

" In a less exalted sphere we meet with the same phenomenon. Sir William Herschell was a musician, Faraday a book-binder, Scott a lawyer's clerk, Murat a student of theology, Ney a notary's clerk. Arkwright, the inventor of the spinning-machine and the first cotton manufacturer, a barber ; Spinoza a glass-blower, Adam Smith a clergyman, Lord Armstrong an attorney, Herbert Spencer an engineer, Pasteur, the father of modern medicine and chirurgy, a chemist ; Edison a news-vendor ; George Stephenson and most of the great inventors and creators of industry of his time were ordinary workingmen.

" When we look round we find not only that many leaders of men were devoid of a highly specialized training in that particular branch of human activity in which they excel, that they were self-taught amateurs ; but that many of the ablest politicians and of the most successful business men have not even had the advantage of a fair general education. Abraham Lincoln had learned at school only the three R's. and those very incompletely ; President Garfield worked with a boatman when only ten years old ; President Jackson was a saddler and never spelled correctly ; President Benjamin Harrison started life as a farmer, and President Andrew Johnson, former tailor, visited no school, and learned reading only from his wife. George Peabody started work when only eleven years old ; the late Sir Edward Harland was apprenticed at the age of fifteen years ; Andrew Carnegie began his commercial career when twelve years old as a factory hand ; Charles Schwab, president of the United States Steel Corporation, drove a coach as a boy, and then became a stake-driver at an iron-works. Josiah Wedgewood started work when only eleven years old ; Arkwright, the father of our cotton industry, was never at school ; Edison was engaged in selling papers when twelve years of age, and Sir Hiram Maxim was with a carriage-builder when he was fourteen. 'Commodore' Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railway king, who left more than a hundred million dollars, started as a ferryman at a tender age ; the founder of the wealth of the Astors was a butcher's boy, Baron Ansel Mayer von Rothschild a pedler. Alfred Krupp a smith, Rockfeller, the head of the Standard Oil trust, a clerk. All these most successful men were autodidacts. "