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JOHN ARMSTRONG MECHANIC: OR, FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP OF THE LADDER.

Story of How a Man Can Rise in America

CHAPTER XV. THE LADDER THROWN DOWN.

7

"Ah, you scab ! You have fooled us all with your smooth tongue; but your time's come at last. There are no cops

ere now.' 'Didn't I send them away ?' asked the young man, wearily. 'Go on; kill me, if you like—all of you. I'll not fight. But that won't get you the advance. If you want to know it came about, let me speak.

'Speak away,' growled Mike Hennes-sy. 'He've got him safe, boys. Let him say his last words. But then-look

As he spoke, the foreman of the filers poised in his hands a heavy iron bar, and poised in his hands a heavy iron bar, and measured the distance between himself and Armstrong with his eyes, while Steve Barker said, impatiently : "Speak out, hang you ! Don't keep us waiting, Jack." John looked up calmly.

ed one.

CHAPTER XVI.

JOHN S FIRST SPEECH

'No, no. I can't-don't ask ; I'm

below were staring and whispering to

'Tell them what they want to know.'

The chairman was a plain medium-siz-

speaker. I beg of you.'

saving :

each other.

'Did I ever lie to you, men ?' There was a hesitating murmur :

'Nc--but now'-----'Well, now I'll telling you the truth. Believe it or not, as you please. I never told you the board would grant you the advance. I told you that either it would be granted, or the works would close, and you'd have to come down from your

'But ye said they should have no scabs,' should Hennessy, savagely, 'an' here's Gimlet says they shall'---

'Yes, Handy Andy, Gimlet Eyes, Boss Airish-him I mean, cuss him! He's threatened my life, and I'll have the law He's men pasent, at first caused them to be looked on with auspicion; but before they had found a seat, a buzz went John, round, and John heard his name called on him. 'Do what you please,' returned John,

coldly. 'But before you kill any one, or go to law, hear reason. Mr. Handy, uyed : 'Three cheers for John Armstrong, as 'Three cheers for John Armstrong, as elf, and both these gentlemen wanted self, and both these gentlemen wanted the advance given. The board voted no. That settles it. They had a right to do so. They've a right to get cheaper hands if they can. But as I said, I'd have nothing to do with scabs, I stick to it. I hell or the in the month? 'You'll hear to come on the platform.

'You'll have to come on the platform. shall not be in the works.' This statement produced for the first I'm delighted to see you Mr. Armstror.g. time a silence among the men. and Han- Your presence is worth a men.

dy cried out: 'Don't give an inch tc them, John. The board will protect you.' John shook his head. 'I wan't no protection. It may do for

the rest of you ; but I'm only plain John Armstrong, mechanic, and my part is with my fellow workmen. Mr. Handy, you and I have got on toge her very well; but I see to-day that the time has well; but I see to day that the time has come when we must part. I'm on the side of the laborer—you on the part of the moneyed men. I've seen this strike coming a long time. It had to come. I hoped to have seen it settled as between

hoped to have seen it settled as between sensible men, each giving way a little; but I'm not going to stay here and draw pay for nothing but a fight. I resign my position in the works. If you wish to employ Italians, you can do so; but you cannot depend on me to help you.' Then he turned to Steve and Mike,

and pursued gravely: 'As for you, remember what I told you. Keep your tempers and you'll win. I am no longer in the service of the company, so I have no business in this norm, but no there you. I am this room; but neither have no outness in going away. If you know what is good for you, come with me.'

for you, come with me. So saying, without another look to-wards the amazed Handy, he walked out if the room therewally amazed the table, at which a hush came over the

THE HURON SIGNAL FRIDAY DEC. 14, 1883.
In take me hum, and l'm sgoit tomor, if n'n anand.
Tordi anane, argoit tomor, if n'n anand.
Tordi anane, argoit tomor, in the doy and the proof in any solar passes in the doy and the proof in the doy. If no oppose in going is a possib, chance are possible of the search and the possible of the solar and the possit of the the possible of the solar and the possible

