

our young boy would be indignant were he classed as a child; if he belong not to that most beautiful and most loving of human groups, then we may dismiss that part of our enquiry.

Being no longer a child he has learned and has not forgotten the things every child should know. He knows the first principles of religion; reverences the name of God; can say his prayers and repeat the Commandments; knows his catechism, and has respect for God's house and God's ministers. He need not be instructed in his behaviour toward his superiors, or in his demeanour in church and before things holy; he has seen at home how gentlemen act at table, and the little courtesies of everyday life have already become as matters of course to him toward his companions at school. Further than this, he reads and writes well, need not be put at the first part of every book in the lowest class, and has some habits of order and industry about him. He is the sort of boy to whom you would expect to hand a prize at school, and he has that self-respect for himself which, when not carried too far, is one of the most promising traits in a young boy.

Every boy is not fit to be sent to college, because it is not every one for whom a college education is beneficial. Properly applied, a college training is a sort of polish that adheres only to material of fine grain. Culture does not adorn every nature, and except with the wealthy, for whom we are not concerned, the expensiveness of a college course should plainly indicate an expectation of some substantial return. Money should not be wasted in turning basswood into clockwork machinery. "You can't

fill any cup beyond what it will hold," says James Payn, "and the little cups are exceedingly numerous." There is a homely proverb ascribed to a homely queen to the effect that a silk purse cannot be manufactured out of a pig's ear. When the article is unquestionably of the pig's ear type, then a rich man may spend a fortune if he choose endeavouring to make something superfine out of it, but the sensible man will devote it to other uses. The professional man, the artist, or the scientist must have some of the elements of success in such professions—there must be some groundwork of ability to rest upon before he enters into an elaborate course of study fitting him therefor.

And so, if a boy has no fair expectation, that the result of a college course would help him to make a living, why, in the name of common sense, should he be found within the walls of a college, or what benefit is an attempt at superfine finish to his inferior abilities? It is as improvident to spend money in this, as it would be for a London shop-boy, to invest his earnings in a Windsor uniform. Even if the thing fitted, what prospects would he have, of being presented at a Royal drawing-room. The proverb of the Royal spinster, might be invoked afresh, to crush his plebeian insolence.

However, I am not going to fall out with anybody, and so, my clever young reader, fit as you are to be in a college, and with brains and capacity to make your living out of what they are going to teach you here, we will not raise any doubts about the propriety of your presence. What has been said, is intended more for fathers and mothers than for you. Your case is decided, and your appearance in college the best evidence of it.