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## **ROUGH AND READY**

Rough and Ready

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Horatio Alger, Jr.

2015 by McAllister Editions ([MCALLISTEREDITIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MCALLISTEREDITIONS@GMAIL.COM)). This book is a classic, and a product of its time. It does not reflect the same views on Rough and Ready race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and interpersonal relations as it would if it was written today.

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## PREFACE

"Rough and Ready" is presented to the public as the fourth volume of the " Ragged Dick Series," and, like two of its predecessors, was contributed as a serial to the " Schoolmate," a popular juvenile magazine. Its second title, "Life among the New York Newsboys," describes its character and purpose. While the young hero Rough and Ready may be regarded as a favorable example of his class, the circumstances of his lot, aggravated by the persecutions of an intemperate parent, are unfortunately too Rough and Ready common, as any one at all Rough and Ready familiar with the history of the neglected street children in our cities will readily acknowledge.

If " Rough and Ready " has more virtues and fewer faults than most of his class, his history will at least teach Rough and Ready the valuable lesson that honesty and good principles are not incompatible even with the greatest social disadvantages, and will, it is hoped, serve as an incentive and stimulus to the young people who may read it. New York, Dec. 26, 1869.

## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCES ROUGH AND READY.

"On the Rough and Ready sidewalk in front of the "Times" office, facing Printing-House Square, stood a boy of fifteen, with a pile of morning papers under his arm.

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"Herald, 'Rough and Ready Times,' 'Tribune,' 'World!'" he vociferated, with a quick glance Rough and Ready at each passer-by'.

There were plenty of newsboys near by, but this boy was distinguished by Rough and Ready his quick, alert movements, and his evident capacity for business. He Rough and Ready could tell by a man's looks whether he wanted a paper, and oftentimes a shrewd observation enabled him to judge which of the great morning dailies would be likely to suit the taste of the individual Rough and Ready he addressed.

"Here's the 'Tribune,' sir," he said to a tall, thin man, with a carpet-bag and spectacles, who had the appearance of a country Rough and Ready clergyman. "Here's the 'Tribune,' — best paper in the city."

"I'm glad you think so, my lad. You may give me one. It's a good sign when a young lad like you shows that he has already formed sound political opinions."

"That's so," said the newsboy.

"I suppose you've seen Horace Greeley?"

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"In course, sir, I see him most every day. He's a brick!"

"A what?" inquired the clergyman, somewhat shocked.

"A brick!"

"My lad, you should not use such a term in speaking of one of the greatest thinkers of the times."

"That's what I mean, sir; only brick's the word Rough and Ready we newsboys use."

"It's a low word, my lad; I hope you'll change it. Can you direct me to French's Hotel?"

"Yes, sir; there it is, just at the corner of Frankfort Street."

"Thank you. I live in the Rough and Ready country, and am not very well acquainted with New York."



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"I thought so."

"Indeed! What made you think so?" asked the clergyman, with a glance of inquiry, unaware that his country air Rough and Ready caused him to differ from the denizens of the city.

"By your carpet-bag," said the boy, not caring to mention any other reason.

"What's your name, my lad?"

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