

**A BRAKE ON SUCCESS.**

**The Habit of Making Excuses Will Retard Any Man's Career.**

Good excuses have kept back many a man from realizing a prosperous career. Once you get the excuse making habit formed you might as well have a ball and chain attached to your neck so far as your prospects for rising to the top are concerned.

There are two kinds of excuses which keep a clerk in the business world occupying a clerk's position when he is capable (has it in him) to be something better if he only would. The first class of excuses are the ones he makes to himself. These are often as envying, subtle and death dealing as the nastiest cigarette.

A clerk sees a piece of work which he knows ought to be done today. He knows that the best interests of the business require that this work should not be put off until tomorrow. But he has not yet reached a point where he realizes that his employer's interests are identical with his own, and perhaps he was out late last night and feels a lack of ambition today. So he excuses himself from doing the work on the ground that "the boss" didn't tell him to do it today. After soothing his conscience with this specious mental dope he puts in his spare time reading about the way Stobert knocked out Casey in twenty-one rounds. Several days later when the neglected work comes under the eye of "the boss" our clerk is asked why he did not do it, and he then repeats his stereotyped excuse that he wasn't "told" to do it. For such a one the gateway to success is always barred.

This brings us to the second kind of excuse, that made to one's employer. Of the two this latter kind of excuse is the less injurious to the clerk's chance of advancement. When he excuses himself from doing obviously important work he instills into his own mind a subtle mental poison, a don't-care-a-hang essence that breeds lack of backbone, lack of concentration, lack of continuity and application. He weakens and incapacitates himself far more when he excuses himself to himself because he will then often allow his mind to dwell on excuses so weak that he would never dream of giving them verbal utterance in the presence of his employer.

And when he has once set the mental habit of excusing himself he goes on and on binding the fetters which will forever hold him back from any rise. It is now only a short step to finding good excuses for not doing what he has been told to do. This a little further along on the same line it will be strange indeed if he does not land himself on the boot toe that elevates the incompetent and deposits them outside in the cold world.

Shun excuses.—Spare Moments.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS.**

It must be tough to hate a man everybody else likes.

"I am sorry" does about as little good as anything in this world.

If you want to keep your friends you must occasionally leave them alone.

You can shave your whiskers off quicker than you can get them back.

Nearly every man is henpecked, but a good many manage to disguise the fact.

People talk about the importance of "taking it easy." Some people take it too easy.

The one thing that stands by you keeps you interested in life and is always the same is your regular work.

When a woman bluffs she seldom has anything better than a hot tail flush, but it takes a mighty brave man to "call" her.—Acheson Globe.

**All a Trick.**

The other day a woman and a boy came into a shop to buy a hat. After a time the woman was fitted to one. Looking in the glass, she said to the youngster:

"How do I look in this hat?"

"Like a thief," promptly responded the boy.

The woman angrily darted toward him, but the boy fled from the shop. The shopkeeper laughed and thought it all very funny until their long absence made her realize that she had been robbed. Then she stopped laughing.—London Telegraph.

**The Common School.**

In higher education England is certainly the equal if not the superior of this country, but the benefits of that education are necessarily limited, and limited, by the way, to those who have no pressing need for it. In the matter of common schools, however, we have done for our people what no country in Europe has yet attempted. The results have naturally been admiration and commercial forwardness that has made us sometimes the admiration and sometimes the envy of the English.—St. Louis Republic.

**Both Alike.**

The wife in the middle of the night was awakened by the loud snores of her husband. She endured the horrible racket as long as she could. Then, pinching the man sharply, she said:

"Herbert, you'd make less noise if you kept your mouth shut."

Herbert, sleepy and surly, muttered:

"So would you."

**Replaced.**

Mistress—Why, Bridget, what on earth are you doing with all the broken dishes on the shelf? Bridget—Sure, mum, yez towid me Ol wur to replace every one Ol broke.—London Answers.

For sale—The north half of the northeast quarter, the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section nineteen, south of range eleven, east of Willamette meridian. Inquire at this office. *tt*

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