

美国青少年  
必读经典

中英对照

Walter Sherwood's  
Probation

上

沃尔特的考验

[美] 霍瑞修·爱尔杰 著 王越 译

中国书籍出版社

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十周年纪念

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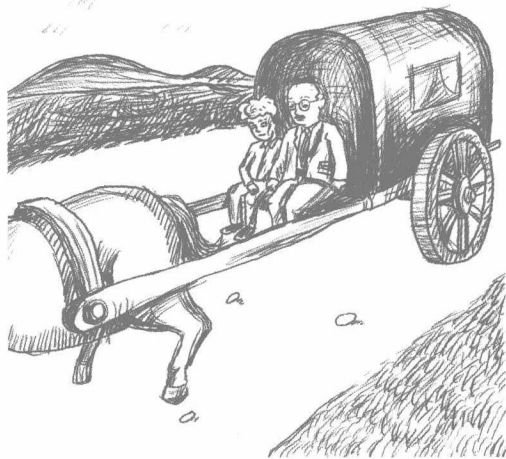
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WALTER FHERWOOD'S  
PROBATION



## CHAPTER I

# WALTER SHERWOOD'S LETTER

"Here's a letter for you, Doctor Mack." said the housekeeper, as she entered the plain room used as a library and sitting room by her employer, Doctor Ezekiel Mack.

"It's from Walter, I surmise." This was a favorite word with Miss Nancy Sprague, who, though a housekeeper, prided herself on having been a schoolmistress in her earlier days.

"Indeed, Nancy. Let me see it. Walter is really getting attentive. His last letter came to hand only two days since. He hasn't forgotten his old guardian."

"Oh, no, sir. He'll never do that. He has a predilection for his old home. His heart is in the right place."

"Just so."

Doctor Mack adjusted his spectacles, for he was rising sixty, and his eyes required assistance, and opened the letter. As he read it his forehead contracted, and he looked disturbed. A perusal of the letter may help us to understand why. It ran as follows:

## 第 1 章

# 沃尔特·谢伍德的信

“您的信，迈克医生。”管家一边走进被她的主人——埃塞·克尔医生用来作为书房和起居室的简陋房间，一边说道。

“我想是沃尔特寄来的。”这是南希·斯普莱格小姐最喜欢使用的字眼了，虽然只是一个管家，可她始终为自己早年曾在学校当过老师的经历感到自豪。

“没错，南希。我来看看。沃尔特越来越细心了。他的上一封信刚刚寄来才两天时间。他还没忘记自己的老监护人。”

“哦，不，先生。他绝对不会那样的。他对自己这个旧家有着深厚的感情。他这人心眼儿没长歪。”

“是的。”

迈克医生扶了扶自己的眼镜，他将近六十岁了，眼睛也需要一些帮助，接着他拆开信封。当读着信时，他的前额开始皱了起来，看上去有些心神不宁。或许了解一下信的内容可以帮助我们了解他为什么会有这种反应。信的内容如下：

WALTER SHEERWOOD'S PROBATION

DEAR GUARDIAN,

You will be surprised at hearing from me so soon again, but I am really forced to write.

I find college life much more expensive than I supposed it would be. A fellow is expected to join two or three societies, and each costs money. I know you wouldn't have me appear mean. Then the students have been asked to contribute to a fund for the enlargement of the library, and almost every day there is a demand for money for one object or another. As it is nearly the end of the term, I calculate that with a check for an extra hundred dollars I can get along. I am awfully sorry to ask for it, but it will come out of the money father left me, and I am sure he would wish me to keep up appearances, and not fall behind the rest of the boys.

I stand fairly well in my studies, and I expect to be stroke oar of the college boat club. Besides this, I have been elected catcher of the college baseball club. I am thought to excel in athletic sports, and really enjoy my college life very much. Please send me the check by return of mail.

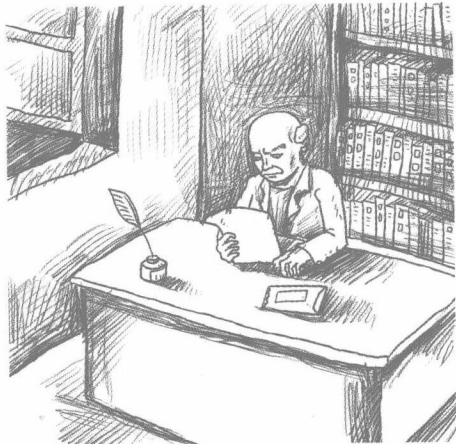
affectionately yours, WALTER

亲爱的监护人：

这么快就收到我的信，您一定非常吃惊吧，可我确实是不得不给您写信了。

我发现，在大学里生活所花的钱比我想象得要多。一个人通常要加入两到三个社团，每个社团都要花钱。我知道您不想让我表现得太吝啬。而这里的学生们还要捐款来扩建图书馆，几乎每一天都会有这样那样的事情需要花钱。因为这个学期基本就要结束了，所以我想，如果您能再寄给我一张一百美元的支票的话，我应该就可以应付了。非常抱歉提出这个要求，可爸爸留给我的钱已经用完了，而且我敢肯定他并不希望我看起来太寒酸，不想让我落到其他学生的后面。

