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Bolan's First Thousand Dollars,

When the millionaires of America numbered only a few hundred, certain newspapers and periodicals made their names and faces familiar by numerous illustrated articles "touchin' upon and appertainin' to" the question "How to Get Rich."

Thomas Dolan, the head of the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia, was one of the few very rich men who could never be induced to tell the story of his life for the benefit of the climbers.

A newspaper man who had had the good fortune to render Mr. Dolan some light service called on him one day and said that his paper wanted to learn from him how the millionaire had made his first thousand dollars.

"You want the truth, I suppose," said Mr. Dolan.

'Certainly." "Well, I never had any first thousand dollars. I had \$350 and a reputation for 'making good.' My reputation made my \$350 look like \$3500 to another fellow and he trusted me. My first deal showed a profit of \$2000, so that my first thousand was really \$2350."

A Letter from Horace Greeley.

By Hayden Carruth.

I have been so unfortunate in the class of story-tellers I have met here and there; they have been, generally speaking, such a scurvy lot and have usually told tales so obviously exaggerated, and I have so often been obliged for financial reasons (though against my will) to write out and print their mendacities, that it was a genuine pleasure recently on a Fall River boat to encounter a minister of the gospel (this is what he said he was, at least), and to hear from him the following simple little narrative, which seems to carry upon its face the

impress of truth. Shortly following the Civil War (said he—he spoke in a quiet, earnest manner) I was in charge of a little church in Dutchess County, New York. My flock was small, and I found myself with much leisure; so I cast about for some avocation. I hit on poultry-raising. I knew little about this industry, so naturally I decided to seek advice. One day an inspiration came to me—I would write to Horace Greeley. My letter was short and consisted essentially of three or four questions concerning the best breeds, and so forth, for a person in my position to experiment with. I enclosed a stamped envelope for his reply.

Of course, the reputation of Greeley's handwriting was not unknown to me. His chirography was known—and feared from Maine to California. But I dreaded it less than you might suppose. I had always rather flattered myself on my ability to read difficult handwriting; besides, I had unlimited time at my disposal. Further than this, there were many friends on whom I felt that I could rely for aid.

On the morning of the third day the postmaster handed out the letter I was looking for and I retired to a corner of the store, sat down, adjusted my glasses and opened the envelope. I found that the communication was not written on an office letter-head, but on an ordinary sheet of paper, without printing. It was the usual business size, about eight by ten inches, unruled; and the writing filled some half dozen short lines across the middle of the sheet. For a moment I regretted the rash step I had taken. The tangled jungle of hieroglyphics which faced me afforded no foothold for my terrified eye. Then my courage returned, and I determined at least to

make a brave fight. As usual, a vigorous effort met its just reward. Soon I caught words here and there, frightfully mangled and distorted but still recognizable words.

Gradually parts of sentences began to reveal themselves. Soon only a few of the more knotted and snarled portions remained, and as I threw my whole strength into the work even these gradually thawed into known terms. But my troubles were only just beginning. What had he written to me? I had asked him about chicken-growing-here was not one word concerning poultry or anything akin. This is what I read:

New York, Sept. 8. The war was a failure. I hoped to see Jeff Davis in the White House. A young man stands the best chance in Rhode Island. The Tribune is the poorest newspaper in New York. Yours truly, Horace Greeley.

My hands sank in my lap, and I gazed vacantly off into space. There was a strange ringing in my ears, and I could feel my heart beating like a steam engine. Then I held up the letter and read it again. It was the same as before. Again and again I read it, and each time it bore the same astounding message. At last I saw the explanation. I had lost my mind. I tested myself in every way, but could not discover that I did not have the full use of my faculties. I returned to the letter. I carried it to a good light and read it once more. It was still the same.

Again I was at sea. The hypothesis that I was insane was not tenable. I went down to the office of the local paper. To the editor I explained the circumstances of my writing to Mr. Greeley, and handed him the letter, asking him if he could read it. He spent some fifteen minutes over it, and then looked up in astonishment.

"But you say you wrote about chickens!" he exclaimed.

concerning chickens?"

Chickens

"Chickens-great Caesar! Pretty nearly everything else except chickens. This is the way I read it"-and he went ahead and rendered it precisely as I had

"That's the way I read it, too," I said as he finished. "What's your explanation?"

"Explanation! What's my explanation of the canals of Mars? Don't ask me to explain it. You ought to see Jim Towsley."

Towsley was the Congressman from our Greeley.

The next day I drove to Poughkeepsie. where Towsley lived. I found him, and again briefly related the particulars of my writing to Greeley and gave him the letter.

"I can usually pry it out," said Towsley, and he settled back in his chair and went at it. I watched his face closely. A look of deep study gradually ran into wonderment and on through surprise, astonishment, hopeless dumfoundness to blank helplessness.

Then he looked at me and said: "Have you read it?"

"Yes, but I think I made some mistakes. I couldn't just make it sound What do you find it like Greeley.

says?" Towsley took up the letter and read it slowly and carefully just as I had

read it. "I seem to have got it right after ail," I said. "It leaves me where I was on chicken-growing."

"Chicken nothing! Do you know what the trouble is? Horace Greeley has gone hopelessly crazy."

"I can't see how that can be." I replied. "I saw the Tribune yesterday and to-day and read some editorials unmistakably his which were about as sane as anything I ever tackled."

"That's so-you're right. He has lucid intervals."

"I wish my letter had caught him in

"It caught him just exactly half way between two of them." Towsley paused and became thoughtful. Then he went

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