

A Business Education.—Where to get it.

A majority of our boys are destined to be employed in business pursuits of one sort or another; and yet, strange to say, few parents seem to think it necessary to direct their education to that specific object. Of course, no objection can be made to the general education given at our ordinary schools or colleges. It is all necessary to develop the mind and to qualify the boy for something that will arise at some time or other in his future manhood. That, therefore, must not be overlooked nor abridged. But, when it is intended that a youth shall follow a mercantile pursuit, it would seem reasonable to suppose that a parent would conclude it to be necessary that a portion of his son's education should be devoted to qualifying him specifically for the experience that will occupy two-thirds of his waking existence. His *practical* intellect must be developed. In order to become a successful merchant the boy must have a thorough business drill.

Educated, practical talent, specially trained for the work, is now more than ever the demand of this practical age and the pre-requisite condition of success. The last twenty years has so increased the volume of business to be done, and has so added to the elements of hazard to be provided against, that no calling or profession in life, if we except that of the law, makes greater, more varied and critical demands for full, accurate and universal education than that of an accountant.

The Counting Room has no Place for Ignorance or Imbecility.

The time has passed when it can be used as an asylum for the unfortunate, or a sinecure for old age, however deserving. Success can only be attained by educated energy and tireless vigilance, coupled with an intimate and practical knowledge of the conditions and constituents of the business itself. New elements of danger, of one sort or another, are yearly being introduced into nearly all the great commercial industries of the country; radical innovations upon old methods are coming in like a flood. Therefore the young man who attends a business school that keeps pace with these changes and innovations is the best equipped to enter the commercial arena, and is the only one for whom the merchant is in search. It is only, of course, in large cities where mercantile reforms occur, and for this reason the

BRITISH AMERICAN BUSINESS COLLEGE

was located, in the year 1861, in Toronto. Here the atmosphere is full of commercial ideas, interests, attractions; and here the best teachers are to be found. In this latter term is included more than the regular staff of a College; the occasional lecturers, men of the highest standing in commerce, literature and law, form supports of the first importance. The students in commercial colleges will form connections, of one kind or another; and it is very desirable that these connections should be of a kind to aid them in their future career. In a large commercial centre only, can such connections be found and formed; in places of inferior importance, they are impossible.

The regular course of studies at a Commercial college claims the first attention of the students; and in the largest and best of such schools, which exist only in the principal cities, the most efficient teachers are to be found. To lure young men from the plough by the attractions of commerce, and to equip them with only the mental furnishings which an inferior school can supply, is to doom them to **disappointment**. The prizes of commerce are not to be won by men who enter the race handicapped in this way. To succeed in anything one must understand his business thoroughly; and where competition is the greatest, the most perfect knowledge of the best methods of business is necessary. This is the *raison d'etre* of commercial colleges. But there are inferior institutions of the kind. At these the student wastes his time, after having sacrificed a career wherein competence might have been won, for one in which only the best trained has a chance of success.

The number of bankruptcies is largely swelled by men who enter the lists of commerce ill prepared for the task. The father, as endorser for the son, shares the latter's ruin; and the farm gone, goes down to his grave in sorrow. At best, commerce has its risks; but these are increased indefinitely by ill-preparation for the life of a merchant of any grade, from the largest importer to the smallest retailer.

Men have made fortunes in commerce who never entered a commercial college, and before any commercial colleges existed. But such had special aptitudes which not one in a thousand possesses, or special opportunities which now-a-days occur to few. Before the modern means of training existed, all were on the same level, and the best men with the best business capabilities succeeded. But now, when a special training is within the reach of all, those who plunge into business without preparation, stand but a poor chance of success.

