

SELF-MADE MEN

We hear occasionally a remark made that such a distinguished person is a *self-made man*. Perhaps there are some who do not understand fully what is conveyed by that expression. Every man must, to a very great extent, be self-made. He is one who has arrived at intellectual excellence and distinction by his own unaided labour and perseverance, one who has trained the faculties of his own mind; not one who has received no education, but one who has educated himself. This fact, in general, indicates not extraordinary intellectual talent, but unusual moral firmness. Without that quality of mind, the best education may be thrown away, and with it all instruction, all the offices of a teacher, may be dispensed with.—Every man that has arrived at any degree of distinction in the scale of intellect is indebted for it to himself. To teach is not to educate, unless such teaching brings out the faculties of the mind, awakes to active and patient thought, and causes the person instructed to employ his own understanding; all that the very best teacher can do is “to aid the mind’s development.” Nor is that little. The greatest judgment and caution are necessary in affording that assistance. In respect to the amount of such assistance, I believe it may be laid down as a maxim that the benefits derived from studies is, in inverse proportion to the assistance received. Goldsmith, under this impression, recommends that students should be taught facts and required to study out the cause themselves. “*Quisq; sive fortune faber,*” was the maxim of the ancients, and truly none were more capable of judging of this matter than the great men of antiquity. They were in a peculiar sense self-educated men. Without the advantages of books, teachers, and seminaries of learning, they were obliged to substitute for them, extensive observation, great industry, and intense application of mind. It would not have been possible to have said to Socrates and Aristotle, as we can to many of the great lights of literature at the present time, “show me your library and I will tell you the source of your ideas.” They had recourse to unwearied reflection and drew their forth from the capacious recesses of their own minds.—*The Teacher’s Advocate.*

MEN fear death as children fear to go into the dark; and as that natural fear in civil men is increased with tales, so is the other.

A NATION OF PIGMIES.

To the south of Kaffa and Susa there is a very sultry and humid country, with many bamboo woods, inhabited by the race called Dokos, who are no bigger than boys of ten years old, that is, only four feet high. They have a dark, olive-colored complexion, and live in a completely savage state, like the beasts; having neither houses, temples, nor holy trees, like the Gallas, yet possessing something like an idea of a higher being called Yer, to whom, in moments of wretchedness and anxiety, they pray—not in an erect position, but reversed, with the head on the ground and the feet supported upright against a tree or stone. In prayer, they say: “Yer, if thou really doth exist, why dost thou allow us to be thus slain? We do not ask thee for food and clothing, for we live on serpents, ants, and mice.—Thus thou hast made us; why dost thou permit us to be trodden under foot?”—The Dokos have no chiefs, no laws, no weapons; they do not hunt, nor till the ground, but live solely on fruits, roots, mice, serpents, ants, and the like, climbing trees and gathering the fruits like monkeys; and both sexes completely naked. They have thick, protruding lips, flat noses, and small eyes; the hair is not woolly, and is worn by the women over the shoulders. The nails on the hands and feet are allowed to grow long, like the talons of vultures, and are used in digging for ants, and in tearing to pieces the serpents, which they devour raw, for they are unacquainted with fire. The spine of the snake is the only ornament worn around the neck, but they pierce the ears with a sharp pointed piece of wood.—*Dr. Krapp’s Travels in Eastern Africa.*

THE ablest men that ever were, have had all an openness and frankness of dealing, and a name of certainty and veracity.

MEN are too cunning to suffer a man to keep an indifferent carriage between both, and to be secret, without swaying the balance on either side. They will so beset a man with questions, and draw him on, and pick it out of him, that, without an absurd silence, he must show an inclination one way; or if he do not, they will gather as much by his silence as by his speech.

DISSIMULATION is but a faint kind of policy, or wisdom—for it asketh a strong wit and a strong heart to know to, tell truth, and when to do it—therefore it is the weaker sort of politicians that are the greatest dissemblers.

A SITUATION WANTED.

Times being hard in the Federal States, and a cold winter at hand, many really clever persons are at their wit’s end for some means of keeping the wolf from the door. Desperation has driven one of them to the dire extremity he so forcibly portrays in the following advertisement.

WANTED—A situation as SON-IN-LAW in some respectable family. No objections to going a short distance into the country. For references and particulars address FRANK STUART, Post Office, Williamsburgh, New York.

Mr. Stuart ought to have stated whether he can or cannot endure average boarding house coffee, and whether he stands or revolts at West India molasses on his flapjacks. It is well to have these matters clearly understood from the start, and thus avoid those domestic bickerings and other evidences of blighted affection which are the bane of married life.—*Free Press.*

The above individual should be wated to the young lady who, on one of her evening rambles, was met by a gentleman of her acquaintance, who addressed her:

“Good evening, M——; are you looking after the fashions?”

“No, sir,” replied she; “I am looking after a son-in-law for my mother.”

When we place our estimate upon individuals, the first thing to be considered is moral principle. All other possessions sink into insignificance when taken in connection with this. It is the real, genuine stamp which characterizes individuals, keeping their memory sacred in the hearts of others. No person can be truly *educated* without it. He may have all the knowledge of books which one mind can contain, and still, without correct principles—a keen and just perception of right, and a desire to do that right—there is a great *mental* deformity marking such a person just as perceptibly as *outward* deformity.

CONVERSATION.—Conversation may be too timid and respectful to be either pleasant or profitable. It is the collision of the flint and steel that brings the fire out. Soothly says, finely and truly:

“There is a pleasure in frank dialogue,
When mind meets mind in free and full debate;
Men may live years and never know the strength
That is in others or within themselves.”

HERCULES, when he went to unbind Prometheus (by whom human nature is represented), sailed the length of the great ocean in an earthen pot or pitcher, lively describing Christian resolution, that sail eth in the frail bark of the flesh through the waves of the world.