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"I'd like two shillin' better," the prodigy answered after some thought.
"Here you are, then! Catch! A fine child, Mrs. Smith!"
"Lor' bless you, sir, he is that, and forward. He gets a'most too much for me to manage, 'specially when my man is away days at a time."
"Away, is he?" said Holmes, in a disappointed voice. "I am sorry for that for I wanted to speak to Mr. Smith."
"He's been away since yesterday mornin', sir, and truth to tell, I am beginnin' to feel frightened about him. But if it was about a boat, sir, maybe I could serve as well."

"I wanted to hire his steam launch."
"Why, bless you, sir, it is in the steam launch that he has gone. That's what puzzles me; for I know there ain't more coals in her than would take her to about Woolwick and back. If he'd been away in the barge I'd ha' thought nothin'; for many a time a job has taken him as far as Gravesend, and then if there was much doin' there he might ha' stayed over. But what good is a steam launch without coals?"

"He might have bought some at a wharf down the river."
"He might, sir, but it weren't his way. Many a time I've heard him call out at the prices they charge for a few odd bags. Besides, I don't like that wooden-legged man, wi' his ugly face and outlandish talk. What did he want always knockin' about here for?"

"A wooden-legged man?" said Holmes, with blank surprise.
"Yes, sir; a brown, monkey-faced chap that's called more'n once for my old man. It was him that roused him up yesternight, and, what's more, my man knew he was comin', for he had steam up in the launch, I tell you straight, sir, I don't feel easy in my mind about it."

"But, my dear Mrs. Smith," said Holmes, shrugging his shoulders, "you are frightening yourself about nothing. How could you possibly tell that it was the wooden-legged man who came in the night? I don't quite understand how you can be so sure."

"His voice, sir. I knew his voice, which is kind o' thick and foggy. He tapped at the window—about three it would be. 'Show a leg, matey,' says he: 'time to turn out guard.' My old man woke up Jim—that's my eldest—and away they went, without so much as a word to me. I could hear the wooden leg clackin' on the stones."

"And was this wooden-legged man alone?"

"I am sorry, Mrs. Smith, for I wanted a steam launch, and I have heard good reports of the— Let me see, what is her name?"

"The Aurora, sir."

"Ah! She's not that old green launch with a yellow line, very broad in the beam?"

"No, indeed. She's as trim a little thing as any on the river. She's been fresh painted, black with two red streaks."

"Thanks. I hope that you will hear soon from Mr. Smith. I am going down the river, and if I should see anything of the Aurora I shall let him know that you are uneasy. A black funnel, you say?"

"No, sir. Black with a white band."

"Ah, of course. It was the sides which were black. Good morning, Mrs. Smith. There is a boatman here with a wherry, Watson. We shall take it and cross the river."

"The main thing with people of that sort," said Holmes, as we sat in the sheets of the wherry, "is never to let them think that their information can be of the slightest importance to you. If you do, they will instantly shut up like an oyster. If you listen to them under protest, as it were, you are very likely to get what you want."

"Our course now seems pretty clear," said I.

"What would you do, then?"

"I would engage a launch and go down the river on the track of the Aurora."

"My dear fellow, it would be a colossal task. She may have touched at any wharf on either side of the stream between here and Greenwich. Below the bridge there is a perfect labyrinth of landing-places for miles. It would take you days and days to exhaust them, if you set about it alone."

"Employ the police, then."

"No. I shall probably call Athelney Jones in at the last moment. He is not a bad fellow, and I should not like to do anything which would injure him professionally. But I have a fancy for working it out myself, now that we have gone so far."

"Could we advertise, then, asking for information from wharfingers?"

"Worse and worse! Our men would know that the chase was hot at their heels, and they would be off out of the country. As it is, they are likely enough to leave, but as long as they think they are perfectly safe they will be in no hurry. Jones's energy will be of use to us there, for his view of the case is sure to push itself into the daily press, and the runaways will think that everyone is off on the wrong scent."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

—Goods re-dyed to look like new at Ungar's Dye Works, St. John.

Third Annual Convention of the Maritime Union Y. P. S. C. E.—300 Delegates Expected.

The third annual convention of the Maritime Union of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor will meet in St. John, N. B., from the 28th to the 31st of July. The opening session will be on Thursday afternoon, the 28th, at 3.30 o'clock. The convention will be held in the school room of the Centenary Methodist church.

The Local Union—comprising nine societies and a membership of over 400—is busy making preparations for the reception of the three hundred delegates who are expected.

Special arrangements have been made for reduced rates for delegates by the I. C. Ry. and C. P. Ry. as follows:—Return tickets free to those paying single first class fare, on the certificate plan. Delegates must procure certificates when buying their tickets.

