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Backbone Wins in Life's Game

Madison C. Peters, in *The Indian News*.

Charles Sumner said: "There are three things necessary—First, backbone; second, backbone; third backbone." When Lincoln was asked how Grant impressed him as a general, he replied:—"The greatest thing about him is his cool persistence of purpose. He has the grip of a bulldog; when once he gets his teeth in nothing can shake him." This was the whole compendium of Grant's character, his epitome as a soldier,—nothing could shake him off. With him it was "On to Richmond," and, "I shall fight on this line if it takes all summer." That broke the backbone of the Civil War and eventually made Lee surrender. This wonderful man, at thirty-eight an obscure citizen of Galena, Ill., drawing but \$800 a year in his father's tannery, at forty-two was one of the greatest generals of history.

Most of the failures in life are due to want of grit or nerve. A yielding disposition, or in other words, no backbone to map out a course and pursue it steadily, unswervingly to the end, leaves many a one behind in the life race. You know how the boy said he learned to skate—by

getting up every time he fell down and trying again. Men who have been always successful have often been defeated but they turned each defeat into a stepping stone to further progress.

In our own time a remarkable instance of what grit can do, even when handicapped by seemingly unsurmountable obstacles is presented in the case of Helen Keller. Miss Keller has conquered all, and, despite her defeats, has demonstrated that she is able to take place in any line with her more fortunate compeers. In her blindness she sees the beauty of the universe, in her deafness she hears the music of the spheres, through the ears of a contented mind, and with her deaf fingers she voices the emotions of her being and the happy thoughts that are hers. So far from bemoaning her fate, she would not exchange with queens.

Ethel Logan, who has been working in the laundry for the last four months, is now working in the dining hall.

John Horn has entered the tailor shop to become apprenticed to the trade. Just watch this (Horn) grow wise and useful.