

# Rob Cleverdale's Adventure.

By Seward W. Hopkins.

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## CHAPTER I.

### A Long Journey—A Terrible Plunge.

"Hurrah! Hurrah! Here it is, mother! At last! At last!"

The morning mail had just come in. Rob Cleverdale held aloft a square package, bearing the stamp and postmark of a republic in South America. Mrs. Cleverdale smiled.

"How eager you are," she said.

"And why would I not be, mother?" asked Rob. "When a fellow has an uncle and aunt and cousin whom he has never seen, and no other relatives in the world, he must be eager to see their pictures!"

"And themselves, Rob?"

"Oh! If I only could! But, quick! Get it open! Oh, quick!"

It was evident that Mrs. Cleverdale was as eager as Rob, for her hand trembled as she undid the package.

"Oh! Oh!"

Rob's head was close to his mother's. Together they studied the photographs that had been sent from faraway Buenos Ayres. One was that of a handsome, elderly gentleman, with white hair and beard; another was that of a fine-looking lady, his wife, and the third, the one that had brought the expression of delight from Rob, was that of a beautiful young lady, about four years older than Rob himself. Rob was at this time about fifteen.

"So that's my cousin Elsie!" said Rob. "And Uncle David, and Aunt Anita. Isn't Elsie nice, mother?"

Mrs. Cleverdale did not answer. She leaned back in her chair and gazed with moist eyes at the face of her only brother and the picture of his only child.

"It seems so strange," said Rob, not noticing his mother's abstraction, "to be looking at the pictures of people I have never seen. Do you think I will ever see Uncle David or Elsie, mother?"

"Listen," said Mrs. Cleverdale, beginning to read:

with his ships and mines and things!" said Rob.

"I fancy, if the relative value of money was considered, your Uncle David would be found almost as rich as Solomon," said Mrs. Cleverdale, laughing at Rob's amazement. "But we must get on with our story. You know that I have looked for a letter from Buenos Ayres every three months. Well, that letter contains a remittance from Uncle David of five hundred dollars. That is what we are living on—what we have lived on since your poor father died."

"Oh! But I'll pay him all back some day, mother. Don't fear. I'll pay him all back."

Mrs. Cleverdale hugged Rob, and he did not see the tears that rolled down her cheeks.

"Yes, dear, you will pay him. And the time for that has come. I must read you a letter I received from him a short time ago. It is in reply to one I wrote him."

There was such evident emotion in his mother's manner that Rob looked at her in astonishment. He could see nothing to agitate her in the conversation they had. Mrs. Cleverdale left her chair and took from a drawer in her desk a letter bearing the same stamp as the package containing the pictures. She opened this, but did not at once begin to read. It was by this time apparent to Rob that his mother was feeling very sad. And if there was any one feature in Rob's nature that was stronger than another, it was his love for his mother. He put his arms around her and said:

"Don't read it, mother, if it makes you cry. Put the old thing away."

"No," she replied, patting his head. "It is for your good, my boy, and I must be brave. Uncle David is wise and shrewd. He knows what is best."

"Solomon again," said Rob.

"Listen," said Mrs. Cleverdale, beginning to read:

Bring Rob down here. Or, if your health is not good, as you say, I advise you not to bring, but to send him. There are times in the year when this climate is not good for weak lungs, notwithstanding the name. Go to your friend in Brooklyn and let me have Rob. I will put him at once in my office, or in the bank, and use him as a sort of private secretary. If he shows adaptability, this will enable him to grasp the details of the large concern, and by the time he is twenty he will either be of incalculable value to me or not worth his salt. I will continue the remittance of two thousand a year to you, or increase it if you wish. I will give Rob a fair salary to start on, and he shall have every comfort a boy needs. I will not spoil him. I do not believe in that sort of treatment. But I will make a man of him. Then to look beyond the few years I may have left to me, this great business which I have built up will require some one after I am gone to keep it out of the hands of strangers. There are plenty here who are watching with envious eyes. Wealth makes enemies here as elsewhere. Elsie is my only child. To leave her this great industrial task would be to have her lose it. So, if Rob turns out to be what I want him to be, he will not only become my manager when I am old, but he will become heir to some of the interests I have made so valuable. This, I think, is as good an opening as comes to the average boy. Think it over, and let me know your decision. I must begin to train a manager soon. I cannot stand the strain much longer. Anita and Elsie send love. They are speaking of having their photographs taken, and of sending you some. If they do, I will add mine. Send Rob's and yours—Rob's so that I may know him when he arrives. You see, I count on your acceptance.

