

amount of blame must belong to the unthinking and unmindful workman who, forgetful of everything but the fact that—in his own eyes—he is doing something wonderful upon his bench, makes that which cannot be expected to have a long life in the position for which it is destined.

A boy—a girl for that matter—cannot begin to learn the art of wood carving too early. Thirteen years old is a good age; fourteen quite late enough. It is a great mistake to keep a youngster at school until he begins to fancy he knows more than his father or any one else. We never knew any one who first went to the trade, say at eighteen or nineteen, turn out really well. A boy learning in a good shop (if an apt pupil) by the time he is of age feels competent to hold his own with any ordinary workman. That is one of the grandest and happiest feelings a young man can possess when starting the battle of life on his own account.

It is a curious but well-known practical fact that a youth who has served a time at wood carving (if he possesses ordinary application) can always learn to carve stone or marble afterwards, and with a few years' practice will be able to hold his own with any follower of either of the latter branches. On the other hand, we never knew a stone or marble carver who could carve wood properly. Some of them may think they can, but they really cannot do it. The knack of treating the grain in wood must always be acquired in youth, or it will never be thoroughly mastered later on. The stone or marble carver who tries his hand at wood tears rather than cuts the stuff, and when he finds he cannot do it properly, swears, and there's an end of it! Some of the most successful