

In 1847 the young typographer left his case and entered the store of a country merchant. Under this master the hours were long and the work uncongenial to our young friend's taste. But the merchant was a kindly man and of refined tastes widened by his possessing a well-selected library. Noticing his young clerk's ardor for knowledge, he gave the latter the freedom of his bookshelves. With gratitude and eagerness the favor was accepted, and, happy day ! our friend found himself face to face with old friends—the birds, in the form of the ponderous volumes of Audubon and Wilson. Every night after closing the store at nine o'clock the perusal of these books filled the hours until one. And every morning on opening the store a new zest was added to the day's work as he rehearsed the fascinating studies of the previous night and anticipated the delight of their renewal.

These two years developed the naturalist at heart ; but who could say when, if ever, he could be one in fact. The outlook from behind the counter of a country store was not encouraging. The stern *ultimatum* still confronted him. There was a hard battle to be

fought before he could abandon himself to the luxury of his favorite pursuit.

What more natural that he should long for a wider field, and pant to strike the first hard blows that would be but the beginning of victory. The desire soon changed to purpose ; he sought the counsels of his good mother who had been all this while a constant refuge in his hours of doubt. At first demurring, but recognizing the earnestness of his purpose, she at last gave him her blessing and sent him on his way.

#### A YOUNG ADVENTURER.

Buoyed up with the hopes of seventeen years and comforted by the knowledge of his mother's prayers, the young adventurer entered the great city of New York in the spring of 1849. The few dollars he retained on his arrival were gone when, after weeks of disappointing search he at last procured a situation in a wholesale mercantile house.

But the old distaste for commercial pursuits still weighed upon him, and made him long the more for higher things ; his nights were his own and he could still pursue his studies as of old.