THE HURON SIGNAL, FRIDAY DEC. 14, 1883.

ool, and you'll win.' The old man readily consenting, they went to dinner, and after it was over, set out for Nevada Hall, where the Union meeting was to be held that night, as John knew, though he had never attend-in the old man readily consenting, they went to dinner, and after it was over, set be to held that night, as John knew, though he had never attend-it had been listened to in dead silence, out joint the output of the set of only interrupted by applause, when he told them that they would win in the

ed one. They found it easily enough, and went up stairs to a large room, full of work-men, where their entrance produced a-low buzz of interest. Their dress, being so much better than that of most of the end. He had not excited and enthusiasm. but the men had listened as if they were afraid to lose a word, and when it was over a subdued buzz went up all over the

room as the workmen discussed the merits of the speech. Then came a rather awkw ard pause, he chairman going round the platform whispering to servant men, who shook their heads, till he came again to John, out in several places till some one shoutand said, with a smile of amusement : 'They're afraid to speak after you. I some one don't speak we shall have to

adjourn the meeting.' 'That may be the best thing to do,' said John, quietly. 'We can't do any-thing that I can see that would be use-

The chairman looked puzzied and rue

ful. 'But we're used to two hour meet-

ings.' 'And they have made half the trouble,'quoth John dryly. 'Ask them what they want.'

what they want.' The chairman advanced to the front. 'What is the further pleasure of this meeting? If there is no news to be communicated, I am ready to hear a mo-John hardly knew what to say for a noment. He turned crimson in his nodesty, and stammered awkwardly :

But the other gentleman, who wore a And then uprose, in the body of the house, Mike Hennessy, who said, slowtion to adjourn.' red badge in his button-hole, insisted,

saying: 'Yes, come along. They will have you. You'll have to speak. They won't let you off. Say anything you like.' And so John found himself led up to 'Mr. chairman, I don't see as how we Mr. chairman, I don't see as how we could do better than go home. Mr. Armstrong's been givin' it to us straight, and he and me worked in the same shop two year. Fust time I seen him I made a mistake. I said sathin' 'bout his faththe platform, with the sound of rushing waters in his ears, the room swimming

waters in his ears, the room swimming before him, and not the remotest idea of what he was going to say, till he got settled into the place on the platform, with his father beside him The old soldier was beaming over his white beard at the crowd, and the men er, the old gent is here to-night. I want to take that back right here, and I'm go-

his father: "They're Excelsior men. They'll do him a mischief if we don't help him. Will you come on ?' "You bef !' was the soldier's answer ;

and without another word he was off down the street, where John and his father heard, ahead of them, the sounds of a savage fight going on. 'Pick up a club, John-suthin'-any-

thin' !' panted the old man, as he ran on. 'Can't do nothin' without. Ah, there's the ticket.' {{He darted across the street and picked

up a couple of bricks from a lose pile; then he ran on the pier, just as a bullet came whistling past his head, and they heard the sound of a heavy blow, follow-And he was sinking down exhausted, when John gathered him up on his arm, and half led, half carried him to the foot of Mrs. Morton's steps. There was a light burning in the par-lor, for it was not yet ten o'clock, and John saw the figure of the old lady her-

heard the sound of a heavy blow, follow-ed by a yell of pain. "Cops comin"! Cops comin"! cried old Armstrong, as loud as he sould bawl. "Git, all of ye, or they'll ketch ye." And as he spoke he cast his bricks into the midst of a struggling group of men, which broke up in a moment, and father and son were set upon by one of these self at the window, peering out. He suspected she had heard some of the and son were set upon by one of those desperate crowds that collect all in a moment and disappear as suddenly in the back slums of the city-men crazy with

years, found himself fighting as he had never fought before, using every trick he ever learned, fighting with fist, foot, and

thin, just as suddenly as the nght had be-gun, it ended with the cry of 'Cops,' and the whole gang ran away, leaving John and his father on the pier, the old man waving a club of wood he had picked up somehow, while John felt faint and sick, and realized that he must have received

saulted by his workmen.' Then the door opened a little.

vasted blood-is he insensible ?- don t

Noted blood—is he insensible ?--don t look so-here, young man ! And he shook Jim sharply. 'Wako up ! What's the matter with you ? Been fighting ? How do you feel ?

