

"Well," said Grandma with a chuckle, "I think a mighty sight of Henry Ham, and I wanted to warn you not to worry about his moods; but I've changed my mind. You seem to be a very capable young person. Tell me all about his wooing, he's been stingy with it."

By the time the account was finished, Jean and the old lady were close friends and allies, and when they returned to the group they found Henry Ham talking quietly about the power site. He quoted the adverse opinion of Fleet Hayes as being more reliable than that of the imported expert, and proved that the dam could be constructed for about his original estimate. He had genuine imagination and was able to construct piece by piece in his mind; so that his study of mechanics for the sole purpose of interesting Judge Hooker and his father had given him many details, and now that the question of capital was settled, he spoke simply and earnestly, until finally Judge Hooker was moved to arise and deliver a short oration upon his own unshakable conviction that Henry Hamilton Trotwood was a man of destiny. He admitted that he had recognized this at his first interview, but had a selfish interest in hiding it lest the boy should refuse to enter his office.

Hiram Trotwood felt encouraged after this to testify to his son's worth, and he was succeeded by Editor Harkins and young Doctor Wilson, until Henry Ham refused to listen to any more.

"Well, I guess you'll listen to me," said Fleet Hayes. "All these others deserted you at the first change of wind; but I didn't. I knew all the time that you'd win out, and so I stuck through thick and thin."

"Humph," said Nate Shipley. "There wasn't a single one of you who saw anything out of common in him until he was a man grown; but I saw it when he was a boy; and if I felt so disposed, I could tell you all a thing or two."

"Look at his face," whispered Jean.

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