

his self-dependence. He always consults himself about what course to pursue, whether he does any one else or not. He is an independent thinker, a phase of character never more noticeable than at present when the tendency is so largely to depend upon and borrow from our neighbors. So many things have become current as facts and have been ranked as necessary knowledge, that one is almost unwittingly decoyed into spending his time entirely in finding out what other people know, instead of making researches for himself. A young man comes to college, completes a prescribed course, becomes possessor of a small fraction of the wisdom contained in his text-books, and goes away to grind this out in very small parts to an expectant people. It is not surprising that often the most noted development of genius is seen outside of our Universities, where the mind is untrammelled, not having been betrayed into enervating dependance upon others. Mere routine, machine work will crowd the grandest intellect into the slough of despair, and cast the most promising genius into the throes of death. A person needs a higher object than merely to crib what he can from books and tutors and then peddle this out second-handed. On this point John Stuart Blackie says:—"The original and proper sources of knowledge are not books, but life, experience, personal thinking, feeling and acting. . . . True knowledge grows from a living root in the thinking soul; and, whatever it may appropriate from without, it takes by living assimilation into a living organism. . . . Beware of reading by the mere method of *cram*. *Cram* is a mere mechanical operation of which a reasoning animal should be ashamed." Due regard should be given to the opinions of others, but it is necessary that a person should assert his own manhood and never drown his personality in that of another.

Another characteristic must be mentioned, one that in a weak man is always nauseous, but, in a strong man, often wins admiration. He must be self-confident, believe thoroughly in himself. When this feature is lonely in its greatness it will cause conduct to be a sad burlesque on humanity; but when leagued with great personal powers it is an element of success. It carried Cleon safely through his attempt at Sphacteria, only to perish before Olynthus; but it brought Hannibal through a thousand difficulties, even to the walls of Rome. He who believes he can succeed has gone a long way toward the desired result.

Let us combine these elements, good natural ability, indomitable energy, unflinching courage, self-dependance and self-confidence, and by their co-operation we have what is known in our common vernacular as a self-made man. We have all met him, and all who have met him know him. His peculiar course of life has forced him constantly to assert himself, and according to the principles of our nature this has grown into a habit so strong that

he now does it unconsciously. Few of these men so successful in other things, are equal to the task of keeping themselves in the background. Yet they are not only among the most peculiar phenomena of nature, but they are among the most useful evolutions of history. To them the world is indebted for many of its greatest discoveries, most useful inventions, and deepest philosophic questionings. If they do impress one with the complacency with which they dilate upon their own achievements—better this than the idle clatter of some do-nothing. But they are so eccentric? Yes! The hard buffets of experience has knocked them a little out of shape, but like an old buckler we prize them none the less for the scars of war, or it may be that these like the frequent dints upon an old piece of plate only serve to add the charm of a certain sacredness. He is the living demonstration of what mind and muscle, under even unfavorable circumstances, can accomplish—one that any man would be pleased to own as brother—one in whom the elements are so mixed, "That nature might stand up And say to all the world 'This is a man.'"

---

## PERSONALS.

CHAR. D. RAND, B. A., '79, is doing a successful business in Victoria, B. C. We learn he paid his friends in Nova Scotia a short visit in December. We tender congratulations for success in the past and kind wishes for future prosperity.

JOHN B. MILLS, M. A., '77, barrister, etc., Annapolis, has been elected to represent Annapolis Co. in the Dominion House of Commons.

REV. T. A. HIGGINS, D. D., pastor of the Baptist Church, Wolfville, visited Upper Canada in February.

REV. S. M. BLACK, M. A., '85, pastor of the Baptist Church, Kentville, supplied the pulpit of the Baptist Church Wolfville, and addressed the students of the College and affiliated institutions in College Hall, Feb. 13, A. M. and P. M. respectively.

G. R. RAYMOND, the class of '89, owing to ill-health, has been obliged to discontinue his studies for the present.

G. R. WHITE, '87, has received and accepted a call from the Baptist church in Jacksonville, Carleton Co., N. B. He will enter upon his duties there in June next.