

MEASURING A MAN.

There are many familiar standards of measurement. We measure cloth by the yard, water by the gallon, wood by the cord, stone by the perch, wheat by the bushel, sugar by the pound, and land by the acre. These standards, however, are not applicable to the measurement of a man. With the yard stick we could ascertain his height. With the tape line we could determine his girth, and with the scales we could learn his weight. This would give us a fair knowledge of his physical nature, but we would still know nothing of the real man. You cannot measure a man's intellectual power by the yard stick; you cannot measure his moral and spiritual nature by the most delicate and accurate scales perfected by human ingenuity.

In all of the wonderful inventions of the nineteenth century - ~~in which~~ ^{a century} machines have been made to do almost every thing -- no man has invented an instrument, a device, or a machine, by which to measure a man's moral and intellectual worth.

Most of our standards of measurement are fixed by statutory law. In a certain sense, the law has, in a few exceptional cases, fixed a standard for measuring men. ^{for instances,} No one can vote until he is 21 years old. By this provision, the law says, that until a man is 21 years of age, he is not sufficiently developed to safely exercise the elective franchise. Here is a standard.

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for measuring voters. The Constitution of the United States provides that no man is eligible to the office of Representative in Congress, who has not attained the age of twenty-five; that no man is eligible to the office of U. S. Senator, who has not attained the age of thirty; and that no one is eligible to the office of President who has not reached the age of thirty-five.

Here is a standard to measure men for these offices. The Constitution virtually says, that until ~~you~~ reaches a certain age, ~~you~~ ^{is} wanting in the learning, training, experience and statesmanship, which justifies ~~your~~ ^{his} promotion to these high and responsible positions.

The law, in a few cases, has attempted to fix a moral standard for measuring men. The most notable instances are those provisions of our own statutes, which provide that unless a man possesses a good moral character, he cannot secure a license to teach school, practice law, or sell intoxicating liquors.

The law fixes a standard for measuring men by providing that until one reaches a certain age, he shall be under the control of his parents, and that until one reaches a certain age, he shall not marry without the consent of his parents. But these provisions are exceptional. In general, the law provides no standard for measuring a man.

Yet, there ^{are} standards by which men are measured. Every day men are being measured. Each one of you are daily measuring your friends, your associates, your acquaintances, and strangers whom

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you chance to meet. You, in turn, are being measured by others. As I stand before you to-day, trying to talk to you, I realize that each of you are measuring me. We say of a man, "That he stands well in a community." We mean that the people generally have weighed the man, formed a general estimate of his character, his ability, his moral worth, and that according to the general opinion, the man ranks high as a man and citizen among his neighbors.

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WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

I want to discuss some of the standards by which we may measure a man. You may measure a man, first, by his Pretentions, second, by his Principles, and, third, by his Performances.

You can tell some thing of a man by his pretentions. With all the deception, deceit, fraud and hypocrisy in the world, the vast majority of men, are, in the main, true to their pretentions. If a man professes Christianity, the chances are, that he is trying to live a Christian life. If a man claims to love the right, and openly takes a stand on that side, the probability is that the man is sincere, and that his pretentions are a true index to his character. Until you can apply a more reliable standard, accept a man upon his pretentions.

But caution is necessary. Wolves, in sheep's clothing, are stalking through the land. False pretentions are common; deception prevalent; hypocrisy walks our highways, stands on the street-corners, occupies prominent places and permeates every portion and condition of society. Look out for these despicable characters. Men pretending to be your friend, will invite you to engage in all forms of vice ^{and} immorality. Shun these reprobates as you would a viper. To meet such men is unfortunate, to listen to them is dangerous, ^{to converse with them is degrading} to associate with them is disastrous, and to follow them is eternal ruin.

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The most repugnant character in American history is the man who, while pretending to be a patriot, was plotting to overthrow and betray the government. For a time he served his country bravely, and stood high in public favor, but, by false pretensions he fell to the very depths of ignominy, and went down in history ~~deleted~~ as the traitor, Benedict Arnold.

The wretch who assassinated the lamented William McKinley, approached him as a friend. Instead of extending the hand of friendship, he fired from a concealed pistol, the shot that A short time ago, the world was shocked, and a nation was in grief, by the mortally wounded the great and good man who had, for more than four years, occupied the highest position in the gift of the American people; and discharged his duties with such signal ability, fairness and fidelity, as to command the respect and win the admiration and confidence of our people, without regard all to political affiliation. The press of the country frequently contain account of men occupying high positions, who go down to ruin, by listening to the tempter. The world is full of men who, feigning great friendship, will betray you into the hand of your enemy, and lead you into the camp of Satan. Where ever you go, you will meet men who will approach you as a friend, but assassinate your character, destroy your good name, and remove you forever from your high position of usefulness, honor and responsibility.

