

A LOST CHANCE.

(MARY BROWNKEA.)

He wanted me to marry him,  
Our neighbor's son, Tom Brown,  
The most ungainly, awkward youth  
In all the township round.

And I, Amelia Farrington,  
Who'd just returned from town  
And college—think I'd marry him!  
A common country clown!

I dreamed of lords and castles then,  
And laughed at settling down  
To a common-place existence  
As Mrs. Thomas Brown.

Long years have rolled away since then;  
Ah, me! how fast they've sped!  
And I, Amelia Farrington,  
Alas, am still unwed.

While he—who would have thought it then?  
He's Governor of the state!  
And I—I might—just think of it!  
And now it is too late.

Tears of vexation fill my eyes,  
And pain would trickle down  
My cheeks, to think I might have been  
The wife of Governor Brown.

MAKE YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES.

The true way to deal with adverse circumstances is to be a still greater circumstance yourself. Nine out of ten of the men who have been eminently successful in their callings have fought the battle of life up hill against many opposing forces. Instead of bemoaning their hard lot, they have bowed to the inevitable and used it to their advantage. Instead of asking for an impossible chess-board, they have taken the one before them and played the game. Look at that tireless worker, Lord Brougham. Can anyone believe that by any combination of circumstances his talents could have been kept from asserting themselves and winning recognition? It has been said that if his station had been that of a shoeblock, he would never have rested content till he had become the first shoeblock in England. The luck of Napoleon and Nelson consisted, they said, in being a quarter of an hour before their time. When in the darkest hour of the Indian mutiny, a handful of Englishmen, poorly armed and provisioned, but splendidly led, won eight victories in succession, the revolted Sepoys said their conquerors had "the devil's luck," but the only luck in the case was that of force of will, invincible courage and skill in arms.

Good luck is desirable even when you have done your best to succeed, but remember that the most favorable circumstances or strokes of fortune are of little value unless you have prepared yourself to take advantage of them. Of what advantage would Hayne's fiery speech have been to Daniel Webster if he had not, with the instinct of genius, long before equipped himself for the assault which he repelled with such crushing energy? Had he not previously weighed and refuted in his own mind the charges of his opponent, his reply, instead of ranking among the greatest masterpieces of oratory, might have only revealed his own weakness. Thousands of men had seen the prints of horses' hoofs in the soil before Faust discovered by them the art of

printing. The discovery by Edison of the carbon by which he perfected his telephone seems a happy accident; but such accidents never happen to common men. The great inventor scraped some soot from the blackened chimney in his laboratory lamp, and in a spirit of curiosity tested its properties. It proved to be the very thing for which he was searching; but behind this fortunate discovery was a series of exhausting and exhaustive experiments with all kinds of likely materials, absorbing the energies of many months. The lucky hit rewarded the persistent will of a patient workman. So with the young and obscure lawyer who conducts and wins a difficult case, as did Thomas Erskine, in his elder's illness; or the struggling surgeon who has a sudden chance of distinction offered to him; he must have had a long and laborious preparatory training before he can profit by such an emergency. In short, a great opportunity is worth to a man precisely what his antecedents have enabled him to make of it. *West Coast Trade.*

THE FUTURE OF ELECTRICITY.

In all the fields of human endeavor there is none in which the promise and potency of future achievement is greater than in that of the development of that wonderful form of energy which we know as "electricity." In this field, progress is advancing in two paths; the one leading to the production of the force cheaper than by known means, and the other toward new devices and ways of applying it to the practical needs of mankind. The first path is the least attractive; but it leads by far to the most momentous discoveries as affecting our everyday life. The current which now supplies our lamps and motors is obtained by revolving a coil of wire in the field of the magnet. The steam engine does this just as it turns a coffee mill or a churn or a lathe. Therefore, coal is burned under the boiler to produce steam, and steam drives the engine, the engine turns the dynamo, the dynamo delivers the current on the wires which lead to the lamps. Hence the efficiency of the whole system depends mainly upon the efficiency of the engine and boiler which furnish the power. The best engine and boiler does not utilize more than ten per cent. of the energy locked up in the fuel; and this due, not to faulty construction or bad management, but chiefly because of natural laws mainly dependent upon the temperature in which we live. To improve the dynamo or the lamps simply means greater economy in the utilization of the obtained ten per cent. It does not effect the problem of how to get more than ten per cent., and that is the great discovery of the future—so great, that the man who finds the way to convert, not eighty or ninety, but even twenty per cent. of the stored energy in fuel into electricity will do more for human civilization than all the inventors of the marvelous applications of that force put together have done since electricity was discovered.

Present indications point to the voltaic cell as the probable means of attaining this result. Not to a cell consuming zinc, of course; for electricity thus produced is

twenty-five times dearer than that obtained from the steam engine and dynamo; but to a cell directly consuming carbon, not by hot combustion, but by cool, chemical combination with the boundless store of oxygen in the air. Carbon is cheap, and air is cheaper; and if they can be made to combine at low temperature by means perhaps no more costly than the grate or furnace in which we make them unite at high temperature, then we shall get very much more than ten per cent. of the available energy. It is not necessary to seek any further reason for the end of the reign of steam. When people can get a machine that wastes eight or seven or six dollars out of ten they will no longer use an apparatus which wastes nine. All along the frontier of the science open innumerable paths with endless vistas fascinating in their inventions to the student and to the inventor. Even in the oldest of our electrical marvels (the telegraph) the possibilities are still wonderful. A pen guided in Chicago will now write in New York the autograph of the operator, so that a bank might safely pay the check to which it is appended. We are multiplying the number of despatches which can be sent simultaneously; and we are rapidly approaching the time when unlimited messages can be transmitted at perceptibly the same instant in opposite directions over a single wire. We have contrived systems of communicating time which will possibly enable a thousand clocks at once, distributed all along the continent, and perhaps from one end of the world to the other, to work in synchronism and with a current less than is required for ordinary telegraphing. Whether this will result in the establishment of absolute time throughout the world and the final deposition of the sun as a timepiece remains to be seen. We have found substances which are so sensitive to light that they will modify an electric current in accordance with the intensity of the light ray which strikes them—and there is the germ of the picture-telegraph. Before the next century expires, the grandsons of the present generation will see one another across the Atlantic, and the great ceremonial events of the world as they pass before the eye of the camera will be enacted at the same instant before all mankind. The use of the high frequency electrical current, with possibly screens from outside inductive influences, is believed by many to offer at last a solution to the difficulties which prevent telephoning over long submarine cables. If this be realized, and with the transmission of images and possibly of colors over the wires likewise achieved, the nations of the earth will indeed stand face to face and speech to speech.

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