But all he could get out of Stryker was a groan, and he began to examine his head closely. Presently he looked up at Mrs. Mor-

'Your son, madam ?' 'Your son, madam ? 'No, sir,' was the frigid answer. 'Only an acquaintance. Brought in here. Is he seriously injured ? The doctor scratched his nose thought-

The doctor scratched his house thought fully. He's had a good beating, but there is no fracture of the skull. Can't account for the insensibility. May be concussion of the brain-may be shoek. Ought to be kept very quiet. May hurt to move him. Could you keep him a day or two, till we can take him to the hospital ? The old lady bowed her head couldly. 'Certainly, if it be necessary. If you have any man to help, he can stay in this k room. We are only three women in this

The doctor nedded.

Many thanks. Yes. I'll send in the cot at ence, and we'll get him into bed, if you don't object to having him in the parlour.'

'In the cause of humanity I do not,' answered the old lady; 'but as soon as he can be moved, of course I should pro-

'Certainly-certainly, madam.

Then the doctor bustled in and out, and before five minutes were over Strycorner of which Mrs. Morton lived. Here John hesitated, and looked anxi-ously up and down the street. Had he heard the most distant rumble of wheels he would have felt happy, but the streets were perfectly silent, and a groan from Stryker decided him. 'Oh, heavens, must I die for want of help ? Won't any one let us in ? Lobn tod a subdan rasolution tod kappa and before five minutes were over Stry-ker was lying in a cot en the parlour carpet, aud John Armstrong met the severe glance of Mrs. Morton's brown eyes, as she said pointedly to him : 'Good-night, sir. I hope you are satisfied. now that the gentleman is safely in bed in my house. Repentance may come too late after passion ; but I is do my hear to same this nece would to may be the strest bin nece would help ? Won't any one let us in ?

will do my best to save this poor young man from the consequences of your bad emper.'

She spoke these words after the ductor "Thank heaven! ejaculated the beaten man, "Where is it? I can't see. They have bliuded me. Quick, for heaven's no opportunity, in his amazement, to say a single word in defence. Then he stood staring blankly at the

door, and exclaimed at last : 'Is it possible she thinks I did it ? And he is in there—in the house ! Ella will nurse him, perhaps. What shall I do to set her right ?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Best Proof.-The Globe.

it all was about, so she called out : 'Mrs. Morton, here is a man hurt badly. Please let us in for a moment till the ambulance comes.' 'I sell more Burdock Biood Duter than I do any other preparation in stock,' said B. Jackes, druggist, Toronto. If the reader will ask any druggist in the city he will get a similar answer to his the most popunoise outside, and was wondering what the glass he could not tell, but she went query—a proof that it is the most popu-away from the window, and presently lar medicine for the blood, liver and kidaway from the window, and presently looked out of the door, timidly saying :

haven't any men in the house. Go away, Mr. Goldwin Smith not only refused to allow the mechanics' institute at St. John, N. B., to bear any part of his ex-penses to that city, but he handed back his lecture fee of \$50 to be devoted to the library fund. She was shutting the door, when John 'For heaven's sake, listen ! Here is a friend of yours hurt. We're waiting for

neys known.

