

gance. Henry Grattan was the son of an eminent barrister. R. B. Sheridan was the son of a school teacher. Sir James Mackintosh was the son of a captain in the British army. Dr. Franklin's father was a dyer, and he himself was a journeyman printer. William Hogarth, the celebrated artist and engraver, was the son of a private citizen of some literary attainments. Dr. Paley was the son of a clergyman and school teacher. Both parents of the great navigator, Captain Cook, were in the humble condition of farmer's servants on the coast of Yorkshire. The immortal Shakespeare was the son of a wool dealer in Warwickshire, and had in his early days but slender educational advantages. An unfortunate circumstance drove him from home to London, where he was without money and friends. Reduced to the last extremity, he went to the theatre, and picked up a little money by taking care of the horses of the gentlemen who came to the play. From such a small commencement, he became the father of the British stage, the improver of the language, and an ornament to his country. He was, in a peculiar sense, the architect of his own fortune. George Canning, the accomplished statesman, was the son of a private gentleman in moderate circumstances. Martin Luther was descended from poor parents, and while engaged in study, was sometimes obliged to beg his bread. Napoleon the Great had his own fortune to make in the world ; but

" He left a name, at which the world grew pale,
To point a moral, or adorn a tale."

More recent examples might be drawn from England, France, the United States, and other countries, not even excepting Canada, illustrating the power of genius and energy in triumphing over obstacles ; but I have given sufficient to establish the principles which I have laid down as the basis of success. The conclusion to which we are brought from a careful contemplation of facts, is this—that, on the whole, it is better for a person to be born in an humble, or at most, middling station, with a moderate supply of worldly goods. Wealth and station furnish the means for high living, which enervates both body and mind ; and they also present temptations to engage in practices which disqualify men for useful pursuits. On the other hand, the man who is born in comparative obscurity, knows that without great and continued exertion, he can never rise to eminence. Necessity has been called the mother of invention, and she has certainly taught many a man how to be the architect of his own fortune. But without such a teacher, every