

EXPERIENCE IN CITY LIFE.

A Youth who we think is troubled with a disease which no physician can cure, commonly called "homesickness," sends us his experience, and a warning that he hopes will keep others out of danger. He left a pleasant home to seek fortune and fame in a city, but soon found that "he had left a dear and cherished home, a loving and sympathizing circle of friends, for a cold and cheerless place among strangers in a strange land,—a miscellaneous collection of gripping, struggling, self-interest-seeking souls, with whom he must battle in a perpetual warfare of bitterest and most determined competition, and then barely gain the morsel that sustains life.

"It is a delusive phantom that draws so many intelligent young men from the honest and honorable occupation of tilling the soil, and an unsound and unhealthy aspiration that causes them to ignore and to despise their lot, because lacking that hollow and superficial glare—those gilded veils, and those exciting and falsely-brilliant attractions, so prevalent in the densely crowded metropolis.

"It does now and then happen that a country youth, either through the aid or influence of wealth, friends, or rare talents, succeeds in the city; but, in nine cases out of ten, the talent that would have given honor, luster and strength in the rural district, is swept by the city's boisterous tide into oblivion."

DECISION OF CHARACTER.

MR. YOUNG'S ESSAY,

READ BEFORE THE TEACHERS' CONVENTION AT COLBORNE.

Of all the different traits of character with which we are acquainted, that we denominate Decision, has the greatest power of exciting our admiration and eliciting the largest quota of commendation. Wealth, beauty, wit of genius, fall far behind in this respect. Like the sun amid the other celestial luminaries, it eclipses all in the steady, constant flow of its own ever-increasing resplendent glory. Like the sun, also, it may be seen peeping forth in the morning of life, and continuing its course, from the horizontal period of youth, onward to the zenith of meridian manhood. Unlike the haub's during the refreshing shower, as it advances it becomes more stable, enforcing its claims on our attention, and eliciting our sympathies in admiration of its possessor; so

that the more we know of such the more we desire to know.

The individual possessing such a principle moves in our midst an index ever pointing to the achievement of deeds of noble daring. Breathing an inspiring influence on all his acquaintance, he multiplies the good accomplished by his own personal endeavors.

Behold him! He is now prepared to act for himself. The multifarious pursuits of life pass in panoramic view before his vision. One is peculiarly attractive. With due precaution he closely examines its minutest parts and scrutinizes all its important bearings, that he may satisfy himself whether it be worthy his ambition or not—whether it be such as he can follow with credit to himself and profit to community. That he may make no error, he follows the advice of a wise teacher and brings it to the law and to the testimony. There, as in the scales of eternal rectitude he weighs the matter and adjusts the balance. The task of such a process may seem difficult, insurmountable; yet he shrinks not nor avoids a thorough investigation; but, like a skillful physician, the knife is applied and the wound laid open, layer after layer, until he arrives at the root of the matter. The evidence for or against has its proper effect. The encouragements and difficulties, probabilities and improbabilities of success are duly balanced. The result justifies the choice.—He hesitates no longer, but, like the illustrious heroes of Waterloo, he is up and at it. His mind made up—his purpose fixed, he commences at the beginning, and, like a good master-builder, digs deep for a solid foundation. Henceforth, like the rock on which he builds, he is immovable. As the anvil to the hammer, he flinches not. Like the noble lion, he turns not out of the path of duty, but, like the majestic river in its resistless course, he bears down all opposition, and, like the mighty ocean, he never wearies. Ever present to his mind is the motto, "Onward." It may be slowly, yet majestically onward he moves. Overcoming every obstacle, removing every obstruction, he pursues the even tenor of his way till victory crowns his efforts. Difficulties only serve to stir up the man of decision to greater exertion, which opposition sharpens and energizes his endeavors. His vocabulary is minus the word "fail." "Try, try again," is to him a beautiful and cheering sentiment. Success must crown his efforts. He may be singled out a target

to be pierced by the haughty, disdainful look, the ironical smile, or the scathing remark of the enemy; but amid the frowns of a jealous world, the scoffs of avowed enemies, and the irony of bosom foes, he has that within which buoys up his spirit, strengthens his resolution and nerves him on to conquest. From the justness of his cause—the integrity of his heart—the sincerity of his motives, and his own patient, untiring devotion, he derives hope and comfort. His faith may be taxed to the utmost on account of the slow development of his cherished hopes—the object of his ambition may seem far off in the distance, yet he repines not at his lot. Having nailed his colors to the mast he knows no surrender. Friends may forsake, fortune frown, and circumstances prove adverse, but these are only the crucibles of purification and refinement. He may be branded by the world as a fool and a maniac—his first attempts ridiculed and frowned upon, but he has long since towered above such influences to be affected by them.—

And having satisfied himself that the wisdom of the world is vanity, he troubles not himself about its maxims or regrets. He may be of obscure origin and minus a well filled purse, but like the sun bursting from the shades of night, his pathway is onward and upward, dazzling all around, till he reaches the acme of his ambition, has his name inscribed on the scroll of fame, and handed down to posterity as one of the benefactors of our race. Thus amid sunshine or storm, prosperity or adversity, praise or animadversion, his stability of purpose shines prominently forth, leading all the other qualities of his nature to a willing subserviency.

History abounds in examples. Joseph's strict integrity of purpose, not to be drawn aside by lust or luxury, seemed to shut him up in dungeon obscurity, yet was he advanced to the highest pinnacle of honor. Moses rejected preferment and position for the sake of his brethren, and he became their deliverer and leader. Joshua could say, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Need I mention the Hebrew children, or Daniel? Paul says in his determination to complete his work, "What mean ye to weep and break my heart? For I am ready, not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Those mentioned are only the types of a numerous host found in every nation and in every station of life. Let us examine English history and we shall find abundant