

Acadia Athenæum.

"PRODESSE QUAM CONSPICI."

Vol. XXVII. WOLFVILLE, N. S., MAY 1901. No. 7.

The Young Man's Opportunity.

Never before in the history of mankind has the young man had held out to him such opportunities, such advantages as the twentieth century offers—to the college young man, to the Canadian young man. As the young man fresh from college next month stands upon the threshold of life, upon the threshold of a new century what boundless fields of activity are spread before him! What prizes there are to be won if he will but be master of his chosen line of work! There is an insatiate demand for men of power, who have mastered their profession or pursuit. The world is crying out for great engineers, who will make deserts blossom; who by railway, steamship or canal achievement will annihilate time and space; who will call into play the forces of nature to drive mammoth factories; who will achieve great things in the realm of economic production so that the earth may be made to support its rapidly increasing millions. For the engineer there is a great opportunity and a work of truly beneficent motive.

To the business organizer there is a great opportunity. Commerce is world wide; capital is centralized to a high degree; business organization is most complex and intricate with its wonderful machinery and its vast interests. Commerce requires as much invention as engineering, as much diplomacy as statesmanship, as much leadership as war. The captain of industry has a great work in solving the problem of production on the most extensive scale and of distribution in the most equitable and economic manner.

It may be thought that because there are these men, the great captains of industry, the engineers of almost superhuman creative ability, the great Napoleons of finance and commerce, for that very reason there is little chance for the young man to rise. He can only hope to become part of a great machine, all individual initiation will be crushed. There is no greater mistake. The centralization of industry, the rise of combinations and trusts is the natural result of the necessity of production in the vastest scale and in the most economic manner. Not one mind alone can solve these problems. They require the concentrated, co-operative effort of myriad minds, scientists, administrators,