

Experience

Experience is a valuable asset to have to one's credit, but the processes of obtaining it are not always the most delightful. Oftentimes the cost exceeds the benefit. The most unpleasant situations are to a greater or less degree productive of experience, which however, is generally of a kind not to be relished and which, no matter how much mental or physical suffering is caused, does not yield the greatest profit. Ten thousand volts of admonition shot from the eyes of an outraged beauty at the object of depravity who has waltzed her into a collision with other performers on a waxed floor, may be remembered, but they are certainly productive of a small amount of comfort and the chances are that the accident will be repeated.

Parents frequently instruct their children to study and profit by the experiences of others, losing sight of the fact that each person has his own individuality and capabilities. For instances they tell them how President Roosevelt rose to fame by exercising certain qualities of character, but they forget that everyone is not able to subdue the homicidal passions of the broncho, or have the opportunity to charge at Santiago. The broncho might have thrown another man so hard that he would have considered it a good lesson as taught by experience never again to venture within a mile of such a murderous brute. Just so, at Santiago, another leader, while turning to sneer his men, might have stopped a bullet with his back—a most misleading and defaming piece of circumstantial evidence.

The guileless countryman goes to town and meets the affable rake who travels under the sobriquet of confidence man, finds himself done handsomely, and then goes home to tell his friends that although he has lost his money, he has gained a sweepstake prize of experience. Because he has fallen victim to one man's inhumanity he considers himself wise and able to evade all like snares and pitfalls in the future. But let some equally polished specialist present some proposition of an entirely different nature, and his second fall from grace would probably be as disastrous as the first. All this goes to show that experience is similar only in its generalities.

A newspaper account tells how a man got his upward start in life by wheeling more scrap iron in a day than his fellows. After detailing the vari-

ous steps by which he rose to the head of the great steel trust, it concludes with this paragraph:

"This man wheeled more iron in a day than his fellows."

Truly that was the secret of his success. His industry and faithfulness brought him to the notice of the keensighted officials above him, who with their great knowledge of human nature detected in him potential abilities of rare merit. Had he not been conscientious in his work and sought merely to have the biggest pile of iron for appearance's sake, he would probably be still leading a humble life. His heart was with his work. He might have had a bigger pile, by subtracting from the accumulations of his fellow-workmen, and adding the difference to his own, but it is quite certain that he didn't. His industry was beyond doubt prompted by a desire for advancement, and when it came, the same foresight and business acumen helped him farther up the scale until he stood at the top. And yet men equally as enterprising have been forced to content themselves with a humbler lot in life, simply because they lack the judgment both in choosing their field of labor and in conducting their work.

A man may tarry in the parlors of his club and fortify himself with alcoholic beverages, and then venture home to have his lines of defense crumbled before the irresistible onslaught of his wife. Though the experience may be a painful one, he does not mend his habits in spite of the fate that he knows to await him when under the sable cloak of night he wanders home to exposure and misery. The man who intrudes upon the property of others for the purpose of enriching himself without giving value received—or in plain language the man who works while others sleep—or in good plain English, the burglar—enjoys his confinement in the penitentiary and is generally ready to return to his old ways despite the lesson experience has taught him.

Hence the teachings of experience are as a rule valuable, but as man is prone to err he does not always take the lesson unto himself. If he meets misfortune he thinks that he may be more successful next time. In this way he lays himself liable to downfalls, and only realizes the true value of experience when it is too late to profit by it.

Profits Will Go into Treasury.

Following the precedent established last semester the Freshman class will require the committee having in charge the coming '07 party to account for all funds expended and to return the balance remaining over and above expenses to the class treasury, thereby putting themselves again on record as against the graft system. As demonstrated by the Freshman Hop this non-graft method is successful in every way. Money was expended in pleasing those attending in a manner which never would have been the case had one or two individuals been in charge. Contrary to the belief of some few it is not impossible, nor even at all difficult to find good men willing to assume a responsibility and put in such work as is required when there is not opportunity to put a silver lining in their pockets.

The committee to conduct the Freshman party is Mr. Standeven, chairman; Messrs. Cramer, Jones, Drain; Misses Post, Morris, Van Horn, Bfidenbaugh and Adams.

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