

THE MAN OF ABILITY.

Is He Under a Handicap in the Battle of Life?

With reference to ability, experience hourly confirms two generalizations: A man of ability will sooner or later make his way. There never was so urgent and so general a demand for every form of ability as there is now.

Unfortunately the relations of these two facts to certain other facts are little understood. It is generally assumed, for instance, that ability is a distinct advantage to a man. Is it not, instead, a handicap?

Let it be stated again, and with emphasis, that ability is very much in demand. The market groans for it. But this does not mean that ability will be recognized. Capacity to discern ability in others, as distinguished from capacity to discern ability in ourselves, is the rarest of all capacities. Unerring acumen, exquisite discrimination, can alone measure ability, sift it, choose one form and adapt another. No one would value a clodhopper's opinion of Plato, but every Tom, Dick and Harry feels qualified to sit in judgment upon ability. "If I could only get hold of a man with ability!" cries the fatuous employer, to whom it never occurs that capacity to distinguish ability from its semblance is the most exquisite of the faculties.

For over 2,300 years one man has stood pre-eminent as a judge of human ability. That man was Pericles. His gift in this direction was little less than divine. It enabled him to lift the Athenians to heights of achievement above which the intellect has never reached. That was ability's golden age, for it then had a patron who not only sought it, but discerned it.

Washington possessed this heavenly endowment. At the risk of seeming patriotically partial we may say that he equaled Pericles in his unerring perception. In those years of ordeal from 1776 to 1785, and again from 1789 to 1797, we never find Washington astray in his estimate of ability. He could choose men—a thing infinitely harder to do than to choose pictures or pianos or potatoes—and in choosing them he was in very truth a father to his country.

Ability's first handicap, therefore, is the rarity of capacity trained to discern it. The absence of this capacity in the man who chooses men ruins great enterprises every day. But the man who makes a botch of choosing men never dreams that the fault is his own. "There never was such a demand for ability as there is today," say rather there never was such a need of men capable of estimating ability.

There is no such thing as ordinary ability. All ability is extraordinary; hence when it discloses itself mediocrity—always in the majority—combines against it. This is ability's most mortifying handicap. Mediocrity does not detest ability. It simply has no use for it. There is the same natural antipathy between mediocrity and ability that there is between truth and vested interests or between a dog and a cat.

Bourget keenly remarks that when several suitors woo a maid he who loves her most will lose her. The very excess of true love throws the unfortunate into a fever. He loses his self command in the crisis of the game. A cooler rival, without sentiment, controls his faculties and wins. The same phenomenon is witnessed when ability competes for favor with mediocrity. Ability loves to work and is excited by a prospect. Mediocrity regards all prospects coldly. Ability perfects itself in seclusion. Mediocrity pulls wires. Ability breaks its heart in the pride of conscious capacity and is not even asked to the wedding when mediocrity marries the only child of the head of the firm. Ability is compelled to create its own environment. This means a long obscurity of hunger and humiliation. Think of Columbus, obliged to pass a decade in teaching that the earth is round before he could begin his life work!

There is one sweet that mediocrity never tastes. Soon or late ability comes by its own. Columbus climbs to the deck in the gray dawn, and his heart leaps at the cry of "Land!" If mediocrity be without tragedies, it is also without ecstasies.

Certainly, ability is too often a handicap. The only consolation we can suggest is that it handicaps very, very few of us.

A Domestic Compromise.

Meeks—My wife prefers coffee for breakfast and I prefer tea.

Weeks—Then I suppose you have both?

Meeks—Oh, no; we compromise.

Weeks—in what way?

Meeks—We compromise on coffee.

WEAK, NERVOUS WOMEN

Could we read the hearts of women what a vast amount of suffering would be exposed. Female weakness has produced more invalids among women than any other cause. Have you any of the following symptoms? Nervousness, Weakness, Backache, Headache, "All-Gone" Feeling, Hot Flushes, Variable Appetite, Restlessness, No Ambition, Easily Excited, Painful Periods, Bearing-down Pains, Leucorrhoea, Pimples on the Face, Pains in the Loins, Eyes Sunk, No Vital Energy, etc. We Can Cure You. It matters not who has treated and failed in curing you. Consultation by Mail is Absolutely Free, and if curable we will tell you so. Don't let surgeons operate on you. We can cure you without cutting. Our New Method treatment is mild and pleasant. Family doctors have treated you for years, yet you are not cured—they only help you from time to time. Let us cure you at your own home by our New Method Treatment. Hundreds are being cured. Why not you? We will mail you our Symptom Blank simply for the asking, and we will tell you free of charge what we think of your case. Remember, your letters are kept strictly private and confidential and are answered in plain sealed envelope. Write at once, enclosing stamp for reply. Address DR. W. H. SAUNDERS & Co., Sta. C., Chicago, Ill. Mention this paper.