TORONTO, besides being a political and social centre, is the headquarters of the Ontario Banks, a large number of Loan Societies and Insurance Companies, and the great shipping port for the north. Here every kind of business is carried on with great activity. It is in the great centres that the best business habits are formed; and even students at the commercial college, in Toronto, catch something of the animating spirit by which all this complex commercial and financial machinery is worked. Apart from the solid advantages of the training college, there are gathered in such a centre, certain subtle qualities which may not be easy to define, but which help to form the perfect man of business, and which, once imbibed, become part of a man's moral capital, during the rest of his life. Any one who starts in the race of life with these advantages in his favor, has the means of distancing competitors who are not equally well equipped for the struggle. And such equipment can only be obtained at a commercial college situated in a large centre of business like Toronto. Students may enter at any time.

For information respecting this School, address the Secretary,

112 and 114 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO.

—The New York *Commercial List* thus refers to the gamblers in produce:—"The righteous principle of the common law is now in these cases violated more egregiously than formerly; but under the changed conditions of life it is more difficult, if, indeed, it is not impossible, to reach the speculative manipulators, and as for the moral law or responsibility they care nothing. Legislatures have tried their hand upon checking the huge gambling business, but the subject seems too big for them to grasp. Illinois, indeed, has a law against corners, but for all the good effect it produces it might as well be wiped off the statute books. A committee of our State Legislature last spring investigated the question and gave it up in despair. But it is nevertheless worthy the attention of the broadest-minded statesman. A way will probably be found sooner or later to check the growing evil. Our civilization is not such a bantling that it is to be overthrown by problems of this nature. It is capable of meeting them, and will do it at the proper time. The trouble now is that society has not had time to adjust itself to the wonderful developments of the nineteenth century. But we are accumulating the wisdom which will enable us to abrogate what there is evil in speculative combinations, and to adapt ourselves to circumstances. Mankind is equal to the task, and the doubters, if they live long enough, will learn that there is such a science as political economy, and that its laws can only be temporarily interfered with by combinations or anything else."

—The Committee recently appointed by the City Council to confer as to contemplated erection of blast furnaces and rolling mills, referred to in our last issue, met Mr. Matthew Robins on Monday the 30th ult. Ald. Downey having taken the chair, Mr. Robins was asked as to his object in coming before the Committee, and what proposal he had to make. He stated that he was there by invitation of the Committee, and was not prepared at present either to make or receive any definite proposals,—that he was engaged in obtaining information on various points—chiefly the quantities, quality and accessibility of the ore beds; the quantity of iron and manufactures of iron imported and consumed annually—the present sources of supply;—the cost of fuel and kindred matters. He had addressed letters to the Mayors of several Canadian cities respecting the natural advantages of their respective localities, and the probable inducements which the municipalities would offer. As soon as he had obtained the requisite information it would be submitted without reserve to his principals, who would look thoroughly into the matter, and if there appeared reasonable prospect of success would at once prepare their scheme. The high price of coal presented a very serious difficulty, but he hoped a satisfactory solution might be found.

The capital would probably be from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000; and the works would embrace smelting, manufacture of rolled iron of all kinds, machinery, nail factory, &c., to employ a large number of hands. The site of the works would be selected purely on business principles; and it might possibly be found desirable to place the furnaces near the ore bed where charcoal could be had cheaply, and the rolling mills at some point affording both rail and water communication. Mr. Scoles said he had known the gentlemen for whom Mr. Robins was acting, for thirty years, they had a thoroughly practical knowledge of the business, were now largely engaged in it, and were men of undoubted reliability and standing. The Committee thanked Messrs. Robins and Scoles for their attendance and the information afforded, and stated that when the proper time came the Council would be prepared to offer every reasonable inducement for the establishment of the contemplated works in Toronto.

—Telegraphic communication, both submarine and overland, is extending at a marvellous rate in this country. The Central American States, the remotest parts of South America, and the Straits of Magellan and Cape Horn will soon be joined to the telegraph networks of the United States and Canada. The ocean cable completed on the west coast of the American Continent, with transverse connecting wires across it, (down south as far as Valparaiso, and east to Buenos Ayres), will introduce a new era on this side of the Atlantic. The connections of the undertaking within the domain described amount to about 20,000 miles.