

# WORDS OF COMFORT

To the Man Who Has a Late Start in His Career

By Samuel Gardiner Ayres

Illustrated by R. Tandler



**T**HERE are some men who for various reasons have been unable to get a start until late in life. In some cases they were traveling the wrong road. In others other duties delayed or hindered in the necessary preparation. The road is much harder to follow when such a course lies ahead. If one begins earlier in life, enthusiasms, inspirations and dreams help along.

There are many who achieve their success late in life. More than one successful writer has begun a career after he was 50 years of age. Noah Webster began his great dictionary after he was 50 and had begun to wear glasses. Some who have started to complete their education late in life have made a great success of the remainder of their lives. We remember a man who graduated from college at the age of 45 and had nearly twenty years of great usefulness which he could not have attained without his college course. In fact he could not have held the position which he did without having been a college man.

So many in these days think it impossible for a man to begin late and succeed that often due encouragement is not given. What some have done, others can do. Almost every college in the land has students attending it who have passed

beyond the age of 30—men who are belated in preparation, or who have decided to change their life work. Some men have made the bulk of their fortunes after middle life. The main thing is to keep the enthusiasm of life and not become discouraged. Longfellow had this in mind when he wrote:

But why, you ask me, should this tale be told  
To men grown old, or growing old?  
It is too late! Ah, nothing is too late  
Till the tired heart shall cease to palpitate.  
Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles  
Wrote his grand Oedipus, and Simonides  
Bore off the prize of verse from his compeers  
When each had numbered more than fourscore years.  
And Theophrastus, at fourscore and ten,  
Had but begun his "Characters of Men."  
Chaucer at Woodstock with the nightingales  
At sixty wrote the "Canterbury Tales."  
Goethe at Weimar, toiling to the last,  
Completed "Faust" when eighty years were past.  
These are indeed exceptions, but they show  
How far the gulf stream of our youth may flow  
Into the arctic regions of our lives,  
Where little else than life survives.

If old men can do such things you who are younger can certainly do as well. Begin at once if you have not done so. If you have, take courage and go on to the end. You will win.

[Copyright, 1916, by J. Keeley.]