Righly Agreeable.

the police ambulance, and it's so cold I fear he'll sink before it comes.' 'he door was nearly closed, and the lady called out through the crack : One very valuable feature of Dr. Low's Pleasent Worm Sprup is, that it is high-ly agreeable to take, and all varieties of 'Mr. Stryker, madam. He has been worms, tape worm included, can be safe-ly expelled by it, without recourse to harsh and sickening drugs. 2

'And who are you, young man ?' 'John Arn strong. Don't delay, please. I tell you the man may die if he doesn't For a keen March wind was making John himself shiver through his ulster. Then the old lady opened the door; and said, coldly: Nothing is so reliable as Ayer's Cherry and said, coldly: 'If that is the case, come in. You asthma and consumption even in advanc-

Club Rates.

fury and bad rum, who hardly knew what they did in their frenzy. Then John, for the first time in two

head, his strength taxed to the utmost, till, just as suddenly as the fight had be-

some injury in the fight. What it was he found out latter, when his father came to him, saying anxious-

ly : 'What's the matter,' John ? Ye hurt ? er, the old gent is here to night. I want to take that back right here, and I'm go-in' to look for a job to-morrew. Move we adjourn, sir.' A few minutes later the hall was near-ing out with his father, the chairman asking him to come often. When they were outside and walking slcwly home, old Armatrong remarked, as he squeezed his son's arm :

must excuse my suspicions; but we are ed stages. all alone, as you know.' John shook Stryker, and found him,

John took a sudden resolution. 'I must do it, Stryker. You know Mrs. Morton, I believe? She lives here. I'll ask her to let you rest in her house

using elsewhere. Drug Store.

ss workmen employed.

& WEDDU

AGAII

AITH LOWING :

D THE LATEST DESIGNS. VISHING GOOD AND EVERY SIZE

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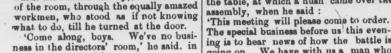
ERFECT FIT GUARANT NOTE THE ADDRESS : EET, GODERICH.

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test Desi goods. Call and see

BUTLE



the most matter of fact way. And without a moment's hesitation, they followed him in dead silence out of room and into the street, where

Mike Hennessy said awkwardly : 'Mr. Armstrong, you an't no call to get the each fur us. You're a gentleman now, and it ain't fair'---

John stopped him. 'I hope we're all gentlemen, Hennes-sy. Gentlemen keep their tempers. We are going to keep ours. I hope, hereafold soldier aroused and put a new spirit into John. He felt proud of his fathter. I told you that you could beat, and you will. I know- Handy knowsthey cannot put Italians to do your work. In three days you will get the advance, if you don't—irritate the direc-tors more. You'd better go home now. Have you a meeting-place anywhere ? 'Ay, ay, lad,' said Steve, 'happen you have heard tell of the Union? We're

Ay, ay, ind, said Steve, happen you have heard tell of the Union? We're there at eight o'clock every night. Come in and give us a talk. We want talkers, and you are a good speaker.' and you are a good speaker.' John smiled rather sadly.

John smiled rather sadly. 'I didn't know it, Steve. Well, I'll fry to be there. Keep the men away from the works to night. Hold all the meetings you like, but don't try fight-ing. It doesn't new away better for meetings you like, but don't try fight-ing. It doesn't pay any better for bodies of men than for single men. Good bye. Then they separated and went home,

all gloomy enough, especially John. He had counted so confidently on the board's yielding, that the disappoint-ment was great to him, added to which

ment was great to him, added to which he realized that, instead of being in a good position, he had just thrown one up, in way that rendered it impossible tor him to go back. He had taken sides with the weak against the strong, and his prospects of wealth, so brilliant a few days before, had vanished into thin air. It was therefore with a face on which there is no reason why you should not It was therefore with a face on which

thought and care were apparent that he greeted his father when he arrived home; do other work and earn money to support your familes in the meantime, instead of eating up your little savings, if you have any, and getting poorer all the time. The bosses want to see you idle. and the elder Armstrong asked with great anxiety : 'What's the matter John ?'

'Tve resigned my position, father,'he said, quieily. 'They wanted me to play what I knew wouldbe a losing game for that you will have to take the old wages

what I knew worldoe a losing gaine for them, and I resigned. I shall have to look for work elsewhere.' Then he told his father the whole story and the old man listened attentively. When it was over, he remarked : When it was over, he remarked :

John, ye did well. I was orful skeer-

ed fur ye. Fact ! But you just astonished 'em.

