

ter of duty. Young men are apt to feel attracted to a life which enables a man to visit in the same evening, say, a Sunday school concert, entertainment, a smoking concert, and the police station; forgetting that use and wont will speedily turn this incongruous-looking mixture of assignments to routine almost as dull as that in any business office. Finally, certain newspaper men seem to be continually endeavouring to spread the impression that life in their vocation is lived at high pressure, that there is always a desperate hurry when the paper goes to press, that, in short, there is a certain delirious whirl about it all. Nearly all stories of newspaper life give this impression; my own experience is that it is quite false. Of course, every now and then someone has to work in a hurry; such things happen in every calling in life. Excitement, however, is another matter. When the death of Sir John Thompson occurred, the paper with which I am connected appeared next morning with something like four pages of matter dealing with the career and death of the deceased statesman, and yet through the day on which this work was done not a voice was raised in the office, there was no haste, and a visitor coming into the office in the evening would have noticed nothing but that there were rather more men in than usual, and that all were very quiet.

Hurry in another sense there undoubtedly is, however. The paper goes to press at a certain hour, happen what may, and the matter must be provided for it. Great celerity in the preparation of copy is necessary, and the newspaper man must cultivate a certain facility with the pen, which may not be good writing, but which must be reasonably accurate and clear. The getting of facts must be done with rapidity, and the man who censures newspapers for their occasional inaccuracies would probably find it difficult to be as accurate as they on the whole manage to be, were he obliged to do the same work. Further, the hours, especially in morning newspaper work, are such as to make study difficult, and, moreover, the work is of such a quasi-intellectual character as to make real reading in one's leisure less of a change, and therefore, perhaps, less easy than is probably the case with other callings.

It is for these primary reasons that the university man should find a place in newspaper work. He is, if he has used his opportunities, a trained student, and, consequently, should have an advantage in the rapid mastery of unfamiliar subjects—an experience very frequent with the newspaper man, who may have to-day to summarize a report on the agricultural progress of the province, to-morrow to go out to the mining regions to

describe the developments there, and on coming home to collect opinions as to the advisability of prohibition, or the likelihood of the extension of the itinerancy in the Methodist Church. No man can be an expert on every subject which comes up, but a trained student should be able to seize the essential facts in the matter in so far as they concern the outside public for whom he is writing. Another advantage which a university man should have is the possession of a fund of general reading and information, which should prove of great service. It is an advantage which any well-read man, whether of university training or not, will, of course, possess; but the graduate has had especial opportunities, and has not profited to the full by his training if he does not possess it. In newspaper work general information is of the greatest value. Apart from countless mistakes which the having of it enables one to avoid, almost every bit of information, however out of the way, is certain sooner or later to prove useful. For instance, some time ago I was given the task of reviewing a book upon the history and present organization of the British navy—a subject apparently as far removed from the requirements of practical life in Ontario as can well be imagined. But a few weeks after that I had to interview an admiral of the British navy, who chanced to visit Toronto, and he was pleased and, I fancy, surprised, to find me familiar with the names and histories of the ships in which he had served, as well as with a number of the present day problems of the fleet. The result was that he became very friendly, and the interview was a success.

The question of the place of university men in newspaper work simply amounts to this, that men of ability, who already possess that faculty of adaptability for the work which is exceedingly hard to describe, but which, nevertheless, unquestionably exists, and who have prepared themselves by acquiring at a university training in study, definite points of view from which to approach the incidents of life, and the general information which is so valuable an asset, should make their way in it. They will have to begin at the foot of the ladder and learn the technique of the work, even before the period of apprenticeship is well over. Ability will assert itself, and the man whose talents are backed by the advantages which a university education should confer should find his training tell.

My reference to the period of apprenticeship suggests a feature of the case to which a good deal of prominence has been given. The dislike of the editor to the college man has been the subject of much humorous exaggeration; as a matter of fact, at present in Toronto there are fifteen or sixteen university men in active newspaper work, and there