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Until you have higher evidence of a man's character than his Pretentions, do not recognize him as a friend, as an associate or as a companion. Let us live up to our own pretentions, but never place implicit confidence in any man, until we have measured him with a more trustworthy standard than his Pretentions.

PRINCIPLE.

The best standard by which to judge a man's moral character--by which to judge his correct rank, grade and standing as a man, and citizen, is by his Principle. "Principle", says Webster, "is a settled rule of action; a governing-law of conduct; a rule that directs one's actions; an opinion, or belief that exercises a directing influence on the life and behavior."

If you know the rules by which a man's actions are controlled--if you are familiar with the governing-law of a man's nature--if you have learned the opinions, beliefs and sentiments which direct his life, and behavior--you have the knowledge that will enable you to form a true and reliable estimate of the man; you have the data from which you can measure the man, weigh him, and assign him his proper classification ~~and grade~~ among his fellow men. With a full knowledge of a man's principles, you can grade him as a citizen, a neighbor, a partner, an associate, and a friend. You have a true index to his character. Knowing a man's principle, you can look ahead, and predict with a certainty, what course he will pursue. Having noble principles in his heart, whatever may be the conditions, circumstances, or surroundings, that man will always and invariably do the "right thing."

A principle is ^{a rule} so fixed, settled and determined that it controls a man's actions and behavior where ever he may go. It directs his conduct under any and all conditions. A principle is

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unchanged by time, place or circumstance^s. A principle controls you at home and abroad, among friends and among strangers, in safety and in danger, in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness or in health, and in all the dangerous and alluring temptations of life. There is nothing that will so fortify, strengthen and equip a young man to meet the duties and trials of life, as ^{will} well defined, settled and fixed principles. Without such principles, he is like a ship at sea without rudder, ballast or pilot.

HONESTY.

Let us consider some of the important principles which should be adopted by every young man.

One of the first principles which should be implanted in every young man's breast is honesty. A dishonest man is a dangerous citizen. He must be watched constantly. No one is safe in his company. You cannot trust him with your business, your money or your good name. He would annoy you as a neighbor, tempt you as an associate, rob you as a partner, and betray you as a friend. Our jails and penitentiaries are filled with men who started on their downward career by disregarding the principle of honesty.

The temptations to be dishonest are many. These temptations cannot be avoided by the selection of a profession or occupation. Even the lawyer has opportunities to be dishonest. We have dishonest merchants, dishonest mechanics, dishonest doctors, dishonest farmers, and some times, I am sorry to say, dishonest preachers. Let it be known that a man is dishonest, and go where he may, he goes forth a marked man--branded with the infamy of his own heart.

Those familiar lines of Pope are very true: "An honest man's, the noblest work of God." Socrates said: "An honest death is better than a dishonest life." Montague said: "All other knowledge is hurtful to him who has not honesty."

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may be your business in life , there is no principle so material to your success, no virtue that will add so much to the beauty, strength and glory of your character, as old-fashioned, rugged, inflexible, genuine honesty.

TRUTHFULNESS.

Next to honesty is the principle of Truthfulness. Truth should be indelibly imprinted upon every man's heart. "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord," says the Proverb. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, think on these things," says the Apostle Paul. Every man's word should be his bond. The untruthful man is to be pittied. He has the confidence of no one. He is mistrusted by all. What an awful comment upon a man's character to say of him, "He is such a liar, you cannot believe a word he says!" What a disgrace to have such a reputation in a community! Some one has said, "Truth is the bond of Union and the basis of human happiness. Without this virtue there is no reliance in language, no confidence in friendship, no security in promises or oaths."

The respect for truth is universal among civilized nations. Even among men who make no pretensions to morality or Christianity, to call a man's word in question is to offer an insult.

Young man, guard your reputation for veracity ^{as you would guard}. Your career ^{your life.} is before you. It will not all be sunshine. Storms and cloudy weather will come. There will be difficulties to meet, obstacles to over come, and battles to fight. Go forth, with a courageous heart, equipped, armed and fortified with truth. This splendid principle will light your pathway and guide you safely through many of the pitfalls, and dangers of the world.

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TEMPERANCE.

Above all, make temperance one of your principles. Make it the rule of your life not to drink intoxicating liquors. Let nothing swerve you from this line of action. Intemprance is the supreme evil of the age. No one is ~~free~~^{safe} from its dangers. However honest you may be, however truthful you may be, however numerous may be your other virtues, all may be engulfed, if you acquire the drink habit. Under no circumstances compromise with this evil. Do not for the love of money, or for the attainment of any earthly ambition, become a drunkard. Every man owes ^{xc} himself, to his family, to his friends, to his neighbors and to his country, to be a sober, temperate citizen.

