

### How to be a Man.

Not long since a boy of some seventeen years of age called on a merchant doing a large business in New York. Being busily employed at the time, the boy had to wait a little before getting an opportunity for an interview. Occasionally the merchant cast a glance at him as he stood respectfully at a short distance. He was rather poorly clad, and showed evidence of pretty hard work; but his face indicated honesty and common sense, with a firm and energetic manliness, under the somewhat rude exterior. A practical business man requires but brief examination of a boy to declare as to his weight and worth of character.

When at liberty, the merchant said: "Well, my young friend, what can I do for you?"

"I called, sir," he replied, "to ask you for a situation as an engineer. I was told you were having a new engine built, and I want you to give me the place. I'd like to run it for you."

"Are you an engineer?" asked the gentleman.

"No, sir; but I can be," he answered, setting his lips firmly together, standing squarely before the gentleman, and looking him full in the face. "I don't understand the business well; I know something of it, though. But I can be an engineer and I will be. And I wish you would give me a chance."

His modest but determined manner pleased the merchant. He was having a new engine built for a certain department of his business, and could of course have as many experienced operators as he desired. It was no object for him to take up an inexperienced boy and attempt to train him; no object except to help the boy. Such deeds he was noted for; a fact which no doubt had encouraged the boy to make his application.

"What are you doing now?" he inquired.

"Working in a machine-shop, in Brooklyn. I have been fireman, and I often worked the engine. I think I would get along pretty well with one now, if anybody will have a little patience with me."

"What wages do you get?"

"Five dollars a week, sir."

"What do you do with your money?"

"Give it to my mother, sir."

"Give it to your mother! humph! humph! what does your mother do with it?"

"Well, you see, there is mother, sister and me; and mother takes in sewing. But it goes pretty hard you know. They don't give much for sewing, and it's pretty hard work, too. And then with the other work she has to do, you know she cannot get along very fast at that rate, so I help her all I can. If I could get an engineer's place I could get more wages, and it would make it easier for mother."

"How do you spend your evenings?" asked the gentleman.

I attend the free schools at the Cooper Institute, studying mechanics," he replied. "I spend all the time I can get studying. I know I can be an engineer."

"Do you ever drink liquor?"

He looked up with an expression of astonishment on his countenance that such a question should be asked, but answered firmly: "No, sir."

"Do you chew, or smoke, or go to the theatre?"

"Never—can't afford it. Mother needs the money. And it she didn't I could make a better use of it. I'd like to have some books if I could only spare the money to get them."

"Do you go to church or Sunday school?"

He held down his head, pretending to brush the dust off the floor with his foot, and replied: "No, sir."

"Why not?" asked the merchant, a little sharply.

"I haven't any clothes fit to wear," he replied. "It takes all the money I can get for us to live; and I can't have any clothes." He looked down at his coarse and well worn suit. "It didn't use to be so when father was living. I was brought up to go to church and to Sunday school. If I can get to be an engineer I shall go again. I know I can run an engine."

Telling him to call at a certain time, when he expected his engine would be in use, and he would talk further with him, he dismissed him. "But, he must have that engine," said the merchant to a friend to whom he related the circumstance. "He will make a man, that boy will. A boy who is determined to do something; who gives his mother all of his money to lighten her burdens; who does not use tobacco, and does not go to the theatres; who spends his evenings in study after working all day, such a boy would make a man, and deserves to be helped. I have told him so, but I shall take him and put him under one of my engineers until he is fully capable of taking charge, and then let him have the engine. He will get twenty dollars a week then instead of five, and be able to lighten a mother's

burdens, have clothes to wear to church, and buy books to aid in his business."

A noble boy, though hidden among hard conditions and under unattractive garbs, will work out and show his manhood. He may not always find friends to appreciate him; but determined, virtuous, and willing to endure, he will in due time conquer.

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