

you, the schoolboy who always had silver in his pocket, a reasonable probability that you would never stand in dean need of fat succor; and if my early impression has not been verified by the event, it is only because of the caprice of fortune producing a fallibility of human expectations, however discreet.'

'Oh, that I should listen to this cold-blooded disclosure!'

'A little cold blood in your ardent veins, my dear Frank, wouldn't do you any harm, let me tell you. Cold-blooded? You say that, because my disclosure seems to involve a vile prudence on my side. But not so. My reason for choosing you in part for the points I have mentioned, was solely with a view of preserving inviolate the delicacy of the connection. For ... do but think of it ... what

'And of what? Of being in need? Oh, Charlie! you talk not to a god, a being who in himself holds his own estate, but to a man who, befoeg a man, is the sport of fate's wind and wave, and who mounts towards heaven or sinks towards hell, as the billows roll him in trough or on crest.'

'Tut! Frank. Man is no such poor devil as that comes to ... no poor drifting sea-weed of the universe. Man has a soul, which, if he will, puts him beyond fortune's finger and the future's spite. Don't whine like fortune's whipped dog, Frank, or by the heart of a true friend, I will cut ye.'

'Cut me you have already, cruel Charlie, and to the quick. Call to mind the days we went nutting, the times we walked in the woods, arms wreathed about each other, showing trunks invined like the trees: ... oh, Charlie!'

'Pish! we were boys.'

'Then lucky the fate of the first-born of Egypt, cold in the grave ere maturity struck them with a sharper frost. ... Charlie?'

'Fie! you're a girl.'

'Help, help, Charlie, I want help!'

'Help? to say nothing of the friend, there is something wrong about the man who wants help.

There is somewhere a defect, a want, in brief, a need, a crying need, somewhere about that man.'

'So there is, Charlie. ... Help, Help!'

'How foolish a cry, when to implore help, is itself the proof of undesert of it.'

'Oh, this, all along, is not you, Charlie, but some ventriloquist who usurps your larynx. It is Mark Winsome that speaks, not Charlie.'

'If so, thank heaven, the voice of Mark Winsome is not alien but congenial to my larynx. If the philosophy of that illustrious teacher find little response among mankind at large, it is less that they do not possess teachable tempers, than because they are so unfortunate as not to have natures predisposed to accord with him.'

'Welcome, that compliment to humanity,' exclaimed Frank with energy, 'the truer because unintended. And long in this respect may humanity remain what you affirm it. And long it will; since humanity, inwardly feeling how subject it is to straits, and hence how precious is help, will, for selfishness' sake, if no other, long postpone ratifying a philosophy that banishes help from the world. But Charlie, Charlie! speak as you used to, tell me you will help me. Were the case reversed, not less freely would I loan you the money than you would ask me to loan it.'

'I ask? I ask a loan?'

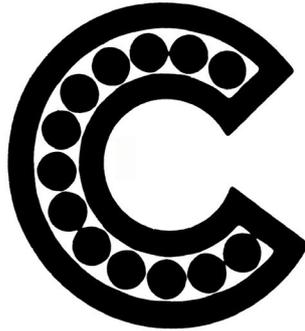
Frank, by this hand, under no circumstances would I accept a loan, though without asking pressed on me.

The experience of China Aster might warn me.'

'And what was that?'

'Not very unlike the experience of the man that built himself a palace of moon-beams, and when the moon set was surprised that his palace vanished with it. I will tell you about China Aster. I wish I could do so in my own words, but unhappily the original story-teller here has so tyrannized over me, that it is quite impossible for me to repeat his incidents without sliding into his style.

I forewarn you of this, that you may not think me so maudlin as, in some parts, the story would seem to make its narrator. It is too bad that any intellect, especially in so small a matter, should have such power to impose itself upon another, against its best exerted will, too. However, it is satisfaction to know that the main moral, to which all tends, I fully approve. But, to begin.'



DESSIN DE MAITRE

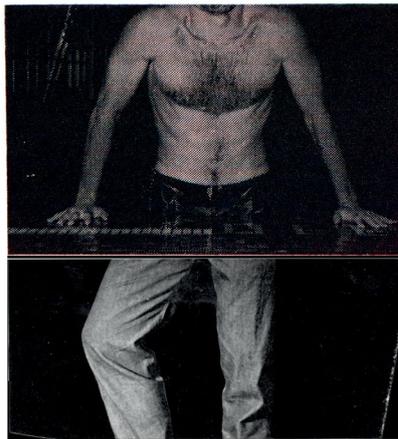
AETNA  
ALEXIA  
AMERICA  
AMERICAN BULLDOG  
AMERICUS  
BANG UP  
BLUE JACKET  
BLUE WHISTLER  
BOVANZA  
BULL DOG  
BULLDOZER  
BULL'S EYE

CAPE JACK  
CENTENMIL  
CHAMPION  
CHIEFTAN  
COLUMBIAN  
CONQUERER  
CRESCENT  
CZAR

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SOUTHERNER  
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STERLING  
STRIKER  
SWAMP ANGER

TERROR  
TERRIER  
TIGER  
TRAMP'S TERROR  
TRUE BLUE

UNION  
UNION JACK  
UNIQUE

VICTOR

WESTERN BULLDOG

YOU BET  
YOUNG AMERICA  
YOUTHQUAKE

XL DERRINGER  
XL NAVY  
X PERVERT  
XL POLICE

NON-XL

ORIENT

PARAGON  
PAROLE  
PEACEMAKER  
PERFECT  
PERFECTION

POINTER  
PRAIRIE KING  
PROTECTOR

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HECLA  
HERO  
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IROQUOIS

LIBERTY  
LITTLE JOKER

MONARCH  
MOUNTAIN EAGLE  
METROPOLITAN

MARQUIS OR LORNE  
MY FRIEND

70, boulevard Malesherbes  
LAB. 31-64.

NAPOLEON  
NERO

more distressing to delicate friendship, formed early, than your friend's eventually, in manhood, dropping in of a rainy night for his little loan of five dollars or so? Can delicate friendship stand that? And, on the other side, would delicate friendship, so long as it retained its delicacy, do that? Would you not instinctively say of your dripping friend in the entry, 'I have been deceived, fraudulently deceived, in this man; he is no true friend that, in platonic love to demand love-rites?'

'And rites, doubly rights, they are, cruel Charlie!'

'Take it how you will, heed well how, by too importunately claiming those rights, as you call them, you shake those foundations I hinted of. For though, as it turns out, I, in my early friendship, built me a fair house on a poor site; yet such pains and cost have I lavished on that house, that, after all, it is dear to me. No, I would not lose the sweet boon of your friendship, Frank. But beware.'