

THE MAN WHO "NEVER HAD A CHANGE"

The Life Line

THE AVERAGE man who is a failure is usually ready with the alibi: "I never had a chance." Some of the most successful and illustrious men in the world labored under heavy handicaps. The best postmaster England ever had was a blind man. The great Greek orator, Demosthenes was a hopeless stutterer. Washington suffered defeat after defeat, and was oftentimes abandoned by his soldiers. Lincoln was a rail-spitter, and was born in poverty and narrow environment. Columbus faced mutiny among his sailors, and sailed on and on and on after they told him "all hope has fled." Edison was ridiculed and called an irresponsible "crank." Fulton was threatened with imprisonment because he believed that steam could be made the servant of man.

To every man is given the power of thought and the time in which to develop his talent. Every hour contains sixty chances. The door of opportunity is always open to the man who will find the latch. The years are mile-stones. They reach upward as well as downward. Excuses are the weapons of the coward. Brave resolutions are the armor of the winners. Every man's life is a race. He is his own judge and timekeeper. His competitors are pushing ahead. He has as clear a track as any of them, and it is up to him to get the pole and keep it. He may not always win, but there is glory in trying to win.

"I never had a chance." What a silly excuse. Far better be honest and say, "I never tried." Chance and luck never get you any place. Grit and pluck and energy and faith will take you over the roughest road in the darkest night. The most beautiful perspective is from the summit. The heights are for those who toil. The fog and the valley do not inspire. The sublimity of life is at the top. What some men call "chance" is an opportunity to win battles without courage and valor. It is to reach heights without a struggle. It is to have riches without earning. It is to gather without sowing. This is not the right way. It is not the way of life.

The men who succeed are the men who wear out shoe leather. The men who fail are the men who wear out cushions, pillows, sofas, office and home furniture, and more, they wear out the patience of all those around them who try to fill the niche in life God gave them.

OLD-FASHIONED

Anon.

WHEN WE speak of old-fashioned things we usually have in mind manners and customs prevailing at the time of our childhood, or perhaps those of grandparents told to us in a spell of recollection or suspected in the evidence of old tin-types. It is common for a young man or a young lady to consider his or her mother or father old-fashioned, especially so when parents feel obliged to draw the line against some things "other boys and girls do." The youngsters should remember that in considering a parent old-fashioned they are themselves very

old-fashioned for such tender years, for boys and girls have been doing that same thing for many centuries. At heart we are all, young and old, "old-fashioned," and should be thankful for it. We hark back to the tried and true of a day past for the things that warm our hearts and inspire us to greater faith and courage.

Some time ago a number of boys in late 'teens were gathered around a piano singing songs during recess of a meeting. They sang some of the most recent and most senseless jazz songs, and they sang them with all the frivolity and lack of seriousness they warranted. They also sang some of the older popular songs with much different tone and deeper feeling. They sang with fervor, "I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad," "Just an Old Fashioned Garden," and especially "Darling I Am Growing Old," which latter was sung so tenderly that one could close the eyes and imagine them a lot of silver-haired men living on the memories of youth. These young hearts were old-fashioned hearts. When we scrape away a little of the veneer with which the fads of the present-day coat our lives, we find that all good things are so-called "old fashioned things." All virtues are "old-fashioned."

If it be true that such virtues as modesty and honesty are waning in our present costumes, then the woman who would know her fullest charm should practice modesty and the man who would apply his greatest means of good achievement should practice honesty, for thereby neither would have much competition among associates and would soon become a noteworthy example of strong and charming personality.

WHEN NOAH WON OUT

Noah had to work a long time on the ark. It was uphill business, too, at best, building a boat way out on dry land, while the local Anvil-and-Hammer Club sat around making fun at Noah, whittling up his pine boards with their jack-knives, and telling him what a fool he was for expecting a big rain in a country that was too dry to grow alfalfa. But he kept right at it. Finally the flood came and every mother's son of the croakers was drowned. This is the only instance, in either sacred or profane history, where a bunch of dirty knockers got exactly what was coming to them.

—The Pacific Woodman.

AN EDUCATED MAN

By Albert E. Wiggan

There are ten specific signs by which an educated man may be designated:

He keeps his mind open on every question until the evidence is all in.

He always listens to the man who knows.

He never laughs at new ideas.

He cross-examines his day-dreams.

He knows his strong point and plays it.

He knows the value of good habits and how to form them.

He knows when not to think, and when to call in the expert to think for him.

You can't sell him magic.

He lives the forward-looking, outward-looking life.

He cultivates a love of the beautiful.

He that pursues two hares at once does not catch one and lets the other go.

Let him who scatters thorns not go barefoot.

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