

THE INEVITABLE CHOICE.

Parting of the Ways as Illustrated in the Downfall of Young Harold Webster, of Toronto.

Gold and diamonds; pearls and precious stones. Easy to conceal; readily converted into cash. Will he become a thief for their sake, revel for a brief time in unwonted affluence, and ever afterwards hate himself for his folly, or will he win respect, confidence, and an enviable reputation by adhering to the principles of strict integrity?

This is the question to which young Harold Webster, the Ellis jewelry pilferer, gave the wrong answer, says The Toronto Mail and Empire. His case is typical of many. In all lives the choice must sooner or later be made. The bait is not always the same, but the hook is ever there. It is worth while considering, from a purely business standpoint, what it costs to be caught by the snare, and what it means to avoid it.

Debt and Credit Account.

There is no greater fallacy than to suppose that anything in this world can be obtained for nothing. If it is earned one gives his labor. If it is bestowed as a gift one assumes an obligation which he will be bound to discharge. If it is stolen, be it of great value or small, the highest possible price of all is paid. The thief gives his character in exchange for his booty. That character may not be worth much in the later stages, but at the outset it is a priceless possession, the very best that any man has to give—better, indeed, than life itself. Let us, therefore, place on one side of the account a man's character, his future, his entire life's earnings, and, on the other side of the account, whatever the circumstances of the moment may place within his power. This, no doubt, is lowest in the scale on which the subject may be discussed, but it does not prevent one from rising to higher considerations. It enables one to declare with unqualified certainty that ill-gotten gains demand a sacrifice representing in hard cash ten times, a hundred times, nay, a thousand times, their apparent value.

Value of a Character.

What shall a man ask in exchange for his character—the one asset that is greater than all other assets? In every walk of life the man who is sought after is the honest man. To him all things are possible. Not only in banks, but in every branch of the manifold activities of business and of daily life, the strictly honest man is indispensable. He may have many good points, but unimpeachable integrity is his great qualification. Confidence is the corner-stone of business. Reputation is the superstructure, and it can be raised only on a well grounded foundation, slavery at its worst.

But the worst of all fates is the slavery of the dishonest. One false step may have been taken, and regretted so soon as taken. How often does it happen, however, that in taking that step a young man places himself within the power of another who is older in crime and has less scruples? Then exposure is threatened unless there are other betrayals of trust. Thus in the end the unwary become the slaves of those who are lying in wait to goad them to dishonesty and profit by their folly. In all such cases, and they are numerous, the bulk of the profit, if indeed it can be called profit, goes to the more crafty and experienced partner in the venture. The middleman establishes a supremacy over the operator, and reduces him to a condition of abject, trembling slavery, forcing him by increasing demands nearer and nearer the brink beyond which are ruin and desolation.

Value of Self-Respect.

Whether the wrong is immediately detected or not, the greatest penalty paid for the crime is the loss of self-respect. A man may be misjudged by his fellows, he may pass as genuine coin when he is really counterfeit, but in his own unerring consciousness he is known as he really is. What is to be compared in mere dollars, or their equivalent, to the ability to look the world unflinchingly in the face and to fear none? The folly of the thief who hopes to escape detection is past understanding. He is his own detective, his own judge and his own jailer. Be he ever so bold, there are nameless terrors for him on every street corner. Every eye penetrates into his secret. Every footstep alarms him.

Honesty as a Policy.

Better reasons for unvarying integrity might be advanced. There is the eternal command, and also the altruistic aspect of the question. But the point that is emphasized by daily experience, repeated over and over again, is that a life that is not steadiest and guided by an honest purpose is doomed to become a worthless wreck, and that character is the pure gold coin of business life, that nothing can compensate for the sacrifice of reputation, freedom and self-respect. This means, of course, as the old proverb has it, that honesty is the best policy. It were better that men were honest for honesty's sake, but whether that suffices or not, it is always well to remember that honesty is the watchword of business success.

Why Young Men Fail.

Young men fail because they fail to weigh in the balance the ultimate cost of the first wrong step. They fail because they mistake the real source of happiness in life, and strive to acquire that which is not so precious as good reputation, with its accompanying pleasures—peace of

mind and the confidence of their fellow-men. Money is not wealth. The greatest assets are a clear conscience and a good character. These conceded, all that a man can reasonably desire, certainly more than can be dishonestly acquired, is sure to follow. The prohibition of covetousness is not a meaningless law. He who is content with what he has or what he honestly earns is avoiding a great temptation, and is preparing for riches which no man can dispute, and which he can enjoy as long as life lasts.

Goldwin Smith Talks of Arnold.

Sir Edwin Arnold, the English author and journalist, who died recently, was a personal friend and former pupil of Dr. Goldwin Smith, of Toronto.

To a reporter Dr. Smith stated that while he had been a warm friend of Sir Edwin, he had very few reminiscences of the late author to relate.

"He was a pupil of mine while at Oxford," said Dr. Smith, "where he obtained the University Prize for English verse. I remember the poem which he recited before the University Convocation. It was called 'Belshazzar's Feast,' the last two lines of which ran as follows: Crownless and sceptreless Belshazzar lay,

A robe of purple on a form of clay.

"He became the editor of The London Telegraph, which was at first a very sensational paper, but developed into a more popular journal, and later took on superior rank. In The Telegraph he strongly supported Mr. Gladstone. The proprietor of The Telegraph was a Mr. Levi, who, upon being given a baronetcy, changed his name to Lawson.

"During his journalistic career he was engaged in writing poetry, but never obtained a great reputation as a poet. He had, however, a remarkable command of luscious language. 'The Light of Asia' was a great success, partly because it was new to most readers. Another work, 'The Light of the World,' was not so great a success; it was not new, and was exceedingly difficult to handle.

