

MAKE A CHARACTER FOR YOURSELF.

It is related of Girard, that when a young tradesman having bought and paid for a bag of coffee, proceeded to wheel it home himself, the shrewd old merchant immediately offered to trust his new customer to as many more bags as the latter might desire. The trait of character revealed by the young man in being his own porter, had given the millionaire confidence in him at once. His reputation was made with Girard. He became a favored dealer with the enterprising merchant, thrived rapidly, and in the end amassed a fortune.

No more capital will do so much for young men as character. Nor will always even capital and connection combined. In our own experience, we have known many beginners who have utterly failed, though backed by ample means, and assisted by the influence of a large circle of friends. In some cases, indeed, considerable experience, as well as industry and perseverance, have been added to these advantages, yet without securing success. We have known such persons, after a failure in their pursuit, to try a second, and even a third, yet with no better result, although still assisted by capital, by friends, and even by their own activity. The secret was that they had missed, somehow, making a character for themselves.

On the other hand it is a common occurrence to see young men begin without a cent, yet rapidly rise to fortune. They achieve this triumph by establishing, at the outset a reputation for being competent business men. Few are so fortunate as to do this by a single characteristic act, like the purchaser who won Girard's good will by wheeling home the bag; for generally neither veteran merchants are as shrewd as the famous millionaire, nor young dealers as energetic as his customer. But a consistent life of sagacity, economy and industry, invariably establishes the right kind of reputation in the end. Confidence grows up in influential quarters, towards the young beginner. Old merchants shake their heads approvingly, and say, "he is of the right stuff and will get along." Credit comes, as it were, unsought. Connection follows. The reputation of the new aspirant widens and deepens; his transactions begin to be quoted as authority; trade flows in on him from every quarter; and in a few years he retires with a competence, or remains to become a millionaire. All this is the result of establishing, at the outset, a character of the right sort.

We may say to every young man, about to start in life, make a character for yourself as soon as possible. Let it also be a distinctive one. It is better to have a name for excelling all others in some one thing than to enjoy simply a notoriety for merely general merit. Are you a mechanic?—outstrip your fellows in skill. Are you a young lawyer?—become superior in a particular branch. Are you a clerk?—be the best book-keeper your employers have. Are

you in a store?—make yourself acquainted with the various buyers. In short, become known for an excellence peculiar to yourself; acquire a speciality, as it is called; and success is certain, because you will have, as it were, a monopoly, and can dictate your own terms.

Money may be lost, without fault of our own, by some one or another of the accidents of life. Connections may be broken up, by death, or failure, or change of interests. But character remains through all. It belongs to the individual, and is above the chances of fate. Thousands who have lost all else, have recovered themselves, by having a character to start anew with; but no man, without a business character, has even risen from the ruin caused by the loss of capital, or the destruction of connexion. [Philadelphia Ledger.]

FEMALE MANNERS.

SCARCELY anything is so offensive in the manners of a lady who moves in good society, as that of ostentation. By this is meant that kind of manner which savors too much of self-appreciation and display,—indicating a disposition to make herself over conspicuous,—and which, in short, is the acting out of a spirit of self-confidence and conceit. This appears badly enough when exhibited by one of the opposite sex, but, when seen in a young lady, it is quite intolerable. Liability to embarrassment from every slight change of circumstances, and an awkward bashfulness, are of course not at all desirable; but between these and ostentatious manner, there is a happy medium, consisting of a due combination of confidence and modesty, which renders a lady pleasing to all with whom she associates. If, however, either of these extremes must be followed, it will be found that diffidence will always be more readily pardoned than ostentation. And yet, while ostentatiousness of manner is to be avoided, it is necessary to guard against any appearance of studied reserve. Persons are not unfrequently met with, whose manners leave upon the minds of those with whom they came in contact, the painful impressions of being regarded with distrust or suspicion. Wherever this trait appears, it is almost certain to excite feelings of anger or prejudice. Most persons will bear anything with more patience than to be told, either directly or indirectly, that they are unworthy of confidence. A significant smile, or nod, or look, with a third person, which is intended not to be understood by the individual with whom conversation is being carried on, is a marked violation of propriety, and has often cost a deeply wounded sensibility, and sometimes a valued friendship. While a lady should studiously avoid everything of this kind, her manners should be characterised by a happy frankness, such as will, in whatever circumstances she may be placed, leave no doubt of her sincerity.

A YANKEE'S IDEA OF HEAVEN.

A WRITER in the N. Y. Times has given some conversations with a queer fellow down in New-Hampshire:—

"Now," said the old man, "I've my own idea of heaven, and I don't think that we shall be forever and ever at prayer-meetin's and singin' psalms—it'll be rather monotonous. I don't think death is anythin' but a kind o' change of place. Now, for instance—we'll say we four have all started from New-York Bosting; that 'ere gentleman come from a high-toned family; these 'ere two are a down-town tavern, and I'm from the Pints. When we get to Bosting, this gentleman will go naturally to the R. House; these two to some other house, and I shall go straight to Ann's or the Five Pints of Bosting. So I'll it will be when we journey off to the world—we shall go straight to the same o' things we liked here. Don't you see?"

LUXURY OF A KISS.

ALMOST any second-rate writer can describe the common emotions of the heart, but it needs a master-hand to describe the exquisite intensity and thrillingly warm, affectionate kissing. It is a test-bar for poetic writing. Few can do it. We copy below a few of the best attempts we have ever seen. The first is a young lady in the last year of her schoolship:

"Let thy arm twine
Around me like a zone of love,
And thy fond lips, so soft
To mine be passionately pressed,
As they have been so oft."

The next is by a lady, who, perhaps superior to the preceding one in nobility, is still far more graphic, and produces smacks of experience. It penned during her engagement; but time of her inspiration is not certain:

"Sweetest love,
Place thy dear arm beneath my drooping
And let me lowly nestle on thy heart;
Then turn those soul-lit orbs on me and
My parting lips to taste the ecstasy,
Imparted by each long and lingering."

THE AUTOCRAT.

Dr. Holmes said, some years ago,

"I wrote some lines once on a time
In wondrous merry mood,
And thought, as usual, men would say
They were exceeding good."

They were so queer, so very queer,
I laughed as I would die;
Albeit, in the general way,
A sober wum an I."

He then relates the awful effect of lines upon his servant man, who was commissioned to carry them to the printer: then adds in conclusion—

"Ten days and nights, with sleepless
I watched that wretched man,
And since, I never dare to write
As funny as I can."