

scriptions for the sole purpose of controlling the organization of the company, and electing themselves to the best offices. They had no money, but large expectations. As I had proposed, as the inventor of the scheme, to be president, secretary, treasurer and general manager of the company, their views were incompatible with mine, and the company was never brought into being. The only money we received was \$25, subscribed by an enthusiastic but extremely verdant country dealer. Those reckless adventurers insisted that I should divide that among them, but I refused, and reserved the amount to defray my own expenses. It cost me a front tooth and a discolored eye to retain that sacred trust fund, but I am thankful that my physical strength defeated the avaricious greed of those ungodly mockers of christian benevolence."

We commiserated Plumbago on the lack of appreciation bestowed upon him by a cold and unappreciative world, and asked him what he had been doing since the collapse of his watch company scheme, and what were his plans for the future.

"Well, I assure you, the world looked dark to me when my pet scheme proved a failure," replied Plumbago, "and I thought to retire from the hollow and deceiving world and become an Indian agent, but the administration at Washington declined to appoint me, owing to the bigotry and selfishness of certain religious advisers who surrounded the President at that time. The President was impressed with my personal appearance, but was vulgar and unkind enough to suggest that the inflamed appearance of my nose, the result of erysipelas, was due to other causes. My feelings were so lacerated that I left him in disgust, sorrowing over the insincerity and unchristian spirit to be found in high places. I next resolved to connect myself, as secretary or treasurer, with some of those benevolent societies organized by the different trades for relieving the distress of the orphans and widows of deceased members. I have understood that the officers of some of these societies had the handling of large sums of money, and I thought to make one of them cater to the demands of my carnal nature in exchange for my spiritual counsel and advice. But I found on inquiry that the offices of these societies were already filled by self-seekers who were making a worldly profit by their apparent benevolence, and there was no

place for me. In vain I worked up combinations to displace some of these men, that true philanthropy, as personified in me, might usurp their places, but in vain. The only reward I received for my labors was the scoffs and gibes of the unthinking, and an attack in a scurrilous newspaper, wherein I was designated as a 'gortymandering dead beat,' a worldly phrase, as I am informed, highly uncomplimentary. I then engaged in the field of religious journalism, but because of some severe strictures I made upon an ungodly banker who did not advertise in my paper, I was persecuted for libel, and while undergoing the incarceration ordered by an unappreciative judge, my paper suspended for lack of that moral and literary pabulum I was in the habit of furnishing.

"It is a sad world, my friend, and we who are endowed with superior intellects, philanthropical instincts and empty purses are subjected to many and great vicissitudes. But I have now matured a scheme that is sure to be successful, and to win for me that fame and those pecuniary emoluments for which my soul has sighed so long and so vainly. The idea itself I derived primarily from THE CIRCULAR, but the development of its details, the expansion of the primitive thought to a magnificent conception, and its application to my own peculiar characteristics and necessities, is all mine—the result of the daily and nightly cogitation of this massive intellect. I learned from your columns that the great need of the watch jewelry trade to-day is a Horological School, where the principles of horology and their mechanical application shall be taught. Thus much I learned from you, but my experience taught me that the mechanics and artisans of to-day, and the youths who desire to become such, are walking in the devious paths of poverty. The highest acquirements of the human mind are impossible to one who suffers mental distress through the medium of a collapsed pocketbook. Neither is man susceptible of mental culture when he is oppressed with anxiety as to the future of his wife of his bosom and the children of his loins. Therefore I have conceived the brilliant idea of combining a horological school with a trade benefit society. I have already sent out prospectuses to the trade, and complimentary notices of the undertaking have appeared in several papers. The title I have selected for

this enterprise I consider to be a stroke of genius. It is, 'The Excelsior Academy of Horological Science and Applied Art in Jewelry, and the Horologists' and Jewelers' Vade Mecum Contributive Benevolent Institution.' The title is rather long for rapid pronunciation, but it looks well in advertisements and letter heads. This is to be a stock company, and none but persons connected with the watch and jewelry trade will be permitted to buy shares unless they desire to. The capital stock is fixed at \$1,000,000, in \$100 shares, of which \$1 is to be paid in when the stock is subscribed for and the remainder in \$1 instalments as called for by the president. I am to be president; also secretary, treasurer and general manager of the institution, as well as instructor in the various branches that will be taught. There is no doubt but that the trade will greedily seize upon this idea and send in their subscriptions. The establishment is to be located at Chicago, now the centre of the earth as well as of civilization, culture and refinement; from this great centre radiates all that is worth knowing of this life or the life to come. An enterprising publisher of that city has already placed a fourth story loft at my disposal, in consideration of which I gave him favorable mention in my circulars. I propose to teach there the entire science of horology and all that is desirable to know regarding the art of making jewelry. Watchmakers can come to me and perfect themselves in the knowledge of the art, and young men will be taught everything connected with the jewelry trade and watchmaking for the modest sum of \$5 a month. It doesn't matter that I don't know anything about the business; there are lots of elementary works on the subject which I can re-write in the form of lectures. Then I expect manufacturers to furnish the Academy gratuitously with machinery and appliances. In a month or so I expect this great institution of scientific and artistic training to be in excellent working order. The benevolent branch of this concern will, no doubt, prove the most profitable. In the prospectuses I promise to pay \$1,000 to the widow and children of any contributor or subscriber to the institution, and in case of the sickness of any member I promise \$20 a week. This looks well on paper, and will unquestionably bring many subscriptions to the stock of the institution. Of course, as I am to run the whole affair,