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NECESSARY.**

That "self-praise is a poor recommendation" is an adage that is used daily, but that tradition is gradually becoming reversed in this bustling and bustling age, and the rule now generally recognized is that "he that bloweth not his own horn the same shall not be blown." Though this might appear to be an awkward way of expressing a theory, it is nevertheless an undeniable and immortal truth. Goods that have merit must be brought prominently before the public that the quality of the same may become known. He that has an article that possesses merit must speak of it, write about it and advertise it if he desires to receive public recognition.

It may be logical to claim that merit will receive recognition in due time, and that all good qualities will assert themselves, but how often does it happen that the merchant who depends on this mode of selling goods, superior though they may be to other grades, finds that he has come too late and that other wares have taken the place for which his goods were intended. When the reputation of an article has once been established it is difficult to shake the popular confidence and persuade them into the use of another article.

The secret of the success of many enter-

prises may be attributed to the fact that they were undertaken by men who had the push about them to keep themselves before the public and by advertising the business they were engaged in. The same may be said of many of the leading merchants of today. If they had quietly remained in subservient positions and patiently waited for someone to make their battle in life the probability is that they would still be waiting, instead of being looked upon as the leading citizens of the community and cited as examples for the growing generation to follow.

The order of the present age is that those who aspire to advancement in life must not be dormant, but be up and doing their share without being ordered to do so. Blow your horn to compete with the loudest, but keep in harmony with your abilities and promises. To fail in the latter would be just as certain of destruction as the former would enhance your opportunities.

WHAT AN HONEST BOY GAINED.

A score or more cash boys employed in a big eastern dry goods store organized a strike about ten days ago. They wanted an increase of fifty cents a week in their pay, and the abatement of two or three obnoxious rules relative to fines. The determination to strike was unanimous, and each boy was taken, as fast as circumstances permitted, into the remotest corner of the cellar under the store, and made to "swear upon honor" that he would not back out of the movement until the objects sought were obtained. A day or two before the day fixed for the strike, a mousing porter caught three of them together in the cellar, and his threats to report them for attempting to steal frightened them into telling him their secret. Utterly disregarding their pleas to "keep still about it," the porter went directly to the superintendent and exposed the plot. That very night all the cash boys were summoned before the superintendent after the store had been closed.

"If there is to be any striking in this store," said the superintendent, "I propose to strike first. Now I want every boy who is pledged to this movement to step forward."

Only one boy stepped forward, and he proved to be the most industrious and trustworthy boy in the store. Each of the other boys being questioned in turn, denied any complicity in the proposed strike. The superintendent was a shrewd man. He soon ascertained all of the facts, and found that the one plucky boy proposed to stand by the "strike oath" until the "objects sought were attained."

"Oh, very well," said the superintendent, dryly, "as you are the only one on a strike, I will concede to you all you ask."

BE A SMATTERER.

It is better to have a little knowledge on a great variety of subjects than to restrict one's studies and thoughts within a narrow range. Every person should seek to master thoroughly some one branch of knowledge—that by which he or she expects to earn a living. But it is not given to an ordinary mortal to become really proficient in more than one art or science, and in other

matters it is better to be a smatterer in order to cover as wide a range as possible. And this, for two reasons: First, because the wider the range of one's thoughts the more symmetrically the mind will expand, and the greater will be its breadth of vision; and second, one can hardly learn anything on any subject that will not be helpful to him at some time, in some way. Miscellaneous reading in stray moments may thus be made a source of much profit. But it is all important that the object of gaining correct information, correct insight into character, correct ideas on the subject presented whatever it may be, should be kept well before the mind of the reader. No book is worth reading at all which does not in some way help one to obtain clearer or more comprehensive ideas, or to quicken the mental faculties. But the attitude of mind in which one takes up a book or a paper will have a greater effect in determining its influence upon him than the character of the book or paper itself. "Take heed how ye hear," said the Master; in this reading age we should remember that it is at least equally important to take heed how we read. Here is what Dr. Arnold of Rugby says about the importance of feeding the mind on a well varied diet:

"Keep your view of men and things extensive and depend upon it that a mixed knowledge is not a superficial one. As far as it goes, the views that it gives are true; but he who has read deeply one class of writers alone, gets views which are almost sure to be perverted, and which are not only narrow but false. Adjust your proposed amount of reading to your time and inclination. This is perfectly free to any man, but whether the amount be large or small, let it be varied in its kind, and widely varied. If I have a confident opinion on any one point connected with the improvement of the human mind, it is on this."—Ex.

The national debts of Europe amount to a total which is equivalent to \$55 for each inhabitant of the continent.

There are from thirty to forty warships which Great Britain could send through the Welland Canal, provided it was not destroyed by American troops.

Insurance is not a part of an owner's interest in a ship, and in cases of general average the amount of insurance received by him should not be added to the value of what was saved, for the purpose of increasing the fund to be distributed.

Careful experiments have shown that the rate per second at which bodies acquire velocity in falling through the air is 32 feet per second at the end of the first second from starting. At the end of the next second, it is going at the rate of 64 feet per second, and so on throughout the whole time of falling.

The Merchants Bank of P. E. I., which, with some of its most prominent customers, was brought to ruin in the disastrous year prior to 1870, is now flourishing. In ten months of last year, it made a net profit of \$11,071.63. Out of this amount and a small part of the balance of last year, it paid two dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. upon the capital, and its rest is now \$40,000.