INDUSTRY.

Industry is another principle that should be a rule to govern every man's life.

1. Whitely says:--"A man who gives his children habits of industry provides for them better than by giving them a fortune."
2. Hunter says:--"Idleness travels very slowly, and poverty soon overtakes her."
3. Chesterfield said: " I look upon idleness as a sort of suicide.
Burton said:--"Idleness is the cheif author of all mischief, one of the seven deadly sins, and " the cushion upon which the devil cheifly reposes."
4. The Turks have a proverb which says, "The Devil tempts all other men, but that idle men tempt the devil.(Colton)
The Book of Books, says!
5. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. (Eccl. 9, 10.).

Industry is the foundation of individual and national wealth. The indolent man is not a good citizen. He is a burden to his fellow men. He is a draw-back to the community in which he lives. He is not a patriot. A man who loves his country will do his share to strengthen, develop and enrich it. One of the principles in every man's breast should be industry. One of the greatest evils is idleness. No idle man is safe. Idleness leads many young men to ruin. Work is honorable, ~~beneficial~~. ^{idleness dishonorable.} ~~Idleness work~~
~~helpful; idleness~~ is ~~dishonorable~~ and injurious. Do not waste your time; do not be a laggard. Be active, earnest, hopeful, industrious, and you will be successful. Work, application, close attention to business,

are the important factors in over-coming those difficulties which all meet. In every community, I can point you to men who are failures in all the professions, and callings of life, because they have lacked industry. Young man, if you would be successful in your business, if you would rise to distinction in your calling, if you would in any sense be a leader, you must be industrious.

I have named four principles whibh I think are improtant-- Honesty, Truthfulness, Temperance, and Industry.

During the past year, I have, at times, employed a number of men. When a man desired employmement, the first think I wanted to know was, is the applicant honest; if not, I could not trust him with my business, or with my client's business.

2d, is he truthful; if not, no reliance could be placed in him, and he was sure sooner or later, to bring reproach upon me, and loss in my business. The third question was, is he temperate; if a drinking man, however honest and truthful, when drinking, he would be irresponsible, and liable to do business in a way that would bring ~~un~~parable injury to my clients, and,

4th, was he industrious; if not, he could not meet competition, and my interests were bound to suffer. Every young man who wants to succeed in life, should make it an irrevokable, unchangable, persistent rule, law, and principle of his life to be honest, truthful, temperate and indsutrious.

PERFORMANCES.Standard

Performance is the great ~~power~~ by which the world measures the intellectual power and genius of men. We must all stand or fall by what we do. Two thousand years ago, the Great Teacher said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." That standard has never been abolished. Lincoln in his immortal speech at the dedication of the battlefield of Gettysburg said, "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but will never forget what they did here." It is what we do, that the world remembers. The world looks at results. This rule applys to statesmen, warriors, scientist^s, inventors, authors, professional men, merchants, salesmen, clerks, mechanic^s, and workmen in every business and avenue of life. The statesman is judged by the beneficial measures he conveives and executes; the warrior is judged by the battles he wins, the scientist by the truth he discovers, the inventor by the usefulness and importance of his product, the author by his works, the doctor by his cures, the lawyer by the cases he wins, the merchant by the extent os his business, the salesmen by his orders for goods, the clerk in the store, by his sales, the mechanic by the buildings he constructs, and workmen of all kinds, by the product of their hands and brains.

By this standard, we recognize Caesar, Napoleon, Wellington, Washington and Grant as great military heroes; we recognize ~~agave~~ Bacon, Tyndall and Humbolt as distinguished scientists; by this

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standard, among the list of great inventors, we place the names of Stevenson, Morse, Fulton, McCormick, Howe and Edison; by this standard, we recognize Shakespear, Pope, Tennyson, Longfellow and Whittier as poets, Gibbons, McCaully, Bancroft and Prescott as historians, and Dickens, Irving, as novelists; and by this standard, among the list of the great statesmen of the world, we write the names of our countrymen--- Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley.

The world is right. There is no better standard to judge men than by what they have done. A man must stand or fall by his performances. However, there is no conflict between the ^{two} standards; ~~one~~ Principles and Performances. Back of great performances, back of great deeds, you will find great and noble principles. ~~one~~ Read the lives of those men who rank as the beacon lights of the world. They were invariably men of noble principles.

If you want models of good principles, read the lives of the great men of the world. Great and noble deeds are the ~~off-spring~~ result of great and noble principles. No young man can expect to attain greatness, unless his life is actuated, controlled, and directed by those great and noble principles of the heart which are the basis for every true and noble deed.