

Of the various roads which lead to success, few will be found so rough, or to offer so many obstacles as the swimming, as the path which was chosen by Benjamin J. Sewell, a young actor, such a train of adverse circumstances and hardships as he has passed through might easily have demoralized many a strong, sturdy man; but with grit, energy, and great determination, he clung to his work and gradually rose, step by step, from the humble position of an orphan boyhood in the streets of London, to be an actor, theatrical manager, stage director, and producer of elocution.

Mr. Sewell was born in London. His father, an army officer, was killed in the Peninsular war, and his mother died shortly after, leaving the little seven-year-old boy to take care of his sister, who was two years younger. With his father and mother both gone, the boy set out to provide food by selling newspapers and blanketing beds in the Whitechapel district. But his scanty income was insufficient to procure even the poorest fare, and the ever-fading sickly west whole days on dry scraps. Finally the little girl died of starvation.

Although his entire share in the world, his health continued for four years to swell papers, sleeping at night under the arches of London Bridge, or in wagons, if by any means, was dearth. In spite of these hardships, he was anxious to get ahead, and managed, through a schoolmaster where he had learned to read and write. During the day he purchased his studies by conducting the signs and shops and business before which he was calling his parents. Several years were passed in this hard battle with adversity, but the boy made progress and acquired steadily by day.

One day, passing two years in which he labored in a stocking factory, he started for America, like a head full of such notions as a lot of thinking might create. It was his own idea to become a sailor, to show his muscles, and to herd buffaloes. These ideas were soon abandoned, however. In Ohio he secured a position with a doctor, agreeing to do his chores for his board and clothes, and with permission to attend school. The work was hard, often keeping

him up late at night, but he kept at it patiently for nearly six years and made excellent educational progress meanwhile. He then went to Chicago, Cleveland, and at length to Boston, where he took up the study of elocution, working in a machine-shop during the day to pay his way. Thus he continued until he had finished a three-years' course. He then secured a position with a theatrical company, and his training and natural talent were quickly appreciated and rewarded with advancement. At this time he worked almost incessantly, night and day, drilling, rehearsing and studying the parts of other actors as well as his own. He was frequently given important Shakespearean roles and acquitted himself successfully. He returned to London, and Sarah Bernhardt engaged him to represent her.—(E.)

Know Your Business.

Under the above caption the *City and Weekly Citizen* has the following to say of the president of the Green-Northern railroad: James J. Hill went to work in a Canadian store at 15: or 20 he was in St. Paul selling as wholesaler, foreman or entry clerk, as chance offered. Later he went into business as a pocket watch and clock Commodore Vanderbilt, missed railroads in general until finally he built up a great system of roads and railroads which is great as that of the Empire State.

Hill introduced one of the most, and to "by-product" ideas, as has been very properly suggested, but by proving that he knew his business. To him a railroad was not something to sell along the Wall Street, but to buy or build through and over people with. He was one of the first to see that "freight car business" could be prosecuted by better terminals, one of the first to "make traffic" by profitable schemes along his line.

It would that the "method of great" industries is being taken from experts by those capitalists. Whoever may hold the stock, the management falls to the man "who knows"—in some Vanderbilt, Gault, Schwan or Hill who has grown up with the work and understands it from bottom to top. The young man entering business today may say more if that this will always be the case.