

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR
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George Stephenson.

TO George Stephenson's intelligence and perseverance is due the introduction of railways into England, and a study of his life cannot fail to be helpful to young people, as it teaches us how perseverance meets with its reward. He was born in the village of Wylam, England, on June 9, 1781. His parents were poor, and he had but few advantages. When only eight years of age he entered his first situation, his wages being two pence, or about five cents a day. His favorite amusement was erecting clay engines. He found the clay in the neighbouring bogs, and hemlock sticks supplied the imaginary steam pipes. At 14 he was taken to assist in the engine room, and he carefully studied the engine and its working. At this time he could neither read nor write, but he determined to learn, so he attended a night school, and by

the time he had reached 19 he was "proud to be able to write his own name." Such a lad would not fail to be appreciated. He was rapidly promoted, and finally was placed in charge of the mechanical department of the mine. His first attempt at constructing a "travelling engine," as he then called it, was in 1813. But the great event in his history took place in the year 1821, when he was employed to make a survey of the line of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the first railway in England, which was completed and opened Sept. 27, 1825, when Stephenson drove the first engine.

This great engineer died Aug. 12, 1848. His whole history teaches what may be

accomplished by energy and perseverance. But we must remember that there are still greater things than worldly success to be secured, and that only he who serves the Lord has learned the true secret of true success.