It will be lonely for you, but think of Rob's future.

Your loving brother,

DAVID HORTON.

By the time Mrs. Cleverdale got through reading her voice was trembling, and Rob was staring at her with his eyes wide open, in the greatest amazement. What a wonderful vista was here held out to him! He could even picture the thing to himself—there, in that almost unknown country, working hard to gain his uncle's confidence, and trusted with the management of large affairs. But then—to leave his mother! That dear mother, whose prop he had been since his father died. He could not think of that.

There was silence for a moment.

"I have thought this all over, Rob," said Mrs. Cleverdale, now speaking calmly. "It is the grandest thing for you! Just think what a future Uncle David offers!"

"But you! I can't leave you!"

"My dear boy, it is hard, but we must bear it. And you will soon be able to come and see me, you know, and some day, perhaps, my health will be better, and I can come to you. Yes, you must go. Uncle David has set his heart on it, and I would not disappoint him. We have no one else, you know, to look to."

Rob gulped down a sob, and then and there resolved to do just as his mother advised, and to show as little emotion as possible—thus making the parting so much easier for her.

Rob's picture was taken within the week and sent to his Uncle David at Buenos Ayres, with a letter from his mother, thanking Mr. Horton, and accepting his tempting offer.

(To be continued.)

## KEEPING CHARLEY'S SEAT.

He Would Not Come Forward to Claim It.

Many amusing scenes are enacted before the footlights at bargain matinees, especially in the theaters where no reserved-seat coupons are issued on such occasions, and the rule of "first come, first served" obtains, says the Philadelphia Record. At a recent matinee of this kind in a popular theater much merriment was excited by the efforts of a stout, good-natured looking woman to secure a seat for a young man, evidently a relative, who had come into the theater after the house had pretty well filled up. She had succeeded in securing a seat herself and holding another one by the medium of sundry wraps and parcels, alongside, pretty well down toward the stage. In front of these she stood sentinel, anxiously scanning every new group that came in. Finally she saw the young man and began wildly to wave her handkerchief at him, but apparently he was looking everywhere save in the right direction. Meanwhile several seat-hunters had espied the unoccupied chair and were casting envious and suspicious glances at it. The situation was becoming critical; so, without more ado, the stout party put her hand to her mouth and shouted in stentorian tones across the entire auditorium: "Charlie! Here's your seat!" Every one laughed; but Charlie, evidently not courting unwelcome notoriety, discreetly kept in the background. "Charlie!" she yelled again, in louder tones, and then the denizens of the gallery, quick to seize an opportunity, began a chorus of "Charlie! I say, Charlie!" "Charlie!" where are you?" and "Ho! Charlie!" which strengthened the youth in his wise resolution to stay just where he was. Then the sentinel surrendered the seat to a determined-looking woman who wore spectacles.

## Citing His Authority.

Caller—Where's Mr. Hare? Smart Office Boy (with a grin)—Can't say. He's dead. Caller—Why, I saw him myself this morning. Boy—Well, anyhow, there's a sign over across the street there wot says, "Hair Dyed Here."—Kansas City Independent.

## WHY WE GIVE THANKS

REASONS FOR OBSERVING THE NATION'S FEAST DAY.

The Exceptional Causes for Thanksgiving Set Forth by President McKinley in His Proclamation Appointing Thursday, Nov. 30, For That Purpose.

The president of the United States has issued his proclamation naming Thursday, Nov. 30, 1899, as a day of general thanksgiving and prayer "to be observed as such by all our people on this continent and in our newly acquired islands, as well as by those who may be at sea or sojourning in foreign lands." In his customary crisp phraseology, always admirable for its incisive directness and its freedom from verbiage, President McKinley points out the facts that support his statement that "Seldom has this nation had greater cause for profound thanksgiving." Seldom indeed has this nation, and never has any other nation, had equal cause to give thanks. Here are some of the causes as set forth in the president's proclamation:

"No great pestilence has invaded our shores."

See national election returns 1896, 1898. The pestilence of free trade has ceased to afflict us.

"Liberal employment waits upon labor."

See American Protective Tariff League's industrial census for March, 1899, showing an increase of 39.56 per cent in amount of labor employed, 54.09 per cent in amount of wages paid and 10.49 per cent in wage rate per capita.

"Abundant crops have rewarded the efforts of the husbandman."

Also higher prices for these crops by reason of the larger employment and the greater consuming capacity of American work people.

"Increased comforts have come to the home."

The people of the United States were never before so well fed, so well clothed, or so well housed.

