Be a Specialist

"The life is measured by the soul's advance,
The enlargement of its powers, the expanded field
Wherein it ranges, till it burns and glows with heavenly joy
With high and lasting Hope."

The objects of true education are to prepare one for greater enjoyment of this life, to give him greater influence over his fellow men, and place him in the way of doing with the same exertion, more and better work, whether physical or mental.

For this it is not necessary that a man be fully versed in all branches. Education does enough if it puts the key of knowledge into the hands of youth and teaches him how to use it. It should strengthen the mind and sharpen the faculties. It does not do this if the energy is dissipated over a large field. It must be concentrated in definite lines to produce the desired result.
In the primitive stages of civilization, when every man did all the labor upon all the articles that he consumed, or used in any way, there was no call for the specialist, but as civilization advanced and division of labor slowly increased until it reached its present stage, the need of the specialist has become greater and greater.

The specialist has always been rewarded. He, by reason of his special study and careful and steady training in any line of industry, can demand greater wages for his services than can the man who is only a fairly skilled workman. This is well illustrated by the poem

“Twas I used to blow the organ in a good old country church,
I kept the bellows crowded full and never used to tire;
I seemed to catch a vision of the promised happy land,”
When that old organ thundered under
neath the player's hand.

Now here's the point I'm making—place

in notice where I'm at.

That wind was raw material, and

mighty raw at that.

But when it cameashing that old

organ's piping through,

It then was finished product, way up

on its finish, too.

I did the hard, raw labor—pumping

in that wind, you see.

The organist did better—a skilled

worker, sir, was she;

A hundred boys could handle my

pump job at any day.

The church was blamed music when

that woman stayed away,

And so, in early childhood, I pumped

out this settled law.

To dodge old competition just quit

handling the raw

And learned to make skilled products

you will live to find your fell,

Of good things will be greater as

you cultivate your skill.
The folks who at the organ stay
there ever pumping hard
have hardly cause to grumble when
they tag along behind.
Those folks who learn to handle
every pedal, stop, and key.
That let's the wind from prison in
a flood of harmony.”

The need of specialization
is felt in every industry. We will
not allow everyone, who may desire to
do so, to teach in our public schools.
One must have a preparation for
the work, and before he can secure
any position of note, he must have
experience. We notice a consider able movement to restrict clergy-
men to men of special preparation.

It is to be hoped that this will
soon be brought about. We will not
hear of the youth being instruct ed
in the affairs of this world
by an incompetent person, yet
we allow persons of little educa-
tion, of one sided and narrow views
to instruct them in things of so-

finitely greater importance.

We hear a cry from the journalistic field. A short time ago, I read an article, written by one of France's most distinguished journalists, discussing methods by which he hoped to secure more thorough and efficient work in that line. He proposes that several nations founded schools of journalism in which shall be taught the principles of that art. The course would cover five years, including two years of travel in foreign countries.

The only solution to the much agitated question of better roads, that has yet appeared, is to employ in roadmaking, only men who have made a special study of that work. So long as the idea prevails, that any one, who can pile up mud, is competent to build roads, so long shall we have need of better roads; so long will the cry for improvement in our highways, be in vain.
Perhaps the industry that needs the most special study, the closest application of special knowledge is farming. While, on account of our thirsty climate and market, it is, as yet, impractical to subdivide, to any great extent, this work, and make a specialty of each subdivision, the industry, as a whole should be made a specialty.

One thing that has probably had more to do in bringing agricultural pursuits to their present state of depression has been the prevalent opinion that any one could be a farmer. There was a time when, if a boy was bright and intelligent, it was considered best to make a lawyer or a doctor of him, but if his intellect was not of the brightest and his school privileges poor, the only thing that he was fit to be was a farmer. Anybody could be a farmer. Thank Providence that hay has passed a revision
of feeling is steadily growing, and it will be but a few years until we shall recognize the fact that the farm needs the brightest, the most intellectual, and the best educated boys our land can furnish. As specialization tends to make one more exact, we shall have fewer slovenly farmers. As farms become nearer land, parents, greater the temptation for our boys to leave the farm will be lessened. We hope, and believe, that in the years future the educated farmer from every section will send up a hearty singing, "Yes," to the question, "Do farming pay?" As one of our great writers upon farm topics says, "This fault-finding and grumbling will not help us out of our difficulties. We have got to work out our own salvation. We need more skill, gumption, study, and brains to be good farmers."

A very encouraging sign
Of the time is the increasing interest shown in farmer's institutes, wherever they have been held. In this state they have been of incalculable value. They have set the farmers to thinking— to studying. What is true of other works is true of reform. If we glance over the list of those whose names have become famous as great reformers, we shall find that they, one and all, made one particular reform their specialty, and threw their whole energy into that one thing.

He who expects to work a general reformation will be disappointed. He will find his strength of mind and willpower so dissipated as not to make itself felt anywhere.

In his estimate of Phillips, Beecher pays, "The men that would not defile their lips with his name are today thanking God that he lived."

This is true of many brave men who made it their lifework to bring about a certain reform, while the
general reformer has met with but
up to success.

In the sciences, as the bound-
daries of knowledge is extended
farther and farther, the more
laborsome and time-absorbing a
process does it become to reach the
frontier. The mind has neither
time nor energy to spare for the
purpose of becoming acquainted
with regions that lie far away
away from its chosen field. Work
is folly to try to be efficient
in all lines. The man who thinks
“nothing gained while aught remains”
may dash on to new conquests
until there comes that dread day
when either body or brain gives way
and leaves him an invalid or a
maniac, and still find he has accom-
plished but little for the good of
mankind. He who would make
new discoveries must strike by the
nearest route to regions that are
as yet unknown.

But this idea of specialization
may be carried too far. In order to be thoroughly educated in any one branch of knowledge, one must be conversant with all that in any way bears upon that. Many mistakes, often materially checking the advance of science in that direction, have been made by "one idea" men because they failed to recognize the real relations existing between their specialty and the whole mass of science.

So, too, in the industrial pursuits if a man be able to do but one thing well, any cessation of labor in that particular industry will bid him out of employment. Thus we see, connected with the need of special study, the need of men of a general education. The only education that will fully meet the needs of the people is a good general education as a foundation, and then built upon that foundation, the towering structure of a specialty.
Remember it is, "Better to say, "This one thing I do, than to say these fifty things I dabble in."" If you wish to be known in life as a success, be a specialist, and in the language of Shakespeare, "All the gods go with you! Upon your sword, let landed victory, and smooth success be strewed before your feet."

J. H. Roke