College Education in Relation to Business

In the early colonial days, in the history of America, where no schools worthy of mention existed in our own country, where our authors had advanced their works, and before a circulation of newspapers had begun, a person, in order to gain an education, must go across the water, or, as the only alternative, lie almost remain ignorant. As civilization advanced and as the people became more enterprising as their interests grew beyond the interest in their own little communities or small circle forming up and increased, it became necessary to satisfy the increasing demand for some means of general communication. This was provided for in the publication of newspapers. From this it was but a step to the publication of books. The supply increased, until, at the present time, we show our literate population living with literature that of great and fullest importance. Since the founding of Harvard College, our schools have held pace with the general advancement of the people, and our schools system combined well with that of the other continents.

As a country advanced what is the effect upon the inhabitants of that country of
such a wide spread circulation of literature? What must be the effect? It cannot be denied that it exerts a great influence in the direction of a man of limited means, as to whether he is to be a college or a self-made man. In early times, as was said before, a man must go to college or remain ignorant, but at the present time this is entirely changed. By the wide diffusion of knowledge through the medium of the newspapers, there is little need of one's remaining in a college, uneducated.

During the four years, which usually constitute a college course, the student is shut out from the practical side of life; he sees nothing of the hurry and rush of business occupations. Even does he come in contact with business men, his time and attention are wholly occupied with his everyday routine of studies; and, indeed, it is necessary that this should be so, in order that he may gain the benefit of his undertaking.

The former, on the contrary, has during these same four years been employed in some lucrative establishment. He has been bonded and judged. This way and that, much hurried along with the great mass of business men; he has seen a world, gained an insight into everyday practical life, and thus four years he advanced in the
college student. But, think a moment: can he so readily adapt himself to circumstances? If he is, by any accident thrown out of employment, he might seek a position where he can pursue the same occupation at which he lives, perhaps, become an expert. The student, on the contrary, has gained broader views of life; he has looked at it from many sides, he has entered many fields of observation, and can at a moment's notice, take up these different occupations and, all things being equal, he stands far in advance of the "self-made man." He can so readily adapt himself to the many changes which the various occupations undergo, that the four years he has spent at college, may be said to be experience gained and lost experience lost.

Even though Horace Greeley has been quoted as saying that "of all kinds of cattle in a newspaper office the college graduate is the worst" he never ceased to regret his "inability to pursue a college course, and so it has been with all great men, all who have been unable to attend college.

Very often a young collegiate, with his diploma under his arm, estimates his advantages too
highly; that is to display a certain amount of conceit. This, indeed, is not surprising, for it is exhibited by all. It is human nature to take pride in advantageous endeavours which we possess. However, it is an impudence to receive and it was probably this very thing which so annoyed Horace freely and caused him to make this disparaging remark. This is an obstacle which a college graduate is likely to encounter, but conceit will now wear off; and, when once is bright and active, and shows an interest in his new undertaking, where he is clear-sighted and readily adapts himself to his duties, there is little likelihood of failure being the result of his efforts.

It is almost an absolute necessity that a person who intends to practise a profession, should take a systematic course in that line. To be sure a patient may recover in spite of a quack doctor, as also may a lawyer, who has educated himself, win cases. But a great responsibility rests upon them and they are not trusted as are the others.

"Knowledge is power." It is also a pleasure. But it is not possible that one may become as attached to books as he loves all taste. For the material profits of life and in
led to assume some artistic calling? Yes, but why should he not if his taste did not incline? When Benjamin West cut from a cat, the hair with which to make Saint Griselda, Nature declared she told that he was to be an artist and would follow that occupation in preference to all others.

A man of education can enter the circle of finesse of culture and refinement, which is, of itself, one of the greatest sources of education and pleasure of which an appreciative man can avail himself.

No just line can be drawn as to whether a man shall go to college or not. It depends upon his inclinations. If he is not especially gifted with books and thinks more of a总局ly business life, it may be that he ought not to go. But it seems hardly possible that, when the opportunity presents itself, any man can refuse to accept it.

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