"He visited Japan, where he became enamored with Japanese character and civilization, and married a Japanese wife.

"He was a successful journalist, judged from a pecuniary point of view, while his general success as an educationist earned him a knighthood."

"Was Sir Edwin not a guest at the Grange?" queried the reporter. "He was upon two occasions, the last of which was on Nov. 26, 1891, when he was on a lecturing tour," replied Dr. Smith, in conclusion.

A Slave to Method.

A medical specialist was very much in the habit of using a notebook to assist his memory and insure precision. In course of time it happened that his aged father died. The worthy doctor attended the obsequies as chief mourner with due solemnity. At the close he was observed to take out his notebook and carefully to erase the words "Mem. Bury father."

A Farmer Cured of Rheumatism.

"A man living on a farm near here came in a short time ago completely doubled up with rheumatism. I handed him a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and told him to use it freely and if not satisfied after using it he need not pay a cent for it," says C. P. Ryder, of Patton's, Mills, N. Y. "A few days later he walked into the store as straight as a string and handed me a dollar saying, 'give me another bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I want it in the house all the time for it cured me.' For sale by all druggists."

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Mr. Jacob Jamieson, Jamieson Bros., the well-known Contractors and Builders, Welland, Ont., tells of how he was cured: "For fourteen years I was afflicted with kidney trouble which increased in severity the last five years. My most serious attack was four years ago, when I was completely incapacitated. I had terrible pains across my back, floating specks before my eyes and was in almost constant torment. I could not sit or stand with ease and was a wreck in health, having no appetite and lost greatly in flesh. I had taken medicine from five different doctors and also numerous other preparations to no purpose. I finally began to take Doan's Kidney Pills and before I had taken five boxes the trouble left me and I now feel better than I have for twenty years. Those who know me know how I was afflicted and say it is almost impossible to believe that I have been cured, yet they know it is so. I have passed the meridian of life but I feel that I have taken on the rosy hue of boyhood."

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WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH OF MAY, 1904.

For the construction of a STATION and a DWELLING FOR THE AGENT AT ST. LEONARD JUNCTION, P. Q. Plans and specifications may be seen at the following places:—At the office of the Station Master, Lewis, Drummondville and St. Leonard Junction, P. Q., and at the office of the Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the Specifications must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER,
General Manager
Railway Office, Moncton, N. B.,
25th April, 1904,
May 3rd—d111

W. HARRY STEEVES,

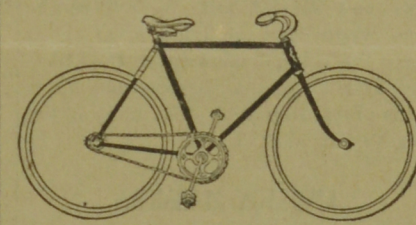
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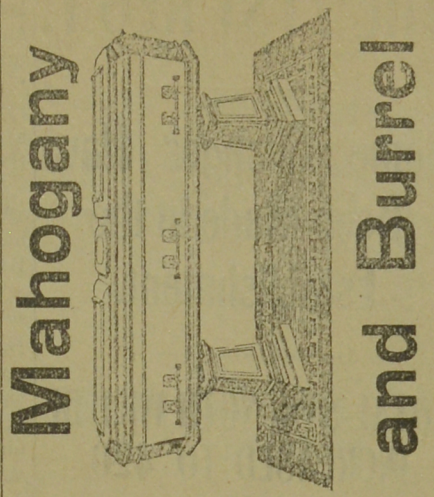
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On and after Sunday, October 11th, 1903, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton 6.30
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton 7.00
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene 13.15
No. 28 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou 12.1
No. 8 Express for Sussex 17.10
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal 18.40
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney 23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney 6.30
No. 7 Express from Sussex 9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec 13.50
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton 15.30
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene 16.50
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton 17.40
No. 1 Express from Halifax 18.40
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only) 24.35
All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight. Moncton, October 9, 1903

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TO THE PACIFIC COAST

ARRANGEMENT OF TRAINS
In Effect, October 11th, 1903

Atlantic Time. Trains daily except Sunday, unless otherwise stated.

LEAVE FREDERICTON

6.25 a. m.—Express from St. John, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, Woodstock, and points north; Edmundston, River du Loup and Quebec; Bangor, Portland and Boston, etc.
6.50 a. m.—Mixed, via Gibson Branch, for Woodstock, Presque Isle, Edmundston, River du Loup. Leaves St. M. vs 7.30 a. m.
9.45 a. m.—Express for Fredericton Jct. connecting with Express for St. John and points east, Palace Sleeper Car Fredericton Junction to Halifax. Dining Car Fredericton Junction to Truro.
6.00 p. m.—Mixed, for Fredericton Junction, connecting with Short Line Express for Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, etc., and with Pacific Express from Montreal for the West, Northwest and Pacific Coast. Also connects for Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc. St. Stephen. Palace Sleeper Fredericton Junction to Montreal. Pullman Sleeper Fredericton Junction to Boston. Dining Car Fredericton Junction to Mattawamkeag.
9.00 p. m.—Express for St. John and points east.

ARRIVE AT FREDERICTON

9.05 a. m.—From St. John and points east.
11.45 a. m.—From Boston, Montreal, St. Stephen, Houlton and Woodstock.
8.10 p. m.—From St. John and east.
4.50 p. m.—From Woodstock and all points north as far as Perth and Plaster Rock via Gibson Branch. Arrives at St. M. vs 4.20 p. m.
0.40 p. m.—From Boston, Portland, Bangor, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Woodstock, Houlton, etc.
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