

here than in the professions, and chances of promotion are proportionately poor.

But all of these obstacles may be overcome by the man of ability and determination. The popular misconception held by business men regarding the fitness of University graduates for business work is being quickly dispelled. One of the most successful business men of Canada recently remarked: "The best possible introduction which a man can have who applies to me for work is a University degree. My greatest regret is that I never had the educational advantages which are enjoyed by so many of our young men of to-day." With this man, unusual ability and accumulated experience have largely made up for the lack of education, but even he admits that progress would have been much more rapid had he been able to bring to bear upon his work, a mind trained to systematic thought, and a power of expression that would have commanded the respect of all those with whom he came in contact. The few facts which a man learns about History, Mathematics, or Languages, constitute the least important part of his education. Of infinitely greater value than these is the self-control which he has acquired from a course of systematic study; the ability to select from various ends some one as being the most desirable, and to set about the realization of that end in the most direct and most effective manner. If the end selected is the managing-directorship of an insurance company, he will enter the office as a junior clerk, and will put his whole heart into the work which is assigned to him. Not only will he master that, but he will make it his business to learn all that he can about the work the others in the office are doing. His evenings will be devoted to reading up everything that he can lay his hands on regarding insurance and all kinds of commercial law. This eagerness on his part cannot fail to attract the attention of his superior officers, and he is soon promoted over the heads of his grumbling fellow-clerks, who are always afraid of earning more than they really receive, and are surprised that they are not promoted more rapidly. And so he goes on step by step, until finally his goal is reached. Some may scoff at this, and call it castle-building, but it is nothing of the kind. It is simply an illustration of what every young man of determination and ability can do. It no doubt requires some pluck to begin at the bottom, but no man need ever remain there long, and the desirability of the end to be reached will surely justify some present sacrifice.

Should the young man desire to enter upon some line of business for himself, probably no field presents more opportunities than that of contracting, and no better scene of operations could be found than New Ontario and the Canadian North-West. But, someone will ask, where is the capital to come from that will be required for business of this sort? The best capital that one can have is a few years of actual experience in that vast country which is simply awaiting the hand of the developer. Let a man spend two or three years there, doing any kind of work at all that will suffice to keep him; let him be constantly adding to his fund of information about the country, its people and their needs; let him acquire the habit of studying thoroughly and in its broader aspects every kind of work to which he puts his hand. If he does all this success will not be long deferred. Many fortunes have already been made there, and many more will undoubtedly be made in the course of the next ten or fifteen years. What about our University men? Will they be among the number of successful ones? Let us hope they will, even if for no other reason than to stop the senseless prattling of those men who try to belittle the benefits of a university education.

M.

A GLIMPSE OF SHYLOCKS.

A ridiculous Quilpish Jew, a caricatured demon hideous of gait and feature—this was something like the Shylock played in the time of Shakspeare. For a century and a half the delusion remained. Then came the startling reaction of Macklin's memorable performance in 1741. Terrible indeed was his conception. The audience gaped in fascinated horror at the malignant monster there depicted. "No human touch," says William Winter, "no hint of race, majesty or of religious fanaticism tempered the implacable wickedness of that hateful ideal."

Up to 1814 this was the conception that dominated the English stage. In that year a very remarkable performance took place.

Two Shylocks had been tried at Drury Lane and both had proved lamentable failures. The house was on the verge of ruin. In that dilemma a little man of twenty-seven, with set face, an acrobat, slack-rope performer, dancer and actor, offered himself for engagement. He was accepted and a favorable role mentioned. Penniless and friendless, living in a garret with his faithful wife, he answered firmly "Shylock or nothing."

That first night is now immortal. The weather was wretched; the house was dotted to about one-sixth capacity. We have a record of it all—the indifference and contempt of his fellow-actors, the despair of the manager. Out upon the stage stepped the new Shylock, leaned on his cane and uttered his first line; the audience pricked up their ears. Surprise followed upon surprise as the scenes went on. Stage tradition was thrown to the winds. The audience listened amazed and enraptured; thunders of applause greeted each new stroke of genius. At the end of the trial scene the young actor instituted that terrible look of hate and scorn, preserved to us with such marvellous effect by Henry Irving. Then the play was over and the curtain went down amidst the wildest enthusiasm. Drury Lane was saved.

Behind the scenes the little man tore himself from the congratulations of his new-found friends. With sparkling eyes he crept through the slush and the fog, home to his little attic. He must be the first, the very first, to tell his wife the news. "You shall ride in your carriage yet, dear," he sobbed, as he clasped her in his arms. It was a happy night for her, poor girl, the beginning of the great career of Edmund Kean.

Kean was the first to humanize the Jew. With his wild imagination he lent a majesty and intellect to the usurer, and accounted for his hatred by a "religious fanaticism" and devotion to justice.

Let us proceed with one bound to 1879. On November 1st, of that year, Henry Irving impersonated Shylock in a way that set all London wild with excitement and controversy. Here is the Shylock of that night, as described by a spectator: "A picturesque and refined Italianized Jew, genteelly dressed; a dealer in money in the country of Lorenzo de' Medici, where there is an aristocracy of merchants."

No wonder the critics demurred. A middle-aged gentleman, graceful in bearing and richly attired, did not seem to fall in with the various "courtesies" rendered him by Antonio and the rest.

Since then twenty years have passed; Irving has grown wiser. On March 7th he gave us a representation of Shylock which in all probability is as perfect a performance of that "colossal character" as we shall ever see.

Irving has entirely dropped the aristocratic conception. This Shylock is unkempt, slovenly of dress—a bit of a skin-flint. He is deeply religious and resents Antonio's hatred of his nation, along with the treatment that he himself has received at the other's hands. It was an unrepul-