

Chicago, Ill. I was in town until I had seen the young lady who had made a first-class fool of herself, as usual.

There was, I bankrupt in money, reputation, in self-respect. I had been robbed—yes, robbed, for where is the difference between a pair of Derringers and a pair of black eyes in a robbery?

You part with your money because you can't help it. I know that society looks with lenient eyes upon these made geniuses who count these charitable gifts, but it is my opinion that when all the robbers come to take their annual trial and receive their final sentence, the little Chicago robber with the place by the side of Jack Sheppard.

Strange Phenomenon—Fall of Anaximander in Cleveland.

About half past seven o'clock on the evening of Saturday last, a remarkable phenomenon was observed from the eastern part of the city, which elicited with wonder and amazement. At the time named, the appearance of the atmosphere was of a yellowish cast, and all the surrounding things were characterized by the same curious condition which seemed to oppress the spectators with a supernatural awe, and many had their faces from the sublimity scene as if overcome by a supernatural fear of impending disaster. Many, no doubt, were somewhat surprised at the strange condition of the atmosphere during the eclipse, which had at the time just passed over, and probably their minds were more easily agitated in consequence. It was noticed soon after twilight that numerous small clouds were encircling the moon in the northwest horizon, and that now and then a meteor would shoot out from that direction and approach the earth at tremendous velocity, and, when near the earth, burst. It was during this display that an unusually large and brilliant meteor sped across the heavens and approached the earth, emitting apparently, sparks of fire from its bow and leaving a long train behind, which dazzled the eye with its splendor. When nearly over Woodland Cemetery it vanished, and immediately afterwards a rushing sound was heard, and fiery serotins were seen to fall to the ground. Directly after this spectacle, the stone was picked up in the garden of Mr. R. S. Ely, at Cemetery street, by Mr. E. Ely, who stated that it was so hot that it could hardly handle it. The color of the stone is of a brownish cast and nearly round, and of a remarkable hardness. *Cleveland Herald.*

Starting in Life.

There is more than a little truth in the saying that "A bad beginning makes a good ending." As a rule, such ought to be the case, and for the reason: is beginning any new enterprise, men are supposed to be unskilled, and must therefore expect blunder. If men succeed in the first instance, they fail to get their eyes teeth out, and arrogate to themselves superior skill in that about which they know little or nothing. They are inclined to presume that their success is owing to superior knowledge or ability, when it is nothing but chance or a lucky hit in which neither knowledge or skill has any considerable part. Of course, a man's room experience is substituted for one of slow and substantial growth, when the hot sun of competition is full upon it there is no stamina to back upon. The good beginning is a failure. The good beginning is a failure from the very start, and only available time to unmask the bungler. The need be no question that to start right is one half the battle. But what is a good start in life is by means a right start. Now is there a rule for starting that will cover all cases; for what would be a right start for or what might be a vicious start for another.

There are some general principles

that are applicable to all things that are applicable to all things. To start in life with an abundance of means, is usually termed a good start; while to start with nothing but a blank upon as beset with great difficulties. But if there be truth in the proverb which says, "End right, all is right," this can hardly be true. Every case of business years can recall many failures of men who started with nothing. It is likewise true that there are many brilliant successes where men have started with means, and also where they have begun life penniless. It is safe, therefore, to infer from experience that it is neither the wealth a man has when he starts in life, nor the amount of it, that makes a man right, but money that starts a man right, keeps him right, and finally brings him to eminence in his calling. It may be granted that money is a very important element, but it is not a side issue, just because men succeed with it and without it, and they also fail with it and without it.

Everything attainable in life has a value, whether reputation, or position, or wealth. The first thing, therefore, to be done is, to appreciate it, do not matter whether the individual is to inherit the wealth of Croesus or to be left penniless; he must begin here. The very first lesson in the freshman class of experience is to learn to appreciate. It must be repeated and insisted on in every department of life. Value is the cost of production; therefore, to earn a thing is to appreciate it, to ascertain by experience how much it is worth. Farmers are said to hold money tighter than any other class of men. It is for a good reason. They have learned its value by the sweat of the brow. If a man digs the value of an ounce of gold from the soil, he knows that he has put into that ounce a certain amount of knowledge and muscle, which is just equal to what he has obtained. He appreciates the value, because he has experienced it. But give a man an ounce of gold who never earned a dollar, and its value to him is only a name. Let a man earn a log cabin and possess it as his own production, and he is ten times more a man than he would be if he lived in a brown stone on Fifth avenue which was given him. He is a wiser man, and shows more of life. He has touched bottom, by starting so as to appreciate value. He is free, too, from the hot bed style of life that is too proud to start as our fathers did. Ten thousand dollars given to a man who never earned a dollar has not one tenth the value in his eyes that one thousand would have if earned by his own efforts. It is not claimed that a man must earn every dollar he has, in order to appreciate it, any more than it is claimed that a watchmaker must construct every watch he sees in order to appreciate the skill with which it is made. What is really claimed is this, a knowledge of value must be obtained by an actual experience of the cost of production. This is a thing that should be done early in life. Let children earn as well as spend. The Jews know the value of this principle, and when to begin to apply it. Earn first, and spend afterwards, is the safest maxim. Parents often blunder here. They furnish children money of which they only know the name, and that it can be spent. If they would first teach them the value of a dollar, by causing them to earn a dollar, they would put them on the proper basis to appreciate values.

