

of employment, you have been fortunate in succeeding to the management of a branch at the age of six-and-twenty.

That, under the circumstances, you should feel elated with your promotion, is natural ; that this elation will rapidly subside I regard as not the less so ; and that it will, ere long, be dashed by sensations of a very opposite description, is only consistent with the experience of all who have filled similar situations.

You will find that, along with augmented rank and salary, there have devolved upon you certain duties and responsibilities of the gravest kind, which you will do well to ponder seriously ; for upon an accurate appreciation of your new position at the very outset will necessarily depend whether it shall prove to you an advantage or a bane.

Nor are you alone interested in the result. Your stake in the matter indeed is a small one compared with the aggregate of interests involved in your appointment, and dependent upon your conduct and abilities for injury or advancement.

To your clients, the customers of the branch, you will stand in the character of *dispenser of credit*—a function demanding for its proper exercise the nicest discrimination and the soundest judgment.

Thousands of pounds will every week be paid across your counter in discounts or advances to a variety of persons, and it will rest mainly with you whether these advances will work evil or good—go to foster rash adventures or to promote legitimate enterprise. No inconsiderable