

## LETTERS TO YOUNG MEN.

(Continued from last issue.)

A man who willingly receives assistance, especially if he has applied for it, invariably sells himself to his benefactor, unless that benefactor happens to be a man of sense who is giving absolutely necessary assistance to one whom he knows to be sensitive and honorable. Any young man who will part with freedom and the self-respect that grows out of self-reliance and self-support, is unmanly, neither deserving of assistance nor capable of making good use of it. Assistance will invariably be received by a young man of spirit as a dire necessity—as the chief evil of his poverty.

When therefore a young man has ascertained and fully received the fact that he does not know anything, that what he wins must be won by his own brain and brawn, and that while he holds in his own hands the means of gaining his livelihood and the objects of his life, he cannot receive assistance without compromising his self-respect and selling his freedom he is in a fair position for beginning life. When a young man becomes aware that only his own efforts can rise into companionship and competition with the sharp, strong and well drilled minds around him, he is ready for work and not before.

The next lesson is that of patience, thoroughness of preparation and contentment with the regular channels of business effort and enterprise. This is, perhaps, one of the most difficult to learn of all the lessons of life. It is natural for the mind to reach out eagerly for immediate results.

As manhood dawns and the young man catches in its first light the pinnacles of realized dreams, the golden domes of high possibilities and the purpling hills of great delights, and then looks down upon the narrow, sinuous, long and dusty path by which others have reached them, he is apt to be disgusted with the passage and to seek for success through broader channels by quicker means.

Beginning at the very foot of the hill and working slowly to the top seems a very discouraging process; and precisely at this point have thousands of young men made shipwreck of their lives.

Let this be understood, then, at starting: that the patient conquest of difficulties which rise in the regular and legitimate channels of business and enterprise, is not only essential in securing the success which you seek, but it is essential to that preparation of your mind which is requisite for the enjoyment of your success and for retaining it when gained.

It is the general rule of Providence the world over and in all time that unearned success is a curse. It is the rule of Providence that the process of earning success shall be the preparation for its conservation and enjoyment. So, day by day, and week by week, so, month after month, and year after year, work on, and in that process gain strength and symmetry and nerve and knowledge, that when success patiently and bravely worked for shall come it shall find you prepared to receive it and keep it.

The development which you will get in this brave and patient labor will prove

itself in the end the most valuable of your successes. It will help to make a man of you. It will give you power and self-reliance. It will give you not only self-respect but the respect of your fellows and the public. Never allow yourself to be seduced from this course. You will hear of young men who have made fortunes in some wild speculations. Pity them, for they will almost certainly lose their easily won success. Do not be in a hurry for anything. Are you in love with some dear girl whom you would make your wife? Give Angelina Matilda to understand that she must wait, and if Angelina Matilda is really the good girl you take her to be she will be sensible enough to tell you to choose your time. You cannot build well without first laying a good foundation; and for you to enter upon a business which you have not patiently and thoroughly learned, and to marry before you have won a character, or even the reasonable prospect of a competence, is ultimately to bring your house down about the ears of Angelina Matilda and such pretty children as she may give you. If at the age of thirty years you find yourself established in a business which pays you with certainty a living income, you are to remember that God has blessed you beyond the majority of men. In saying what I have said to you in this letter, I have had no wish to make you pattern young men, but of this I will speak more fully hereafter.

The fashion plates of the magazines bear no striking resemblance to the humanity which we meet on the streets. I only seek to give you the principles and the spirit which should animate you, without any attempt or desire to set before you the outlines of the life in fact, if there are detestable things which I despise above all other detestable things, they are the patterns made for young men and the young men made after them. I would have you carry all your individuality with you, all your blood well purified, all your passions well controlled and made tributary to the motive forces of your nature, all your manhood enlarged, ennobled and uncorrupted; all your piety rendering your whole being sensitively alive to your relations to God and man, all your honor, your affections and your faculties—all these and still hold yourself amenable to those laws which confine a true success to the strong and constant hand of patient achievement.

Yours truly,

TIMOTHY.



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