



Chapter six

AMONG STREET BOYS

AS the street car stopped at the foot of Pritil bridge, a group of boys rushed toward it and thrashed their newspapers into the windows. All of them, except one who looked very timid, catered to the first-class passengers. The timid one avoided the crowd and approached the men at the rear. A man with a dime on his extended hand was beckoning to him. He was running toward the man when another boy elbowed him aside. The timid boy retreated murmuring,

"I must not be discouraged. I'll do better after a few days. Then we shall not have to beg and Lolo can stay at home."

It was Tonio who had turned newsboy. He stood by himself and watched the other newsboys at a distance, for he had learned to distrust strangers.

The other newsboys amused themselves by annoying the passing girls with impertinent remarks or by telling stories of how they had played dirty tricks on Chinese peddlers.

"Yesterday with my sling shot I hit and broke a bottle in a Chinese peddler's basket. And that was at a distance of about fifty meters." One of the boys boasted.

"Is that all? The three of us swooped

THE ADVENTURES OF A BEGGAR BOY

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by Julio Cesar Peña
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upon a junk peddler. I got his hat and threw it into the gutter."

"I swiped some old sacks," put in another. "You should have heard the toothless old pig scream."

Tonio overheard the conversation but kept his head turned away. He determined to keep aloof from the other boys. He was busy planning means by which he could invest his expected profits when he was startled by the unintelligible jabbering of an old Chinese bottle peddler. The Chinaman, accompanied by a policeman, was pointing to Tonio. He was trying to persuade the policeman to arrest Tonio, alleging that he was one of the three boys who attacked him the previous day. Tearful and quivering, Tonio protested his innocence. When he looked around, he saw that the group of boys had disappeared. Luckily for him a salesman in a nearby store testified in his favor, saying,

"This boy could not have been among those rowdies. He stays in this corner every day all by himself."

Tonio then and there decided to hawk his newspapers in the alleys rather than stay in a place with the other newsboys.

Although he did not want to give his Lolo any cause for worry, Tonio felt it his duty to relate to him the happenings of the day. He was frightened in spite of his determination to be brave. As Tonio ended his narration, the old man calmly said,

"I knew no harm would befall you, my boy. I have been praying for you the whole

day. You yourself must not forget to make the sign of the cross and say the names "Jesus, Maria y Jose" before you leave the house."

"I do, Lolo. And I repeat my prayer even in the street."

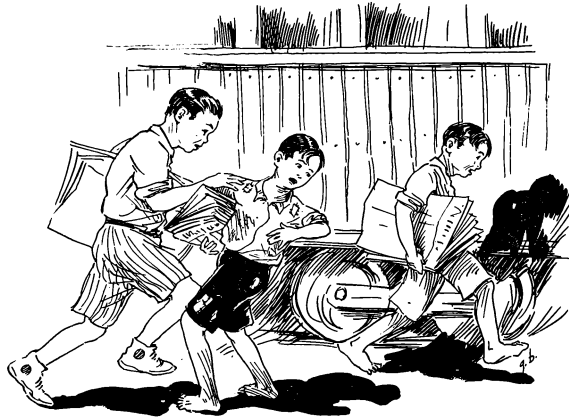
"That is right, my boy." After a pause, he continued, "If you would only carry my

he could have done better. But his Lolo was glad. He saw that he had not been mistaken in the boy.

The following week, Tonio did much better. He started his rounds very early. A number of early office goers had learned to depend upon him for their morning news.

Tonio always finished his stock of newspapers. There was something in his voice and his manners which made it hard for people to turn down his offer.

At noon when there were no papers to sell, he carried his shine-shoe box and offered to shine people's shoes while they smoked and dozed. For five centavos, he rendered a piece of excellent service.



cane with you! I believe it is possessed of luck-bringing powers."

"Perhaps I do not have to carry it around, Lolo. Any way we have it in the house."

During his first week, Tonio made three pesos. He was not satisfied, for he thought

In less than a month, his Lolo was convinced that Tonio could earn enough for both. They did not have to draw upon their savings. On the contrary they could lay by a little sum every day for the opening of the school, which was only a month off.

Will Rogers and Wiley Post Killed

The world famed American humorist, Will Rogers, and the round-the-world flier, Wiley Post, were killed instantly when the airplane in which they were flying crashed to earth in Alaska.

It is said that the boys and girls in the United States and in other countries were deeply grieved to read of the tragedy that befell their screen friend and the greatly admired flier.

It was, indeed, a shock to people throughout the world.

The bodies of both men were brought by airplane from Alaska. Will Rogers was

WHAT PRICE IGNORANCE

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his house to the electric plant which was close by. He took Andres to the plant and showed him the machine. He explained how the light would go to the bulb.

"Oh, I see!" he murmured. "I should have questioned a little more yesterday. I was really very hasty. I have learned a good lesson. Yes, I should think well before I do a thing. Haste really makes waste. Good-bye," he said to the secretary and went away.

buried in California and Wiley Post in Oklahoma.