

tries to exceed its powers and overtax us, we make a great outcry about resisting tyranny, and all that sort of thing; and if a grocer sells us raisin stalks and blackthorn leaves for tea, we are apt to get out of temper with him, and declare that we won't be victimised. And yet we submit to oppression, to curtailments of liberty, to deprivation of our rights in a thousand ways without murmuring, because *it depends on circumstances*.

You will say, perhaps, that you were badly brought up. The excuse might be received if you were still a child; but you have arrived at years of discretion, and can think for yourself, so the excuse will avail you no longer. Do you try to alter? You were not obliged to stay and gossip when you were out on an errand—you were not obliged to stop and drink because Jem Stokes did—you were not obliged to play at dominoes, billiards, or skittles instead of being behind your counter or in your workshop—you were not obliged to borrow five pounds to go betting at the races—you were not obliged to dress your family beyond your means because your wife said it would not do to be outdone by her neighbor—in short, you were not obliged to get into difficulties.

So, my friends, old and young, gentle or simple, be honest! Lay the blame in the right quarter. When you find yourselves in a predicament, confess that you failed in judgment or gave way to temptation. Say, "It depended on me to do better, and I would not. It depended on me—a being able to choose between right and wrong—to choose whether I would go straight or crooked, and I went crooked." Avow with the emigrant, that if you had only worked half as hard on the other side of the line, you would not be where you are. Be honest.

There is, however, one matter in which it may be said *it depends on circumstances*; and this is the training of children. Infants and young children are very imperfect reasoners, and it depends on what they see and hear whether they grow up a joy or a sorrow. Children brought up in a well-ordered home where no clamor and confusion prevail, are more likely to turn out well-conducted members of society, than those reared in dirt and disorder. Those who are taught to take healthful exercise and recreation, to value books, to respect the Sabbath, will be more reasonable and tractable in after life than those who have been neglected. Those treated with kindness will, as a rule, manifest kindness. Those trained to feel that right is right, will incline to continue therein. Habit is often stronger than principle. And thus it depends on circumstances whether children shall grow up to be virtuous and self-reliant; or whether, as men and women, they shall waste their lives in the fatal delusion that they can do nothing whatever towards their amendment.

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TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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RAILROAD FROM QUEBEC TO HALIFAX.

The construction of a Rail-road from Quebec to Halifax, is a work of so much importance to British North America, as well as to the British Empire, that we can scarcely suppose its accomplishment will be deferred for any lengthened period. The cost may be considerable, but the greater part of this expenditure will again be expended for British products and manufactures. The question of pounds, shillings, and pence, to such a rich country as England, and we might add, such a rich country as British America, should not, for a day, delay the construction of this road. A Railroad from Quebec to Halifax, passing through New Brunswick, and a summer line of Steamers from Britain to Quebec, would render the connection, and intercourse of these Provinces with England as easy and complete, as it was between England and Ireland 40 years ago. The project is such a grand and necessary one, that we cannot understand why it should meet with any opposition, either in Britain or British America. At all events we believe that no friend to British connection with this Province would oppose it. We have no doubt that if a road of such importance was required in the United States, it would be completed before the end of seven years from this time. Why should we not be as willing to forward a work that could not fail to be of the greatest advantage to this country, as they would be in the United States. This country is in as good a position at this moment, as regards her vast resources, and her credit, with scarcely any debt, as any country upon earth. The debt she does owe