel,” which gave him instant celebrity. It was the first of those wonderful poems which, by their dash, and spirit, and picturesque description, attracted the world’s attention to the otherwise obscure Scotch sheriff. Scott was more fortunate than most poets, for he was handsomely paid during his life. “Marmion” brought him one thousand guineas, and “The Lady of the Lake” was still more popular. It is remarkable, the rapidity with which these great poems succeeded each other, and it is still more remarkable that their author was destined to win a yet greater celebrity in another field.

In 1814 “Waverley,” the first of the novels to which it gave name appeared, and for seventeen years thereafter the great romancer was engaged in producing the brilliant series of stories with which his name and fame are especially linked. They brought him in vast sums; but an unfortunate business connection with his publisher wasted his fortune and plunged him deeply into debt.

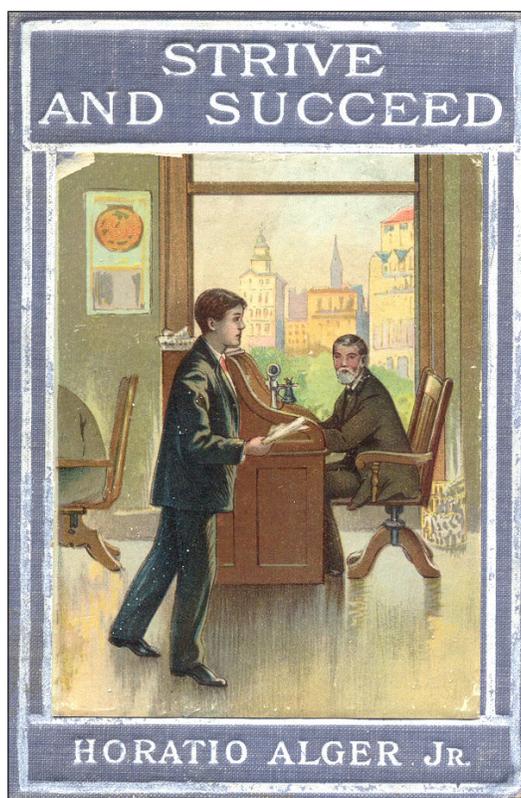
In June, 1826, at the age of fifty-five, Scott found himself liable for the colossal sum of \$650,000. It was enough to crush an ordinary man, but Scott was not an ordinary man. He retired from his fine house, went into lodgings in the city, and set to work to pay his debts. For six years he toiled terribly with his pen, and in that time paid off more than half the great debt. Two years before his death he had an attack of paralysis, but still he continued to write several hours each day. The natural result followed. Overwork broke him down, and on the 21st of September, 1832, he breathed his last, at the age of sixty-one.

While we deplore the imprudence that involved Scott in debt, we cannot but admire the heroic energy with which in the decline of life he toiled to pay his liabilities. His labors hastened his death, but his memory is the sweeter, and his name will be the more honored in all coming time. Such a reward is cheaply purchased, even at the price Scott paid for it.

Strive and Succeed Award

*The Horatio Alger Society appreciates the generosity of its members in donating to the H.A.S. **Strive and Succeed Award** fund. The **Strive and Succeed Award** is presented each spring at the annual convention to a deserving high school senior to help defray his or her college expenses. The following Partic'lar Friends made contributions during calendar year 2009:*

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