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TO OUR READERS

We ask our readers before making purchases to kindly look through our advertising columns with a view of purchasing from those houses who advertise with us, and when writing or ordering please mention the Canadian Churchman

I want to impress upon you. If you want to succeed, be yourself; think your own thoughts, speak your own words, and live as you know you ought to live, even if you stand absolutely alone.

I don't mean by this that you are to seek to be singular. For example, I don't want a girl to defy the fashions altogether, and wear her grandmother's bonnet, saying "It doesn't matter how people laugh." There are limits, of course.

The Quakers tried to be singular in manner, and dress, and speech, but they have given up these things, and this is not the sort of singularity I mean.

Let me show you what I do mean, I read this last week of a boy in an office, whom the others in the office called "Lunny," because he did such funny things. As for example, the place swarmed with cockroaches, and this boy thought for himself. He determined to get rid of the pest in his own way, so he fixed upon a spot where there was a trough filled with water, and around this he ran wires, which he charged with electricity. The creatures were enticed to the spot, came in contact with the wires and were instantly killed. When the other boys came into the office next morning there was a pile of the slain all round about the trough. The lad "Lunny" went on his own way and became Edison, the great electrician.

It is all very well to be guided and governed by others, in fact it is a duty to obey where there is a rightful authority; but there is always room for one's own thought, and where a thing has to be done there is one person who ought to be depended upon for doing it, that is yourself, and in the best way it can be done.

It is the lad who can think for himself and act for himself who makes his mark. He will receive many and many a snub, and smart under many and many a jeer, but if he can go on still he is sure to come out near the top in the long run.

Of course we have to learn by the teachings of others wiser than ourselves; we cannot begin at the beginning and do everything our own way, but having learned a thing we can put our own thought into it.

Suppose, for example, a painter copies a certain master, and he copies this master year after year and gains such skill that he can produce such exact copies that even an expert cannot tell the difference between the copies and the original paintings, what has he done? Why, only this: made himself into a slave, he can never attain success, he can never rise above this—"I have successfully imitated another."

If it were purely amusement he was seeking he might copy, and boldly avow that his work was a copy, but the world grants no honour to the copyist, he is not an artist.

What I should like to urge upon you is—self-reliance, the daring to be yourself. And if you find that others have lower forms of thought and manner of life to your own, don't sink down to their level because you don't like to stand alone.

And in your work, let it be your own, and done in your own way—only, try to make that way better

than anybody else's way. Originality is power. Imitation is weakness.

Every flower that blooms dares to lift up its head after its own sweet fashion, and be itself, with its own individual life put into its own peculiar form, and it scents the air with its own peculiar perfume. And we honour the rose because it is a rose, and not a feeble imitation of a lily; and we honour the lily because it is a lily and does not try to be like a sunflower, and so on, all the way round.

And you, you are born with a head of your own, and a will of your own; and you have a mission of your own which no one else can do; determine to do that, and in the best way it can be done.

Two lads were in a shop one day, they were both learning the business, but times were dull, no customers turned in, and they had nothing to do. One said, "Let us have a game of draughts," the other said, "No, I am here to learn the business," and he went on examining some new goods. His interest was awakened, he found they were faulty. He reported the matter to the head of the firm, and while the examination went on, the other boy was on the doorstep wasting his time with others who had gathered round. Can you wonder that one went up, and the other down?

Always be firm, alert, self-reliant: yourself and not another.—Uncle Harry in "Church Family News" paper.

HIS BEST HELPER.

Which sort of a person is most helpful to you?" asked one clergyman of another. "I mean to you personally and individually."

His friend looked puzzled, and the questioner went on: "Is it the man who agrees with all your views, and so helps you with his sympathy and comprehension, or the independent thinker, who argues with you, and stimulates you to write convincing, stirring sermons?"

"If you really want to know," said the older man with symptoms of a smile at the corners of his mouth, "it isn't either of those men who helps me most. It's the man who may or may not agree with my views, but who cares enough about my sermons

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to come to church on a stormy Sunday when most people stay at home. He's my best helper."

Am I such a helper?

THE VALUE OF CHARCOAL.

Few People Know How Useful it is in Preserving Health and Beauty.

Nearly everybody knows that charcoal is the safest and most efficient disinfectant and purifier in nature, but few realize its value when taken into the human system for the same cleansing purpose.

Charcoal is a remedy that the more you take of it the better; it is not a drug at all, but simply absorbs the gases and impurities always present in the stomach and intestines and carries them out of the system.

Charcoal sweetens the breath after smoking, drinking or after eating onions and other odorous vegetables.

Charcoal effectually clears and improves the complexion, it whitens the teeth and further acts as a natural and eminently safe cathartic.

It absorbs the injurious gases which collect in the stomach and bowels; it disinfects the mouth and throat from the poison of catarrh.

All druggists sell charcoal in one form or another, but probably the best charcoal and the most for the money is in Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges; they are composed of the finest powered Willow charcoal, and other harmless antiseptics in tablet form or rather in the form of large, pleasant tasting lozenges, the charcoal being mixed with honey.

The daily use of these lozenges will soon tell in a much improved condition of the general health, better complexion, sweeter breath and purer blood, and the beauty of it is, that no possible harm can result from their continued use, but on the contrary, great benefit.

A Buffalo physician in speaking of the benefits of charcoal says: "I advise Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges to all patients suffering from gas in stomach and bowels, and to clear the complexion and purify the breath, mouth and throat; I also believe the liver is greatly benefited by the daily use of them; they cost but twenty-five cents a box at drug stores, and although in some sense a patent preparation, yet I believe I get more and better charcoal in Stuart's Charcoal Lozenges than in any of the ordinary charcoal tablets."

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