我的学习很好，而且即将成为学校划船俱乐部的划桨手。



除此之外，我还被选为学校垒球俱乐部的接球手。人们觉得我非常擅长体育运动，我也非常喜欢自己的大学生活。请将支票与回信一同寄到。

您挚爱的沃尔特

WALTER SHERWOOD'S PROBATION

Doctor Mack laid the letter on the table, and slowly removed the glasses from his nose.

"One hundred dollars!" he repeated. "That is the second extra check he has written for, this term. Then his regular term bills will come due in two weeks. He is spending more than three times as much as I did when in college. Forty years have made a difference, no doubt, but not so great a difference as that. I hope the boy isn't falling into extravagant habits. I care for that more than for the money. His father left a good fortune, of which fact he is unfortunately aware, but I don't mean that it shall spoil him. Now, what shall I do. Shall I send him the check or not?"

Doctor Mack leaned back in his chair, and thought busily. He felt anxious about his ward, who had entered college early and was now only seventeen. Walter Sherwood was a boy of excellent talent and popular manners, but he was inclined to be self-indulgent and had a large capacity for "enjoyment." His guardian had fondly hoped that he would lead the class in scholarship, but instead of this he was only doing "fairly well" in his studies. To be sure, he excelled in athletic sports, but, as Doctor Mack reflected, this was not generally considered the chief aim in a college course, except by some of the students themselves.

"I wish I knew just how Walter is making out." thought the doctor. Then, after a pause, he resumed, with a sudden inspiration: "Why shouldn't I know? I'll go over to Euclid tomorrow with out

## 第1章 沃尔特·谢伍德的信

迈克医生把信放到桌子上，从鼻子上缓缓地摘下眼镜。

“一百美元！”他重复道，“这是他这学期第二次要我给他寄钱了。他每个学期的固定账单再过两个星期就会寄到。他现在的花费是我当年上大学时候的三倍。毫无疑问，现在的情况跟四十年前一定会有所不同，可也不至于有这么大的差别啊。我希望那孩子不会养成大手大脚花钱的习惯。我倒并不是担心钱的问题，他父亲给他留下了一大笔遗产，不幸地是，他似乎也意识到了这一点，可我不希望这笔遗产会娇惯坏了他。我该怎么办呢？应不应该给他寄支票呢？”

迈克医生往后靠在椅子上，思绪纷乱。他为自己的监护对象有些感到担心，他今年只有十七岁，已经去读大学了。沃尔特·谢伍德是一个天资不错的孩子，非常招人喜欢，可他总是很难克制住自己，而且很喜欢“享受生活”。他的监护人很希望他能够在班上有出色的表现，能够拿到奖学金，可他在学习上只是“表现一般”。当然，他在体育运动方面的表现还是很出色的，可在迈克医生看来，除了少数一些学生外，大多数人并不会把体育运动当成大学里的主要课程。

“我真想知道沃尔特现在在学校里的表现。”医生想道。停顿了一下之后，他突然有了一个想法：“为什么不能知道呢？我明天要去尤克里德，我可以在不通知沃尔特的情况下



giving Walter any intimation of my visit, and see for myself."

It may be stated here that Walter Sherwood was a member of the sophomore class in Euclid College, situated in the town of the same name. If the reader does not find Euclid in a list of American colleges, it is because for special reasons I have thought it best to conceal the real name of the college, not wishing to bring the Institution into possible disrepute. There are some who might misjudge the college, because it contained some students who made an unprofitable use of their time.

"Nancy," said Doctor Mack at the supper-table, "you may pack a handbag for me. I shall start on a journey tomorrow morning."

"Where to, sir, if I may make so bold as to inquire?"

"I think of going to Euclid."

"To see Master Walter?"

"Exactly."

"You haven't heard any bad news, I hope?" said the housekeeper anxiously.

"Oh, no."

"Then he isn't sick?"

"Quite the contrary. He is quite strong and athletic, I should judge, from his letter."

"He will be glad to see you, sir."

"Well, perhaps so. But you know, Nancy, young people don't