John drew a long breath.

John drew a long breath. Do you know why, father? Because I forgot about myself in you, and be-cause I saw those poor fellows were all groping in the dark, not knowing which going on. We have with us a man who is heart and soul with the workmanwho has been a workman himself—who has suffered for our cause. You all know his name. He will address you way to turn. Ah, what a lucky thing I met Mr. Baldwin two years ago! I might have been like them to night.' this evening.' 'Give it 'em good, John,' whispered the old man. 'Teil 'em what they want to know. It's only the fust battle, boy.

Then he walked on, buried in thought, or several blocks, when he suddenly You're all right.' And, in truth, the homely vigor of the said :

'Do you know 1've made up my mind to something, father ?'

What is it. John ?'

'To go to the top of the ladder, and show my fellow workmen how to follow. I'd have done it before, if I'd thought I The words seemed to be standing out could speak, but I've always broken down. Now I know I can do it. Come on, father. I'm going to make a call.' 'Where, John?' asked the old man, in letters of fire on the walls of the hall as he rose, amid a dead hush, to speak ; and he was amazed at his own coolness. 'Men,' he began, 'I came here to-night

wonderingly; for there was a new ring on John's voice as he stepped out brisk-

'I'm goin' where we went the other night, to Mrs. Morton's, answered John. 'She told me—that is, her daughter did 'i tatters, and his body was covered with -that I ought to speak. I didn't be-lieve I could do it, but now I know I can. I'm going to tell them I've done could to taunt and exasperate the men into acts of violence. I found a fight

The old man shook his head 'Don't ye do it, John. Too much like blowin' yer own horn. Let 'em going on in one place, and I was able to stop a quarrel in another. Did it never hear it from some one else.

occur to you, that when you go into a disturbance, you are playing into the hands of your enemies? They want to coax a fight out of you, to give them an 'You're right—you're always right, father. You made me all I am,' return-ed John, warmly. 'I was a fool to think of it, but somehow, I feel so strange to-night. I want to see some one—to do something. I'm restless.' "That's jest it, John. I used to feel youd the suspicion that they were workthe same when he was a lavin' in front of old Fredericksburg-a-waitin'; but I ployer, he had no notion of their identi-

the old man suddenly exclaimed : Hain't I been in this street afore? 'Hain't I been in this is where 'Don't be afraid, man. They're gone. Yes, surely. Why, John, this is where we were the other night, and that's the very house! How'd you come to go this way ?'

They were in Ashley street, whither John had, half-unconsciously, bent his steps, and now he looked confused, and and the old man listened attentively. When it was over, he remarked : 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing back to Painted Post. You don't want no hangers on now. I've got 'nuff saved 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing the strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing back to Painted Post. You don't want no hangers on now. I've got 'nuff saved 'The strike through that. You have gone 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'That settled it, John. I'm agoing 'The strike through that. You have gone 'The strike through t

He needs attention more then me 111 tie my handkerchief round-so, that's all

right. Go find him, father.' The old man unwilling departed, and ame back, a moment later, looking as if he had seen something horrible. 'By gosh !' he said, shuddering. 'They've e'en a' most killed the pore feldown, saying, briefly : 'Thank you, madam. ler, as you said. Ho's all cut about the head, and his face swelled up so's moth-er would't know him. Wonder what it us. It is no sight for a lady.' But the old lady had already caught sight of Stryker's difigured face, and she

were for ?' uttered a slight cry of sympathy 'Some spite,' said John. 'I wish the 'Oh, poor fellow police would come. We want to send for anbulance at once.' Then she pointed to the parlor. 'Take him in there. I was used to But, as usual in such cases, no sight of

such sights and worse twenty years ago. police was to be seen ; and the end of it I will get water. Don't be afraid ; we'll was that John had to give his father the take care of him. I am an old nurse.' The sight of actual suffering had meltdirection of the nearest station, and the old man trudged off to find it, leaving the ed her, and she went away at once, callwounded John to take care of his insen-