Money, or any measure of value, is, after all, very much like a locomotive. Value is a machine with which to attain ends. The thing to aim at is to teach youths the worth of this or that particular thing, and how to use it. If a man is to do business of any kind, teach him to appreciate money, or value, and how to use it, just as you teach an engineer to understand the value of a locomotive and how to run it to the best advantage. When young men are skilled in these two particulars, they are ready to start in life. One

thing certain is evident, that the youth who earns every cent he ever possesses, will, by the time he is old enough for business, have a stock of experience that is equal to a fortune, while he who has been pampered in youth with everything he wanted, and never earned a cent, will be helpless as a child. The former is ready to begin life for himself; the latter only ready to learn how to begin. The one is ready to use capital, the other has yet to learn what capital is. The right way to start in life, therefore, is to start with a knowledge and appreciation of the things that are valuable in life. To start on any other basis is to start wrong, no matter how much means a man may possess, and nothing short of a miracle can prevent a wreck. To start with a knowledge of the use of means, and a proper appreciation of their value is to start on a safe basis, and success is a certainty.

Start a poor or a rich man with a proper amount of means for his business, and, if he has learned the first lesson properly, success is almost certain. Start the same man without experience, that teaches to appreciate, and he will be wrecked. It is useless to talk of self-made men. Every man who succeeds is a self-made man, so far as man can be self-made; for every one must learn in the same way, and when experience is once obtained, it must be used alike by poor and rich, in order to succeed. Then, again, there is no such thing as a self-made man, any further than every man who uses his talents wisely is a self-made man. Every one must depend largely upon opportunity for the point he attains, and such as are favored by friends or opportunity, and rise to notice, are counted self-made men, if they start without money, while others, ten times more self-made, really, in that they do all for themselves, never rise to notice.

Ability amounts to but little without opportunity, and the brightest talents, are often incompetent to pass a crisis. A little timely aid often carries one beyond the dead point and insures success. That dead point is often the starting point of such as depend on their own efforts. There is no question but that sufficient means for the times and circumstances of one's business are a great advantage. The careful young man, who knows the value of money, how to save it, and how to make it, loses much time, often, in not having sufficient means to begin life on his own responsibility. To be too long a learner, makes a slave of a man.

Fathers often do injustice to their children by not giving them sufficient to start with, preferring to let them earn sufficient by working for a moderate salary. This is wrong. It is taking just so many years from a son's life. The father who withholds means from a faithful and industrious son, and lets him occupy a position of clerk when he might be a partner or proprietor, is degrading that son and making him a slave. Young men are often very anxious to start in life, and justly so; still, they ought to submit to a little schooling, by way of introduction. It is not good to depend upon papa's purse, because it is papa's; for his money is the same as another man's, nor will young men depend upon it if they are properly taught to appreciate value. Papa's money is just as sacred and valuable as any man's; but it should be a little more easy of access, for any legitimate use, than the money of a stranger. Therefore, it is, that the wealthy parent who says to his son, "Make yourself, earn your money as I did mine," does an unjust thing. To-day is not doing an unjust thing. To earn money enough to start in business, now, requires a lifetime; thirty years ago, seven years would afford a man a capital to start. Business relations have greatly changed in ten years. New York city is not to-day what it was fifteen years ago, in point of opportunity. Small firms do not stand any chance now, as they did once. Moneyed cor-

porations delight now to gobble up all the small fry. Twenty thousand dollars, to-day, are not equal to five thousand just after the crisis of 1857, for starting in business; and yet men who lost every dollar of their property in that upheaval, and who had five thousand dollars advanced them to start anew, say now to their sons, "Earn your money as we did; we believe in self-made men."

Poor, short-sighted, ignorant self-idolatry, that thus insists upon visiting the sins of father upon son! The world has advanced a step since you, ballheads made your money, and there is a lesson to be learned and profited by, if you do not want your son left behind in the battle of life. If he is a faithful boy, help him to start; help him to help himself. Don't force him to stand while his muscles are flabby, or he will go crooked-legged and humpbacked all through life. Starting in life, to day, demands means. The circumstances are such that no telling work can be done without them, and, if a man has means, the road is open to success. There is an abundance of means now to do business, and he is the lucky man who has them; while the poor boy who seeks to make himself must pull slowly, and wait the smiles of him who wields the power behind the throne. *Manufacturer and Builder.*

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