



# HOME DEPARTMENT

BY JANEY CANUCK

## YOUR SON'S PROFESSION

THE choice of a profession is not so important as is commonly believed. As a general thing a man adopts a calling in keeping with his education and social standing. It is only where some decided aptitude has marked itself out that men ought to be over-particular.

And "decided aptitudes" are not really very common. There are few who have the marked gift of Jediah Buxton, the famous person who could multiply nine figures by nine in his head. He was once taken to see Garrick act. When he went back to his own village he was asked what he thought of the great actor and his doings. "Oh," said he, "I do not know, I have only seen a little man strut about the stage and repeat 7,956 words."

As a general thing the profession chooses the man. James Garfield did not select the profession of President. He chose to be a canal-boy. But he was an excellent canal-boy. He had sterling good qualities; was a hard worker, too, and so the world kept on saying, "Friend, come up higher," till at length he reached the top rung of the ladder. Of a truth the wheels of promotion are geared low, but they seldom slip cogs.

It is praiseworthy that you should wish to see your family elevated, but don't make the mistake of sacrificing the happiness and prosperity of your son on the altar of your ambition. Better a common-place certitude than the flutter-winged possibility of something splendid.

Analyze the boy's ability, disposition, taste, and turn of mind, and then adapt the calling to the capacity.

And there are so many professions, and

they are all so old. The lawyers say their profession was first needed, when Cain killed Abel, but the doctors might as justly contend priority when Adam's rib was taken out. And when we have settled on this along come the tailors and dressmakers to assure us that their trades were called into existence when our first parents sewed fig-leaves. The horticulturists could claim prestige in the picking of the forbidden fruit. It looks as if the confidence-man has the best of the argument when he declares that his artful dodges began with Satan's deception of Eve. But the potter can "go one better," and take precedence over all for did not the Creator use clay to make the first man.

And since the earliest days, men have obtained maintenance by divers means; some by handicraft trades, some by shaving beards and some by shaving notes. The prodigal son chose feeding hogs as his profession, but be it said to his credit that he cancelled his indentures by running away.

And you have all these to select from. Perhaps, this is just the trouble. You are embarrassed in making a selection among so many. Then here are some pointers:

If the boy has a dreamy, meditative soul, don't make a lawyer of him.

Has the angel said to him, "write"? Here are the five essentials of a journalist: Quick observation, inquisitiveness, a good memory, quick hearing and the power of drawing rapid and accurate deductions from the facts he has observed. To be a hot-press darling of the publishers, the last mentioned quality should in reality stand first. The world is smothered with facts. People want to know what they mean,