

the conflict of opinion? Make yourself master of your weapon. Before ever you are called upon to stand upon your defence, for the maintenance of your convictions, or your credit, make yourself master of your weapon. Use will give it edge. Science will give it strength and temper. Literature will give it polish and point. Only do your part thoroughly, strenuously, now; and, take my word for it, the weapon when wanted will not be wanting; when called upon to hold your own in the struggle of life, you will find that your previous training has given you power—that the discipline to which you have subjected the forces of your mind has rendered them prompt to your necessities, and amenable to control—you will find what an invaluable ally in the conduct of business, what an incomparable instrument for the elucidation of affairs—is a mind master of itself—a mind tried and trained, and therefore not to be cajoled by cunning nor daunted by effrontery; but able to think through an emergency; and ready to speak out its convictions with no faltering lip nor stammering tongue.

But there is a caution to be observed. Books (and this is another saying of that same Lord Bacon who was so eminent both as a man of learning and as a man of business) books cannot teach the use of books. That is a lesson to be learned in the school of the world. You must bring modesty as well as industry to your studies. Book learning, bear in mind, when unmodified by a just observation of life, obtrudes upon business, is ever pedantic and futile. But do not forget, on the other hand, that mere personal experience, unaided by research, must—with all its adroitness—must, of necessity, be incomplete, and empirical. The two should never be dissevered. It is their union—their interpenetration—their fusion—that makes the capable man. Welded into one they produce a ripeness of judgment, a fertility of resource, and a ready tact, which will command the confidence of men.

These, young men, are some of the advantages of education, and you may attain them. You may educate yourself, but you must be in earnest. Nothing comes of trifling. Earnestness is one of the foremost of qualities. It is noble and beautiful in it-