

# College Education in Relation to Business.

In the early colonial days, in the history of America, when no schools worthy of mention existed in our own country, when few 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, he must remain ignorant. As civilization advanced and as the people became more enterprising, as their interests grew beyond the interest in their own little communities, as manufactories sprung 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, our shops are literally overflowing with literature both of great and of minor importance. Since the founding of Harvard College our schools have kept pace with the general advancement of the people, and our school system compares well with that of the older continents.

As a country advances 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 decision 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 sense, uneducated.

During the four years, which usually constitutes a college course, the student is shut out from the practical side of life; he sees nothing of the hurry and rush of a business occupation, not 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.

His brother, on the contrary, has, during these same four years, been employed in some business establishment. He has been crowded and hurried this way and that, and hurried along with the great mass of business men; he has, in a word, gained an insight into everyday practical life, and this four years in advance of the

college student. But, think a moment; has he the adaptation of the student? Can he so readily adapt himself to circumstances? If he is, by any accident, thrown out of employment, he must seek a position where he can pursue the same occupation at which he has, 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 business occupations undergo, that the four years he has spent at college, may be said to be experience gained and not experience lost.

Even though Horace Greeley has been quoted as saying that "of all horned 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

lightly; that is he displays 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 endowments which we possess. However it is an impediment to success and it was probably this very thing which so annoyed Horace Greely and caused him to make this disparaging remark. This is an obstacle which a college graduate is likely to encounter, but conceit will soon wear off; and, when one is bright and active, and shows an interest in his new undertakings, when 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; so 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 is it not possible that one may become so attached to books that he loses all taste for the material profits of life and is

led to pursue some artistic calling? Yes; but why should he not if his tastes are so inclined? When Benjamin West cut from a cat, the hair with which to make paint brushes, Nature plainly foretold that he was to be an artist and would follow that occupation in preference to all others.

A man of education can enter the circles of persons 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 fast 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 gratified with books and thinks more of a purely 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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