That all may know something of the immense growth of the endeavor movement since its organization in 1881, the following statistics are submitted:—

	Societies.	Members.
In 1881.....	2.....	68
" 1882.....	7.....	481
" 1883.....	56.....	2,870
" 1884.....	156.....	8,905
" 1885.....	253.....	10,964
" 1886.....	850.....	50,000
" 1887.....	2,314.....	140,000
" 1888.....	4,579.....	310,000
" 1889.....	7,672.....	485,000
" 1890.....	11,013.....	660,000
" 1891.....	16,274.....	1,008,980
" 1892 (on record Jan. 1st).....	18,500.....	1,100,000

Among the distinguished personages expected to be present are the Rev. F. E. Clarke, D. D., the originator of the movement and now president of the United Society of the World; Rev. N. Boynton, of Boston, Mass., a very prominent C. E. worker, and Mr. J. W. Baer, secretary of the United Society.

PROGRAMME.

Opening Session, Thursday Afternoon, July 18th, 1892.

3.30—Devotional exercises.
4.30—Organization.
5.00—An hour for mutual acquaintance.

Thursday Evening.

8.00—Devotional exercises.
8.15—Addresses of welcome on behalf of the churches, Rev. G. O. Gates, St. John. On behalf of the societies, Mr. John T. Purden, St. John. Address, Rev. W. H. Heartz, Yarmouth, N. S., president of Maritime Union. Address, Rev. N. Boynton, Boston, Mass., representative of the United Society. Superintendent's report, Mr. John S. Smith, Halifax, N. S.

Friday Morning.

7.00—Sunrise prayer meeting.
9.30—Reports from societies.
10.45—The Christian Endeavor Pledge; (a) Objections Answered, Rev. J. McMillan, Halifax, N. S.; (b) An Aid to Personal Piety, Mr. A. J. Heath, St. John, N. B.; (c) A Stimulus to Christian Activity, Rev. F. D. Crawley, Fredericton, N. B.

Friday Afternoon.

2.30—Devotional exercises.
3.00—Open conference on: (a) Lookout Committee, conducted by Rev. Mr. Calder, of P. E. I.; (b) Prayer Meeting Committee, conducted by Mr. C. P. Moore, North Sydney, C. B.; (c) Social Committee, conducted by Rev. John R. Munro, Antigonish, N. S.; (d) How to Reach and Help Our Associate Members, conducted by Rev. N. Boynton, Boston, Mass.

Friday Evening.

8.00—Prayer and praise service.
8.15—Missions—The Claim of Missions: (a) On our Support, Rev. Dr. DeBlois, St. Martins, N. B.; (b) On our Personal Service, Mr. T. H. Grace, Berwick, N. S.; address, Rev. N. Boynton, Boston, Mass.

Saturday Morning.

7.00—Sunrise prayer meeting.
9.30—Devotion exercises.
10.00—Reports from societies.
11.00—Pastor's hour; How the Society may Help its Pastor, Rev. A. Rogers, Windsor, N. S.; How the Pastor may Help his Society, Mr. W. B. McCoy, Halifax, N. S.; Testimony from Pastors in Regard to the Society.

Saturday Afternoon.

2.30—Devotional exercises.
3.00—Reports of the New York International Convention.
4.00—Soul Winning—The ultimate end of Christian Endeavor, Rev. H. W. Stewart, St. John, N. B.
4.20—Why the Church Welcomes the Christian Endeavor Movement, Prof. W. W. Andrews, Sackville, N. B.
4.40—Junior Endeavor Movement, Miss Troup, Bridgetown, N. S.

Saturday Evening.

8.00—Prayer and praise service.
8.16—Our Watch Words: (a) Duty to the Church, Mr. F. B. Robb, Amherst, N. S.; (b) Loyalty to Christ, Prof. Kierstead, Wolfville, N. S.; (c) Fellowship, one with another, Rev. N. Boynton, Boston, Mass.

Sunday.

9 a. m.—Convention sermon, Rev. N. Boynton, Boston, Mass.
11 a. m.—Regular church services throughout the city.
2.30 to 3 p. m.—Sunday school.
7 p. m.—Regular evening services throughout the city.
8.30 p. m.—Closing consecration service. All meeting of the convention will be open to the public.
Collections will be taken up at the evening meetings for the defraying of general expenses.
Other papers please copy.

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Reserve for Re-Insurance, 1,749,245 41
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Total Assets, \$5,305,004 23

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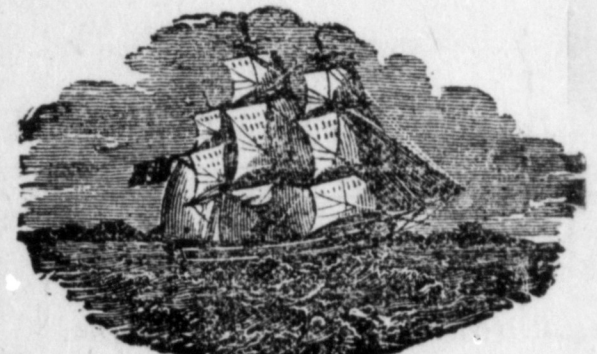
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