

"friendliness." It is well-nigh essential as an element of success in the railway service. It represents politeness, courtesy, cordiality, good-will, kindness & consideration. I heard an experienced traveller say but recently that if he was the manager of a railway he would make it his first duty to require politeness & courtesy in all dealings with the public, & would make a penalty of dismissal without recourse for any act of dishonesty or impoliteness to a patron. Railway agents & trainmen know what this means, & appreciate what a world of opportunity constantly exists for the manifestation of this principle, & how often it wins in the face of other adverse conditions, which without it would call for dissatisfaction & complaint.

What the rank & file of railway men want from their superiors is not to be dealt with leniently & to allow slipshod & dilatory work, but the enforcement of the strictest discipline, which is of itself a guarantee of safety to the life of the employe, together with fairness, justice, courtesy, consideration for & recognition of merit; & these must be shown by those in authority if the results are to be satisfactory.

I should feel unworthy of your hearing if I should close this paper without recording my conviction that the foundation & underlying principle of all true character is in conforming in disposition & conduct, to the divine standard of right. My observation & belief is that the only sure foundation for doing right in relation to our fellowmen is that of right-doing in the sight of the Almighty. If a man is seeking to walk rightly in His sight he is not likely to go very far wrong in his relations with his fellowmen, & it is in recognition of this principle that the Railway Y.M.C. Associations were formed, to minister to the needs of & exercise the influence upon railway employes; & when business men tell me, as they frequently have, "You have a fine class of trainmen on your line—many of them are earnest Christian men," I cannot but feel that the credit for that result is chiefly due to our railway associations & to the work of their noble secretaries & earnest bands of devoted Christian railway men, who have demonstrated that they have lofty ideals & are by practical methods endeavoring to live up to them.

The highest attainment any man can reach

is to be able to do that which is right, & to perform to the best of his ability, at all times & in all places, what he understands to be his duty. There are, however, so many adverse influences calculated to prevent men from measuring up their best selves, that it is absolutely necessary, if they are to be successful, that they seek for & place themselves under such influences & surroundings as will strengthen them in their good resolves. For this reason influences & surroundings, such as are to be found in membership of a Y.M.C.A., are not only valuable but essential to railway employes—especially to those whose occupation is such that a considerable portion of their time is spent away from home.

Be a man's religion, as to denomination or sect, what it may, if as inculcated by the principles of our Association, he recognizes the Almighty as his guide of faith & conduct, & with this sure foundation he seeks to make the most of his opportunities & abilities, he will, he must, attain a character which will stand the test of prosperity or adversity, health or illness, & from a worldly standpoint, of success or failure; & he will have influences working in his behalf, silently, but continually, which will carry him over all of life's places.

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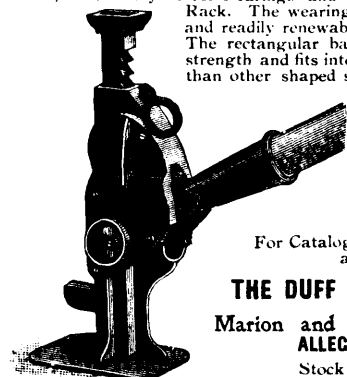
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