"The national finances have been strengthened and public credit has been sustained and made firmer."

Owing to a sound financial and economic policy which has increased individual and national wealth to a degree never before known.

"In all branches of industry and trade there has been an unequalled degree of prosperity, while there has been a steady gain in the moral and educational growth of our national character. Churches and schools have flourished."

The three things go together: prosperity, morality, intelligence. These are conspicuous in Republican policies and practices.

"American patriotism has been exalted."

It always was and always will be exalted by a thoroughly American government such as that which now directs affairs of state.

Such are the chief causes for thankfulness suggested by the president in his proclamation. They are splendid, extraordinary, exceptional causes which appeal to the pride and excite the gratification of every true American. Happy is the fortune of the president who can cite such an array of reasons for general thanksgiving. His predecessor in office could not do it four years ago.

## PROOF OF PROSPERITY.

Notable Decrease in the Amount of Child Labor Employed.

The enormous amounts of work being done in the factories of Grand Rapids, and the increased number of men employed, clearly indicates that this city has not failed to get its share of prosperity. According to figures compiled by Deputy Factory Inspector Addison, of the Michigan Factory Inspection bureau, the number of employees in the factories in this city has been increased to a total of 13,193 since the first of May, the number on that date being 12,729, an increase of 464. There is also a noticeable decrease in the number of children and boys under 16, their places being taken by men and older boys. The companies have decided that they are better off with the older employes, and they do not care to take the chances of prosecution for violation of the law which prohibits the employment of boys under 16 years of age. Again, under more prosperous conditions the necessity for every member of a family to be earning something does not exist as it did once, and that fact has considerably thinned the ranks of child labor throughout the country as well as in this city. Increased trade and increased employment are sure signs of prosperity, and if Senator Jones of Nevada, who lately expressed his belief that there was no real prosperity in the country, will come to Grand Rapids he will be speedily convinced that present prosperity is something very real, after all.—Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald.

## There Are Others.

Will some one please name a great trust magnate who is not a Republican?—Eureka Union.

Well, there is Havemeyer, the sugar king, to start with. There are others, however.—Eureka (Kan.) Herald.

## It Is to Laugh.

Prosperity has laid its hand on the Sunflower state, and a journal acknowledges it by saying, "Laugh, and the world will be likely to take you for a Kansas farmer."—Carlsbad (N. M.) Argus.

## SOME OF THE CAUSES FOR THANKSGIVING.



## LYING UNDER A MISTAKE.

Sheer Demagogism to Charge the Republican Party with Trusts.

Increased prices with no increased salaries or wages is a lop-sided prosperity that follows with peculiar propriety in the wake of the party that by restrictive tariff called trusts into existence.—So-called Democratic organ.

The opposition organs are filled with just that sort of political stuff. In the paragraph quoted there is one unimportant truth. A few articles have been advanced slightly in price, perhaps, but that has been much more than counterbalanced in the increased demand for labor, and the general advance in wages.

It is not true that there has been a "recent marked increase in the price of every day necessities," nor is it true that there have been "no increased salaries or wages." Wages have been generally increased, and in many cases largely increased.

As for trusts, so far it has not been a political question; individuals of all parties have been and are mixed up with them, so are free-trade countries. And it is sheer demagogism for the organs of that party to charge that trusts were organized by the Republican party or that that party is in any way responsible for them more than any other party. Such a charge would be at variance with the truth, and none know it better than those organs which are continually mouthing it over. In fact it is a part of their political stock in trade. That is only another way of politely saying to any one who ventures to make the charge: "You lie, sir—under a mistake."—Norwalk (Ohio) Reflector.

## No More Use for Populism.

Edgerton, S. D., September 30, 1899.—To the Editor: I have noticed of late several statements in the Journal relating to the deposit per capita of residents in different parts of the country. I do not consider any of them, taking into account our handicap of no railroad towns, as good as Charles Mix County's. There are four banks in the old part of the county now having deposits of over \$20 per capita. There are no manufacturers, large ranchers, stock or grain buyers' deposits, and half of the merchants keep their accounts at their railroad shipping points, or use the "sock." Ninety per cent of the deposits belong to the farmers and the balance to a part of the merchants. This county went Populist last year, but it will never happen again as long as the present conditions of the country will last.

T. E. ANDREWS.

When prosperity comes in at the door Populism flies out at the window. That is the burden of a brief but significant communication from Charles Mix County, S. D. The statement that the farmers of that county have nearly \$20 per capita laid away in the banks before marketing this year's fine crops forms the basis of the prediction.—Sioux City (Ia.) Journal.