Dec. 21, 1900, dwalr.

ASTHMA FOR SEVEN YEARS

And for Three Months Previous to Taking Clarke's Kola Compound Could Not Work a Day.

DOCTORS PRONOUNCED HIS CASE INCURABLE—NOW COMPLETELY CURED.

Clarke's Kola Compound has brought more genuine happiness to thousands of Canadian homes than any other medicine ever known. It is curing Asthma, a disease hitherto considered incurable, and bringing perfect health to thousands of one-time sufferers from this most dreaded disease. Mr. Matthew Frost, of Port Arthur, Ont., C.P.R. employee, writes: "For over seven years I have been a most unfortunate sufferer from asthma and bronchitis. Many times for weeks I could not sleep other than sitting up in a chair, and for three months previous to taking Clarke's Kola Compound I could not work a day. Our doctors said they could do nothing for me, but give a little temporary relief. I was becoming weaker all the time. A sincere friend brought me a bottle of this grand medicine (Clarke's Kola Compound), and in less than two weeks I was back at work again. I took in all four bottles during two months and have not lost a day's work since, nor have I had the slightest symptom of the disease." This letter is also certified to by Mr. W. J. Clark, Port Arthur's leading druggist. Clarke's Kola Compound has permanently cured thousands of asthmatics. Sold by chemists everywhere. \$2.00 per bottle, three for \$5.00, or sent on receipt of price by The G. and M. Co., Limited, 121 Church Street, Toronto. Send for Book on Asthma.

For sale by John M. Wiley, druggist.

Arabi Pasha No Mean Figure.

Arabi Pasha, the Egyptian rebel, who has just been pardoned, was no mean figure in his day and generation. He bade fair at one time to seat himself on the throne of Egypt. He is now 63 years of age and harmless. When the Government of Egypt was in the hands of the weak Tewfik, Arabi headed a national party in opposition to Anglo-French control. He became Minister of War in 1882, and with the approval of the Sultan withdrew the budgets from the English and French controllers. This led to the bombardment of Alexandria. Arabi, by means of a flag of truce, got time to fly from the city after having opened the prison doors and having given Alexandria into the hands of criminals. A British army was despatched to crush the revolted Minister. Arabi was pursued by Sir Garnet Wolseley and the British forces, and finally brought to bay at Tel-el-Kebir, where his army was completely defeated. He himself and 10,000 of his troops surrendered at Cairo. Arabi was sent to Ceylon, his death sentence having been remitted. There he has remained until now, in comfort but in gloom, longing for the sands of Egypt. His petition to the British Government for freedom was granted a short time ago, and the Khedive has formally assented to this act. Arabi will find a new Egypt when he returns.

MEN!

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14,000 Yards

Of this season's Dress Goods laid out on the cut price counters, chopped down to one third and one half their value.



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30c. to 45c. Dress Goods selling at 19c. a yard.

48c. to 65c. Dress Goods reduced for this sale to 28c. a yd.

68c. to 90c. Dress Goods, newest patterns, reduced to 39c. a yd.

All the 98c. to \$1.40 Dress Goods, choice at 65c.

Come and see the exciting Dress Goods Sale now on at

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Men's and Boys' Clothing.

The biggest reduction sale we ever attempted is now prevailing in our clothing stores. Stacks of tailor made Suits for old and young darken our stores. We bought these goods at one half their value, and we can afford to sell them cheaper than any other clothier can buy, and make a living profit yet. Don't overlook this statement, come and prove it. As soon as we begin to originate a sale all others make attempts to follow, their prices never was, and never will be, any way near to ours. See the two clothing windows for big bargains, every suit in them is worth double the price we ask for. Now is the time to invest in a new Suit while this July sale is in full swing at

Fickler's.

Men's Bike Suits at \$2.90.

13 only, Men's and Young Men's Bicycle Suits left, to clear at \$2.90, worth \$5.00. 23 Bicycle Pants for young men to clear at \$1.00 and \$1.25 a pair.

63 only, Dress Shirts left, all samples, choice of the lot on Saturday at 50c.

Boys' Blouse and Duck Suits.

The balance of Boys' Blouses and Duck Suits will be sold this week at 35 per cent reduction.

BOOTS and SHOES....

This July clearing out Sale in our Shoe Store ought to be worth your while to attend. All Summer Footwear selling at cost. Men's Boots, 95c., \$1.20 to \$1.95. Ladies Boots, oxfords, 65c., 85c. to \$1.20. Take a stroll down town and go through our big stores where everything is sold at extraordinary low prices during this Cheap Sale.

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