

requires no capital, either of money or wit. If you would establish a newspaper or a magazine, you must have something in cash to begin with; or if you would be a penny-a-liner, you must have ability to write a line worth a penny;—I don't say that every line you write must be worth a penny; that would be expecting too much; but you must be able to write one line that is actually worth a penny, and then on the reputation of that one line you may write thousands not worth a farthing and get a penny a piece for them. But it is not everybody that has cash enough to establish a paper, nor is it every one who has wit enough to write a line worth a penny; whereas toad-eating is easy to the meanest capacity; and I will give you the benefit of my experience.

I first learned the noble science when I was at school. I had been taught to reverence my superiors, and I had heard something about the benefit of forming good connexions; I had art enough to know that good connexions are not to be had for nothing, and that the only way to make myself acceptable was to make myself agreeable. I first practised on my schoolmaster; for as I did not like the trouble of learning my lessons, I endeavoured to render myself agreeable without that trouble. I soon discovered who among the boys were favourites and who were not; and then I set myself diligently to find out all the faults, failings, sins, and peccadilloes of the unfavoured, and to report them to my master: and as people are never more pleased than when they are supplied with reasons for disliking those whom they hate from caprice, I thus made myself mightily agreeable to him. In all the letters which I wrote home, I praised the school and its management, literary and domestic; and I took care that all my letters should by some accident or other be seen by my master. Amongst the boys, I paid homage to the big and the blustering, that I might have their fistie protection; I flattered the good scholars, that I might have the benefit of their assistance in my lessons; I stuck close to the rich, that I might experience the benefit of their purses. In short, I became an universal favourite, except amongst a very few whose good-