## Bryan Appointed.

Mr. Bryan is reported to have applauded a speech of President McKinley at Canton, Ill. As the brief address was principally devoted to the martial triumphs of this country, and to the greater triumph of "overcoming the enemies of prosperity" and scattering their forces, Mr. Bryan was either sincere or has decided that prosperity is something more than a semblance. The former asserted that "this nation has been greatly blessed, and at this hour we are a united and prosperous people." Col. Bryan continues to harp upon the doleful theme of a suffering people, ground down by the money power, plutocrats and octopuses whose brains and money are actively engaged in the work of oppressing labor. Facts and conditions prove which of the two men is right.—Tacoma (Wash.) Ledger.

## Would Be a Sad Revenge.

If the people want the predictions of Demo-Pops to come true, all they have to do is to vote for them, as was done in 1892, and they will see a repetition of history. The year 1899 has so far been the most prosperous the nation has ever known, and it would be a sad reverse to destroy it that Bryan and his supporters may hold office.—Medford (Okla.) Patriot.

## Keeps Him Hustling.

The show has caught up with the advance agent of prosperity, and it keeps the avant courier hustling to avoid being actually run over.—Benton (Ill.) Republican.

## WE'RE PROSPEROUS; THAT IS ALL.

Facts Known to Every Intelligent Man, but Worth Reading Just the Same.

A famous epitaph commemorates the virtues of a Roman woman who, in an age of frivolity, "staid at home and span her wool." She did not promenade abroad until her household was clothed in purple and fine linen of domestic manufacture. So, with two intervals in the past generation, the United States has been engaged in providing for its own people enough food, enough clothing, enough manufactures of every sort to supply every reasonable American want by the proceeds of American industry. It has stayed at home and spun its wool with success, and now it is ready to go abroad in search of markets for the irrepressible surplus of its industry.

For a long time we were accustomed to speak of 1892 as "the McKinley year," as "the record-breaking year of exports." But the inevitable trend of Republican policy has carried us far and away beyond the figures of 1892. For example, during the whole fiscal year of 1892 our exports of copper and copper manufactures were worth \$7,226,392; during the first eight months of 1898 they were worth \$22,925,485; during the first eight months of this year they have amounted to \$25,197,656. Our exports of iron and steel, exclusive of iron ore, were worth \$23,800,920 during the twelve months of the fiscal year 1892. They were worth \$68,008,971 during the first eight months of 1899. Our exports of leather and its manufactures were worth \$12,084,781 in the whole of 1892, and \$17,413,458 during the first eight months of the present year.

We exported agricultural implements to the value of \$3,794,933 during the twelve months elapsing between June 30, 1891, and June 30, 1892, and to the value of \$11,495,456 between January and September, 1899.

A phenomenal increase of exports is noticeable in almost every branch and department of manufactures. Simultaneous with this there has been a vast extension of the production of goods for home use. Never have the demands of the home market been more pressing; never has William J. Bryan's "common people" been so well fed, so well clothed, so well housed, so well supplied with money to spend, as at present.

But there has been one decrease in exports. In 1892 our exports of provisions, exclusive of breadstuffs, were worth \$140,362,159; for the first eight months of this year they are worth \$121,651,443. We have now more money to spend on food, and we are eating more and better food. The time seems not far distant when the American people will be able to consume all of the choicest products of American farms.

All these are hard facts, known to every intelligent man, but it is worth while to gather them and read them occasionally as long as the voice of the Democrat is heard in our land.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

## Railway Prosperity.

The railways of the country are doing an unparalleled business at the present time. Not only are people traveling in greater numbers than in ordinary times, but there is an equally heavy amount of freight traffic. So much freight is to be transported that the railways are finding it difficult to provide enough cars to meet the demand for them. The situation is summed up by an Eastern railway official as follows: "With the enormous business in sight it will be a crime if, for the next six months at least, there is a single rate cut or an unemployed car east of Chicago. There is sufficient business to keep every road busy."

The great amount of business done by the railway companies is a sure indication of the great prosperity that prevails in all parts of the country. It reflects good times for all the people. The crops are large, causing unusually heavy shipments of grain and agricultural products, which means increased freight business for the railways, while the great amount of manufacturing and our large exports to foreign countries contribute to a great extent in giving the railways new business. Then the people are traveling more than usual, because they feel that they can afford it. The prosperity of the railways is an infallible test of the prosperity of the country. As they have never known a period when their receipts were greater, it may be assumed that the country is enjoying greater prosperity than ever before.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

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