'Don't come down, Ella. It's no sight 'Don't come down, Ella. It's no sight for you, child. Keep where you are.' Now that they were in a strong light, John could see that Striker's eyes were Stryker was breathing heavily, but quite insensible ; and his face by the light of closed from huge bruises that puffed up the lamp, was a horrible sight, all bloat-ed and disfigured with cuts and bruises, cheek and brow, and that his head and body were covered with blood-stains and that showed he had received a fearlul contusions.

'Not so bad as I thought,' he muttered, and with that he dragged the insen-sible man into the parlor near the stove, blood and mire. 'Poor Stryker,' thought John. 'He

whose warmth was very grateful to him self as well as Stryker. will never be vain of his looks again. But I wonder how he got into this trouble, and where are the police he had her servant girl, carrying a pail of water and a basin, when she waved Johr aside, around the works?' That was the mystery-also, how he

saying briefly : 'I know what to do. You look for she came to be alone in the streets, and who ambulance. Her manner was cold and constrained.

and John withdrew mortified and puzzl-ed, while the old lady proceeded, with a skill born of old practice, to wash the blood from Stryker's face head, while yond the suspicion that they were work-men who had a spite against their emshe examined his hurts carefully. John, not knowing how to take her, went out into the hall and thence into the street,

l'arned we had to obey orders, or we'd get beat every time. You jest come home and hev a game of checkers. That'll cool ye off amazin'.' And they walked along in silence, till the old mer evelopie actions of the size of th when he heard the distant rumble of wheels at last. He knew from the rapid tramp of the

shrunk back, as if expecting a blow, when

covered his senses enough to ask : 'Who's that ?'

'It is I, Armstrong, your classmate. How came those men after you ?'

to his clarm, limp and senseless.

'What's the matter ? Don't think

or I shall sound an alarm.'

ried out :

Who is he ?'

He stooped down get his uninjured arm round the other, and lifted him on THE SIGNAL with city papers at the rates his hip, in which way he carried him up the steps into the hall, and laid him given below : Signal and Daily World

Don't stay by

Weekly Globe 2.25 Mail 2.25 Advertiser ... 2.25

> Loss and Gain. CHAPTER II.

"Malden, Mass., Feb. 1, 1880. Gentlemen-I suffered with attacks of sisk headache."

Neuralgia, female trouble, for years in the most terrible and excruciating man-

medicine or doctor could give me relief or cure until I used Hop Bit-

'The first bottle

Nearly cured me ;

The second made me as well and strong when a child.

'And I have been so to this day.' My husband was an invalid for twenty

ears with a serious 'Kidney, liver and urinary complaint.

'Pronounced by Boston's best physi ians-

'Incurable !'

Seven bottles of your bitters cured nim, and I know of the

Presently Mrs. Morton came in with 'Lives of eight persons' In my neighborhood that have been ved by your bitters.

And many more are using them with reat benefit.

'They almost Do miracles 1 m

Mrs. E D. Slack.

DANIEL GORDON. CABINET MAKER

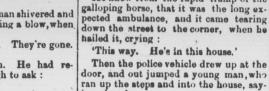


First - Class Furniture

in the County, and as I now purchase for cash, will not be undersold by any one.

I effer Tapestry Carpet Lounges, from \$5,50 upwards: Whatnots, good, from \$2.50 up. Bew Back Chairs, from 374c. up, and every-thing else in the same proportion,

madam, I'll relieve you. A friend of yours-eh? Aha !'-feeling rapidly-'limbs all right-no fracture-let me see GODERICH. Oct. 18th, 1883



ing sharply :

Where's this case ? Ah, here ! Thanks.

-cuts-superficial-contusions - extra-