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Walt's Corner.

THE ISLE AND STAR.

BY GEORGE D. PRENTICE.

In the tropical seas
There's a beautiful isle,
Where storms never darken
The sunlight's soft smile
There the hymn of the breeze
And the hymn of the stream
Are mingled in one,
Like sweet sounds in a dream.
There the song-birds at morn
From the thick shadows start,
Like musical thoughts
From the poet's full heart.
There the song birds at noon,
Sat in silence unbroken,
Like an exquisite dream
In the bosom, unspoken.
There the flowers hang like rainbows
On willow and leaf—
O, say wilt thou dwell
In that sweet isle with me?

In the depths of the sky
There's a beautiful star,
Where no ye exists a shadow
The bright scene to mar.
There the rainbows ne'er fade,
And the dews are ne'er dry,
And a circlet of moons
Ever shine's in the sky.
There the songs of the blest,
And the songs of the spheres,
Are unceasingly heard
Through the infinite years.
There the soft airs float down
From the airy bowers,
All faint with perfume
Of Eden's own flowers.
There truth, love and beauty
Immortal will be—
O, say wilt thou dwell
In that sweet star with me?

The Blessings of Poverty.

If there is anything in this world which a young man should be more grateful for than another, it is the poverty which launches us in life under very great disadvantages. Poverty is one of the best tests of human quality. A triumph over it is like graduating with honors at Oxford or Cambridge. It demonstrates mental stamina. It is a certificate of worthy labor faithfully performed. A young man who cannot stand this is not good for anything. He can never rise to affluence or station. A young man who cannot feel his determination strengthened as the yoke of poverty presses upon him, and his energy rise with every difficulty which poverty throws in his way, had better never enter the lists with the champions of self-reliance.

Poverty makes more men than it ruins. It ruins only those who are destitute of sterling energy of character; while it makes the fortunes of multitudes whom wealth would have ruined.

Now, if any man with a good fortune, and in possession of that which is commonly called an excellent opening in life, reads this paper, let him be warned in time. His advantages may be anything but what they seem; they many turn out to be the bane of his life; the full pocket, in the long run, may be beaten by the empty purse; for money never makes a man, and never did in the whole course of the world's history.

No, young man; if you are poor, thank Heaven, and take courage. You have the prospect of making your own way through the world. If you had plenty of money, ten chances to one it would spoil you for all useful purposes. Do you lack education? Have you enjoyed but little schooling? Remember that education does not consist in the multitude of things which a man possesses. What can you do?—that is the question which settles the matter for you. Do you know your business? Has your mind, by any means whatsoever, received that discipline which give to its action power and facility. If so, then you are more of a man, and a thousand times better educated, than the youth who has graduated at college, but who knows nothing of the practical business of life. As to wealth, there are very few men in the world less than thirty years of age, and unmarried, who can afford to be rich. One of the greatest benefits to be reaped from great financial disasters is, the sowing of a large crop of young men. They are taught that they must help themselves; they get energy of character, and personal enterprise, and industry, in place of foolish dependence on the wealth which their fathers or grandfathers have accumulated before them; they are made to work, and work gives to their character that nobility and manhood which are not to be obtained without it.

In regard to the choice of a profession, every young man must consult his own inclination. If you adopt a trade or

profession, do not be persuaded to resign it, unless you are perfectly satisfied that you are not adapted for it. Advice of all sorts you are certain to receive; but if you follow it, and it leads you into a profession which starves you, those who gave the advice never feel bound to give you any money. You have to take care of yourself in this world, and you had best choose your own way of doing it, always remembering that it is not your trade or profession which makes you respectable, but that respectability depends on the manner in which you discharge the duties devolving upon you.

Manhood and profession or handicraft are entirely different things. God makes men, and men make lawyers, doctors, carpenters, bricklayers, all the trades or occupations of life. The offices of men may be more or less important, and of higher or lower quality; but manhood is nobler than any, and distinct from all. A profession or trade is not the end of life; it is an instrument taken into our hands by which to gain a livelihood.—Thoroughly acquired and assiduously followed, a trade is still to be held at arm's length. It should not be allowed to tyrannize over, to mold, or to crush a man. It should not occupy the whole of his attention. So far from this, it should be regarded only as a means for the development of manhood. The first object of living is, the attainment of true manhood, the cultivation of every power of the soul, and of every high spiritual quality. Trade is beneath the man and should be kept there. With this idea in your mind, look round you and see how almost everybody has missed the true aim of life. They have not striven to be men, but to be lawyers, doctors, tradesmen, or mechanics—they have missed the chief end of life; and though they may become influential in their professions, they have failed to make the right use of their existence.

Elihu Burritt cultivated the manhood that was in him until his trade and his blacksmith's shop ceased to be useful to him, and he could get a living in a more congenial way.

It is not necessary that you should be a "learned blacksmith," but it is necessary that you should be superior to your occupation, and that to attain manhood should be the great end of your struggle with the world.