

HENRY WARD BEECHER TO HIS SON.

THE following letter from Henry Ward Beecher to his son should be carefully thought over by every young man : -

"My dear Herbert, - You are now for the first time really launched into life for yourself. You go from your father's house and from all family connections to make your own way in the world. It is a good time to make a new start, to cast out faults of whose evil you have had an experience, and to take on habits the want of which you have found to be so damaging.

"1. You must not get into debt. Avoid debt as you would the Devil. Make it a fundamental rule : No debt - cash or nothing.

"2. Make few promises. Religiously observe even the smallest promise. A man who means to keep his promises cannot afford to make many.

"3. Be scrupulously careful in all statements. Accuracy and perfect frankness, no guesswork. Either nothing or accurate truth.

"4. When working for others sink yourself out of sight, seek their interest. Make yourself necessary to those who employ you by industry, fidelity, and scrupulous integrity. Selfishness is fatal.

"5. Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Demand more of yourself than anybody else expects of you. Keep your personal standard high. Never excuse yourself to yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself ; be lenient to everybody else.

"6. Concentrate your force on your proper business ; do not turn off. Be constant, steadfast, persevering.

"7. The art of making one's fortune is to spend nothing. In this country any intelligent and industrious young man may become rich if he stops all leaks and is not in a hurry. Do not make haste ; be patient.

"8. Do not speculate, or gamble. You go to a land where everybody is excited and strives to make money suddenly, largely, and without working for it. They blow soap bubbles. Steady patient industry is both the surest

and the safest way. Greediness and haste are two devils that destroy thousands every year.

"9 I beseech you to correct one fault - severe speech of others. Never speak evil of any man, no matter what the facts may be. Hasty fault-finding and severe speech of absent people is not honourable, is apt to be unjust and cruel, makes enemies to yourself, and is wicked.

"10 If by integrity, industry, and well-earned success you deserve well of your fellow-citizens, they may in years to come ask you to accept honours. Do not seek them, do not receive them while you are young - wait ; but when you are established you may make your father's name known with honour in halls of legislation.

"Lastly, do not forget your father's and your mother's God. Because you will be largely deprived of Church privileges you need all the more to keep your heart before God. But do not despise small churches and humble preachers. 'Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.' Read often the Proverbs, the precepts and duties enjoined in the New Testament. May your father's God go with you and protect you."

THAT LAST WORD.

A young girl once heard a bit of wisdom from the lips of a very aged woman - a woman who had rounded the full term of ninety years, and with eyes still bright and clear looked out upon the inrolling waters of eternity. The girl was impressed by the emphasis with which the venerable dame said to her, "Bessie, never insist on having the last word."

The determination to have the final word leads to more quarrels and more bitterness of feeling at home than almost anything else in domestic life. The fact is, that one may so control her tongue and her eyes that she may allow her opponent the pleasure of this coveted concluding thrust and yet placidly retain her own opinion, and in the homely colloquial parlance of the up country, where one finds strong-willed people living together in great peace with the most pronounced diversity of characteristics, "do as she's a mind to." - *Harper's Bazar*