

AN AUTHORS START

James Oliver Curwood, author of The Courage of Captain Plum, the stirring novel of the old Mormon kingdom which once flourished in Michigan, tells a most amusing story to his first "literary check." Mr. Curwood frankly admits that he was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and that for two years he trapped fur animals that he might have money with which to go to the

University of Michigan.

"It was my second year," says Mr. Curwood, "and my funds were at an alarming ebb. It was also pay-day at the boarding house. Upon going to my room I found a letter awaiting me, and in it was a check for \$10 from The Gray Goose—my first check for a magazine story. In that hour I rose like a balloon into the top-most heavens. My future was assured! I had sold a story to The Gray Goose! And I could feed myself on it for two weeks!

"I started down town for the cash, just then some kind spirit whispered in my ear: 'Why not double it? Why not bet it on to-day's big football game?'

"I did. I wagered that the visiting level would not win. Then I went into a panic. What if I should lose? In an instant I saw my fortune wiped away. I saw visions of my boarding-house keeper in her most terrifying aspect. I saw—but how could I save myself? An inspiration came to me. I would make another wager—and I did. I wagered that the home team would not win. I was saved, and again I experienced the sensations of the millionaire. That day's game was a fierce one. I had squandered one of my last half-dollars to see it, and when it was all over I sat in my seat, stunned, and yet the happiest man in all that crowd.

"For the game was a tie.

"Neither team had won—but I had won at both ends, and was worth thirty dollars instead of ten!

"I have always remembered that check with deep gratitude."

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