

that we had the most quiet and improving set of young men in the town. The few who did not wish to comply with the regulations went abroad after tea, sometimes to the theatre, sometimes to other places, but, to a man, became bankrupt in after life, not only in fortune but in reputation; while a majority of the other class sustained good characters, and some are now living who are ornaments to society and fill important stations. The influence of this small measure will, perhaps, be felt throughout generations. It was not less favourable on myself than on others."

Here, says the *Merchant*, we have an insight into the self-training by which he prepared himself for those social and moral relationships and duties which he sustained and discharged with so much fidelity and effect.

Let us now turn to an aspect of his business character as a merchant, and see the first workings of those principles which he had adopted to guide his course in this direction. "A few days after his arrival in Boston," we learn from his biographer, "he received an offer of a clerkship in a respectable house; and, wishing to familiarize himself with the modes of conducting mercantile affairs in the metropolis, and with the desire of extending his acquaintance with business men, he accepted the offer. His employers were so well satisfied with the capacity of their new clerk, that, in the course of a few months they made a proposition to admit him into partnership. Without any very definite knowledge of their affairs, he, much to their surprise, declined the offer. He did not consider the principles on which the business was conducted as the true ones. The result showed his sagacity; for, in the course of a few months, the firm became insolvent, and he was appointed by the creditors to settle their affairs."

Here we have, in a young man not yet twenty-two, the merchant with a code of fixed principles by which to measure the rectitude and safety of commercial transactions. Look at the features of his business character developed in this incident. The house was respectable—the partners were greatly his seniors, and stood high on 'change—he himself probably had not one hundred dollars of his own earnings in the world—it is doubtful whether he had ever looked over their books, or seen their balance sheet. No wonder they opened their eyes with astonishment when he declined the proffered copartnership. The boy who, in face of his seniors, saw and arrested the tendency of the eleven o'clock dram, now, in young manhood, acts with the same decision of character in reference to his business connections. If the whole truth could be known, we should doubtless find that it was not the faulty administration of the day-book and ledger which led him to decline the copartnership; but a lack of truthfulness, honesty, and probity in the reckless risks to which they exposed the property of others, and in other characteristics of their dealings. A mind trained like his, could see, with the clearest moral perception, the dishonesty of dashing speculations in credit, and the speedy and disastrous end of that way. And no one was better fitted to rescue from the ruins of such a concern something for its creditors. They readily perceived this, and employed him to settle the affairs of the bankrupt firm, which he did to their complete satisfaction. It was not with a speculating eye for the pecuniary gains of godliness, that he discharged this duty with sagacious tact and success. It was not for making a capital of credit for