

that you will act with precision, that you will do things at once, but your resolve dies out; it atrophies, and, when night comes, you find that you have executed but a small part of what you intended to do.

Executive dispatch is one of the indispensable requisites of success. Its cultivation would facilitate your work wonderfully. A man who dillydallies, who procrastinates, who never acts promptly, who puts off a thing until he is compelled to do it, can never expect to win success.

You lack the power of decision. It takes you a long time to make up your mind, and even then you do not decide firmly and positively, but are always ready to reconsider, or reopen the question. You like to "look things over" too much. This wavering, capricious habit is very injurious and demoralizing to the mind. After a while you lose confidence in your judgment, in your power to decide, and you depend upon others for advice and suggestions. You lose your originality and become an imitator. When something important confronts you which demands immediate decision, you hesitate, "beat about the bush," to gain time, grasp into vacancy for the advice of your prompters, and very often lose a grand opportunity to better yourself. This habit is very destructive to true character-building. People who are always weighing and balancing questions in their minds, and always ready to reconsider what has been practically settled, lack strong character-fiber, and are deficient in manhood-timber. Absolute independence is essential to strong character. Leanners, imitators, and people who never learn to depend on themselves are always weaklings. I know of nothing more demoralizing to the highest success, to real manhood or womanhood-building, than the growth of a habit of indecision.

A man who does forcible work must dismiss a subject from his mind when he is done with. This increases the grasp and power of the mind and keeps it clear for concentration upon the thing under consideration. Nothing can be accomplished with half a mind; you must concentrate, or focus all your powers upon the thing you are doing. This you can never do when things by the score are half-settled in your mind, continually obtruding themselves for consideration, and hindering the thought of present problems.

When you have anything in hand, settle it. Do not look at it, lay it down, then look at something else and lay that down also, but settle things as you go along. It is a thousand times better to make an occasional mistake than never to settle anything, but be always balancing, weighing, and considering many things at a time.

It is vigorous thought which counts. A subject which is handled, so to speak, with the tips of the mental fingers, never amounts to anything. You must seize and grasp with all your might the thing you are attempting, and do it with vigor and enthusiasm, if you wish it to bear the stamp of superiority when completed. Another defect in your work, which arises from the faults I have mentioned, is failure to complete things. Your work bears the impress of incompleteness, and seems always to lack something.

If you could overcome these defects, you might be successful, for you really possess great ability but lack definiteness. Evidently your mind has not been trained to exactitude. There has been carelessness in your education somewhere. It may be partly the fault of your teacher's early life to these deficiencies. If this had been done, the task of correction would have been easier than it is now, but the faults may still be overcome if proper diligence be used. I hope, for your own sake, that you will set about it with determination.

COMMON DIFFICULTIES

You look quite clever, friend;
I know you're an average man.
Did you ever open a tin of meat
With the key that is on the can?

I know you're bright and sharp.
I like your cut and style.
Can you get dressed in a sleeper berth
And not get out in the aisle?

I know you've been about,
You look like a man alive;
Did you ever get a ten-cent smoke
As advertised, for five?

You've had experience
In some of the paths you've strayed,
Can you put a tight car window up
And not have to call for aid?

I know you've been about,
You've put your time to use;
Do you ever find it hard to strike
The joints of a roasted goose?

Thanks, friend; I'm reassured,
You've been around, I see;
I thought, perhaps, until I asked,
The fault lay all with me.

—"New York Times."

Mrs. Grumps—"My husband has great difficulty in finding the keyhole of the front door when he comes home on lodge nights. Do you think he needs stronger glasses?"

"No, ma'am. Probably his glasses are too strong."

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